

The Jaguar Journal

Jefferson Primary Community News • National Suffolk Region PTA

March/April 2010

From the Principal's Desk...

Dear Parents,

What a wonderful time of the year! Spring has finally sprung and the children are thrilled to finally be outside! It is a pleasure to see how much they have grown since first walking through the doors to Jefferson Primary almost ten months ago.

I am happy to report that our annual Science Fair was a terrific success! Each student worked with their class on a class project and, in addition, over one hundred students submitted individual projects! For the second year in a row, Jefferson Primary is participating in the Brookhaven National Lab Science Fair. I am happy to announce the names of each grade-level winner. Grant Hurless from Mrs. Frye's class will represent the Jefferson Primary kindergarten; in first grade our first place winner was Tess Stanley in Mrs. Irigoyen's class; Nick Rowley in Mrs. Higgin's second grade is the second grade winner and rounding out the field is Haley Mortell in Mrs. Wallace and Mrs. Taormina's third grade class. Congratulations to each student and we wish them well at the Brookhaven Science Fair on Saturday, May 1st.



Also this spring, we are working on creating the Jefferson Outdoor Garden and Science Exploration Center. This project is the brainchild of our very own Mrs. Kaczor who authored a winning HFEE grant outlining her vision. By the time she is finished, our courtyard will be an even more magical place where children in all grades may participate in activities that include planting a new garden, measuring rainfall, discovering the effects of wind and temperature all while enjoying the sights, sounds and smells of nature! We can't wait!

Speaking of winners, two more of our teachers authored successful SEPTA grants this year. Mrs. Garcia and Mrs. Bell were both honored to receive word from SEPTA that each of their grants was so outstanding that SEPTA was happy to provide funding.

Finally, in the next two weeks our third graders will be sitting for their first state assessments in math and English Language Arts. As always, our students have been working with their teachers to prepare for these assessments and we are proud of their efforts. Since the tests are being given later in the year the state has promised

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News from inside Jefferson...



Kindergarten

Spring has arrived and the Kindergarten students are excited about all the signs of spring we see around us! To explore spring we are studying the change in seasons, planting seeds, making flowers, studying baby farm animals and even bugs!

Recently the Kindergartens had two field trips. Our in school field trip explored the many different kinds of sea life. Expect your kindergartener to share some of their knowledge of shells with you on your next trip to the beach. The children also went to see Cinderella at the Northport theater. The children enjoyed that interpretation of the folk tale, and heard many different versions of Cinderella from several cultures in their classrooms.

All the kindergarten classes wish you a healthy and warm spring!

1st grade

Spring has been very exciting for Jefferson, filled with many wonderful events and activities! The first graders have been keeping busy in the classroom telling time, counting money, and even making new tens! We're also working on our beautiful First Grade Writing Books, showcasing so many of our wonderful stories and poetry. We've certainly come a long way since September!

We will also be learning all about the life cycle of plants during our science lessons. And be sure to ask your child about the orange, purple and turquoise chicks that they met! (And these were not peeps!) The students learned how injecting an egg with a non-harmful vegetable dye will produce a colorful baby chick. This experience created many

interesting topics for creative writing!

Don't forget about Jefferson's infamous Field Day on June 3 (raindate, June 4). We hope to see you there cheering on your team! And thanks to the generosity of our wonderful PTA, we also look forward to another schoolwide field trip to the Hall of Science on June 17. So save the dates! (And watch your child's folder for any other exciting end-of-the-year parties and events.)

As we enter the final stretch, we want to thank the parents, once again, for all your support throughout the year! We couldn't have done it without you.



The First Grade Teachers

2nd grade

Happy Spring to all!

Reading/Writing
We are having a wonderful time in our poetry unit learning about different elements of poetry such as similes, metaphors,

personification, and onomatopoeia. What fun we have had writing our own poems.

Math-This quarter we are learning how to read tables and graphs and to make diagonals and midpoints. Subtracting from two and three digit numbers with regrouping is not as hard as we thought. Learning about various shapes and patterns is really interesting, too.

Social Studies-In Social Studies we are learning about the beginnings and growth of our country. We are talking about Native American groups and early settlers who came from Europe and explorers who led the way

have access to materials in our other schools using the automated system. This tool allows us to save money in these tough economic times. We are gearing up for our annual Library Achievement Test (LAT) where the children will be quizzed, Jeopardy style, on authors, illustrators, genres, and library skills.

A special thank you goes out to our local bookstore, Book Revue, for hosting the end of Parents as Reading Partners event. Please note author Henry Winkler will be there on May 8th. His series featuring Hank Zipper may be appropriate for some of our more advanced readers and older siblings.



The "Book Nook" crafted patchwork pillows while studying artist Paul Klee. The children are reading *Class Clown* by Johanna Hurwitz and the clay vases and colorful spring flowers will soon be on display in our main office.

Thank you to Vince Vilardi of Mrs. Weider's first grade class for his donation of a set of phonics based readers to the Jefferson School. We are always delighted to make sure that materials end up where they will be used and appreciated.

