

# The Jaguar Journal

Jefferson Primary Community News • National Suffolk Region PTA

January/February 2010

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year to all!! Although it is the deep of winter when so many might choose to hibernate, the Jefferson community couldn't be busier or happier.

This past January we welcomed two wonderful authors who shared their love of literature and writing with the students. First, Ms. Tracy Delio wowed our kindergarteners and first graders by reading about the adventures of her cat Louis V. After seeing her performance, one little kindergartener was overheard to say "That was the best thing I ever heard in my whole life!" Pretty high praise, don't you think?? The second guest author was Mr. Darren Sardelli. Mr. Sardelli is an accomplished poet and author of numerous books who inspired our second and third graders to write, write, write!!

Also in January, our third graders got a chance to meet four accomplished orchestra teachers from our music department who visited Jefferson. The students were dazzled by the beauty of the music and intrigued at how they could learn to make that kind of music themselves. Early in February, the music faculty will return to Jefferson with a program which will allow third graders to try out many of the instruments before entering Woodhull.

This month our second and third graders will be experiencing the theater! On February 3rd the third graders made their first trip to Woodhull to their annual theater production. On February 9th, our second graders will be visiting the Engeman Theater in Northport to see a very professional presentation of "Peter Pan & Wendy"!! (I can't forget to mention that this trip is being made possible because of a very generous one thousand dollar donation from a parent!!!) And, on February 23rd, our second and third graders will be visiting Huntington High School to see Aesop's Fables presented by Theaterworks USA and sponsored by our wonderful Arts in Education Committee.

February is also the month we'll be busy planning for so many March events! First, our annual Pasta Night sponsored by the Jefferson PTA will be held on March 5th and promises to be great fun, as usual! March 8th is the beginning of our exciting Parents as Reading Partners Program. March is also the month we invite our community to register all students eligible for kindergarten in September 2010. It's hard to believe that this entering kindergarten will be the Class of 2023!!! The first registration date is March 16th and will be held here at Jefferson. If you need to make an appointment please call 673-4299. And finally, March is the month for our annual Parent-Child Science Fair to be held March 23rd! This year, a panel of judges will be choosing one science project from each grade to submit to the Brookhaven Laboratory Elementary Science Fair!! I can hardly wait to see what our students dream up this year!!

Margaret H. Evers  
Principal



# News from inside Jeffeson...



## Kindergarten:

Winter is a very busy time in kindergarten! We feel very scientific learning all about hibernation, migration, arctic animals, groundhogs and winter clothing!

We celebrated the New Year in January and will learn about the Chinese New Year in February. We will study about famous black Americans, make Valentines and learn about the Presidents. Dr. Gellerman's dental staff will come in to talk to us about the importance of taking care of our teeth. We also will be celebrate our 100th day of school very soon!

Winter is a very exciting but we can't wait for OUTSIDE learning in the SPRING!

The Kindergarten Teachers

## 1st grade:

Brr! The Arctic blast surrounds us as we read and learn about Arctic animals. As the winds whip around outdoors, we warm up with books about Polar bears, Penguins, and other icy world animals. Many great stories have been generated from reading animal facts about these Arctic creatures. Using their newly learned editing skills, the students write sentences using proper capitalization and punctuation. It's a busy and creative time during Writer's Workshop.

The first graders have been quite busy investigating new Math concepts. The children enjoy using wipe-off math boards, as well as their workbooks, to explore lessons such as Solving Problems with Unknown Partners, Exploring Teen Numbers, Adding Tens and Ones, and Exploring Coin Amounts. Encourage your child to discuss the different strategies they choose to use to solve story problems. Always remind your child that it is fine to make mistakes. Keep in mind the motto that "errors help us learn".

During the February break, we hope that you can curl up with a good book, a cup of hot cocoa, and enjoy a good book with your child. Stay warm!!!

Love,  
The First Grade Teachers

## 2nd grade:

Winter Greetings! The second graders have been settling in and working hard after a wonderful winter break.

The cold winter weather was a great way for the second graders to end their Science unit on Weather. They were able to go outside and watch the water freeze, record the temperature, rain/snow fall amounts and wind direction. Light and Color will be the next unit being studied by your child in Science.

Many math topics are being covered during this time. For instance, time, money and graphing are some examples. Your child will soon be learning the tough skill on how to subtract double digit numbers with or without ungrouping.

The second grade REALLY enjoyed the visit by silly poetry author Darren Sardelli. In addition to listening to him reciting his poems and learning where he got his inspiration from, the students were able to brainstorm ideas and create a whole class silly poem. What a blast!

We are looking forward to our Field trip to the Engeman Theatre in Northport to see the play Peter Pan and Wendy on February 9th. Please be sure to send in your child's permission slip and money as soon as possible.

