

THIS ISSUE

- Friends of the Jefferson Schools Award Recipients Chosen
- February Character Trait: Fairness
- District Wellness Committee to be Formed
- Featured School: West Elementary
 - Kindergartners Take Caroling "On the Road"
 - Bringing Differentiated Instruction to the Classroom
 - The "Mr. Cleans" Behind the Scenes
 - The Multiage Approach to Education
 - West Citizen of the Month Students
- CE Conference & February Calendar of Events

School District

NEWS



FEBRUARY

2005

Published by the School District of Jefferson
www.jefferson.k12.wi.us

206 S. Taft Avenue, Jefferson, WI 53549
(920) 675-1000

"Friends of the Jefferson Schools" Award Recipients Chosen

by Michael Swartz, Superintendent

The School District of Jefferson Board of Education recently reaffirmed its commitment to the "Friends of the Jefferson Schools" Recognition Program. The purpose of this program is to recognize and honor the contributions of individuals, businesses, and community groups who, through volunteer services or other donations, significantly contribute to fulfilling the mission of the School District of Jefferson.

Individuals, businesses, and/or community groups (including parent groups) that have contributed significantly during the current school year are eligible to be nominated for this award. District personnel, school board members, and members or relatives of the selection committee are not eligible.

Nominees for this award were ranked based on the following three criteria: 1) Dedication to the school community through voluntary contributions for the betterment of the School District and/or its students; 2) Enriching the lives of students over an extended period of time by exceptional service and 3) Commitment to affecting positive change in the school district.

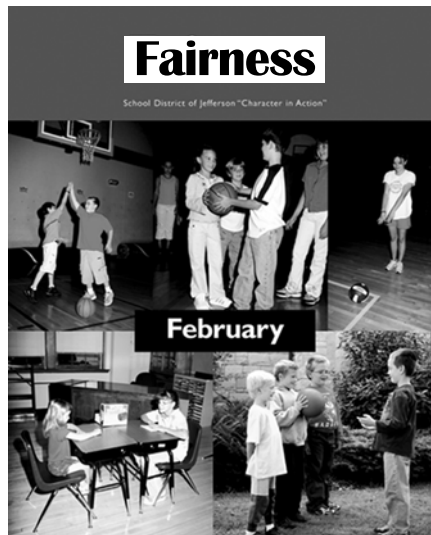
Nominees chosen by the selection committee to receive this award will be

honored twice a year (January/June) at a meeting of the Board of Education.

The following individuals were chosen as the January recipients of this award and were honored at the January 24 Board of Education meeting: Gail Bisbach, Bill & Jean Gaugert, Pearl Mary Goetsch, Steve Lewis, and Jon Hotter.

The Jefferson School District is honored by the many contributions made by these individuals. On behalf of the Board of Education, students and staff, thank you for your educational commitment to the students of our district.

February Character Trait:



District Wellness Committee to be Formed

by Doreen Treuden,
Student Nutrition Director

With the recent adoption of the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004, school districts across the state who participate in federally subsidized child nutrition programs will be required to establish a local school wellness policy by the beginning of the 2006-07 school year.

The local school wellness policy must be developed with involvement from the school board, school administrators, school food service representatives, students, parents, and the public. At a minimum, this policy must:

- (1) include goals for nutrition education, physical activity and other school-based activities that are designed to promote student

continued on page 4



Senior Citizens' Lunch Days

11:00 a.m.

February 2

Ravioli
Bread Stick
Garden Salad
Mixed Fruit

February 16

Chicken & Gravy
Mashed Potatoes
Green Beans
Cranberries and Roll

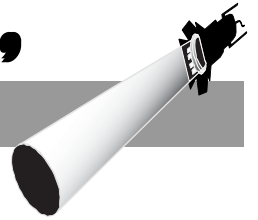
Lunch for senior citizens is provided at the High School (675-1100) or Sullivan Elementary (675-1500). Please call the appropriate telephone number to notify the Student Nutrition staff of your interest to participate.



February's
Featured
School

"In the Spotlight"

WEST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Kindergartners Take Caroling "On the Road"

by Larry Gierach, West Elementary School Principal

So often people come to our school to perform for our students. Several times a year our own music groups (fifth grade band/choir and the K-4 music program) also perform for our students. One of our parents who works at Countryside Home had a different idea. Why not take some of our students and go someplace, like the nursing home, and perform for the people who live there? The parent asked Miss Pope

and her class if they would like to do this and they responded with a definite "yes."

On the last day of school before winter break, we loaded up the students from Miss Pope's class and off they went to share their musical talents. To say the least, they brought much cheer and joy to the residents at Countryside Home as they belted out some of the more popular carols of the season.



Pictured above are Mrs. Pope's Kindergarten students being loaded on the bus for their caroling road trip to Countryside Nursing Home.

