

The Jaguar Journal

Jefferson Primary Community News • National Suffolk Region PTA

November/December 2009

Dear Parents,

As I watched the children proudly exhibit their unlimited imagination and creativity at the Halloween Parade, I was reminded of the awesome responsibility we have in raising these little ones. In each smiling, joyous face there is trust that parents and teachers will guide them, protect them and teach them the lessons they will need in order to grow into independent, productive and happy young adults. I think we are all doing a pretty fine job!

Parents often ask me "What can I do to help my child at home". The answer to this question lies not in extra dittos or pages for homework, but in more important activities that you are uniquely qualified to provide your child.

First, talk with your child every day. When you talk with, not at, your child you are helping him or her to become a better speaker and listener. Being a good listener and speaker are important prerequisite skills to becoming a successful reader and writer. Listed below are some suggestions:

- ✓ Start a conversation by asking a question that has no right or wrong answer (What did you think when you saw.....?);
- ✓ Encourage your child to exhibit good eye contact during the conversation;
- ✓ Ask your child what he or she thinks about a variety of topics;
- ✓ Ask your child to "be the teacher" and guide you to do a familiar task by giving you specific directions (like making a cheese sandwich);

You might also consider starting a family tradition of reading together a few days a week or even every day. Children love to share books with you!! It's a great way to help your child learn while spending time together. There is irreplaceable benefit to our little ones when they hear you read the language, watch you model what good readers do with books and, of course, when they feel the comfort, security and warmth of being close to you. Don't forget to choose some non-fiction books, too!



we have!!

As winter and the holiday season approach it is easy for children to become overexcited, so it is important to keep many of the same routines established for the rest of the year. Children rely on school and family schedules, mealtimes and bedtimes to remain predictable. Don't forget that winter may also be a great time for you to teach your child about the customs and traditions unique to your family. Making your child part of the customs and traditions in your family will give him or her a sense of belonging and purpose. What you teach now will be remembered and exactly what they will teach to the next generation of your family. What a wonderful responsibility

From our Jefferson family to yours, we wish you all the blessings of the season and a sincere wish for peace and happiness in the New Year.

Margaret H. Evers
Principal

News from inside Jefferson...



Kindergarten

Fall sure is a busy time for our Kindergarteners! We're doing a great job settling in, adjusting to the routines, and learning what it means to be safe, respectful, and responsible here at Jefferson. In November, we've been having fun learning about Autumn, as well as why the leaves are changing and falling to the ground. All the beautiful sights and smells of the Fall season have us investigating our Five Senses and talking about foods of the season. The children have been very interested as they learn about the Pilgrims, their Native American friends, and the very first Thanksgiving feast. Did you know that Squanto taught the Pilgrims to drop a small fish in with each seed when they planted? The fish really helped the seeds to grow and the Pilgrims had an excellent harvest the next year!

In December, we will travel around the globe as the children learn about holiday celebrations around the world. It is a wonderful month to learn about different cultures and the way they celebrate the season. We continue to practice so that every Kindergartener will be able to identify each letter of the alphabet and the sound made by that letter. We stress the one-to-one correspondence (understanding that one word is said for each printed word) necessary to begin reading. Handwriting practice is an every day occurrence as the children learn to form letters and numbers. Speaking of numbers, in math class we'll be focusing on the numbers 6 - 10 and beginning to add and subtract.

Wow! We are a very busy group! So... when your little one comes home from school, ask them to tell you two things they learned that day! Have a wonderful Thanksgiving and a warm and happy holiday season!



1st grade

Hello from the Jefferson Primary First Graders. November and December are busy months for us with all the seasonal activity that is going on. We love having the chance to show off our writing skills when working on all the things that we are thankful for during this time...and it sure is a lot! We also enjoy the opportunity to celebrate the



many similarities and differences that we find in each of our classrooms during the holiday season. It is always fun to find that even though we may do different things to celebrate, the message is the

same: peace, love, and happiness.

November and December are a time to see the first graders working hard (as usual) during math. We are really becoming experts on addition and subtraction and are even tackling story problems, WOW! As the colder months are upon us, many hats, scarves, and mittens will be entering the building with your little one...please be sure to label each article of clothing just in case! We hope to see you at the "Winter Songfest" and send out a special thanks to all who attended conferences!



2nd grade

The past few months have been a blur. We have been very busy and have been having a lot of fun in the process. Our Second graders had a wonderful experience while visiting the Conklin House and learning about how people lived in the 1700's. We also had a blast celebrating Halloween and thanks to all for coming and supporting our fantastic Halloween Parade.

