

Jefferson February Newsletter

Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe that February is almost over. There have been so many exciting learning events taking place at Jefferson. First, we had our enrichment clusters begin on January 9th. The clusters are supported financially by a grant from the **Port Angeles Education Foundation** and by our **Jefferson Elementary PTO**. The funds are used for supplies and community visits (transportation costs). Our clusters ran for five weeks on Fridays from 12:45-2:00pm. We had about 21 different clusters. The excitement on the first day could be felt in the air all around Jefferson. The students were so looking forward to a new learning opportunity. The clusters were successful because of the great parent and staff support. **I'd like to thank the following parents/community members who helped to facilitate cluster groups:** Mr. and Mrs. Lorentzen, Mr. Greg Helwick and his father, Mr. Bill Helwick, Mr. Erickson, Mr. Sires, Mr. Oman, Mr. Lucas, Mrs. Burwell, Mrs. Lacy, Mrs. Porter, Ms. Lovall, Mr. Aldana, Ms. Walls, Ms. Uecker, Ms. Alward and Mr. Higbee.

Another fun event that took place was a visit from the Pacific Science Center with their Space Odyssey program. **This learning event was again co-sponsored by a grant from the Port Angeles Education Foundation and by our Jefferson Elementary PTO.** The day began with a great assembly to kick off our learning about Space. All of the classrooms then had the opportunity to visit the hands-on learning center in the library and participate in a lesson led by the Pacific Science Center Staff. Some classes had these lessons inside a very cool planetarium. I want to thank our many parent volunteers who kept the learning center safe and fun.

Yes, the WASL is still coming for grades 3rd – 6th. There is a lot of information out in the media right now about the WASL because of our newly elected Superintendent of Public Instruction for the State of Washington, Randy Dorn. The bottom line is that students in these grades will take the following WASL assessments: 3rd Grade: Math/Reading, 4th Grade: Math/Reading/Writing, 5th Grade: Math/Reading/Science, 6th Grade: Math/Reading. The tests have been revised this year so that they are shorter. Students will not be spending as many days testing. More information along with a testing schedule will be going out to parents of students in grades 3rd – 6th. The testing window is April 13 – May 1. Please make sure your child is here each day.

Finally, I want to take just a moment to thank each and every parent for your wonderful support of the learning at Jefferson. Support is felt by your kind words, notes of thanks, conversations to share an idea about learning, fundraising or safety, or volunteering in a classroom or for a special event. Jefferson is a great place to learn because of our partnership with you. If you would like to find out more about Jefferson and how you can get involved **please come to our next PTO meeting coming up on Monday, March 2nd at 7:00pm in the library.**

I hope you have enjoyed reading a little about the learning and fun taking place at Jefferson. Thank you again to the Jefferson PTO (our Jefferson Parents) for your unwavering commitment to supporting learning opportunities for all Jefferson students. It's been an amazing month!

Sincerely,

Michelle Olsen

Jefferson Principal

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tears of Joy Puppet Theater will be presenting a play entitled: *The Shoemaker and the Elves* during the day to all of the students. This will take place on **Friday, February 27th**. We will also have an **evening performance from 6:30-7:30pm** open to families and the community. The evening event will be a fundraiser. Donations will be accepted at the door: \$1 per person or \$5 for a family. This event is sponsored by the Jefferson PTO.

Dr. Seuss Birthday Celebration: Read Across America Day, Monday, March 2nd. Students will be having reading alerts throughout the day. All staff will be dressed as Cat in the Hat. Lunch for the day will be "Green Eggs and Ham."

PTO Meeting: PTO meeting will take place on **Monday, March 2nd at 7:00pm** in the library. Please come to meet other parents, share ideas, and plan for ways to support learning at Jefferson. Please come with your questions.

Scholastic Book Fair will be here March 2nd- 5th. Volunteers are needed to assist students during the day. Family nights will be **Tuesday, March 3rd and Wednesday, March 4th from 6:00-8:00pm**. Please call Meggan Uecker at 504-2075 if you can volunteer.