Bringing Differentiated Instruction to the Classroom

One of the greatest challenges in the classroom for teachers is meeting the diverse needs of their students. The various backgrounds, experiences, interests, and strengths of each student is the issue; teachers must deliver instruction to meet the individual levels

of their students. A wise teacher uses every resource possible to accomplish this task.

To this end, we have developed a new schedule or job description for our Gifted/Talented Coordinator, Mrs. Ginter. She is now better known as the Differentiation Resource Coordinator (not an official title until her job description is approved). Mrs. Ginter has set up a five-week schedule at West Elementary where she is either in the classroom working with students, co-teaching, or meeting with teachers to plan lessons and instruction. Although a main emphasis is to meet the needs of high-ability students, she is also available to aid teachers in differentiating instruction for students at all levels. This new

schedule will also allow an option for Mrs. Ginter and teachers to meet with students of like needs who happen to be in different classrooms. This was one of the recommendations from our Gifted/Talented Study and Steering Committee from last year.

Mrs. Ginter began this new schedule at West Elementary because it is her "home" school, but she will begin rotating her schedule to provide the other schools with the same services.

The majority of teachers in the district have been trained in differentiation. This approach, with Mrs. Ginter in the classrooms working with teachers and students, is a way to reinforce and increase the knowledge and skills that teachers have acquired.



Pictured above are Celia Bisbach (at computer) and (back row-left to right): Shannon Hebbe and Differentiation Resource Coordinator Gretchen Ginter.

The "Mr. Cleans" Behind the Scenes

by Larry Gierach, West Elementary School Principal

When you walk into West Elementary, depending upon the time of day, you will notice many different activities/scenarios taking place. Certainly, instructors are teaching and students are learning. You might visit our cafeteria and observe mealtime. You may see students going out for or coming in from recess. You might attend one of our assemblies or musical presentations. Even after school hours, you would notice basketball practices and many different community groups using our multipurpose room, library, or gym. With each and every one of these activities, who manages to keep the school looking so nice and clean?

Meet the two guys behind the scenes, Mr. Behselich and Mr. Stacey.



Wayne Behselich, Custodian I

Teaching and learning can be a messy thing. Just look at the classroom floors at the end of a school day. I sometimes wonder if there is a correlation between a messy floor and how much students learned that day. (The theory is that the messier the floor, the more the students probably learned.)

Mr. Behselich and Mr. Stacey make sure that students have a clean classroom each day so that they can mess things up again—I mean learn lots of new things. They are the guys who remove all the black marks from



Jim Stacey, Custodian II

the floor so that we start each and every day with spotless, shining hallways. They are the ones who mop up the floors after the students track in mud, snow, and water as they return from recess. While we are on vacation, they are always here putting a "new shine" to the floors. And since we have never been able to teach our students to not touch the glass doors and windows, who takes care of all those finger and nose smudges? Did you ever wonder who sets up all the chairs and takes them down when we have an assembly or a musical presentation? Or who does the final cleanup after the community groups have left the premises? That's right...it's the guys behind the scenes, our custodians.

First impressions are strong and lasting. Thanks to our "Mr. Cleans," for a positive, clean image!

The Multiage Approach to Education

In our continuing efforts to offer a wider variety of sound educational options, West Elementary is pleased to announce that beginning in the fall of 2005 we will be moving to Phase II of our classroom programming which will include multiage classrooms. We will be providing two first/second combination classrooms, as well as one second/third combination classroom.

Multiage programming is a multi-year instructional design that blends two or more grades together into a single classroom of learners with the same teacher for two or more years. The

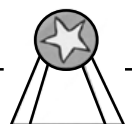
multiage philosophy focuses on looking at children in more of a "real world" view by creating a class with a wide range of ages, where peer teaching (tutoring), solid long-term relationships, and continuous progress are more easily attainable educational goals.

In our plan, two teachers (Mrs. Dimond

and Mrs. Schwager) will begin next school year with approximately half a classroom of first graders and half of second graders. One other teacher, Mrs. Lea, will be doing the same concept, except with half a classroom of second graders and half of third graders.

West Elem. Citizen of the Month Students

Our congratulations go out to Britta Nesthus, Celia Bisbach, Ricardo Jaime and Cameron Bingham as the September, October, November, and December recipients of the Citizen of the Month Awards. Students chosen for this award have exhibited the character trait of the month, have completed volunteer work, and have been respectful, helpful, and are a positive role model for fellow students.



...continued from page 1

wellness in a manner that the local school district determines is appropriate;

- (2) include nutrition guidelines selected by the school district for all foods available on each school campus in the district during the school day, with the objective of promoting student health and reducing childhood obesity;



District to Host Character Education Conference



by Sandy Swartz, Character Education
Volunteer Coordinator

The School District of Jefferson's Character Education initiative is in full swing and to date has exceeded all expectations. Due to the overwhelming support received for this initiative and a multitude of inquiries, the district will be sponsoring a Character Education conference this coming June.

