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School District

NEWS



APRIL

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

Nominations Sought for "Friends of the Jefferson Schools" Award

by Michael Swartz, Superintendent

The School District of Jefferson is once again soliciting nominations for the "Friends of the Jefferson Schools" Recognition Award. The presentation date for this award is scheduled for June 27, during the regular monthly Board of Education meeting.

As you may recall, 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.

Mission Statement:
The School District of Jefferson, in partnership with our community, provides an environment of excellence and opportunity for all students to achieve their dreams.

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.

Nomination forms can be obtained from the School District Office, 206 S. Taft Avenue. The deadline for submitting nomination forms is May 16.

April Character Trait:

Courage

School District of Jefferson "Character in Action"



Doing the right thing in the face of difficulty and following your conscience instead of the crowd.

Senior Citizens' Lunch Days

April 6 - 11:00 a.m.

Popcorn Chicken, Rice Pilaf
Pineapple, Broccoli, Dinner Roll

April 20 - 11:00 a.m.

Special Menu to be Announced

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

Census Information Requested

If you live in the Jefferson School District and you have:

1. a child who is a newborn to 21 years of age who is **not currently enrolled** in the Jefferson School District; **and/or**
2. a **graduate living at home** between the ages of 17-21

please call the Jefferson School District Office at (920) 675-1001 between the

hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and ask for Lori Erdmann. Wisconsin state law requires school districts to maintain a census of all residents from birth to age 21.

If you currently have children enrolled in the Jefferson School District, please call our office **only if you have had a new child added to your family since the start of the school year.**

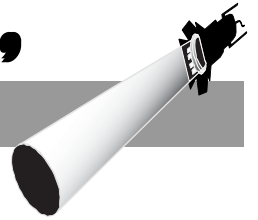
Thank you for your cooperation.



April's
Featured
School

"In the Spotlight"

JEFFERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL



The "Small" Newsletter from Sixth Grade Science

by Julie Small, Grade 6 Teacher

Many exciting learning opportunities have been taking place in sixth grade science. Students have learned all about the six kingdoms (archaeobacteria, eubacteria, protists, fungi, plants, and animals). They are currently studying plate tectonics, earthquakes, and volcanoes.

In the weeks ahead, the FOSS science program will be piloted. FOSS is a research-based science curriculum developed at the Lawrence Hall of Science, University of California at Berkeley. The program materials are designed to meet the challenge of providing meaningful science education for all students and is one of the most highly acclaimed science programs in the country!



The FOSS module that will be piloted is mixtures and solution. Each day students will experience hands-on, inquiry-based learning. Basic concepts in chemistry will be studied as well as finding out how materials interact with each other. Watch for the home/school connection sheets that will be sent home with your child. This information will contain suggestions for ways in which the whole family can investigate interesting aspects of chemistry.

The students have thoroughly enjoyed the labs they have experienced and the following is a listing of the many comments they have made.

Carly L.: "My favorite lab was Hyperstudio because we could choose a career in science that we wanted to do. We researched our career and then made a Hyperstudio computer presentation. What I learned from this lab was that you can be whatever you choose to be in life."

Amanda G.: "My favorite lab was the flower dissection because we got to see the sepals, petals, anther, filament, stamen, stigma, style, ovary, and pistil of the flower. We also scraped pollen grains on microscope slides and looked at them under the microscope."

Jake W.: "We have had a lot of fun labs! My favorite was the cooperation game because you learn how to cooperate with other students."

Jacob M.: "My favorite lab was when we used a prism, mirror, flashlight and we saw that different colors are reflected and absorbed on different colors of paper."

Morgan C.: "I liked the virus lab because I was the person with the virus (vinegar). Everyone else had water in their cup and we went around taking droppers of water from other people's cups and then we used blue litmus paper to test for the presence of vinegar, which is an acid that turns the blue litmus paper pink."

Kyli M.: "My favorite lab was the one about the corn seeds because I didn't think it



Pictured above are sixth grade science students.

would grow. We put the seeds in a petri dish with water and put it in the dark with an arrow pointing up. We checked it every day and the way it grows is by the way it feels the gravity because the roots grew down and the stems grew up in the dark."

Caitlin F.: "My favorite lab in science was the Salmonella brochure because we got to draw and be creative and we got to learn more about Salmonella. What we did in this lab was you were either the owner of a pet shop or a zoo and you had to do a brochure to warn or educate people on Salmonella. I learned how you can prevent Salmonella from infecting you."