Until next time, keep on reading!
Mrs. Tietjen

Interview with Mrs. Aurilia about her trip to Peru

by Mrs. Wilcox-Ms. Mondkar's students:

Eric Garcia, Jonathan Ortez,
Cheelsy Rivas, Jordi Velasquez
& Kimberly Fuentes

1. *What inspired you to travel to Peru?*

I always wanted to go to a Spanish-speaking country!

2. *Where is Peru?*

It is in South America.

3. *What different forms of transportation did you take during your trip?*

I went to Peru by plane.

I had to take 3 planes to get there: 1st from New York. to Miami, Florida; next from Miami overnight to Lima, Peru; then to Cusco, Peru.

While I was there, I did mostly walking around Cusco, I went hiking for 3 days on the Incas Path in the Andes Mountains,

camping out, I also took trains and buses to get back from my "trek" to my hotel in Cusco.

4. *Tell us about the meals you ate during your visit to Peru?*

The food was delicious, even during the 3-day hike! I had yucca, potatoes, fish, chicken and the best hot chocolate!

5. *What cities did you visit in Peru and where did you stay?*

First, I stayed at a hotel called Casa San Blas, in Cusco. I camped out in a tent while I was hiking in the Andes. Then I visited Cusco, The Sacred Valley, Ollantaytambo, Aguas Calientes, Macchu Picchu, Wayna Picchu and other Inca Ruins.

6. *What was your biggest surprise during your trip?*

My biggest surprise was that I hiked up Mountains that were 13,000 feet high! I didn't know how challenging it would be to hike in such high altitude! The 1st day I hiked for 9 hours! I didn't think I could make it...but I did!

7. *What did you learn about this country and the*

people who live there?

I learned so much about the Incas-the ancient people who once lived in Peru, and their beliefs about nature. I would love to teach my students more about the Incas! It was a wonderful trip!!



Mrs. Aurilia in Peru

Arts-In-Education

Arts-In-Education is presenting Puneeta Mittal who will demonstrate Indian Block Printing to the 3rd grades. Students will participate in a workshop and create their own scarves! This artist is presented with help from Huntington Arts Council.

Thank you to all the parents and the Jefferson PTA for your support this year.

Parent Volunteers:
Peggy Low, Sue Buchholtz & Cynthia Rabito

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Our April Body & Brains Workout Activities:

- Playground Safety - Review
- The "Perfect Push-up".
- +Baseball/Softball Skills & Games.

Assessments:

- Push-Up Test.
- Batting

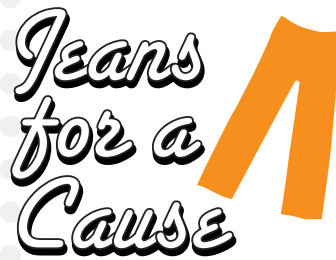
Just a P.E. Safety Reminder: All students should wear sneakers in order to safely participate. Sneakers may be brought to school and changed into before P.E. class. It would be a tremendous help if you could teach and encourage your child to learn how to tie their sneakers if they don't know how to do so already.

Community Events: Spring sports seasons are in full swing. If you are interested in attending any High School or Middle School sporting events, (Spring: Baseball, Softball, Tennis, Track, Lacrosse) check www.sectionxi.org for dates, times and locations.

Field Day - 2010:
Field Day is just around the corner. The date is Thursday, June 3, 2010 and (Rain Date: Friday, June 4, 2010). Our theme this year is "A Luau Beach Party" We will be sending home detailed information shortly.



Physical Education Staff: Karen Fischer & Lynn Hefele



I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff at Jefferson for contributing to "Jeans For a Cause". The contributions that you have made went to a worthwhile cause that I

am very involve "Surfer's Healing".

Surfers Healing was founded by Israel (Izzy) and Danielle Paskowitz. Their son, Isaiah, was diagnosed with autism at age 3. Israel is a former competitive surfer and started the camps to offer surfing therapy after seeing what a profound impact it had on his own son. Camps are held all summer and fall at various locations along both the west and east coast. Surfers Healing brings needed respite to the lives of children with autism and their families.

It's a day filled with excitement, hope, pure joy... and peace. I also work with other various organizations such as Land & Sea Sports Club, Inc., Surfers Way, and I Matters Surf Camp. For more information you may visit:

www.surfershealing.org

Thank you again to Mrs. Sweeney and Jeans For a Cause.

Mark Smith - Jefferson Custodian

From the READING Teachers!

The Jefferson reading teachers are welcoming spring this year with our usual round of spring books and review classes. We are helping the third graders to get ready for their English Language Arts tests while keeping our classes excited about reading.

PARP was such a great success; why not try some Spring books at home also? "The Great Kapok" by Lynne Cherry and "The Giving Tree" by Shel Silverstein are good discussion starters for Earth Day. Rainy day reading is fun when you share a book like "Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs".

April is poetry month and there are a slew of humorous poetry books such as "The New Kid on the Block", and "The Frog Wore Red Suspenders" by Jack Prelutsky. And of course you might try the ever popular "A Light in the Attic" and "Where the Sidewalk Ends", by Shel Silverstein.

Whatever you choose, don't forget to read aloud and keep the PARP promise going!