Stay warm and enjoy the rest of your winter!  
The Second Grade Teachers

## 3rd grade:

During the next few months the third graders will be very busy in school. We will be "Meeting The Instruments" in preparation for 4th grade. During the month of February we will be attending a performance at HHS entitled Aesop's Fables by Jim West. In Math we will become experts in multiplication and division. In Science we will begin a new unit of study entitled Forms of Energy. In Reading we will be covering topics directly related to ELA preparation. Some important dates to remember are:

continued...

third grade continued...

April 26-28 ELA Assessment

May 5-7 Math Assessment

The Science Fair will be sometime in April and we encourage everyone to start thinking about project ideas. The Third Grade Teachers thank you for your continued support!

The Third Grade Teachers

## From the Librarian..

Hello Readers,

Winter is a great time to catch up on some reading, and the library at Jefferson has been a rather busy place. Students take full advantage of the numerous resources available for research and reading for pleasure. Renovations continue - the new tile floor is down, a colorful new rug is in place, the beautiful circulation desk is up, and the Smartboard is in use. Throughout the entire process not a single class has been cancelled!

Thanks to the generous Arts in Education program, kindergarten and first grade recently enjoyed a presentation by author Tracey Delio. Her cat "Louie" has been an inspiration for two books that she has self published. For second and third grade, the poet Darren Sardelli was a tremendous hit with his witty performance poems and intriguing poetry workshop. Programs that bring literature alive are greatly appreciated.

In third grade, the Book Nook continues to be an exciting and creative enrichment program. Group two finished up reading *Stories Julian Tells* by Ann Cameron. The authentic African masks are truly museum worthy, and were a big hit at the high school performance of the African Acrobats. Group three made fabric bags in the style of Pablo Picasso. They are now reading

*Year of the Panda* by Miriam Schlein. The three dimensional panda projects complete with bamboo backgrounds will soon be on display.

Research and Enrichment Activities for the Children of Huntington (REACH) for all second and third grade students continues to flourish. The third grade completed Reader's Theater and did a wonderful job performing for their classmates. The children have been working on fluency, expression, theatrics, and stage presence. I am convinced that there are some future actors and actresses among the Jefferson student body! Second grade has been having a great time with Clip Clue puzzles, Noodlers, and character building games.

Keep in mind that Parents as Reading Partners (PARP) is just around the corner. Watch for information packets and a start date in early March. Most of all, remember that reading together is an activity that children of all ages enjoy.

Until next time, keep on reading....Mrs. Tietjen



Tracey Delio visits the Jefferson Library

## Arts-In-Education

The district wide Arts-In-Education committee would like to thank the Jefferson PTA board members and the Jefferson parents for their support during our Annual Fundraiser "The

African Acrobats". The monies raised from this event, along with PTA and district support goes directly into arts programming for all district students.

We had many events at Jefferson during December and January. The Nutcracker presented by Karen Lynch Ballet with 1st graders performing Author Tracey Delio, and Poet Darren Sardelli. Huntington's talented Orchestra and Band Faculty gave "in class" concerts to 3rd graders. February is bringing the exciting Jim West's Puppet Theatre and students will experience a quality production in our terrific auditorium at the High School. Jim's puppets will give their version of Fables.

Jefferson Representatives; Peggy Low, Susan Buchholtz, Cynthia Rabito



Poet Darren Sardelli

the popular Aesop's

### A note from Nurse Betsy Steiner:

Dear Parents/Guardians,  
I am writing to ask for your help in keeping our children and faculty healthy!!!!!!

Whenever your child has been diagnosed with a communicable illness please call me immediately at (631) 673-2070 or (631) 673-2141 (for answering machine).

Examples of such diagnoses include:

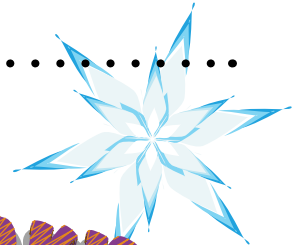
- \* Strep Throat
- \* Fifth's Disease
- \* Pink Eye
- \* Lice
- \* Flu

Once you provide me this important information, I am better able to respond effectively in order to avoid the spread of these illnesses.

I thank you for your cooperation and look forward to a happy and healthy new year.

Sincerely,  
Betsy Steiner, R.N.  
School Nurse

# Poetry Corner



## My Imagination

I woke up in a flying bed,  
With monkey bees dancing on top of my head.  
I looked at the sky and saw fish eating pie,  
And a rainbow trippo wearing a coconut tie.  
My bed dropped me off at a haunted school,  
I was greeted by a ghost in a purple slimy pool.  
The skeleton desks were from planet Cheg-os  
And these are the things that I made with my Legos!