Morgan P.: "My favorite lab was with spreading spores by putting cotton balls (which represented spores) into balloons and blowing them up and popping them and seeing how far spores can spread."

Shannon B.: "We can't wait to dissect worms, starfish, and frogs!"



JMS Literacy Programs

by *Laureen Greathouse,*
District Reading Coordinator

The Jefferson Middle School has made many aggressive efforts to address literacy. It was often thought that reading instruction should occur only at the lower elementary grades, but researchers and teachers are finding that reading instruction should continue throughout a student's education. The demands of readers increase as students move into more difficult subject matter. Motivation and enthusiasm also play a major role in adolescents reading.

The Middle School has three programs in place to address these concerns. Through federally funded dollars, Read 180 has been purchased. Designed as a reading intervention program, Read 180 uses components of good reading instruction to meet the needs of struggling readers. Students spend 90 minutes a day in the Read 180 lab in independent reading, small group instruction, and on the computer with high interest activities designed to meet the individual needs of each student. Comprehension, fluency, spelling, and grammar are all addressed in the Read 180 program. We have already seen great progress and motivation in our Read 180 students.

The Scholastic Inventory is a computerized assessment tool used to check reading comprehension. All middle school students have taken the assessment. The student reads a series of short passages and is asked to answer questions about the passages. The questions require the student to think beyond the text; they will not find the answer just by skimming the passage. They must make judgements and draw conclusions based upon what they read. The text gives a lexile score, which is a numeric way to determine an approximate reading level. The lexiles are another way teachers can make instructional decisions about their students and the reading materials used. Students can use their lexile scores to make good book selections in the library.

Finally, some of our language arts B teachers are using a Reader's Workshop format to teach the language arts curriculum. Reader's Workshop works under three assumptions: students need to read a great deal to improve reading instruction, students can and should have some choice in the books that they read, and students read books that are on grade level so they can improve. The teachers spend more time teaching specific strategies that good readers use. The students are given lots of time to practice these strategies. Students are more motivated to read books of their choice.



Pictured are John Green and Karly Hust working in the Read 180 Lab at Jefferson Middle School.

We are proud of the efforts made to improve reading instruction at our middle school.

Morning Announcements Via Closed Circuit TV

by *Melinda Perkins, Music Instructor*

Jefferson Middle School morning announcements are provided via closed circuit TV. Our very own JMS students are broadcasters. Rich Herbst, JMS Technology Education Teacher, is the supervisor for our morning announcements. An interview of Mr. Herbst was recently conducted and a summary is provided below.

MP: ***How was it decided to start JMS announcements over closed circuit TV?***

RH: We had the technology at our old middle school to show taped programming to every room, so we hooked in a live feed to eliminate the traditional public address announcements.

MP: ***How has closed circuit TV helped with the communication of student information?***

RH: Most students get information about the school day, lunch menu, sports activities, clubs, and general class information.

MP: ***How do kids sign up for AM broadcasts?***

RH: They can sign up in our Life Tech Lab every morning. They need to submit a team of two students for announcements and we have one camera person to do the transmitting technology.



MP: ***How do teachers/staff/coaches go about submitting announcements?***

RH: We have a morning announcement form anyone can fill out.

MP: ***What has been one of your best AM announcement memories/moments?***

RH: When our old guidance counselor used to take the "Saturday Night Live" fall.

MP: ***What is the greatest asset in having kids provide the AM announcements to their peers over closed circuit TV?***

RH: Students will listen to students! It's a great communication tool for public speaking experience...to have the opportunity to speak to almost 400 students. Our camera person also learns the technology skills for live camera production/filming.



JMS Welcomes New Staff

*by Hannah Erdman and
Tara Bauer, 7th Grade Students*

This year at the middle school, we have the opportunity to work with three new teachers: Michelle Van Matre, Michael Mooney, and Erich Utrie. They are great teachers and are an asset to Jefferson Middle School.

Ms. Michelle Van Matre is the seventh grade Language Arts B teacher. At the start of this school year she began her eighth year of teaching. Previous to teaching at Jefferson, she taught at Lodi, Clintonville, and Gresham. Ms. Van Matre will be coaching track in the spring and will also be one of the Jefferson Summer School directors. Michelle attended UW-Platteville for her undergraduate study and Marian College for her graduate study. She majored in Elementary Education with a minor in Language Arts. She has been married to Robert Keis for a year and a half and has an 11-year old stepson, two cats, and one dog.

