



THE JAGWIRE

JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

March 2010

Principal's Corner

Jefferson's spring calendar is filled with activities and events as we continue to celebrate the 2009-2010 school year and prepare for the 2010-2011 school year. March is Kindergarten Month in the district. **Registration for kindergarten is open from March 1-March 31.** All incoming kindergarteners need to register at their neighborhood schools even if transfer to an alternate school is desired. **The process for transfer requests and applications will be open from April 1-May 15 and is on line.** Children should already be registered at their neighborhood school before completing a transfer request. If you know of any families with incoming kindergarten students, please let them know that it's time to sign up. We'll be happy to assist families with this registration and transfer request process. Drop by the Jefferson office or give us a call at 541-757-5951, and we can walk you through the process.

Two events will be held to provide incoming kindergarten parents with more information about our programs. **An information night for all Corvallis School District 2010-2011 kindergarten parents will be held on March 4th at 7:00 PM at Linus Pauling Middle School.** Early childhood specialists and parents will share information about how to prepare children for kindergarten, and registration information will be provided. **Jefferson will host an Information Night for parents/guardians of entering kindergarten children on Wednesday, March 10 from 6:30-7:30 PM.** Parents are invited to join us to learn more about kindergarten at Jefferson. Later in the spring there will be an opportunity for children to meet the teachers and shadow a current kindergarten student.

Budget allocations for the 2010-2011 school year have been given to buildings. I'm just beginning to review my allocation and possible budget scenarios for next year. The amount of expected reductions leaves few choices and will involve staff reductions. Two dates have been set aside for parent information and input into the **Jefferson budget: March 9 as part of the regularly scheduled JPAT meeting at 6:30 PM and March 16 from 6:30-7:30 PM.** Additionally, I'll focus my March 17 Parent Coffee from 8:30-9:30 AM on budget information and feedback. Please consider attending one of these dates to provide me with information about the Jefferson budget.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me.

 Denise Gorthy, Principal

Bird Walk—March 4 There will be monthly bird walks along Dixon Creek behind Jefferson. We're hoping to see some good stuff—last year at this time there were woodpeckers, thrushes, finches, ducks, and a lot more. **The walks are the first Thursday of each month before school, at the time of day when birds are most active.**

We'll move slowly along the path by the creek and look for whatever birds show up that day. We'll watch their behavior and keep a tally of how many there are of each kind. We're hoping our data will show the grand spectacle of migration as spring unfolds. Lisa Frothingham, Jefferson's former Science Coordinator, made a display outside the Jefferson office that shows what birds were here each month last year.

Meet at 7:15 AM on Thursday in the covered area at the back of the school. Bring warm clothes (we won't move fast), as well as binoculars and a bird book if you have them. If you don't, don't let that stop you, as there will be some on hand to lend. If it's raining, the birds will stay hunkered down out of sight, so we'll postpone until the following Tuesday. If it's raining that day too, we'll cancel until the following month. If it's marginally raining and you're not sure, call me (757-7953) after 6:50 AM to find out if we're 'on' for that day.

See you there!

Dave Mellinger, 757-7953, David.Mellinger@oregonstate.edu

Mark Your Calendar!

March

- 2nd Dr. Seuss' Birthday/Read Across America
- 4th 1st/2nd Grade Music Performance
6:30-7:00pm
- 4th Bird Walk with Dave Mellinger
- 5th NO SCHOOL—Prof. Dev. Day
- 8th DineOut at Papa's Pizza—5th Grade
Camp Scholarship Fundraiser
- 9th JPAT Meeting—6:30pm, in the Library
- 11th **WB2S** Walk+Bike+Bus to School Day
- 11th 3rd/4th Grade Music Performance
6:30-7:00pm
- 13th Woodstock's Spring for Kids Run
- 17th Parent Coffee—8:30am, in the Library
- 20st Wildlife Stewards Work Party
- 22nd-26th NO SCHOOL—Spring Break

April

- 9th Silent Auction, 6:00-9:30pm
- 13th JPAT Meeting—6:30pm, in the Library
- 14th-16th NO SCHOOL—P/T Conferences
- 14th-16th Scholastic Book Fair
- 17th Wildlife Stewards Work Party
- 21st Parent Coffee—8:30am, in the Library
- 22nd Wildlife Stewards Summit—Hoover Elem.
- 22nd **WB2S** Walk+Bike+Bus to School Day

