

# The Jaguar Journal

Jefferson Primary Community News • National Suffolk Region PTA

Fall/Winter 2011

December 2011

From the Principal's Desk...

Dear Parents,

While Old Man Winter has been awfully kind to us so far this year, a quick look at the calendar reminds me that the winter recess is fast approaching. If you're like all of us here at Jefferson, your "to do" list is growing longer each day! I hope you'll allow me to take a few minutes of your time to share some information about Jefferson.

The year has been moving along very smoothly, albeit quickly. Each morning we welcome four hundred and thirty children! It took some time to get used to packing up our morning kindergarteners at noon and welcoming their afternoon friends an hour later, but once we ironed out a few kinks everyone settled into the new routine very nicely.



As it is every year, our instructional focus is the development of the four components of reading which are: speaking, listening, reading and writing, as well as the strengthening of each student's understanding of the world around them through the study of mathematics, science and social studies. This past summer, New York State adopted the Common Core State Learning Standards in English Language Arts and Literacy and Mathematics which emphasize our responsibility to prepare our students for college and career readiness. The Common Core Standards movement demands a shift of our instruction to the use of complex texts, instructional

balance between informational and literary texts, academic vocabulary development, text-based answers and writing to inform and argue rather than personal narrative.

Your role is vital to your child's success for you provide your child the important message that school is essential. That, in addition to having a variety of books in your home and making reading a daily habit, helps to increase reading practice and plants the seeds for life-long learning. As you shop for gifts for Chanukah and Christmas, please consider stopping by your favorite bookstore to pick up a new story book, non-fiction or chapter book for your child! Another great gift idea is a journal or diary so children can write, or draw, their ideas and thoughts each day!!

continued on page 2

continued from page 1

Upon our return from the winter vacation our 3rd and 4th grade teachers will have fourteen weeks of instruction before the state exams in English Language Arts and mathematics. Please make note of the dates of these exams and do your best to have your child in school on these days:

- 3rd & 4th grade English Language Arts exam  
April 16 & 17
- 3rd & 4th grade mathematics exam  
April 23 & 24

On behalf of all the members of the Jefferson family, I would like to wish you and your family all the blessings of the season and a wish for peace and happiness in the New Year.

Happy Holidays,  
Margaret H. Evers



## JUMP ROPE FOR HEART FUNDRAISER EVENT

Please keep your eyes peeled for our 7th annual Jump Rope for Heart information pack. It will be arriving home in back packs & book bags in early January. Over the past six years, our Jefferson community has raised over \$55,400.00 to support the life saving and educational efforts of the American Heart Association and their fight against heart disease and stroke.

**Healthy Heart**



**Healthy You**

### EVENT DATES:

Kindergarten, 1st Grade & 2nd Grade Event:  
Thursday, January 26th  
**8:15am (Check-In) 8:30am – 9:15am.**  
(Snow Date: Tuesday, January 31st).

3rd Grade & 4th Grade Event:  
Friday, January 27th  
**8:15am (Check-In) 8:30am – 9:15am**  
(Snow Date: Wednesday, February 1st)



Kindergarten Harvest Fair

From Nurse Betsy Steiner

Dear Parents,

My name is Betsy Steiner and I am the school nurse at Jefferson Primary. Today I am writing to ask for your help in keeping our students and faculty healthy!!

Whenever your child has been diagnosed with a communicable illness, please call me immediately at 673-2070. For the school's answering machine you may call 673-2141.

Examples of these common communicable illnesses include:

- \* Strep Throat
- \* Fifths 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.

Also, I want to remind you that if your child has vomited or has a fever, please keep him/her home. Children may return to school when they are fever-free for 24 hours.

Finally, I want to remind you that during the school year I will be performing vision and hearing screenings for every child. I will also be weighing and measuring your child's height each year! Should there be any concerns as a result of these screenings you can be sure



I will be in contact with you.



I thank you for your cooperation and look forward to a happy and healthy year ahead!

Sincerely,

Betsy Steiner, R.N.  
School Nurse



*Greetings from the PTA*

It's hard to believe that we are already into December and the cold winter is ahead of us. We have had a wonderful start to the 2011-2012 school year. September brought us our first PTA meeting as well as some wonderful class parent volunteers. For those of you who became class parents, thank you so much for volunteering for this fun and important part of our children's classroom experiences.

Cynthia Bellissimo headed up our gift wrap fundraiser and(thanks to all who ordered) exceeded our sales from last year. Thanks Cynthia!

Cindy Neber and her group of volunteers had a smooth sailing picture day. Quite an undertaking. Thanks, Cindy!

In October our kindergarten harvest festivals were once again made memorable under

continued on page 4

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• Join the Jefferson PTA email list: •

• send email to [peggy@williamlow.com](mailto:peggy@williamlow.com) •

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the leadership of Dana Lulewich and Laura Levy.

Special thanks to Sandi Furman and Laura Marziliano for heading up our new group of volunteers. We also want to thank Jen Hebert for her delightful readings of Stone Soup.



Family fun night was a blast. Special thanks to Jack Italiano for donating his time (and mad dj skills!) To make our night extra special. Lisa Santa-Maria, Ellen Heller, and Rosemary Miller with their group of volunteers put all of their efforts into making the affair a success. Thank you!!

Donna Kye has put on her many hats and has been taking orders for Coupon Books (which are still available), handling PTA membership (also still ongoing), and has once again managed a wonderful pie and bread sale. Thanks Donna, we will see what else we can find for you to do!

In November, our Fall book fair was a success thanks to all who participated as well as the fantastic chairs of this event- Ellen Heller and Lisa Santa-Maria. Those ladies have it down to a science. A special thank you to all who had donated books so that every child was able to go home with a book. Because of those donated books we increased our profit by almost **\$750** for a grand **total of \$1467** which will be added to our schoolwide fund to bring more wonderful programs and field trips into the school for your children.

Cynthia Bellissimo and Patricia Italiano hosted our Holiday Boutique. They took the shopping experience to a new level with

festive decor, wonderful holiday music, (and the gift wrap station was again, a hit). Thank you both for a wonderful event. We will all enjoy opening our treasured gifts!!

A special thank you to Peggy Low. Peggy handles ALL of our email blasts to ensure that all important information and notices reach you. She is also editor of the Jaguar Journal. Don't know what we would do without her!

Lastly, we would like to wish all of our volunteers, students, teachers, and staff a wonderful and joyous holiday season. Please consider volunteering your time for some of our future events. We love to see new faces!

Your PTA presidents,

*Toniann Mangan and  
Lisa Santa-Maria*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Dec 23 - Jan 2** - school CLOSED

**Jan 13** Jefferson BINGO

**Jan 16** - Marin Luther King Day  
School Closed

**Feb 20-24** - Mid-Winter Recess  
School Closed

**March 2** - Jefferson PASTA Night

**April 4 - 9** - Spring Recess  
School Closed

**April 16 - 17**  
3rd & 4th grade ELA exam

**April 16** - Board of Education  
Budget Adoption Meeting

**April 23 - 24** - 3rd & 4th grade  
Math Assessment Exam

**May 4** - VIP Night at Jefferson

\*\*\*\* **May 15 - BUDGET VOTE\*\*\*  
and District Wide Art Show**