



## Message from the Principal....

Fall 2015

### IMPORTANT Phone Numbers

Mrs. Rejrat – Principal  
792-2163

Mrs. Rolchigo - Secretary  
792-2163

Mr. Jalonack - Security  
368-6712

Ms. Januszewski - Nurse  
368-6702

School Fax Number  
732-5902

Main Office Hours  
8:30am to 3:30 pm

Jefferson Families,

On behalf of our entire staff, I thank you for visiting the Thomas Jefferson Elementary School website, home of the Jefferson Jaguars. Our dedicated staff works very hard to meet the individual needs of all students, and maintain personal connections with families. Our school community strives to instill in each child the excitement that comes with learning. The bar is set high and academics are aligned to the New York State Standards. Our teachers and staff are highly qualified and committed to serving all aspects of each student, academically, emotionally and physically. Our 2015-2016 School Comprehensive Educational Plan includes the following activities which support our school and district goals:

- Based on the District's data collection plan, the building leader and leadership team will develop a grade level meeting protocol/data source to develop lesson plans and to consistently monitor the use of assessment data, CCLS, short/long term goals and research-based instructional strategies to drive and differentiate instruction for all groups of students.
- Teachers will utilize formative assessment notebooks to reflect upon/share best practices, identify learning trends, and aid in data collection and analysis to drive instruction.
- Teachers will utilize Webb's depth of knowledge wheel to create leveled questions used as an assessment tool to increase higher order thinking skills and to target student needs. This strategy integrates:  
Differentiated Instruction, Formative Assessment, Data Driven Instruction, Higher Order Thinking Skills, Common Core Curriculum Adaption, Teacher Creativity, Rigor, Task-focused Learning, Alignment, and Reflective Teaching.
- Teachers will develop student self-assessment portfolios as a means to track growth and learning which will include rubrics and collaborative measurable academic and behavioral goals.
- Teachers will participate in a book study on The Daily Five to promote higher levels of student engagement and inquiry.
- Teacher designees and the principal will provide on-going support and resources related to implementing Positive Behavioral Intervention Strategies (PBIS), developing the Life Skills Program, and utilizing Response to Intervention (RTI) strategies.
- Building leader and leadership team will develop a Parent and Community Committee to increase parent and community engagement in student learning.

You may have already had a Quarterly Learning Conference (QLC) and looked over your child's first report card. Please review your child's Student Learning Contract with them regularly to reinforce goals and activities. Parents are an integral part of the school community and we are very excited about parent participation in school events, ceremonies, fund-raising, and educational supports the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) provide. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

V. Rejrat



**Jefferson's Vision**

**W**e, at Jefferson, are committed to meeting and exceeding state and national academic standards. Additionally, we will encourage our students to strive to become kind, caring, compassionate, and productive members of society.

**Jefferson Standard**  
Responsible Citizens ~ Lifelong Learners

المواطنين المسؤولين  
متعلمين مدى الحياة

တဝန်သိသောနိုင်ငံသားတဝန်ယုတ္တိပြုသင်ယူသူ  
BURMESE

**Jefferson Standard**  
Responsible Citizens ~ Lifelong Learners

“ထံဖိကီဖိတဖာ်လာသုာ်ညါနီးဟံးမူဒါသ့.ပှၤမၤ  
လိတၢ်ဖိလၢတၢ်ဆိာ်မူဒီကတီၢ်.”  
KAREN

"Ciudadanos Responsables, Estudiantes de por vida"  
SPANISH

"जिम्मेवार नागरिक बनौं, जीवनभर सिक्ौ"  
NEPALI



## Parent Resource Room

Thomas Jefferson Elementary School is proud to announce the official opening of the Parent Resource Room located in the front office corridor, room 122. There are multiple materials available for parents/guardians to support each grade level and the common core curriculum in all subject areas. There are also resources for anti-bullying, character education and games that promote learning in a fun way. The parent resource center is open during regular school hours from 8:30 am-3:30 pm. We are excited to have you visit and utilize resources to support your child's learning.



# Fabulous First Grade

First graders learned all about apples and Johnny Appleseed. The class ended the unit by making cinnamon applesauce in the classroom. This was a fun activity where the students had to recall the steps of the recipe. Another fun activity was retelling the story of Johnny Appleseed. We discussed the characters, setting, and plot. This is something you can practice at home. While reading, talk with your child, ask about the characters, setting, plot and conflict of the stories. Please continue to read to your child each day and have them read to you. The best way to end the day is with some warm homemade applesauce and a bedtime story.



