October Jefferson Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Welcome Back! We have had an amazing start to the school year. Students have shown a quick understanding of routines and expectations. Thank you for the time you took at home to review the school rules and expectations. Your support now and throughout the year will help us have a successful year. A great way to support your child is to be part of our PTO. Look for more information about meetings in this newsletter.

The learning has begun. Students are all starting units of study in science so be sure to ask what they are learning about as the science kits have many fun and engaging learning activities. We also began talking about "Effective Effort". This will be a focus all year long. We translate this to mean, "Work Hard..Get Smart". It's not enough just to try hard. What does effort require? It requires: time, focus, strategies, resourcefulness, use of feedback and commitment. Let's talk about "time". It takes time to do a job or assignment well. More often than not rushing through something produces a product that is less than satisfactory. Take time to show your best work.

Our students put forth an amazing effort this past spring as they took the MSP (Measurement of Student Progress). Scores were just released last month. Jefferson students outperformed the state in 9/10 tested areas. We do have some areas to improve, and our staff has been working with the data to create our continuous school improvement plan. This plan lays out our data from the last school year, and includes detailed action plans to support teaching and learning. The final draft of the plan will be submitted in October. The plan will be available via the district website. Our 2011 MSP scores: (percent of students meeting standard)

	Reading	**Math**	**Writing**	**Science**
3rd Grade	**93.1%**	**71.4%**	**Not tested**	**Not tested**
4th Grade	**70.6%**	**74.5%**	**62.7%**	**Not tested**
5th Grade	**73.3%**	**66.7%**	**Not tested**	**80%**
6th Grade	**78%**	**43.1%**	**Not tested**	**Not tested**

These scores are evidence of the powerful teaching and learning that is going on each and every day at Jefferson. You can check out the Jefferson report card on the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction website…http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us/. A special thank you to students for their incredible hard work, and to parents and teachers for the great support you give your child/students each day. It is truly a "team" effort.

Again, student attendance is a major focus this year. Students can only benefit from classroom instruction when they are present. The attendance information is located in the Jefferson Handbook, and at the end of this newsletter. **Please note that students are considered tardy if they arrive at school between 8:11 and 10:10 a.m. Students arriving after that time will be considered absent.** Excessive tardiness may result in disciplinary action or referral to juvenile court.

Finally, I want to remind you of the mission of Jefferson Elementary…**a community where all students, staff and families are successful, valued and connected by the joy of learning.** This mission is what guides our work each day. If you have any questions or ideas about the learning going on at Jefferson, please let me or a staff member know. Again, thank you for allowing us the privilege of working with your child (ren). It's going to be a great year!

JEFFERSON PRIDE

A warm **"Welcome!"** to the following staff members new to Jefferson this school year:
Bob Phillips (School Psychologist), Nancy LeBlanc (1st Grade Teacher), Ian McKay and Amy Selland (Ameri-Corps Volunteers), and David Swan (Para-Educator).

CALENDAR NOTES

Books and Beyond Home Reading Incentive Program began on **September 7th.** Remember the program is also for parents. We would like to see an increase in the number of parents and students participating. It's fun and rewarding. All parents who complete six levels will receive a medal at the end of the year along with the students/staff. Please give a big thank you to the Port Angeles Masonic Lodge for their donation of two bikes to be given away each year. Each time a student turns in a completed reading sheet their name will be entered into the raffle drawing. **Happy Reading☺**

Title One Parent Information Night is on **Tuesday, October 11th** during the PTO meeting in the Jefferson Library. Jefferson Elementary is a Title 1 school. Title 1 is a federal program that provides resources to schools to support student learning in the areas of reading and/or math. As part of the program we are required to have an annual parent meeting to share our Title 1 plan. The plan was developed by our staff and the instructional team. Principal, Michelle Olsen along with Coya Erickson, Title 1 teacher, will be leading the presentation.

Japanese Pen Pals Visit: The 2nd/3rd grade students will welcome their Japanese pen pals on **Monday, October 10th**. Students will spend time becoming better acquainted with their friends and learning about the Japanese culture. Thank you to Mrs. Mattie for organizing this event, and working with Mrs. Lindley, Mrs. Hainstock and Mr. Murphy to ensure that all students are able to participate in this unique learning opportunity.

Please note that there is **no school** for students on **Friday, October 14th**. Teachers will be attending district-wide in-service on this date.

