

# The Jaguar Journal

Jefferson Primary Community News • National Suffolk Region PTA

September/October 2009

Dear Parents,

*From the Principal's Desk...*

On September 9th we welcomed three hundred fifty eight excited children to kindergarten, first, second and third grade and to the first day of the 2009-2010 school year!! I want to thank the faculty, staff and PTA for all their hard work in getting our building and the classrooms ready for that first big day. Jefferson Primary never looked better!! On your next visit, please enjoy our new aquarium in the front lobby and make sure to take a look at the courtyard! Our volunteer parents deserve a huge round of applause for taking such great care of our special gardens!



Our school reflects our vision for an environment that nurtures a young child's mind and imagination and seeks to establish the foundation for a lifelong love of learning. Our emphasis is to develop literacy and numeration skills for all children. To that end, we begin by building on the language and experiences that our youngest children bring to school. The entire staff works collaboratively to provide appropriate learning experiences that will contribute to the needs of each child in all areas of development - social, emotional, physical and cognitive. We view each

child as a unique person with individual learning styles, interests and levels of development. To be successful, we work together to provide well planned instruction in a nurturing and safe environment.

An essential part of our children's education is support from our community and there is no better community than here at Jefferson Primary!! Teachers, parents, grandparents and guardians together encourage the future generation to be successful, contributing members of our society. It is an awesome job made easier by the partnerships we build. I'm looking forward to a wonderful year!!

*Sincerely, Margaret H. Evers  
Principal*

## News from inside Jefferson...



### Kindergarten

In September the children adjusted well to the full day program. They are eager learners who have made many new friends in their new classroom setting. The children spent a lot of time learning all about themselves and school safety. Then, moving on to October, during Fire Prevention Week, the Fire Marshall and several firefighters from the Huntington Fire Station visited the Kindergarten classes. The children experienced traveling through the simulated smoke house and learned what to do to be safe. Next, in honor of Columbus Day, the children built their own boats and they had an opportunity to sail them in school. We're happy to announce that the majority of the boats stayed afloat! Buster the Bus, the Harvest Festival and Halloween were the three big finales for the month. The children had a wonderful time at each event!



### 1st grade

The first grade teachers started the school year with so many wonderful projects. During the month of September we will be covering all the new routines and procedures necessary to ensure a wonderful and safe beginning. During the month of October we will continue to learn about the new season and its wonderful changes, fire prevention, and community helpers. Our first graders are becoming wonderful scientists, experimenting different hands-on activities following our science curriculum. We can't wait for our famous Halloween parade.

During the month of November our parent/teacher conferences will happen. We expect the children to be totally immersed in their routines and comfortable with their new surroundings, learning is in full speed! Please continue checking their folders for important notices and classroom assignments, we don't want them to miss anything!!!

### 2nd grade

What a great start to a new school year! We enjoyed meeting all of the parents at "Meet the Teacher Night." We look forward to working with your children this year.

In reading we will be thinking and talking about books. The students will be learning how to make text to self, text to text, and text to world connections as they read. We will be teaching them how to become better readers by reading with fluency, accuracy and comprehension. Next, we will be learning how readers use strategies to help them figure out words and understand

their stories. Remember to read daily with your child. In Writer's Workshop we will be thinking and telling real stories. The students will learn how writers write about the things that are important to them. Within this unit, we will also be working on adding tiny details to our writing and re-reading our writing for accuracy.

In Social Studies we will be introducing to the students about the different

places in which people live and describe the characteristics of each of these different places. Soon we will be talking and learning about caring for our Earth's natural resources, and explore different ways children can conserve and protect them. In Science we will be conducting experiments and observing how a solid changes to a liquid, and a liquid changes to a gas. During Math we are learning about understanding addition and subtraction and solving story problems.

We look forward to our trip to the Conklin House where we will learn about how people lived in the 1700's. Thank you to our parents for all their support.

### 3rd grade

Welcome back everyone! All of the third grade classes are in full swing! Thank you to all the parents for sending their child to

school with all their school supplies on the first day of school. Since we have such a busy year ahead, we have started work in all of the subject areas.

In social studies we are learning about the locations of the continents and oceans. Our first science unit is water and we are looking forward to receiving our buoyancy kit. This kit is always very popular with the children because they will experience the properties of water and build boats from various materials. Our first unit in math is place value and graphing. We have been graphing birthdays, buses, favorite sports etc! Please remember to check the yellow agenda pad for all homework assignments and notes from the teacher. This pad is a great tool to help the children stay organized.