The two-day conference will be held on June 13-14, 2005, at the Country Springs Hotel in Waukesha. Presenting at the conference will be three of the nation's leading experts on character education: Dr. Philip Fitch Vincent, Dr. Thomas Lickona, and Dr. Michele Borba.

The fee to attend the conference is \$150 per person and includes breakfast, lunch, and materials for the two days. One graduate credit will also be offered through Viterbo University for a fee of \$90.

If you are interested in attending the conference, a brochure and registration form can be accessed on the district's website at:

[http://www.jefferson.k12.wi.us/do/
CharacterEducation/
Brochure_JSD%20CE%20Conference.pdf](http://www.jefferson.k12.wi.us/do/CharacterEducation/Brochure_JSD%20CE%20Conference.pdf)

- (3) provide an assurance that guidelines for reimbursable school meals shall not be less restrictive than regulations and guidance issued by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, as applicable to schools; and
- (4) establish a plan for measuring implementation of the local wellness policy, including designation of one or more persons within the district or at each school, as appropriate, charged with operational responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the local wellness policy.



February Calendar of Events

- 1 * G BB @ East Troy
* Gymnastics (H) Whitewater
* MS P.T.O. Mtg., 7:00 p.m., MS Cafeteria
* 7th G BB (H) 8th @ Milton
- 2 * HS Course Selection Night, 4-8:00 p.m.
- 3 * B BB (H) Whitewater
* 7th & 8th G BB (H) J. Creek
- 4 * G BB (H) Fort
- 5 * B Swimming Conf. Meet (H)
* Wrestling Conference Meet @ East Troy
- 7 * Sullivan P.A.T.H.S. Mtg., 3:15 p.m., Sullivan Cafeteria
* HS Course Selection Night, 4-8:00 p.m.
* 7th & 8th G BB @ St. John's
- 8 * **3-Hour Early Dismissal**
* G BB @ Lake Mills
* West P.A.T.H.S. Mtg., 6:30 p.m., West Library
* 7th G BB (H); 8th @ Watertown
- 10 * G BB @ Whitewater
* Wrestling JV Tournament @ Madison LaFollette
* East P.T.O. Mtg., 3:15 p.m., East Library
* 7th G BB (H); 8th @ L. Mills
* Gymnastics (H) Markesan
- 11 * B BB @ Delavan-Darien
- 12 * B Swimming Sectionals @ Baraboo
* Wrestling Regionals @ Whitewater
* Singchronocity Performance, Fort Showcase (all day) at Fort HS
- 14 * MS Wrestling (H) Fort
* HS Booster Club Mtg., 7:00 p.m. in Room M1 @ HS
- 15 * B BB (H) Waupun
* G BB @ Clinton

During the month of February, the district will be forming a committee to begin working on the development of a district wellness policy. The composition of the committee will follow the guidelines of the reauthorization act and will consist of 20-30 members total.

If you would be interested in serving on this committee, please send a letter of interest to Superintendent Mike Swartz, 206 S. Taft Avenue, Jefferson. Please include in your letter why you are interested in serving on the committee and what qualities you possess that will assist in the development of this policy.



- 15 * Gymnastics (H) Columbus
* Wrestling Sectionals (Team) @ Mount Horeb
* 7th G BB @ Fort; 8th (H)
- 17 * B BB (H) Elkhorn
* East Gr. 5 Choir Concert, 7:00 p.m.
- 18 * G BB (H) Delavan-Darien
* B Swimming State Meet @ Madison
- 19 * Gymnastics SLC Conf. Meet @ Milton
* B Swimming State Meet @ Madison
* Wrestling Sectionals (Individual) @ Richland Center
* Jefferson Follies Performance, 7:00 p.m., HS Auditorium
- 21 * Gymnastics JV Conference Meet @ Elkhorn
* B BB @ Pewaukee

February 21-24 High School Progress Report Week

- 22 * G BB Regionals @ TBA
- 24 * Gymnastics Sectionals @ Mt. Horeb
* Wrestling State (Individual) @ Madison
* G BB Regionals @ TBA
- 25 * **NO SCHOOL-VACATION DAY**
* B BB (H) Milton
* Wrestling State (Individual) @ Madison
* **District Newsletter in Advertiser**
- 26 * G BB Regionals @ Watertown
* Wrestling State (Individual) @ Madison
- 28 * **School Board Mtg., 7:00 p.m., West Elem. All-purpose Room**
* HS/MS Concert of the Bands, 7:00 p.m., HS Auditorium
* Read Across America