Please note that there is **no school** for students on **Friday, March 6th**. Teachers will be attending district-wide in-service on this date.

Sunday, March 8th Daylight Saving Time begins.

Jefferson/Franklin Choir and Jefferson/Franklin/Hamilton 6th Grade Strings Concert at Dry Creek Elementary at **6:30pm Tuesday, March 10th**.

Jefferson/Dry Creek 4th and 5th Grade Strings and Dry Creek Band Concert at Dry Creek Elementary at **6:30pm Wednesday, March 11th**.

Friday, March 13th is a makeup day for the snow day we had off in December. Parents and students, please remember that there **will be** school on this day.

Muffins for Moms will take place on Wednesday, March 18th beginning at 7:30am in the library. Students are invited to bring mom, grandma, aunt, or another special person in their life. Muffins, juice, and coffee will be served. Event sponsored by the Jefferson PTO.

Movie Night for Jefferson Families is Friday, March 20th at 6:30pm in the gym. This free event is sponsored by the Jefferson PTO. Bring your lawn/lounge chairs, cushions, pillows, and blankets to enjoy this fun event with your family. Snacks will be available for purchase.

Report cards will go home with the students on **Wednesday, March 25th**.

Spring Break: There is no school for students **March 30th thru April 3rd**. School will resume on **Monday, April 6th**.

JEFFERSON INFORMATION

2009-2010 KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION for children in the Port Angeles School District begins Monday, March 2nd. Children must be 5 years old prior to September 1, 2009 to be eligible for kindergarten enrollment for the 2009/10 school year. Parents must provide the child's birth certificate and immunization record. Parents should register their children at the elementary school nearest their home between 8:00am - 4:00pm Monday - Friday. Call the school office for more information at 457-4231.

Adopt a flower bed at Jefferson? Yes, your family can adopt a flower bed to care and beautify throughout the school year. Individual classrooms along with Jefferson families are choosing what area of the school they would like to take care of for this school year. **The Lucas and Chapman families** are the first two families to choose their spots. See Mrs. Olsen in the office for more information. Help us keep Jefferson looking beautiful☺

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Mrs. Hainstock and Mr. Lancaster's classrooms for being the top classes to bring in soup labels and box tops. Each class has earned a free recess

Congratulations to the following Martin Luther King Jr. Essay contest winners:

Hannah Sanford (Ms. Chang) - 1st place
Silas Isenberger (Mrs. Mattie) - 3rd place (tied with another student)
Mason Hargraves (Ms. Biasell) - 1st place
Mitchel Spencer (Ms. Biasell) - 2nd place
Shianna Dankert (Ms. Biasell) - 3rd place (tied with another student)

These students will be awarded a certificate at the March City Council meeting.

Congratulations to the following students for having perfect attendance (no tardies/absences) through the 30th of January:

Ms. Beard (Kindergarten): Kierra Alexander, Marissa Baker, Nathan Carroll, Amber Johnson, Hailey LaBrec, Tessa Lowen, Talon Northern, Kaleb Ripley, Kristina Shumway, Irish Webster

Mrs. Prince (Kindergarten): Jordan Abbott, Sage Raini Church-Scherer, Alan Ordon, Alixander Rosanbalm, Molly Scofield, Gracelyn Smith, Aryona Zappey

Ms. Baird (1st Grade): Ashlynn Amsdill, Destiney Attwood, Madison Ballou, Lindsay Christensen, Emilee Huff, Drake Lacy, Jessica McGoff, Jaymison Morrison, Olivia Nevaril, Ezra Northern, Francis Sherley, Caleb Spencer, Nicholas Stratton, Logan Walker, Darienlyn Woodward

Ms. Chang (1st Grade): Anna Brandt, Raegen Henry, Trey Kitchens, Dalton Lucas, Emma Murray, Levi Peabody, Destiny Poisel, Hannah Sanford, Logan Schlaffman, Hylarain Stough

Mrs. Hainstock (2nd Grade): Alyssa Dailey-Morse, Gavin Guerrero, Rylan MacDonald, Ciara Olea, Camryn Pattison, Trevor Shumway, Colby Taylor, Devan Tully