Mrs. Damiano's and Mrs. Kaczor's Class Poem  
with Darren Sardelli  
January 26, 2010

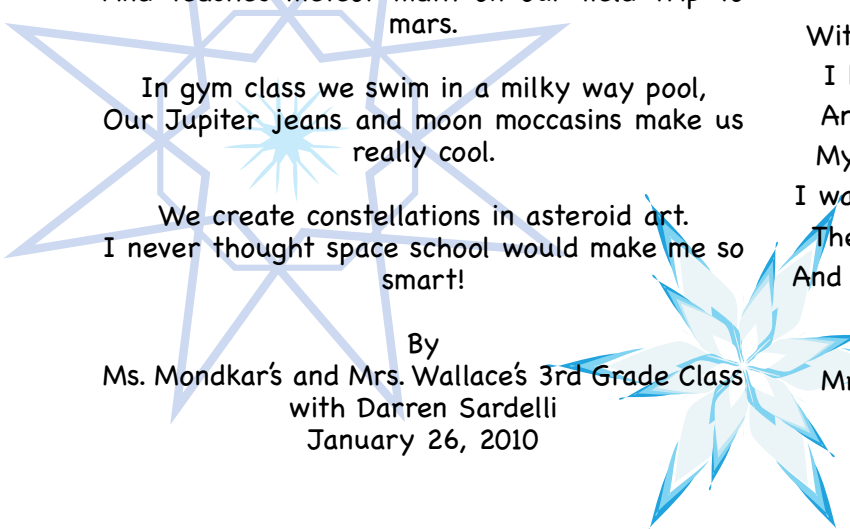
We go to school that floats in space  
The janitor in our school has an alien face.

Our astronaut teacher catches falling stars  
And teaches meteor math on our field trip to mars.

In gym class we swim in a milky way pool,  
Our Jupiter jeans and moon moccasins make us really cool.

We create constellations in asteroid art.  
I never thought space school would make me so smart!

By  
Ms. Mondkar's and Mrs. Wallace's 3rd Grade Class  
with Darren Sardelli  
January 26, 2010



# PHYSICAL EDUCATION NEWS

## **Our January Body & Brains Workout Schedule:**

### *Activities:*

- Tennis skills and games
- Jumping & jump rope skills and games.
- Rolling & bowling skills and games.

### *Assessments:*

- Jump roping.

## **Our February Body & Brains Workout Schedule:**

### *Activities:*

- Jim Jefferson & the Heart Healthy Adventure – The circulatory system, obstacle course style.
- The “Perfect Push-up”.
- Volleyball skills & games.

### **Just a P.E. Safety Reminder:**

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

### **Community Events:**

If you are interested in attending any High School Varsity sporting events, (winter season): Basketball, Winter Track & Wrestling) check [www.sectionxi.org](http://www.sectionxi.org) for dates, times and locations.

### **Jump Rope for Heart Fundraiser Event:**

On January 21st and 22nd we had our 5th annual “Jump Rope for Heart” fundraiser events. Approximately 176 students participated in six jumping activity stations prior to the start of the school day. These students raised a tentative **\$6888.02** for The

American Heart Association and their fight against heart disease and stroke. Funds are continuing to roll in. Our staff participated in a “Bowling for Heart” event and the “Go Red for Women” day on February 5th. Our goal is to reach \$7500.00.

*Karen Fischer & Lynn Hefele P.E.*

### **A message from PTA co-presidents**

The entire PTA continues to work hard for ALL the children at Jefferson!! We are so impressed by our volunteers who coordinate every detail so our events run smoothly and are fun for all the children!

We have so many great upcoming events including PARP (Parents as Reading Partners), Pasta Night (March 5th) VIP night and the Spring Social (Save the date: April 28th at the Harbor Club). In addition, the PTA is working closely with Mrs. Evers to plan our PTA sponsored “End of the Year” field trip to Hall of Science Museum in June.

Remember its not too late to join the PTA and we are always looking for new volunteers. Please join us at our upcoming events and support

your PTA and  
all the  
children  
at  
Jefferson.

Sincerely,  
Norma  
Gorecki and  
Kara Pitti  
(Co-  
Presidents)



# Jefferson Jaguars - at work and play!



## UPCOMING EVENTS AT JEFFERSON AND HUFSD

**February 10** – PTA meeting 10:00 AM

**February 15-19** – Winter Break School Closed

**February 25**– SEPTA Coffee Talk

**March 1** – Board of Ed meeting 7:30 JAI

**March 5 - Pasta Night**  
Jefferson GYM

**March 8** – Parents As Reading Partners begin

**March 9** – Dual Language Meeting  
HHS Cafateria 6-7 PM

**March 10** – PTA meeting 10:00 AM

**March 15** – Board of Ed meeting  
\* BUDGET - 7:30 JAI

**March 22** – Board of Ed meeting  
\* BUDGET - 7:30JAI

**March 23** – Primary Science Fair Day

**March 25** – SEPTA Presentation  
Kirk Martin

**March 29-April 5** – Spring Break  
School Closed