In reading we have been thinking and talking about the characters in our books. We will begin to look at the characters in our books more closely in order to understand how and why they change. The students will also be learning how to write down notes as they read in order to understand the

stories and the characters better. In December we will begin studying story elements focusing on the characters, the setting, the problem and the solution. Remember to read with your child daily and encourage him/her to talk about the characters so they can practice the skills they are learning at school. In Writer's Workshop we will continue to focus on writing "small moments" stories in which the students try to focus on a small idea and add a lot of detail to create a personal story. After that we will also be working on descriptive paragraphs with topic sentences. In this unit we will be focusing on using the five senses in order to create more descriptive sentences. The students will also be learning how to create topic sentences and write a cohesive paragraph.

In social studies our students have just finished learning about our community and have just begun learning about our Earth and how to care for our natural resources. The students will learn ways in which they can help our Earth stay clean and how to conserve our natural resources. In science we will be continuing our study of weather. We will be setting up weather stations and the children will learn how to gather and keep track of changes in the weather.

In Math we are currently finishing up a unit on story problems, in which the children have learned multiple way of solving addition and subtraction story problems. Our next unit will focus on place value and will teach our students different ways to represent numbers to 200. This unit will also help our students to find the meaning of different place value positions.

We would like to give big thanks to all the parents for taking time to come and meet with your child's teacher during the November Parent-Teacher Conferences. We look forward to the upcoming holiday season and holiday parties, as well as

SAVE THE DATE!



**Dec. 22 - Winter Songfest 10:30 AM
Jefferson Gym**

watching "The Nutcracker Suite" and hosting our Winter Songfest on December 22nd.

3rd grade

Welcome back to school!! The 3rd grade has been immersed in a wide array of curriculum topics so far this year. As the 1st marking period comes to a close, the third grade teachers couldn't be more thrilled with the progress and success of our young learners. We have covered a variety of topics in the area of Math, Social Studies, Science and Language Arts. Math topics include place value and multi-digit addition and subtraction, lines, line segments, quadrilaterals and addition and subtraction word problems. At home, practice of the math facts (addition and subtraction) will

be a great help!! In Social Studies we have been learning about communities found in the United States and abroad. In Science we are wrapping up our units on Earth's Water and Buoyancy. During our Language Arts block we have covered lessons in spelling and becoming more effective reads and writers of the English language.

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As we begin November, the 3rd grade students will be responsible for running the Jefferson Primary food drive. Please help us make this another successful year by sending in canned or boxed food items. Thank you!!

The 3rd grade teachers are looking forward to a happy, healthy and academically successful year!

From the Librarian..

Hello Readers,

Welcome back to the Library Media Center. Ask your child about some of the exciting changes that are taking place here at Jefferson. An interactive Smartboard is being installed in the library to enhance instruction. Our talented district carpenters are building a new custom circulation desk. This will allow our automated checkout system to operate professionally - just like the public library.

Children are taking full advantage of the many wonderful in-house resources available to compliment the curriculum, and to read just for fun. Diary of A Wimpy Kid flies off the shelf, and has a lengthy wait list too, fortunately, the new book order has just arrived, and there are some additional copies to add to the collection. As we approach the holiday season, keep in mind that a book is a gift that keeps on giving. May I also suggest a magazine subscription as a way to encourage your child to read for pleasure? Feel free to contact me for some age appropriate book suggestions.

Group one of the Book Nook has wrapped up with a reading of Blackberries in the Dark, by Mavis



Jukes. Our talented third grade students designed and crafted hats that are both creative and fashionable. Group two has just begun a study of the French artist Edgar Degas. Each student is working on a ballerina sculpture that rivals the famous bronze housed at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. The youngsters constantly amaze us with their originality and zest for learning.

REACH for second and third grade is in full swing with students exploring machines, physics, theatre arts, and many other hands on activities. The third grade students are fine tuning their acting skills and practicing script reading. The opportunity to spark creativity and promote problem solving skills is being enjoyed by all!

Congratulations to our own Lynn Hefele, Physical Education Teacher/Author on the recent publication of her first children's book, Clean Up Your Backyard! Her generous donation of an autographed copy for the school library is a popular checkout request.

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

Arts-In-Education

The district wide Arts-In-Education committee kicked off the 2008 School Year with a trip to The Conklin House in October. All Second Graders got to experience life in Huntington from the mid-eighteenth century to the early twentieth century.

Upcoming events that include: Lynch Ballet

Company's "Nutcracker Suite". The 1st grade students will participate with dancers and all other students will enjoy their performance. In January we will have 2 authors - Darren Sardelli (www.laughalotpoetry.com) will present and do workshops with 2nd and 3rd grade students and Tracey Delio who enchanted and motivated our littlest writers in K and 1st last year.

The AIE will present The African Acrobats for our annual Fundraiser on 1/31/10 (Sunday) at the high school. Look for more info in backpacks.

Thank you to Jefferson staff and PTA who support AIE. We are looking forward to a wonderful year in the Arts!