Michael Mooney is the seventh grade health teacher. This school year marked his second year of teaching with previous experience received at Lincoln Center for the Arts. Mr. Mooney's co-curricular assignments include middle school boys' and girls' basketball and girls' varsity softball. He attended Carroll College, majoring in fitness management with a

minor in coaching and business. His teaching license is in Physical Education and Health. He has been married for three years to Shannon Mooney, who is a guidance counselor at Jefferson High School.

Erich Utrie is the eighth grade social studies teacher. This year he began his eleventh year of teaching. Previous to teaching at Jefferson he taught at Platteville Middle School. He coaches the middle school wrestling team and had fantasy football and basketball leagues with seventh and eighth graders. Erich attended UW-Oshkosh where he had a double major in history and broadfield social science. He has his bachelor's degree and is five credits away from receiving his master's degree. His family includes his wife, Jennifer, and his two daughters Gaby, 2 ½, and Katie, 7 ½ months.

These teachers make our classes more interesting. All three of our new teachers bring a lot to the staff at JMS and we are glad they are with us.

April Calendar of Events

- 1 * **No School- Spring Break**
- * 9th Baseball @ Milton
- * Softball (H) Milton
- 3 * **Daylight Saving Time**
- 4 * 9th Baseball (H)
- * G Soccer @ East Troy
- * Sullivan P.A.T.H.S. Mtg., 3:15 p.m., Sullivan Cafeteria
- 5 * Baseball (H) Elkhorn
- * Softball @ Elkhorn
- * Coed Track @ Waterloo
- * MS P.T.O. Mtg., 7:00 p.m., MS Cafeteria
- * End of Third Quarter
- 7 * Baseball @ Delavan-Darien
- * G Soccer (H) Fort
- 8 * 9th Baseball @ Delavan-Darien
- * Softball (H) Delavan-Darien
- 9 * Golf @ Elkhorn
- 11 * HS Booster Club Mtg., 7:00 p.m., in Room M1 @ HS
- 12 * West P.A.T.H.S. Mtg., 6:30 p.m., West Library
- * G Soccer @ Columbus
- * G Softball @ Columbus
- 13 * Youth Apprentice Awards Program, 5:30 p.m., HS Auditorium
- 14 * **3-Hour Early Dismissal**
- * Baseball (H) Whitewater

- 14 * G Soccer @ Whitewater
- * Coed Track @ Elkhorn
- 15 * 9th Baseball (H) Whitewater
- * Softball @ Whitewater
- * WHSFA State Forensics
- 16 * B Tennis @ Janesville
- * WHSFA State Forensics
- * Baseball @ Cambridge (Double Header)
- * G Soccer @ Lake Mills (Varsity)
- * G Soccer @ Delavan-Darien (JV)

April 17-23: Public School Volunteer Week

- 18 * 9th Baseball @ Fort
- * Golf @ Stoughton
- * HS Academic Awards Night, 7:00 p.m., HS Auditorium
- 19 * Baseball @ Fort
- * Softball (H) Fort
- * Coed Track (H) Fort/Milton
- 21 * Baseball (H) East Troy
- * Golf (H) Milton
- * G Soccer @ Big Foot
- * B Tennis @ Milton
- * East P.T.O. Mtg., 6:30 p.m., East Library
- 22 * 9th Baseball (H) East Troy
- * Golf @ Evansville
- * Softball @ East Troy
- * B Tennis @ McFarland

- 22 * Coed Track @ Watertown
- * Golf @ Milton
- 23 * Staff Recognition Banquet, 5:00 p.m., Meadow Springs Country Club
- 25 * 9th Baseball (H) Milton
- * Golf @ Elkhorn
- * B Tennis (H) Elkhorn
- * School Board Mtg., 7:00 p.m., MS Library

April 25 - May 1 National TV Turn-Off Week

- 26 * Baseball (H) Milton
- * Softball @ Milton
- * Coed Track @ Whitewater
- 28 * Baseball @ Elkhorn
- * Golf (H) Delavan-Darien
- * G Soccer (H) Delavan-Darien
- * B Tennis @ Delavan-Darien
- * Coed Track @ Lake Mills
- 29 * 9th Baseball @ Elkhorn
- * B Tennis @ Janesville
- * HS Spring Play, 7:00 p.m., HS Auditorium
- * District Newsletter in Advertiser
- 30 * Softball (H) Elkhorn
- * HS Spring Play, 7:00 p.m., Audit.
- * State WSMA Festival, UW-Whitewater