Mrs. Mattie (2nd Grade): Levi Burdine, Noel Hollis, Silas Isenberger, Om Kataria, Nathaniel Larmore, Rylee Lawrence, Summer Olsen, Payton Schmidt, Seth Scofield, Amanda Shaw, Skyler Sullivan, Isaac Walker, Haylee Ward

Mrs. Lindley (3rd Grade): Brianna Lark, Tyler Larrabee, Marcos Lopez, Owen Nevaril, Gabriella Romero, Rachel Sanford, Sharon Schiff-Jacobson, Shantell Taylor, Tru Wiggins

Mr. Murphy (3rd Grade): Gavin Collins, Michael Emery, Haylie Goudie, Aidan Higbee, Abygail Mundy, Diego Murillo, Darby Pollak

Ms. Kraft (4th Grade): Mindy Abraham, Hailey Balfour, Nicole Eichberg, Ashley Howell, Zoe Isenberger, Dylan Mancuso Amundsen, Hailey Minks, Jacob Sanford, Noah Soboloski

Mrs. Wolfley (4th Grade): Sara Biss, Caden Crozier, Kayla Munger, Isaac Newlin, Alexandra Peabody, Catie Richardson, Cari Stuart, Devun Wahlsten

Ms. Biasell (5th Grade): Cheyenne Bellamy, Shianna Dankert, Megan Deman, Ty Jones, Smit Kataria

Mrs. Schmid (5th Grade): Hannah Almaden, Richard Bohman, Ellie Chittick, Padhraig Davisson, William Eichberg, Marisa Gasper, Seamus Hanley, William Minks, Caleb Royaltey, Janessa Shaw, Auston Spencer, Tatam Walker

Ms. Bauman (6th Grade): Trevor Fox, Jacob Higbee, Jakob Lindquist, Destani Martin, Chelsey Morse, Timothy Parrish, Gabe Richardson, Scott Vaughan, Richard Walls

Mr. Lancaster (6th Grade): Chassity Davis, Zachary Floerchinger, Michael Helwick, Perez Mills, Airel Oakley, Harsh Patel, Kaj Porter

Vision Problems of Students:

Your child's vision is the most important tool he/she has to succeed in school. When his/her vision suffers chances are his/her school work does, too. Up to 25% of schoolchildren may have vision problems that can affect their ability to learn, according to the College of Optometrists.

Parents, as well as teachers, should keep a watchful eye out for these 13 signals that a child's vision needs correction: consistently sitting too close to the TV or holding a book too close; losing his place while reading; using a finger to follow along while reading; squinting; tilting the head to see better; frequent eye rubbing; sensitivity to light; excessive tearing; closing one eye to read, watch TV or see better; avoiding activities which require near vision, such as reading or homework, or distance vision, such as participating in sports or other recreational activities; complaining of headaches or tired eyes; avoiding using a computer because it "hurts his eyes"; receiving lower grades than usual. If your child frequently reverses letters while reading or writing, exhibits poor handwriting, dislikes or has difficulty with reading, writing or math, can't verbally express himself/herself or consistently behaves inappropriately in social situations, consult your eye care practitioner. School age children need an exam before starting school and every two to three years if they have no visual problems. If your child requires glasses or contact lenses, schedule eye exams every 12 months.

Keep in mind that a vision screening performed by your pediatrician or the school nurse is not a complete eye exam. These screenings are designed to alert parents to the possibility of a visual problem, but not take the place of a visit to the eye doctor. Your eye care practitioner is able to identify vision problems that may not have been identified in a vision screening. Please make sure to follow up with your practitioner if you received a vision referral letter from your school nurse.

If your child is prescribed corrective lenses for use at school, please make sure that your child uses the corrective lenses at school. Ask your child's teacher if your child is wearing their corrective lenses. When your child is not able to see, many times learning difficulties are evident which may be simply vision problems. Please ensure that your child has the visual skills necessary for succeeding in school.