



# THE JAGWIRE

JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

December 2009

## Principal's Corner

Thank you all for your strong support of Jefferson Elementary and children's learning. It's been fun to see you and other families at events such as our Family Game Night and Dine-Out Nights. I treasure the opportunities to strengthen our school community, and I remind everyone that all children and families are encouraged to enjoy Jefferson and JPAT events regardless of ability or disability and regardless of income. If you have ideas about how to make it easier for all children to participate in events, please contact Kimberly Cleveland-Gerth, JPAT president, your child's classroom teacher, or me.

As I'm writing this, the Corvallis School District School Board prepares to vote on whether or not the district can maintain the Kindergarten Enrichment program (half-day kindergarten with half-day enrichment). Essentially, changes in an interpretation of state law have determined that the district must cover the cost for all students who are eligible for the program if the district chooses to fund any part of the program from its General Fund dollars. This change could result in an estimated \$300,000 cost to the district. Please check the district website for updated information and results of the school board discussions and decisions. I know this is a critical decision and impacts many of our families.

As you are aware, the current economic situation in the nation and state affects the Corvallis School District. Revenues for the state's general fund and many of the grant programs it funds come from property taxes and income taxes and, in a tightening economy, these revenues are reduced. The January vote challenging the increase in taxes upon which the legislature built its budget will have a significant impact on school budgets as well as the reduced amount of stimulus funds available for use in 2010. At Jefferson, we're also facing a smaller projected enrollment number for next year that decreases the funding allocation to the building. Our superintendent, Dawn Tarzian, indicates that careful planning last year should allow us to complete this year without reductions; however, we're also expecting reductions to our budgets for the 2010-2011 school year based upon the above information. As always, I'll provide more information as it becomes available, and I'll be asking for your input during February/March in creating a budget that maintains those areas most important to Jefferson staff and families.

Though possible reductions are always challenging, I'm encouraged by the fact that Jefferson has a strong community feel, and we've pulled together in the past to face difficult funding challenges while maintaining our focus on the children in front of us. I'll be working diligently on behalf of our children as we work our way through this challenge once again. Please feel free to talk with me if you have any questions or concerns.

Finally, let me take a minute to appreciate all of you as we look to the holiday season. We are fortunate at Jefferson to have generous and caring members in our school community. May you and your family have a joyful Winter Break filled with family love, laughter, and fun.

Denise Gorthy, Principal

## Mark Your Calendar!

### December

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Multicultural Potluck 6:00-8:00, Gym
- 8<sup>th</sup> JPAT Meeting—6:30pm, in the Library
- 16<sup>th</sup> Parent Coffee—8:30am, in the Library
- 17<sup>th</sup> WB2S—Walk+Bike-to-School
- 21<sup>st</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> NO SCHOOL—Winter Break

### January

- 1<sup>st</sup> NO SCHOOL—New Year's Holiday
- 4<sup>th</sup> School Resumes
- 12<sup>th</sup> JPAT Meeting—6:30pm, in the Library
- 16<sup>th</sup> Wildlife Stewards Work Party
- 18<sup>th</sup> NO SCHOOL—MLK, Jr. Holiday
- 20<sup>th</sup> Parent Coffee—8:30am, in the Library
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Sock Hop—6:30-8:00pm, in the Gym

### We wouldn't want to miss you!

Please update your home calendar to reflect the date changes for the following events:

- Carnival Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 6–8:30pm
- Silent Auction Friday, April 9<sup>th</sup> 6–9:30pm

**Jefferson Attendance Line 757-5782**

**Corvallis Parks & Recreation 766-6918**  
**Boys & Girls Club 757-1909**

**District Website School Closure & Emergency Info**  
[www.csd509j.net](http://www.csd509j.net)

### Newsletter Submissions

Email article/event submissions to [heidilewis@comcast.net](mailto:heidilewis@comcast.net) by Friday, December 18 for publication in the January '10 issue