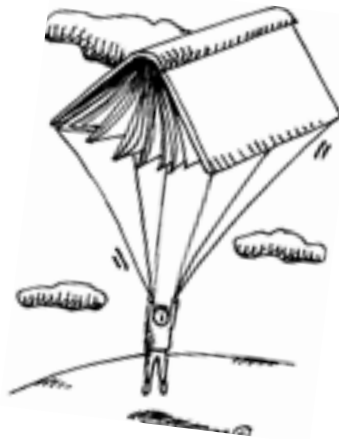


Art News

The latest projects happening in the art room for this 3rd marking period...

KINDERGARTEN - Made a beautiful hard pastel landscape drawing that include hill, mountains, water and trees. The students first learned how to blend with a very messy art medium which was hard pastels. They first covered the entire paper with hills, sky, water and grass and they accomplished the blending of the pastels by using both cotton and their fingertips!!!!!! Then mountains were added in the background and they learned that they were drawn smaller because they were in the distance, hence, new vocabulary word for them (BACKGROUND). Trees were the last final touch and they were made with oil pastels. Another very YUMMY project that the kindergarteners did was a dessert drawing of a donut, ice cream and cupcake and they were taught how the artist named Wayne Thiebaud had been very popular for the dessert and food paintings that he created. The students used oil pastels for their work and a real paper dish was include for a touch of whimsy and 3-dimensionality.

1st GRADE - For the first time ever I attempted a very challenging art medium called charcoal with such a young group of children that are first grade age. Usually this type of medium is reserved for older children but I am very happy to say that this young age group met the challenge of this medium very well and they were able to learn the techniques of shading an apple and orange. They really did a wonderful job!!!!!! They learned about the female artist named Georgia O'Keeffe who made beautiful flower paintings. The students did their own painting/sculpture of flowers using watercolors to paint a beautiful cluster of flowers and then a clay flower was made separately and then put together with the watercolor picture- very pretty!!!!!!



2nd GRADE - Learned how to take a 2-Dimensional (flat) piece of colored paper and turn it into a 3-Dimensional (height, width, depth) sculpture by first cutting shapes into the colored paper and then assembling it into an interesting sculpture that is free-standing. The students worked with a very challenging art medium called charcoal and just as my first graders handled this difficult and messy medium so well the 2nd graders did beautifully with the charcoal as well and they turned circles into 3-dimensional bubbles. Great job! The students made a very colorful design/pattern picture using only oil pastels which were pressed down hard when they were drawing with them to create such bold, bright colors.



3rd GRADE - Learned how to make a flat (2-dimensional) drawing of a circle into a 3-dimensional (height, width, depth) sphere and this was accomplished by using hard pastels and learned how to blend light and dark values of various colors to make the circle turn into a sphere. They also did a beautiful tropical landscape painting that included many different painting techniques, some of which involved a fan brush which they have been learning to use all year. These paintings look great; it almost makes you feel like you are part of the painting.

Maria Mazzola - Art Teacher



Pasta Night!

Kevin O'Donnell
donates books
to the Jefferson
library



UPCOMING EVENTS:

April 23 – VIP night
Jefferson Gym

April 27 & 28 – NYS ELA
Exams 3rd grade

April 28 – PTA Spring Social

May 4 & 5 - MATH NYS Exams
3rd grade

May 7 – Lip Sync
and Plant Sale pick-up

May 10 – BOE/Budget meet
7:30 JAI

May 11– Duel Language Parent meet
HHS 6-7 PM

May 12 – Jefferson PTA meet
7:30 PM

May 13 – SEPTA Coffee Talk
10 AM

May 14 – Staff Apprecation Day

*** May 18** – **BUDGET VOTE**
and Distrcit Wide Art Show

May 21 – Kindergarten Orientation

May 22 – SEPTA Fundraiser
The Bay Club - 7 PM

May 31 – Memorial Day
Schools Closed

June 3 – Jefferson Field Day

June 4 – Field day Raindate

cont. from page 1,
 that these 2010 assessments will assess a greater fund of knowledge and skills. We know our children are prepared and we are hopeful the assessments remain as fair a measure as in years past. Parents can help by making sure children get a good night's sleep and come to school having had a good breakfast and a big hug from you!

Jefferson Primary is certainly one very special place where teachers and parents work together to bring the joy of learning to our children!

Sincerely,
 Margaret H. Evers

Mrs. Kaczor Retires!

The Jefferson family is preparing to wish good luck to one of our most beloved teachers as she prepares to end a 33-year career and begin a happy and healthy retirement. Mrs. Susanne Kaczor will be retiring at the top of her game on June 25th. Over the years, Mrs. Kaczor has done it all and seen it all. She is one of the few educators



who has actually worked in every one of the district's buildings, including a few that have since been closed. Always the consummate professional, she has had only one focus: to provide each child all they need to reach their potential and thrive. While we will miss her brilliant skills with children in the classroom, it will be the memory of her grace, good humor and gentle heart we will all miss the most. I know I speak for all of us at Jefferson when I say "Best Wishes, Susanne!" - MHE



PARP 2010