Peggy Low, Susan Buchholtz, Cynthia Rabito

HFEF

The Huntington Foundation, since its founding in June 1993, has enriched our schools through hundreds of mini-grants aimed at promoting innovation in the classroom as well as funded larger school- and district-wide initiatives through its Reach for the Stars Program.

The Foundation would like to send a special thank you out to all the members of the Jefferson community who support the Foundation's efforts.

The Huntington Foundation welcomes participation from all members of the school community. Please feel free to call any Foundation officer. The more money raised by the Foundation, the more money it contributes for programs, equipment, and even support for those children who cannot afford to pay for school field trips.



SAVE THE DATE... The Huntington Foundation's Annual "Reach For The Stars" Fundraising Gala Honoring the 2009 Spirit Award Recipient John J. Finello will be held at the Woodlands Friday, January 22, 2010

WIN A 42" PANASONIC PLASMA FLAT SCREEN HDTV!

The raffle drawing will take place at the **Woodlands Gala**. All proceeds benefit the children of the Huntington Union Free School District. Raffle is \$10/each or \$50/book of 6 (winner need not be present) Raffles will be sold at PTA meetings and during the event until sold out.

Also, our Annual Alumni Fund Drive is now in progress. If you know anyone whose heart belongs to Huntington, please get them to donate or buy a raffle.

95% OF THE MONEY RAISED WILL GO BACK TO THE DISTRICT. OUR KIDS ARE THE FUTURE... PLEASE HELP!
For more information or to make a donation, please contact Denise Stieve 631-513-9434

Music Notes!

Our Jefferson musicians are very excited to be working on our first concert of the school year, The Jefferson Winter Songfest, which will take place on Tuesday December 22nd at 10:30 am. All are invited! All of our students in grades K through 3rd grade perform in this annual musical celebration of the holidays. We guarantee to fill you with cheer as we ring in the holidays together. So listen for our kindergarten angels, our "bundled up" 1st graders, our hula dancing 2nd graders, and our 3rd grade holiday rockers as we look forward to sharing our musical talents with you!
Karen Cronin & Chelsea Jablon - Music Teachers



grade, as well as, 1st place Hadley Clayton and Christina DeLuca, 2nd place Graham Young, and 3rd place Isabella Floro from the 3rd grade.

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.

Community Events:

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

Karen Fischer & Lynn Hefele

PHYSICAL EDUCATION NEWS!

Our November & December Body & Brains Workout Schedule:

- Soccer skills and games (passing, trapping & dribbling.)
 - Football skills (kicking off of the tee & punting.)
- Kicking assessment.
- Thanksgiving activities.
 - Scooter skills & activities.
 - Step aerobics.
 - Sit-up assessment.

Cereal Soccer Illustration Contest!

At the conclusion of the soccer unit, many 2nd and 3rd grade students participated in the Cereal Soccer book cover illustration contest.



Students were asked to use their imagination to draw a picture that would depict Cereal Soccer, a whimsical story used to introduce our soccer activity. **Congratulations to: 1st place Matthew Gennarelli and Julia Segal, 2nd place Carmine De Ieso and Allison Gooding, 3rd place Abigail Holmes and Isabella Toscano from the 2nd**



Jefferson Students with the Huntington Fire Dept.

ART NEWS!

Greetings from all the talented young artists that have been creating wonderful things in the art room!!!!

Kindergarten- learned about the French artist Georges Seurat and how he did Pointillism with all those dots of color, pretty amazing how the pictures look with thousands of small dots. The students did their own Pointillism with markers and they printed small dots using a cork. After this artist the next one learned was a Russian artist called the "father of Abstract Art" and his name is Wassily Kandinsky. The work

of Kandinsky was very innovative for his time because no one had ever seen pictures before that were not realistic but his concept caught on and the critics liked what they saw. Since it was a very haphazard technique the students used tempera paint with a sponge, a brush and cardboard to print with. Then on to the next artist named Paul Gauguin who once lived in France but gave up the hustle and bustle of big city living to venture to the island of Tahiti and there he spent his last years creating such beautifully, colorful paintings of the native Tahitian people and the gorgeous landscape. The students made their own landscape painting combined with paper trees.

1st Grade- learned about the artist

Frank Stella who made very large-scale painting/ sculptures by using a combination of wood, cardboard, metal etc....

The students did their own smaller version using painted warm/cool

colored paper that was cut up and glued in various 3-D ways to make their pieces look authentic. Next it was on to a cardboard bas-relief using painted pieces of cardboard once again with a warm/cool color theme and colored paper pieces were added and glossed for a shiny finish and then all the pieces were randomly glued together.