JEFFERSON INFORMATION

School Arrival Time: **Students should be arriving on campus no earlier than 7:45am.** There is no adult supervision available until 7:45am. Please be sure to drop off your child in the back parking lot. Pull forward to the next coned off area so that traffic can continue to flow. Please do not park in this drop off area and do not double park and drop your child off in the lane of traffic. Please do not park in the drop off area. If you wish to walk your child inside or to the gate you must park in the lot.

Change in Plans: Occasionally you will have a change in plans for going home. Please call the office before **1:00pm** to let us know of the change. This gives us time to deliver the pass to your child and check on any changes in busing or pick up for you.

Breakfast: Breakfast is available for all students beginning at 7:45am. We ask that students having breakfast do so when they arrive at school. Children may go out to play after eating breakfast. Breakfast is served until 8:00am.

New School Board Policy about school meals: There must be an accurate daily accounting for all meals (free, reduced, and full price). When a student exhausts the funds in his/her meal account, he or she will continue to receive meals for up to a maximum of ten dollars ($10.00) in unpaid meals. For students in grades K through 6, once the unpaid account reaches ten dollars, the student will be provided a sandwich and a carton of milk, unless the student pays in cash or until the account has been brought up to date. We are now utilizing parent email addresses to communicate about meal account balances. Notices are also being sent home on Wednesdays if your child's account has a negative balance.

Friday Food Bag: The Port Angeles Food Bank provides a Ziploc bag of extra food for over the weekend. If you would like your child to participate please complete the Friday Food Bag form and return it to your child's teacher. The food bags will be delivered to your child before they leave on Friday afternoon. Your child will receive a Friday Food Bag for the entire school year upon completion and return of the form.

School and Community notes to parents: School and community notes to parents **will come home only on Wednesdays**. We hope this will help items get home in a timely manner without getting lost. Classroom notes/homework will come home as necessary.

Parents of Kindergartners and First Graders: Beth Clifford with The Readiness to Learn Program is available at our school to offer support to families and their Kindergarten and First Grade students. Your child is learning many skills, both academic and social. One way the Readiness to Learn program helps students build friendship skills is by offering Second Step lessons in class. Students learn how to recognize and manage feelings as well as learn problem solving skills. Beth also does outreach with parents throughout the year.
Your input is very important as we get to know your child. You know best about your child's strengths and their challenges. You may have specific concerns about school skills, or maybe there are resources or information your family needs that would make a difference. There will also be a free Parent Education series, Love and Logic, offered later in the year. If you are interested in finding out more about the program or would like to talk to Beth, you can reach her at bclifford@portangelesschools.org, or by leaving a message at the school, or at First Step, 457-8355.

Cell Phones at School: If you feel your child needs to bring a cell phone to school it must be turned off and kept in their backpack and stored in their cubby.

*The first time this rule is broken the phone is taken away and returned to the student at the end of the day.

*The second time, the phone is returned to a parent/guardian only. A reminder card will be sent home with the student.

*The third time, the student loses the privilege of having a cell phone at school.

Phones are available for student use at school at designated times and for emergencies.

Toys and sports equipment from home: Students are not to bring toys or sports equipment from home. These items may be brought from home only for sharing time in the classroom.

Lost and Found: The lost and found box is located in the gym area. There are wonderful jackets, shirts, and backpacks that need to go home. Please ask your child to take a look if they are missing anything. Also, please take time to write your child's name on the tag. We check the tags and can then reunite items with your child.

Volunteers: Jefferson Elementary School enjoys a very active and productive group of parent and community volunteers. Our volunteers assist in all phases of program facilitation, including the tutoring of students in the classroom. We see the overall success of our students as being significantly dependent upon the effort and support of those who help. We hope that you will consider being involved at Jefferson Elementary as a program volunteer, whether it is a single activity or on an on-going basis. If you are interested in volunteering time, please contact your child's teacher or the school office at 457-4231.

Taking Medications at School: Washington state law mandates that school personnel follow the following guidelines for administration of ANY medications to students:

- A medical authorization form ***with a physician's signature*** is REQUIRED. **This is required even for over-the-counter medications such as cough drops or Tylenol.** A medical authorization form is available from the office. Please have your child's physician complete and sign the form if your child will be taking medications at school.
- Medicines must be provided in the ***original container*** (i.e., no baggies or envelopes).
- An ADULT must bring any medication to the school office. Please DO NOT send medication to school with your child.
- Please contact the school office at 457-4231 for any questions pertaining to this issue.