Thank you for your support, parents!

## From the Librarian..

*Welcome Readers,*

*The air is crisp and the Jefferson Media Center is once again abuzz with the happy chatter of eager students. After a restful book filled summer, there is nothing more exciting than the start of a school year. Please return all Summer Reading Challenge forms to the library as soon as possible. Our bulletin board of "Super Summer Readers" is filling up rapidly. The Huntington Public Library reports that over fifty children participated in their reading program - nice job!*

*Book checkout is in full swing with our new automated system, Destiny. We have spoken at length about library citizenship and book care during our weekly classes. Please make sure that your child returns their book on time so they may take full advantage of available resources. There are some wonderful new books*

*for you to read and enjoy with your child.*

*The Book Nook is off to a wonderful start with a study of the artist Georgia O'Keeffe. It is my pleasure to work cooperatively with our creative art teacher, Maria Mazzola in a program that services third grade students.*

*The children are researching the life and times of the artist best known for her giant flower paintings.*



*During the 2009/2010 school year, all second and third grade students will receive enrichment in our "Research and Enrichment Activities for the Children of Huntington" (REACH) program. Following an A/B week schedule, students will participate in hands on activities geared toward promoting creativity. We have exciting kits and literature based lessons that will spark the imaginations of all.*

*The Library Media Center has an E-Board that can be accessed via the district webpage. Go to [www.hufsd.edu](http://www.hufsd.edu) and from the "Quick Click Bar" select "E-Boards". Scroll down to "Library Media Center - Jefferson Primary" and you can view some of the exciting happenings in our school.*

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

**Do you get email from Jefferson PTA?**

Send requests to [peggy@williamlow.com](mailto:peggy@williamlow.com).

ALL email address' and info will be **kept confidential**

# A letter from the Jefferson PTA co-presidents

Welcome to Jefferson Primary! We would like to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves as the co-presidents of the PTA for the upcoming school year. We have many new and exciting programs to benefit all of our students here at Jefferson. Of course, a PTA is only as strong as its members, so we hope you will

join us in helping our children have the best school experience as possible. We want to also take this opportunity to introduce and thank our executive board:  
Vice President: Jennifer Hebert;  
Recording Secretary: Lisa Santa-Maria;



Corresponding Secretary: ToniAnn Mangan;  
Treasurer: Mark Bellissimo; Historians: Cynthia Bellissimo, Susan Buchholtz, and Kathleen Deluca; and our Council Delegates: Donna Kye, Cindy Neber, and Susan LoScalzo. The Executive Board and Committee Chairpersons and Volunteers have planned many events, fundraisers and programs for this year so please get involved. Everyone is Welcome!  
Sincerely,

Norma Gorzeki & Kara Pitti



## From Dr. Bomse...

Dear Parents,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to new parents in the Jefferson community. My name is Dr. Russell Bomse and I am the School Psychologist here at Jefferson. I offer a variety of services to parents and students including consultation, group and individual counseling, assessment and crisis intervention. I also consult with staff in regard to such issues as classroom management, monitoring academic progress and social-emotional development. Please feel free to contact me at 673-2070



Back to School September 2009

# Arts-In-Education

Arts-In-Education is a committee of parent volunteers district wide who meet monthly. We research and plan both cultural arts and exploratory programs that are linked directly to core curriculum concepts and skills.

Students participate in a wide range of experiences, from seeing their own pieces of creative writing performed by professional actors and chatting with famous authors to working with real scientists and “meeting” characters from American history.



Teachers and principals participate in planning and surveying and suggesting these events. Our coordinator is Joan Fretz, Director of Fine and Performing Arts.

Thank you to all the parents and the Jefferson PTA for your support this year. We look forward to scheduling programs that reach all children, all grades throughout the district.

Parent Volunteers:  
Peggy Low, Sue Buchholtz & Cynthia Rabito

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## FROM BETSY STEINER R.N.

The cold season is approaching, and so are the illnesses! I would like to remind you that if your child does not feel well, or vomited the night before school, or during breakfast the day of school or has a fever of more than 100 degrees, please keep him/her home! You will probably be hearing from me anyway.



Also if your child is scratching his/her head, you can look at the nape of the neck, and behind their ears for evidence of lice. If you suspect your child has “nits” please tell me. I can guide you on how to look and what to look for. It is much better

for me to know before an epidemic occurs. I will examine your child’s head confidentially.

