Dear Parents,

Spring is just around the corner and the children are getting so excited that the warm temperatures and longer hours of daylight mean more time to play!! We aren’t out of the woods yet as Old Man Winter can still surprise us right through mid April, but it won’t be too long until we see flowers and buds on the trees!

March and April are two of the busiest months of the year! We began the month with a most successful P.A.R.P. program. Students were challenged to read 1,000 books in three weeks and dazzled us by reaching 2,378 books!!! The teachers and parents rewarded our young readers by performing in a wildly exciting relay race at the end of the three weeks!! Everyone had fun even though the parents were victorious over the teachers!!

Our next exciting event was our 2011 Science Fair! Over 150 young scientists worked on projects ranging from Finding a Better Way to Clean Up Oil Spills for our Bodies of Water to How Does Light Effect Seeds? ON May 7th Jefferson will be represented by five student projects at the Brookhaven Elemenetary Science Fair at the Brookhaven National Lab!

Also, our teachers and students in third and fourth grade are hard at work honing the skills that will be assessed on the state assessments in English language arts and mathematics to be given in early May. Parents can help by expecting daily practice in both reading and mastering the math facts! Take a few minutes each day to listen to your child. Make it a habit to ask your child questions about what he or she is reading. Listening and speaking are important skills that precede reading and writing. We do our children a great service by finding the time to talk and listen to them!

Finally, I want to share with you important news about a date change for our amazing Jefferson Field Day. Due to the fact that we will be administering the fourth grade state science assessment for the first time, our Field Day has been changed to June 9th (raindate, June 10th). Please make a note of this change.

All the members of the Jefferson family and I would like to wish you and your family an enjoyable April vacation!

Sincerely,
Margaret H. Evers
News from inside Jefferson...

**Kindergarten**
Spring has sprung and the Kindergartners are investigating all the signs. We are using our eyes to see the snow melting, our noses to smell fresh grass, our ears to hear the birds sing, and our hands to feel the rain. We are investigating the changing weather. We are making kites and wind socks, and reading and writing about weather. We are even singing and acting out some old nursery rhymes...the eensy weensy spider went up the water spout...

We are looking forward to our field trips. We will go to see Charlotte’s Web and enjoy a visit from the Waterfront Center.

**1st grade**
As always our First graders are really busy! March is a month filled with a lot of fun and exciting events. We are looking forward to seeing everyone at Pasta night. On March 8th, we will have our third visit from Heather Thorgersen with the “Speaking Up” workshop. We are excited to showcase our reading skills as PARP (Parents as Reading Partners) begins. I am sure that your child is excited to read with you and show off their reading skills at home. We are also looking forward to the PARP evening event at Book Review on March 24th. In class, we are busy working on our science experiments for the science fair that will be held at the end March. In math, we are continuing to expand our number sense. We will be counting money, measuring, reading graphs, and telling time. With spring just around the corner, we are excited to be able to get outside for recess! Please remember to dress your child accordingly and stop by the lost and found. There are so many unclaimed items! March sure came in like a lion, and we are all eager to see it go out like a lamb. It’s hard to believe, but the April Plant sale

**2nd grade**
The flowers are blooming, the birds are singing and we are welcoming in spring!!

In math, we have covered geometry, time and money. We will start the subtraction unit, with and without regrouping. Please take the time to review this concept with the children at home.

In Science... we have covered the Weather unit. The students made daily weather observations to collect data that is recorded and shared with others. They investigated aspects of weather including wind, temperature and the water cycle. Our next unit is Light and Sound.

In Social Studies, we introduced the children to different aspects of the government. They have learned about the local, state and federal government. They explored the history of “the land of freedom.”

Also the children had the privilege of meeting the Mad Scientist. The children discovered the spectacular side of science as they had fun with various science experiments.

The activities were designed to build skills and develop understanding in critical areas of science. The children had a blast participating in this workshop.

We look forward to a wonderful spring full of fun and excitement!!

**3rd grade**
If you could observe the busy and hard working third graders in their classrooms this month,
you might come up with words like “strategic” and “calculating” ...and it couldn’t be denied. All the third graders are enjoying their reading and at the same time utilizing the various reading strategies that will build their skills, not only in reading the words, but comprehending their meaning as well. Parents—when answering homework questions, in any subject, every so often ask your child if they went back to the text to be sure that their answer is correct? If they are responding in writing to a question, ask your child if they use text details to support their answer—this means they are retelling parts of the story to support their answer. In math, the students are calculating repeated addition problems and relating them to multiplication. You can hear echoes of skip counting as we work on the multiplication tables. Flash Cards should be utilized at home to memorize the multiplication facts in a “flash” without having to calculate. Our days are filled with work but we continue to enjoy learning.

Thanks to the “Mad Scientists” who brought the simple machines to us on March 4th. Science is still fun!