Jefferson Attendance Line 757-5782

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

District Website School Closure & Emergency Info
www.csd509j.net

Newsletter Submissions

Email article/event submissions to heidilewis@comcast.net
by Wednesday, March 17 for publication in the April '10 issue

JPAT Board

President Kimberly Cleveland
kimberly.cleveland-gerth@comcast.net

Vice President Chrissy Lucas
chrissy.lucas@oregonstate.edu

Secretary Jane Barth
jbarth@comcast.net

Treasurer Scott Southard
tsouthard@prodigy.net

“Because He Was Doing So Good, They Got Rid of Him”

by Kimberly Cleveland-JPAT President

It is a little known fact that approximately 1 student/year at Jefferson Elementary is forced to leave our school because they test out of the Life Skills program. We think it is right to make all students welcome in the Jefferson Community whether they come to us on a transfer, as participants in the Life Skills Program or live within the school boundary.

At February's JPAT meeting, concerns for these children were discussed. In addition, children remaining are affected, "because he was doing so good, they got rid of him" was then 3rd grader Topher Lucas's understanding of what happened when his friend, Andrew, had to go to Adams.

For the students who are having to go, it is terribly traumatic. Any parent will think long and hard before changing their child's school. Imagine how you would feel if the district told you you had to put your child through that. In addition, students participating in the Life Skills program often face extra challenges communicating and making friends.

The conclusion of the evening was that we do not want this to happen to any of our students ever again. The teachers have written a letter supporting a change in the policy or procedure to guarantee that students can stay if they want to. Denise Gorthy has offered to help Chrissy Lucas and myself talk with the District about how to proceed.

What you can do: we are compiling stories of how our children are affected. The most recent students to leave were John, Melissa and Evelyn Rogers. These stories may be used in a packet for the school board and/or district representatives.

Thank you so much! Kimberly Cleveland,
kimberly.cleveland-gerth@comcast.net or 541-753-5125

The Incredible Years Parenting Program

A 10 week class beginning April 8

Are you frustrated that you and your child clash over the same things over and over? Does it seem like you spend your days saying no rather than enjoying your children?

This 10 session class is designed for all Corvallis School District parents of children ages 6 - 12 to help you strengthen your relationship with your child. Learn how to promote positive behavior and set clear limits. Make changes now that will prevent problems in the teen years.



Jefferson Elementary School



January 18, 2010

To Whom It May Concern,

We are writing this letter in support of changing the current district policy that students qualifying for the Life Skills level of educational support and their siblings are given a conditional placement at Jefferson Elementary. The fact that this is dependent on their continuous qualification with the Life Skills Program, which could be changed at any time, seems unfair, illogical and possibly insensitive to the needs of these students.

As we understand, an average of one student per year in the Life Skills program reaches the level of success that allows them to graduate from the Life Skills program. When this happens their placement at Jefferson Elementary is changed and they are required to return to their neighborhood school. Not only do most of these students thrive on structure and the "familiar", but it sends the message that they are not truly part of the Jefferson community. A community accepts all its members for who they are and continues to support them as they change and grow. As educators we strive to put our students' needs first. Perhaps the process of transitioning each student could be examined and looked at on an individual basis. This could be done through a team process similar to the way placement occurs following each IEP (Individual Education Plan).

It is our hope that the students placed at Jefferson Elementary to participate in the Life Skills program and their siblings will be given the opportunity to remain at our school for their elementary years. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jefferson Teachers and Staff

Kristin Spemagel
Caryn Hill
Thomas J. Pearson
Soni D. [unclear]
Peggy Rely
Kari Echhat

Melissa Joffe
Laverne Fagle
Morganne Tulla
Jaye Cummins
Don Zoh
Shake Langsdorf
Rebecca Bledsoe
Maurice Rusek
Cynthia Wofford
Christy Sellos
Claudia Hare
Jodi Warne
John Shriver
Elton White
Christine McBauer

OMSI in Corvallis! The educational staff of the **Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI) will be in Corvallis on Saturday, March 13.** They will be presenting an exciting variety of classes for children from kindergarten through eighth grade. **Registration is Tuesday, March 2nd, from 5:00-6:00 at Garfield Elementary School.** You can find out more information by visiting PE+'s website at www.parentsforeducationplus.org.