2nd grade- learned about the Russian artist called the "father of Abstract art" and his name is Wassily Kandinsky. The students recreated one of his circle themed abstract paintings by using tempera paint and a sponge. then colored paper, doilies and printed circles done with cups and cork were all added to get a circle shape on their picture. The next thing they learned was a Silhouette painting by using bright colors painted for a background with dark black lines on top of this bright background to create a silhouette



Book Nook Fall 2009

outline on their picture. Then on to a landscape painting using sponges for the background to paint in a sunset sky and green for the grassy area and then trees were also added.

3rd grade- learned about the French artist Claude Monet and made a beautiful garden painting using the technique of Impressionism just as the artist himself had done with small, short brushstrokes of colors. The students were inspired by looking at all the wonderful garden paintings of Monet's own personal garden including the bridge over his pond. Next the students learned that Monochromatic means one color and they made a mixed-media collage in one color using many different found objects such as fabric, buttons, paper etc....

Then it was on to a landscape painting that will be a paper collage using sponge painted papers as well as solid pieces of paper that will be cut into land formations and overlapped to create depth in the picture.

Maria Mazzola-art teacher

A message from our PTA co-presidents

We can't believe the holidays are upon us!! The PTA at Jefferson has been going strong!! Past

events including the Kindergarten Harvest Festival, Family Fun Night, and the Reflections program ran so smoothly. A big THANKS to our committee Chair-people and their helpers.

Our Jefferson volunteers are simply the BEST! The Kids Stuff Books fundraiser was a huge success. Quick reminder if you have not sent in your money for the

books, please do so or return the books back to Jefferson.

The Gift Wrap Sale was also very well run!! Reminder that Pie Sale pick up is November 25th.

Upcoming events include the Book fair which is scheduled for December 1st through 3rd, and the Holiday Boutique which is scheduled for the 2nd and 3rd



of December. The membership committee is still looking for members so if you have not signed up, please do so. A spirit wear committee has been formed so please keep an eye out for our upcoming Jefferson Jaguar apparel sales. In addition, we are selling Waldbaums cards. Flyers went out and will be sent out periodically. Please consider supporting this fundraiser, as it requires no cost to you. We are continuing to fundraise for our school wide field trip. Our children love this event and we would like to continue making this a tradition at Jefferson. We can only do this with everyone's support. Please become involved in your children's education and support your PTA.

Sincerely, Norma Gorecki and Kara Pitti

BOOK FAIR!



The fall book fair is coming **December 1-2** (class times to be sent home in your child's back pack) including evening shopping hours December 1st, in coordination with the holiday boutique. Please mark your calendars and try to stop by to do some shopping with your child.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

November 25 – District Wide Emergency Go Home Drill - 15 minutes early dismissal

November 26 & 27 – Thanksgiving

December 1- 2– Book Fair

December 2-3– Holiday Boutique

December 7– Board of Ed meeting
Jack Abrams School - 7:30 PM

December 15 – Dual Language Parent meeting

December 22 – Winter Songfest - 10:30 AM

December 24-January 1 – Winter Recess
Schools Closed!

January 4– Board of Ed meeting
Jack Abrams School - 7:30 PM



ATTENTION WALDBAUM'S SHOPPERS!

If you are a regular shopper at Waldbaums, you can be raising money for Jefferson while doing your weekly shopping.



Purchase Waldbaums gift cards to support the Jefferson PTA. For every \$1000 dollars, Jefferson gets \$50 back. You can order \$25, 50 and \$100 giftcards that can be used like cash towards your Waldbaums purchases. (you will still receiving discounts from your Waldbaums Shopper Value card!)
They also make great Holiday gifts!

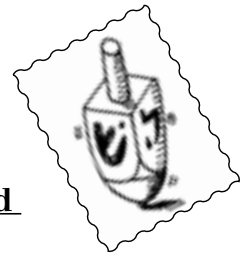
Pick up order forms at Jefferson front desk or call/email Victoria Segal. Return order form with checks to Jefferson PTA mailbox via your child's classroom teacher.

Help us reach our goal for this year's PTA budget!

Victoria Segal - vssegal@gmail.com

The Holiday Boutique

at Jefferson will be held on **December 2nd and 3rd at 6:00 to 8:00 PM**



This is a wonderful opportunity for the children to do some holiday shopping. Many little gifts for that someone special will be available for purchasing: mom, dad, grandparents, friends, teachers, pets and lots more.

Look for notice in backpacks!

Trish Italiano and Cynthia Bellissimo



Jefferson Rocks!



PTA Reflections Art Contest

from Jennifer Hebert-Chairperson



45 Jefferson students participated in this year's national PTA Reflections program. Jefferson students submitted entries in the Visual Arts, Literature, Photography, Video/Film and Music Composition categories in response to the theme, "Beauty is...".

Congratulations to all the participants! And special congratulations to this year's winners:

Hadley Clayton, Lauren Gooding, Nick LoScalzo, Juliet Love, Jennifer Low, Gabriel Morales-Flores, James Norton, Gabriella Rabito and Erika Varady