Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we begin to prepare for the end of the school year, I want to thank you for your continued collaboration and commitment to Jefferson Primary School. We are so appreciative of all that you do to make our school the very best. Throughout the school year, the school has been buzzing with parents reading in classrooms, attending musical concerts, supporting classroom celebrations and coming to many of our PTA events. A special thank you to the PTA for generously funding our field trips for kindergarten through fourth grade. Thank you for making Jefferson Primary School a truly warm and loving school community. It is a pleasure to educate your child each and every day at Jefferson.

I am very excited to share some of the highlights of the 2014-15 school year with you.

- There was a greater emphasis on teaching inferencing as evidenced by student work posted on all K-4 classroom teachers’ hallway bulletin boards.
- We established a Jefferson Jaguars Fourth Grade Leadership Team. Our Team, under the guidance and support of our school psychologist, Dr. Mallen-Ozimkowksi, and three classroom teachers, Mrs. Catrini, Mrs. Cortes and Mrs. Garcia, learned about the qualities found in strong leaders and how team members can infuse these skills into their own lives. Additionally, Dr. Mallen-Ozimkowksi has received a grant to fund a field trip where our Team will visit Carillon Nursing Home in June.
- We developed a Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Committee comprised of our school social worker, Mrs. Soto, and classroom teachers, Mrs. Coffey, Mrs. Garcia, Mrs. MR and Mrs. Sweeney. New this year, the Committee and I instituted Traffic Light “Speaking Zones”. The red represents silent working, the yellow represents quiet working and the green represents quiet socialization. As a result, students are self-monitoring their noise level in all areas of the building.
- We implemented the Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT) Program for our fourth graders. The goal of the program is to prevent youth violence while developing positive relationships between criminal justice professionals and youth during their early developmental years. Certified criminal justice professionals taught our fourth graders how to practice developing positive solutions when faced with tough decisions. On May 1st, we held a GREAT Program graduation for our fourth graders.
- We instituted a monthly Math Challenge for third and fourth graders. Each Math Challenge was a multi-step word problem aligned with the Common Core Learning Standards (CCLS) which encouraged students to think deeply and explain their work. Winners were selected and celebrated each month.

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**Important Dates**

**May 1, 2015**

May 2—Brookhaven Science Fair
May 7—PTA Mtg 7:30 pm
May 8—Plant Sale
May 12 & 13—Book Fair
May 16—Pancake Breakfast @ Applebees 8-10 am
May 18- May 22—Staff Appreciation Week
May 19 & 20—Clothing Drive
May 21—Staff Appreciation Day; Parent Input Letters due to the principal
May 25—Memorial Day School Closed
June 1—Grade 4 Science Assessment Written; 2nd Grade Field Trip to Vanderbilt Museum
June 4—Kindergarten Orientation; 4th Grade Trip to Kissam House
June 5—Field Day
June 8—Field Day Rain Date
June 9—4th Grade Spring Concert HHS 7:30 pm
June 10—PTA Volunteer Dinner
June 23—4th Grade Celebration 12:00 noon
June 24—Half-day
June 25—Half-day; Last day for Students
Teachers developed and revised rubrics to assess student work aligned with the high demands and rigor of the CCLS.

We presented two evening Parent Workshops aligned with the CCLS.

I continue to invite parents to informational Coffee and Conversation sessions on the CCLS and associated curricula to enable parents to stay better informed about what their children are learning.

The Shared Decision Making Advisory Committee develops a monthly "Tip of the Month" that we share with our parents.

More than 100 students displayed projects during Jefferson's annual Science Fair. One student from each grade level represented the school at the Brookhaven Science Fair on May 2, 2015. Congratulations to the following Science Fair Winners:

◊ First Place
  K – Leah McManus
  1 – Dante Washington
  2 – Anshi Paul
  3 – Sebastian Ramirez
  4 – Linnea Wong

◊ Second Place
  K – Emma Mortensen
  1 – Ruby Hoffman
  2 – Ronnie Carrillo and Madeline Francis
  3 – Olivia Gonzales
  4 – Martin Newman

◊ Third Place
  K – Alison Hahn
  1 – Naomi Lyons
  2 – Ethan Mortensen
  3 – Kimberly Chaver Ardon
  4 – Anna Bell Young

Mia Lopez from Mrs. Hiscox and Mrs. D’Andraia’s class is a third place winner in a Grade 4 short-story category of the Huntington Youth Bureau 2015 Writing Contest.

Ashley Moreno-Garcia, Alexander Zhomir, Robinson Guillen, Madeline Korzenko, Lyric Martin, Liam LaVertu, Joselyn Gomez Ordonez, Dalton Flynn, Atiana Joly, Leena Dagly, Avery Joshua-Tor, David Parada Aguilar, Genesis Araujo Amaya, Alexa Mazure, Erin Hanlon and Mia Johnson in Mrs. Fryc’s first grade class were all accepted into the American Poetry Digest Contest. Their work will be published in a new book next year.

A special congratulations to our librarian, Mrs. Teitjen and kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Catrini, as they were both recognized as Teachers of the Year at Huntington High School’s Distinguished Seniors’ Dinner on April 30th. High School graduates selected our two wonderful teachers to be awarded this wonderful honor.

Congratulations to Ms. Fischer who was awarded a plaque on behalf of her 10 years of spearheading Jump Rope for Heart, a benefit for the American Heart Association. She has helped raise over $80,000 in ten years at Jefferson!

This has been a wonderful school year as we have collaborated to ensure that our children are provided a well-rounded educational experience in a socially conscious environment.

Best wishes for a wonderful rest of the school year!

Sincerely,

Valerie Capitulo-Saide