The Incredible Years is a proven effective curriculum using video clips, discussion and home activities to help you boost your parenting skills. Previous attendees say: "Very insightful course, outstanding instruction, facilitation." "I loved the multiple learning tools - videos, book, handouts, discussions, etc." "Jodi did an outstanding job facilitating class discussions. She held my attention and made learning enjoyable. I was very comfortable sharing my thoughts, feelings, concerns, struggles and triumphs."

Begins Thursday, April 8 – Ends June 10 6:00 – 8:00 PM—At Jefferson Elementary—Free child care

Instructor: Jodi Warne

Tuition - \$25 (scholarships available)

Pre-registration required: Call LBCC now to register for class and child care, and inquire about scholarships: 917-4949

This class is made possible through a partnership with Corvallis School District and LBCC Parenting Education Department.

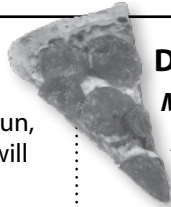
7th Annual Woodstock's Spring for Kids Run

Please come out and support Corvallis kids at the annual Spring for Kids Run, sponsored by Woodstock's and several other local businesses. The event will be held on **Saturday, March 13, with the 5K run/walk beginning at 9 a.m.** at Avery park, followed by the 2K run/walk. Proceeds benefit the Corvallis Public Schools Foundation's Mini-Grants for Excellence program, which has awarded more than \$250,000 in small grants to educators in Corvallis schools since 1996.

Registration fees were \$7 per person for the 2K and \$10 per person for the 5K if postmarked before February 26, but it's not too late to enter—late entry fees are now \$13 and \$15 per person. Scholarships are available for students receiving free or reduced lunch.

Participation ribbons will be given to all children participating in the 2K event, and the fastest boy and girl age 13 and under will win the opportunity to throw the first pitch at a Corvallis Knights baseball game!! Other prizes include certificates for first place male and female runners in each age and gender category, prizes from Strands, and raffle prizes. All runners can also receive a free consultation and adjustment from Synergea Chiropractic on site. There is also a traveling trophy awarded to the elementary, middle, and high school with the highest percentage of students registered for either event. **Jefferson won the elementary trophy in 2008, so let's get out there and bring it back to our school!**

Brochures with registration forms were sent home with your student in mid-February. If you missed the brochure, more information and registration forms are also available on the CPSF website at <http://www.cpsfoundation.org/springrun>. If you have any questions, please visit the website or call 757-5857.



Dine Out in March

Monday, March 8 at Papa's Pizza—

Anytime, all day! 50% of food (pizza, buffet, salad, soup, breadsticks, appetizers or sandwiches) go to support scholarships for 5th Grade science camp. (OMSI science camp held at Camp Magruder north of Tillamook).

Fundraiser Bucks can be purchased and are good for all future purchases. These bucks earn 25%.

You can also pick up orders to go and gift certificates. **A flyer is REQUIRED** and came home toward the end of February.

Jog-A-Thon Update

Total laps for the school; 15, 585. WOW!!

Two-thirds of all students turned in pledge sheets. HIGH PARTICIPATION!

REMEMBER TO COLLECT THE DONATIONS —**Deadline is March 15th**, but the sooner the better.

REMEMBER ANY SIZE DONATIONS IS A HELP FOR OUR SCHOOL!

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~~ **FILLED**
tssouthai@jerry.net

Auction

Auction Chair

Contact: ~~Toni~~ **FILLED**
toniking@jerry.com

Auction Co-Chair

Contact: ~~Kristin~~ **FILLED**
kristin.silb@jefferson.k12.or.us

Communications

JPAT Newsletter

Contact: Heidi Lewis
heidilewis@comcast.net

Community Builders

Barbecue Chair

Contact: ~~Deborah~~ **FILLED**
deborah.b@jerry.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~~ **FILLED**
chrissy.luc@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

Contact the current holder of the position you are interested in for information about that job.