Please help me prevent an epidemic by calling me if you know or suspect your child may have lice.

Please remember to call me if your child is going to be absent at 673-2141 to leave me a message.

As always, if you have any questions please don’t hesitate to give me a call at 673-2070

Truly Yours,  
Betsy Steiner R.N. - School Nurse

## NEWS FROM THE COMPUTER LAB

**Welcome back to another exciting year in the computer lab!**

**Classes have started visiting the computer lab for their weekly 40 minute period. First, second and third graders are getting re-acquainted with the logon procedures and familiarizing themselves with the appearance of our new Desktop. Many of our favorite internet websites are now just a click away since they are located either on the Desktop and/or in the “Favorites” folder. Kindergarten classes have been learning how to use their User ID to log onto the computer. If you are a parent of a kindergarten student, please work with your child on the spelling of their last name. In order to log onto the computer, each child must type in their first initial and last name. I have prepared index cards with the User Id for each Kindergartener and first grader to use until they have memorized the spelling.**

**If you would like to keep up with happenings in the Jefferson Library**

**Media Center, you are invited to check out the eBoard that Mrs. Tietjen and I have on our district website. Go to [www.hufsd.edu](http://www.hufsd.edu) and using the "Quick Click Bar" follow the eBoards tab to the district directory and click on the Library Media Center for Jefferson School. There are several links to websites, pictures and information about the computer lab and the library.**

**It's going to be a fantastic year!**  
**MRS. WALLER**



## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Welcome to our new Kindergarten students and welcome back to our returning first, second and third graders. We hope that you all had a fun filled summer vacation which included many excellent opportunities for physical activity.

### Our September Body & Brains

**Workout Schedule:** During the first few weeks of school, we set the stage for a safe and fun filled school year. Rules for good character, playground safety and fire drill safety were taught.



These topics were reinforced in icebreaker activities and games.

### Our Upcoming October Body & Brains

**Workout Schedule:** During the month of October, the K-1 students will be working on kicking and throwing activities while the 2-3 students will be participating in soccer and

football lessons. We will be implementing warm-ups that focus on improving physical fitness. October will culminate with our annual Halloween Haunted House Obstacle Course. These frightful health-related physical fitness obstacles are a student favorite.

**Physical Assessment:** During the first marking period we will be assessing galloping, skipping, and throwing mechanics as well as flexibility.

Did You Know...:

Health related physical fitness components include cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength, muscular endurance, flexibility & body composition.

**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:** If you are interested in attending any High School Varsity sporting events, (Fall: Football, Field Hockey, Soccer, Volleyball, Cross County, Swimming & Tennis) check [www.sectionxi.org](http://www.sectionxi.org) for dates, times and locations.

**Physical Education Staff:**  
**Karen Fischer & Lynn Hefele**

# The Courtyard Corner

Have you visited our courtyard yet, this year? If not, you are in for a real treat! So much work has been done in it this summer. We have a variety of beautiful flowers in pots and in beds, our waterfall and pond are operational, again, with a "school" of goldfish living there. Several birdfeeders and birdbaths are beckoning our wildlife.

Special thanks to all the families who adopted our courtyard this summer and worked so hard to maintain it. Thanks also go out to Paul Rispoli, Directory of Facilities, and our own head custodian, Tom Ehlers. Our deepest gratitude for the courtyard's amazing transformation go out to Mrs. Evers, our principal, her husband Jack, and their daughter Kate for their endless hours of digging, weeding, pruning, rearranging etc. throughout the summer.

Please take a moment to experience our courtyard's beauty whenever you have a chance!

Susanne Kaczor



Jefferson Courtyard  
September 2009



### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- September 28** – School Closed
- September 29** – PTA Gift Wrap sale ends
- October 5** – Picture Day
- October 14** – PTA meeting 10:00 AM
- October 21** – Kindergarten Harvest Festival
- October 23** – Family Fun Night 7:00 PM
- October 30** – Halloween Parade
- November 3** – Superintendent's Conferences/  
School Closed, Parent/Teacher Conferences all day
- November 5 Early Dismissal at 12:40** – Parent Conferences
- November 10 Early Dismissal at 12:40** – Parent Conferences
- November 11** Veterans' Day – School Closed
- November 25** – Emergency Go Home Drill (15 minute early dismissal)
- November 26 and 27** – Thanksgiving Recess – School Closed