### JPAT Board

**President** Kimberly Cleveland  
[kimberly.cleveland-gerth@comcast.net](mailto:kimberly.cleveland-gerth@comcast.net)

**Vice President** Chrissy Lucas  
[chrissy.lucas@oregonstate.edu](mailto:chrissy.lucas@oregonstate.edu)

**Secretary** Jane Barth  
[jbbarth@comcast.net](mailto:jbbarth@comcast.net)

**Treasurer** Scott Southard  
[tssouthard@prodigy.net](mailto:tssouthard@prodigy.net)

# WB2S

(Walk+Bike +Bus-to-School)

## New Dates for WB2S

**December 17<sup>th</sup>**

**January 21<sup>st</sup>**

**February 18<sup>th</sup>**

**March 11<sup>th</sup>**

**April 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**May 20<sup>th</sup>**

*More Chances to Help the Environment and Stay Fit!*



## Direct Donation Drive Update

The Direct Donation Drive (DDD) is going well. We have received about \$14,000 so far. We are closing in on our goal of \$16,000. Thanks to everyone who has donated and helped us towards our goal. If you haven't donated yet, there is still time. The DDD runs until the school break in December.

You should have received a donation packet in the mail in early October. If you didn't or you have misplaced it, you can pick up another in the school office. Or you can find them on the Jefferson website. Follow the links to JPAT, Fund raising, and then the Direct Donation Drive.

Remember the DDD and other Jefferson fund raisers mean your child(ren) Do Not have to sell any wrapping paper, cookie dough, candles, etc. All the money donated to the DDD is used by JPAT to fund music, art, field trips, Wildlife Stewards, library, and much more. Please help if you can.

Bonnie Bailey, DDD Chair

## Staying Connected to Learning During the Holidays

With the approach of Winter Break and the holiday season, many parents are interested in what they can do over the holidays to help their child stay connected with school. The holiday season offers a perfect opportunity for you to spend some quality time supporting your child with his or her learning. Here are some practical suggestions to try at home:

Ask your child to read to you. Avoid offering criticism, focusing instead on sharing time and ideas as you discuss passages. And don't stop reading to your older child. A newspaper article or short passage you find funny, helpful, or interesting is worth sharing by reading. Encourage your child to spend quiet time reading alone. Provide a place and guarantee some uninterrupted time for an enjoyable activity—getting lost in a book. Have a variety of books from the library or garage sales so there is always something to look forward to read.

Give gifts related to reading and encourage others to do so. A new book is always appropriate, and so is a magazine subscription, special bookmarks, board games that require reading, or gift certificates to a favorite bookstore.

Don't forget to encourage your child to participate in daily exercise. Walking the dog, stretching, jumping rope—all help children to keep their bodies physically active.

## SCRIP NEWS

SCRIP is actively making money for Jefferson, thanks to those who purchase SCRIP gift cards at face value. So far this year, we've made just over \$1600. Last year at this time we made \$1800. So, we're a little behind. **Big News: we are now stocking SCRIP for gasoline!** You can now buy \$50 Chevron or Shell gift cards, AND we now have \$25 Rite Aid and K-mart. This is a great time of year to buy SCRIP, because SCRIP gift cards and certificates make great gifts for family and friends. Gift card wrappers for 35 cents each are available for your holiday SCRIP order - just indicate quantity on your order form. Stop by the SCRIP table before or after school or contact Claire for an order form: [cschrodt@comcast.net](mailto:cschrodt@comcast.net), or 224-4939.



### SCRIP TOP 5

#### October

Phillips	€45
Tofell	€41
Schloss	€39
Martin	€35
Pullam	€32

Scott Burress and Claire Schrodt

## Multicultural Potluck

Join Jefferson families and OSU international students for a potluck and cultural presentation on **Thursday, December 3.**

Please bring a dish to share with 8 to 10 people – it's great if it reflects your own (or others') cultural heritage! Dinner will start at 5:30, but we encourage those who are interested to come at 5:00, for a half an hour of instruction in simple Bollywood dance moves! Parents and kids of all ages are welcome to participate, and perform what they learn after dinner. We'll also have a global "scavenger" hunt for the kids.