4th grade

What fun we are having in fourth grade! We can hardly believe the year is more than half way over!

We recently took a trip to Woodhull Intermediate to see the Theater Arts performance of “Music Man”. The children were so inspired and now cannot wait to become a part of the show next year!

In Reading and Writing, we are busy preparing for our New York State ELA. We have already taken several MOCK exams and are now reviewing all of the strategies taught. The children are learning “life long” test taking skills that will benefit them well beyond fourth grade.

In Social Studies, we have made it past the Revolutionary War and we are now free from British rule! The children have studied the Constitution and its importance. Now they are learning the way a new nation is formed.

In Science, we have “sparked” their curiosity with a “hands on” unit on Electricity. The children have the opportunity to create series and parallel circuits. At the same time, they are discussing electrical safety in the home and neighborhood.

We would like to thank all of our parents for their continued support and we look forward to a fabulous and WARM Spring!

From the Librarian...

Spring is in the air and the snow is finally melting away. The Jefferson Library is abuzz with activity.

Our “Parents as Reading Partners” (PARP) was successful. This year the theme is “Dive Into a Good Book”. The children read A Symphony of Whales, by Author Steve Schuch in preparation for his guest visit. The award winning book chronicles the plight of a pod of beluga whales that became stranded in the ice.

Kindergarten students were treated to a visit by author Tracey Delio. The stories of her cat—Louie V are a delight to children of all ages. Thank you Arts in Education!

We are happy to announce that the “Scrabble Club” has returned. Monday and Friday mornings, third grade students are invited to participate in competition style Scrabble. Children rotate into the game on a monthly basis, with an opportunity to return as a “champ”. The girls and boys are quite
adept at word wizardry, dictionary skills, mathematical computation during score keeping, and good sportsmanship. If there is a Scrabble board in your home, dust it off and challenge your third grader to a game.

**Until next time, keep on reading!**

Mrs. Tietjen

**Lost & Found:**
Our lost and Found is growing every day! We have coats, scarves, hats, gloves, sweatshirts, fleece jackets, sweaters, and even a pair of pink sunglasses! PLEASE, PLEASE stop by our cafeteria to find these items in our lost and found area. Everything is neatly displayed on the shelves and hanging on the hooks in the back of the lunchroom. **Leftover items will be donated on 4/27.** School is open from 7 AM to 5 PM.

**Arts-in-Education**

The AIE committee has welcomed the all the music teachers into the primary buildings for a small concert (band and orchestra teachers). For 3rd graders. These teachers rehearsed together and presented a beautiful music program.

Author Tracey Delio came back to Kindergarten again. Tonito Valderrama visited the 1st graders with his ‘Talking Stick’. Students helped create a talking stick for their own class and learned about Native American expressions and showing respect for one another. Child's Pasta Night 2011

**Play Touring Theater** came to Jefferson and own Jefferson students Griffin Iglesias and Kolby Ellsworth Rappel were had the chosen stories turned into plays for the school to see.

2nd and 5th graders were treated to a matinee performance of Carousel by the Huntington High School Drama club.

Our final AIE program for Primary schools will be Heather Worthington, a LI author who has written Miles of Smiles-The Story of Roxey the LIRR Dog. She will be at Jefferson on May 23rd.

As district funding for AIE has been diminishing over the years and we will have to solely rely on fundraising efforts in 2011/12 – we have some new incentives for fundraising.

As part of the Community Give Back Program the John W. Engeman Theater is proud to offer supporters of the Huntington OOMPAH for Arts in Education the preferred rate of $55 per ticket.

For each ticket sold using the **HAIE** code the John W. Engeman Theater at Northport will donate $10 to the Huntington OOMPAH for Arts in Education.

We are kicking this off with tickets sales of Guys and Dolls - April 14th to June 19th

Contact the box office directly at 631-261-2900 and mention the code **HAIE**.

To purchase tickets online visit the website www.engemantheater.com and input the code HAIE in the promo box.

Join the Jefferson PTA email list: send email to peggy@williamlow.com

School is open from 7 AM to 5 PM.
Calling All Heart Heroes

Jump Rope for Heart - 2011

With each jump, students at Jefferson Primary School have leapt toward record fundraising highs for the American Heart Association. In the last six years students have collected over $55,750.00 through the Jump Rope for Heart program. “It’s become a yearly tradition at Jefferson” said Karen Fischer, Physical Education teacher who coordinates the program each year. The event was held on two mornings recently, with kindergarten, first and second graders on one day, and third and fourth on the other day. Over 250 students participated in the 2 day event. The kids loved the activities and moved enthusiastically from station to station with the jumping music that blasted from the sound system.