Excused Absences:
The only **excused absences** for K-6th grade students will be for the following reasons:

1. Illness or health condition (doctor appointments)
2. A religious observance
3. School approved activities
4. Family emergencies
5. School disciplinary actions or suspensions
6. Other absences: (vacations, special visits, etc)
   - **only** if approved by principal **in advance**
   - **only** if absence does **not adversely affect the student's educational progress**

Illness:
When absences exceed **five consecutive days** a licensed health care practitioner's note confirming the need for the student to miss school may be required upon the discretion of the building principal in order to consider the absences excused.

Unexcused Absences:

1. **One unexcused absence:** The school will notify a student's parent or guardian in writing or by telephone after one unexcused absence within any month during current school year. Potential consequences of additional absences will be shared.
2. **Two unexcused absences:** A conference in person or on the telephone with the parent/guardian shall be held after two unexcused absences within any month during the current school year. A plan of corrective measures will be created to address student's absences.
   Continued unexcused absences: The school/district will file a petition and affidavit with the juvenile court alleging a violation of RCS 28A.225.010 by the parent/guardian no later than the seventh unexcused absence within any month, or upon the tenth unexcused absence during the current school year.

PTO NEWS

We would like to introduce the PTO officers for the 2011-2012 school year: Co-Presidents – Christine Amsdill and Terri Guerrero, Vice-President – Carrie Sanford, Co-Treasurers – Tricia Murphy and Becca Busch, Secretary – Gretchen O'Brien and our Volunteer Coordinator this year – Lillian Easton-Larsen.

We would like to offer a huge thank you to all our wonderful volunteers which has made the first month of school a success, we appreciate all your hard work!

Books and Beyond kicked off September 7th. We have a goal of reading over 1,500,000 pages for this year. Last year our school read 1,459,000. We can beat that record! We would like to thank Christine Amsdill for volunteering to log the reading sheets and making sure the charts and prizes are up to date.

School Pictures are scheduled for **Thursday, October 6th and Friday, October 7th**. You should have received the order form listing the days for which classes are scheduled. If you are available to help with either of these two days please contact Terri Guerrero or Lillian Easton-Larsen.

Fun Run kicked off September 28th. This is an event that we will need "many" volunteers to help with the different stations. Christine Amsdill is again coordinating this event and if you are available to help please contact Christine or Lillian Easton-Larsen. The Fun Run is scheduled for **Tuesday, November 1st**.

Safeway "10% Back to Schools" volunteers have been at the Safeway stores collecting receipts to help earn additional money from customers not connected with the ESCRIP program. Thanks to all the volunteers that have helped collect receipts so far, please contact Lillian Easton-Larsen to see if additional volunteers are needed.

PTO Movie Night is scheduled for **Friday, October 7th from 6:30-7:30** or when movie ends. Please join us for a night of Jefferson family fun! If you are available to help sell snacks please contact Lillian Easton-Larsen.

Our next PTO meeting is Tuesday, October 11th from 6:30-7:30pm. Childcare will be provided by DECA students from PAHS. Thank you to the DECA students! Remember, the decisions made at the PTO meetings directly affect the activities and programs we are able to offer our students, so please attend if you can!

PERFECT ATTENDANCE

Perfect attendance: A student's attendance is an important factor in their success and learning achievements. To encourage students to make every effort to be here every day and on time, we are acknowledging students with no absences and no tardies**.** Congratulations to the following students for having perfect attendance during the month of September:

Mrs. Ahlgren (Kindergarten): EVAN WATKINS

Mrs. Erickson (Kindergarten): ANA CAMPBELL, TRISTAN DEVAULT, KEONTE GLOVER, CLAIRE NEVARIL, MYERLI OSORIO, BAILEY ROBINSON, TITUS RUIZ

Mrs. Prince (Kindergarten): KATLYNN CRABB, DALLAS DUNNING, DEIA EVERT, BRIAN GALLEGOS FIGUEROA, JAXSON HICKLIN, ANDREY LIU, JAYDEN MCLARTY, BRENNA MURPHY, ZEV MYERS, COLTON ROMERO, JUSTYCE SOISETH

Ms. Chang (1st Grade): MARCEDEZ AMSDILL, KAITLYN BUSCH, JAVEN DESCALA, LILLIAN HALBERG, OLIVIA HENRY, JOSEPH HILL, JULIAN JONES, KAEDEN MURPHY, ABIGAIL SANFORD, DAYTON WILLIAMS