Whether it's a sari, poncho or cowboy boots, feel free to come in your native costume!

# Jefferson Elementary Classifieds

## JPAT Open Positions for the 2010-2011 School Year



### JPAT Board

#### JPAT President

Contact: Kimberly Cleveland  
kimberly.cleveland-gerth@comcast.net

#### JPAT Vice President

Contact: Chrissy Lucas  
chrissy.lucas@oregonstate.edu

#### JPAT Treasurer

Contact: Scott Southard  
tssouthard@prodigy.net



### Auction

#### Auction Chair

Contact: Toni King  
toniking@yahoo.com

#### Auction Co-Chair

Contact: Kristin Silbernagel  
kristin.silbernagel@corvallis.k12.or.us



### Communications

#### JPAT Newsletter

Contact: Heidi Lewis  
heidilewis@comcast.net



### Community Builders

#### Barbecue Chair

Contact: Deborah Bella  
deborah.bella@yahoo.com

#### T-shirt Orders/Sales Chair

Contact: Signe Danler  
signe@danler.net

#### Walk+Bike-to-School Chair

Contact: Linda Blouin  
lindamb@gmail.com

#### Walk+Bike-to-School Co-Chair

Contact: Antigone Cook  
antigonepilates@comcast.net

#### Wildlife Stewards Chair

Contact: Chrissy Lucas  
chrissy.lucas@oregonstate.edu



### Fundraisers

#### Book Fair Chair

Contact: Rhonda Soule'  
rhondajon@comcast.net

#### Direct Donation Drive Chair

Contact: Bonnie Bailey  
baileybonniej@yahoo.com

#### Direct Donation Drive Co-Chair

Contact: Rhonda Soule'  
rhondajon@comcast.net



### Miscellaneous

#### JPAT Audit Committee

Contact: Rhonda Soule'  
rhondajon@comcast.net

#### Child Supervision at JPAT meetings

Contact: Linda Blouin  
lindamb@gmail.com

To help facilitate filling our volunteer positions for next year, the following "Classifieds" will be in every issue of the JagWire. It is never too soon to volunteer for next year. You can shadow the current chair, co-chair, or JPAT board member for a bit of on-the-job-training. Please contact the current holder of the position you are interested in for additional information.

Submit updates for next month's "Classifieds" to Patrice Jones, JPAT Volunteer Coordinator at jonespb@mac.com by the 15th of each month.

## Every Child Needs You! Join PTA/PTSA Today!

For the past 100 years, the largest volunteer organization in the world dedicated to the welfare of all children.

**Oregon  
PTA®**

everychild.one voice.

Please enclose \$ 10<sup>00</sup> for each individual membership.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Enter Code  
to Left of Name

Community ..... C  
Grandparent ... G  
Guardian ..... U  
Other ..... O  
Parent ..... P  
School Staff ... S  
Teacher ..... T  
Youth ..... Y

*\*Please make  
checks payable  
to JPAT*

Subscription to the Oregon PTA Bulletin (\$5.00/yr) \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donation: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] Cash [ ] Check # \_\_\_\_\_ TOTALS \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

*Become a  
voting  
member  
of JPAT  
today!*

## JPAT Meeting Presentation: Healthy Schools

*given by Jefferson parent Deborah Bella*

Deborah Bella, one of Jefferson's representatives on the District's Wellness Committee, gave a presentation in which she outlined the history of the committee, its mission and what is happening in our school as a result of the committee's vision and hard work. This committee was formed in the spring of 2009 and is made up of a group of parents and staff committed to promoting the health and well-being of our children.

One of the focal points of the committee's work is the school meal program. Deborah praised the district's Director of Food & Nutrition, Sharon Gibson, for making healthy changes in the program. Deborah stressed that in spite of the challenge of having no working kitchen in area schools, Jefferson included, Gibson has made changes that have translated into better meals for our students. Our school cafeteria now offers whole-wheat breads, low-fat milk, salad bars, low fat sandwich meats, turkey burgers instead of higher-fat beef burgers and some local foods when available. Check out the school menu to see what healthy meals and local foods are being served.