Jump Rope for Heart is a valuable program that promotes physical activity, heart healthy living, and community service to children. The main goal of the program is to teach kids a healthy life style. “This event is near and dear to my heart”, said Fischer. “I love the energy that the Jefferson community exhibits; whether they jumped, watched, helped with counting the money; all of the students, staff and parents pitched in for a good cause”. The students are not the only ones at Jefferson that are Heart Heroes. The staff designated the February contributions from their “Jeans for a Cause” program to be donated to the American Heart Association. Jeans for a Cause is led by Mrs. Pattye Sweeney who collects a five dollar – or more – donation from staff members that allows them to wear jeans on payday Fridays. To raise

This offer is good for all performances except Friday and Saturday evenings.

The AIE committee also invites all parents and staff to an event at the Engeman theatre on August 25th. We will have a social event for grown-ups in the bar/lobby of the theatre and enjoy Hairspray. Notices will be sent out. Contact Peggy Low, Sue Buchholtz or Cynthia Rabito for more info.

Parent Volunteers for AIE would like to thank the parents and Jefferson PTA for supporting our programs with their fundraising events and help with promotions. Funds from AIE go to bring programming to every grade level in every school in our district.

Please see our FaceBook page: Huntington Arts in Education. We also are still excepting donations year round at P.O. Box 307, Huntington NY 11743.
awareness of heart disease as the number one killer of women, the American Heart Association created “Go Red for Women” – a passionate, emotional, social initiative designed to empower women to take charge of their heart health. As part of “Go Red for Women” each staff member wore red and the American Heart Association red dress pin as a symbol of women and heart disease. “The generosity shown by the money raised during Jeans for a Cause proves that the Jefferson staff surely ‘Has a Heart!’ ” remarked Pattye Sweeney.

With each JUMP and JEANS, the children and staff at Jefferson are Heart Heroes by participating in the American Heart Association programs and will use Jefferson’s donations to support awareness, fund research, and for educational programs that will benefit adults and children.  

Physical Education Staff: Karen Fischer & Lynn Hefele

PTA NOMINATING COMMITTEE 2011/12  
Please contact Cynthia Bellisimo and Peggy Low if you would like to participate in helping find nominees for next year’s board openings (Treasurer and Council Delegate). You are also invited to nominate yourself!

Congratulations to Madison Buchholtz who has been accepted into American Ballet Theatre’s Prestigious Summer Program in New York City for the second year. Way to Go Madison! Good Luck!

Isabella & Sophia Toscano
Polar Bear Plunge - For Make-A-Wish Foundation Fundraiser - On Super Bowl Sunday 2011

Isabella said, "The water was freezing! I went in up to my waist. Mom and Sophia only went in up to their ankles. The boys went under the water! The worst part was your feet on the cold sand. I wore my crocs, but they fell off. Uncle Jimmy’s flip flops were washed out to sea. We all got a sweatshirt for participating! Mine is coming today.”
FROM PTA CO-PRESIDENTS

Happy Spring to all!

We’re finally making our way to the end of this long, cold Winter and looking forward to a warm, fun-filled Spring!

Although the cold, snowy weather made life more challenging, it certainly didn’t keep people in! We had great turn-outs for both Jefferson’s Lip Sync show and Pasta Night. A special thanks to Mary Beth and Rob Basso, Kim and Gordon Gooding and their whole team of volunteers. The Lip Sync show was, to quote many, “the best ever!”

And many thanks to Alison Iglesias, Susan Buchholtz and our amazing class moms and volunteers. Pasta Night was a tremendous success! And a much deserved “thanks” to all our staff and teacher volunteers. We know you’re the reason that the kids love this night!

The Jefferson students made a splash with PARP - Belugas, Bottlenoses and Barnacles! The finale was a special presentation by author/composer Steve Schuch. And the kids were challenged to read 1,000 books by the last day. They read over 2000 books and treated to a special Teacher/Parent relay race!!

Toniann Mangan and Jen Hebert

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 18-22 – school CLOSED
April 25 – school OPEN
April 29 – Huntington Idol High School

May 2 - NYSSMA Music Festival - High School

May 3, 4 and 5 – Third Grade NYS ELS tests
May 6, 9 and 10, Fourth Grade NYS ELS tests
May 9 – BOE/Budget meet 7:30 JAI

May 11 and 12 – Third Grade NYS Math Assessments
May 13 and 16 – Fourth Grade NYS Math Assessment

May 11 and 12 – PTA Book Fair
May 13 – Staff Appreciation Day

**** May 17 – BUDGET VOTE****
and District Wide Art Show

May 20 – Jefferson V.I.P. Night
May 21 – SEPTA Fundraiser
The Bay Club - 7 PM

May 27 – school OPEN
May 27 – school CLOSED
Memorial Day

May 3 – Fourth Grade NYS Science Tests

June 9 – Jefferson Field Day
S.E.P.T.A.'s Sunset and Sounds Fundraiser is May 21 at Head of the Bay Club. Call Kim Scappaticci at 223-6825 or email huntgtonsepta@gmail.com.