Mrs. LeBlanc (1st Grade): NATHANIEL BISCHOF, ANDREW CHIPMAN, SAYLAH COMMERTON, CHLOE COREY, OSKAR HURD, BRIANNA JESTER, DAVID KELLY-JOHNSON, EMMALYN MORRIS, HALEY PETTY,OSCAR RUIZ, JORDYN SIMPSON-MATHENY, KIARA TURNER, SARA WILSON

Mrs. Hainstock (2nd Grade): NATALEE AMSDILL, KIRA COMMERTON, ZAHMIRA CROSS, JEREMY EDWARDS, EMI HALBERG, SAMANTHA HEUSTIS, BRUCE JOHNSON III, SOPHIA MURRAY, EMILEE REID, JOSEPH SPURGIS, MICHAEL STEPHENS JR, BRIAN WEST

Mrs. Mattie (2nd Grade): KELSEY ALEXANDER, SIERRA BURKETT, WYATT DUNNING, AARON EDMISTON, JAYLYNN HOFER, NEVAEH JOHNSON, JAYDA LEWIS, CALEB MCLARTY, ABIGAIL MOORE, KIERA O'BRIEN, JOSEPH OWENS, CARLSON WAHTO

Mrs. Lindley (3rd Grade): JORDAN ABBOTT, KIERRA ALEXANDER, MARISSA BAKER, TAYLER HUGER, AMBER JOHNSON, CARMA LANGMACK, AMY NAVA, KENNETH OMAN, KYRA RICKEL, RIANNE RODOCKER, JORDAN TACHELL

Mr. Murphy (3rd Grade): TYLER COLLINS, CALEB COREY, EMMA OLSEN, DANIEL ROULLO, BODI SANDERSON, NATALIE SCHMIDT, MOLLY SCOFIELD, KRISTINA SHUMWAY

Ms. Kraft (4th Grade): HALEY AHLGRIM, PHILIP BISCHOF, JOSIAH COREY, LOGAN CRABB**,** TRINITY GLORIA, TREY KITCHENS, DRAKE LACY, OLIVIA NEVAIL, LEVI OMAN, BONNIE OWENS, DAVID SEGOVIA-STONE, FRANCIS SHERLEY, AMAYA SPELKER, LESLIE WORTHEY

Mrs. Wolfley (4th Grade): NACIA BOHMAN, AMISHA COOK, JUSTICE DAVIS, CHELSEA FOWLER, RAEGEN HENRY, COLE LANGMACK, GARRETT LATIMER, AIESHA MATHIS, JESSICA MCGOFF, RYNE MERRITT, ADAM MOORE, JAYMISON MORRISON, EMMA MURRAY, TAYLOR SOBOLOSKI, BETHLEHEM VALENTINE

Ms. Biasell (5th Grade): ALIVIA CARVELL, LISA COOK, ZAHARIA CROSS, ALYSSA DAILEY-MORSE, COREY DANIELSON, ERICK EDWARDS, LYRIC JOHNSON, MADELYNNE JONES, STUART KOEHLER, NATHANIEL MISHLER, EMILEE PALMER, MACKENZIE SPURGIS, ISAAC WALKER

Mrs. Schmid (5th Grade): LEVI BURDINE, LEAH BURWELL, IAN COLLINS, JOSEPH DAVIS, HANNAH HEUSTIS, HARMONY JOHNSON-CHISUM, OM KATARIA, HOPE O'CONNOR, SUMMER OLSEN, OLGA PALENGA, AEVERIE JOE POLITIKA, PAYTON SCHMIDT, SETH SCOFIELD, TREVOR SHUMWAY, SKYLER SULLIVAN, TRISTIAN TURNER

Ms. Bauman (6th Grade): COLBY BOE, NICOLE BROWN, ZION PATRICK DAVIS, MAARIYAH DUGAN, ALIYAH JOHNSTON, SHEKINAH JONES, OWEN NEVARIL, MERCEDES SHIMKO

Mr. (Lancaster 6th Grade): HUNTER ELLWOOD, MICHAEL EMERY, HAYLIE GOUDIE, ELIZABETH JEWELL, LIAM JOHNSTON, ISABELLA MONGER, DIEGO MURILLO, CAMERON RICHARDS, JAZMYN SEIBERLING, SEBASTIAN TOLLE-MEYER, TRU WIGGINS