One of the local foods being served up at Jefferson this month is pumpkin, as part of another project supported by the committee. This is part of the larger Farm to School project, designed to introduce students to new, locally grown foods that are in season. This goal will be accomplished by setting up tasting tables in the schools. This month's pick is pumpkin and students were offered a taste of the fall vegetable on Friday, November 12th during lunch.

Another exciting project yet to be realized at Jefferson is some sort of way to encourage wellness at our school. Examples of projects at other schools include: a school garden at Lincoln and the running circuit at Adams. Deborah is open to suggestions for a project that is sustainable. This is a great opportunity for creative folks to come up with a way to encourage our students to embrace healthy choices. Here's to good health, that's something to be thankful for!

*Article by Suzanne McFarland-Price*

**Parents for Education Plus** presents a **Holiday Science day with Mad Science of Portland**. Join children K-5 in two back to back classes called Science of Toys (What makes a ball bounce? Some of your favorite toys work using basic principles of physics. Have fun with bouncing balls, yo-yos and other classic toys to engage the scientific principles of motion. Build your very own Yo-Ball to take home) and Glow Show (Amazing discoveries come to light in this class on things that glow in the dark. Probe applications of this technology including the printing of money). This will be followed by a family Holiday assembly called Santa Science - Science fun straight from the North Pole! Watch how science helps Santa Eggbert get down the "chimney." Defrost a chemical snowman and see simple powders burst into holiday colors. Analyze a mysterious substance that is said to have come straight from the North Pole! Be amazed at the science behind many of the traditions we see during the holiday season. **Held at Jefferson Elementary, 1-4 pm, Saturday December 5th. Pre-registration required.** \$10 per child per class (or assembly) or \$25 for the whole day. Call 753-0614 or e-mail [parentsforeducationplus@yahoo.com](mailto:parentsforeducationplus@yahoo.com) for more information.

## EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS

### 509j School District

When the decision has been made to cancel school, close the district, or delay the start, we also rely on the district web site, emergency phone trees, local radio, television stations, and the web Flash Alert for notification to staff and parents. District emergency numbers are 757-5811 and 757-4555.

Another e-mail feature for each of our schools is the LIST-SERV. One of the ways the school LISTSERVs will be used is to distribute individual school emergency information. For inclusion on this list, please follow the directions below.

### Register password on Listserv:

1. Go to <http://listserv.csd509j.net/listserv/>
2. Click "Register on Listserv"
  - a. Enter e-mail address
  - b. Enter desired password (twice)
  - c. Click "Register Password"
- i. Open e-mail sent from listserv and click on confirmation link

### Subscribe/Unsubscribe:

1. Go to <http://listserv.csd509j.net/listserv/>
2. Click on "List Archives"
3. Click on list you want to subscribe/unsubscribe to/from
4. Select "Join or leave the list"
5. Enter your name and e-mail address
6. Select "Join" or "Leave" at the bottom of the screen.
  - a. If joining, the listserv administrator will confirm your registration before you will receive any e-mails from the list.

## Organizations in Oregon

### Sign up for the FlashAlert Newswire

The FlashAlert.net website gives you access to emergency messages, such as snow closure information and news releases from participating organizations in Oregon. In addition, you may subscribe to the messages we post, receiving the information as e-mails and/or cell phone text messages. Often the television and radio stations are not able to update closures in a timely fashion. However, the e-mail and/or cell phone text messages are sent within 15 minutes of posting. To sign up go to: <http://flashalert.net/signup.html> and register under FlashAlert Newswire Signup.

*For more information or assistance, please contact Kerry Richey, Instructional Services Coordinator, at [kerry.richey@corvallis.k12.or.us](mailto:kerry.richey@corvallis.k12.or.us), or 757-5724.*