## News for 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

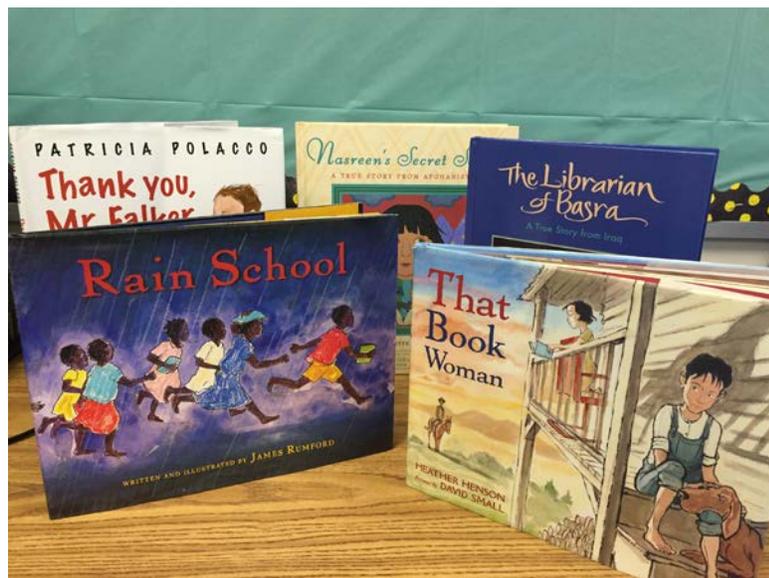
As the new school year commences, Grade 2 is studying Fairy Tales and Tall Tales in English Language Arts such as: "The Fisherman and His Wife," "Paul Bunyan," "Pecos Bill," and more. In Mathematics, Grade 2 students are reviewing basic facts and number bonds. We are adding and subtracting sums and differences to 20. Please review facts at home and read more stories together with your child to continue to support learning and growth as we begin a new school year!

## Third Grade

Third graders have been working with the NY State Modules in both ELA and Math. We have been reading about and researching "how children can access books to gain knowledge around the world". We have read many books, a few of which are, The Librarian of Basra, Rain School, and Thank You Mr. Falker.

In math we began the year working with multiplication and are quickly moving on to division. We have been practicing several mathematical strategies; including arrays and tape diagrams, that mirror our essential question "how do good mathematicians utilize strategies to solve multiplication/division problems". We encourage parents to get a glimpse of what their third grader is learning by going to [www.engageny.org](http://www.engageny.org)

Third Grade Team



## News for 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

The children are off to a great start! We've become reacquainted, made new friends and are ready to explore the wealth of learning that the Grade 4 Curriculum has to offer. We've been studying about the scientific method, place-value, rounding and estimation, poetry, and have read some good stories.

To quote Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Nothing great is ever achieved without enthusiasm." and enthusiasm abounds!

Grade 4 Teachers



## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

By: Julia Harvey

On the first day of the 5th grade, we had a regular day, but now our days go like a cheetah passing by. First, we do math, science and then computer lab. After specials and lunch, we do ELA. One of my favorite times of the day is reading groups! We split up into groups to read and discuss books. Recently, I got into the "Green Team" on Friday. It's nice to see everyone recycle. Homework is something I am not interested in, but I am getting used to it. Besides, knowledge is power! Speaking of knowledge, we were learning about Malala and how she fights for education. I think 5th grade has been and will be very interesting.

## Grade 6 Snapshot

The sixth grade students have done an outstanding job settling into their new classrooms and routines. They have been working in cooperative learning groups for various activities. They are off to a great start in all subject areas and are enjoying reading *The Lightning Thief* as part of our ELA curriculum. In mathematics, the students have been actively engaged in their learning and understanding of the concepts and skills in the Common Core Module 1 (Ratios and Unit Rates). They have put forth great effort in adjusting to the new school year and the sixth grade curriculum!

## Jefferson Going Green

The GREEN TEAM will be helping Jefferson School reduce, reuse and recycle paper here at school. This is important because the choices we make every day affect the world around us! We need to make better decisions about waste so we can learn to conserve our natural resources. We will begin to collect recyclables like paper in every classroom in the building. Then a team of students will collect and sort the paper in order to help Oneida County save space in the landfill, cause less pollution, and use less energy. Together, we will make our community a better place!



# ESL Family Informational Meeting

Jefferson ENL (English as a New Language) Family Informational Meetings were held on Tuesday, September 15, 2015 and Friday, November 13, 2015. Over 50 families were in attendance. Mrs. Rejrat, Utica City School District's Academic coaches, and our E.S.O.L. teachers presented information regarding student expectations, school procedures, and discussed upcoming Jefferson School events. Our academic coaches translated all pertinent school information to our families in their native languages.



<b>November 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>No School Superintendent's Day</b>
<b>November 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>No School Veteran's Day</b>
<b>November 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>PTO Meeting</b>
<b>November 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Go Home Early Drill 2:45 pm</b>
<b>November 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Thanksgiving Recess</b>
<b>December 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Half Day Jefferson Only Dismissal 11:55</b>
<b>December 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Early Release Day 2:05</b>
<b>December 24<sup>th</sup> – January 2, 2016</b>	<b>Winter Recess</b>

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# The John Convertino & Santo Paniccia 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Cross Country Meet

The John Convertino & Santo Paniccia 5th and 6th Grade Cross Country Meet was held on Tuesday, October 6, 2015. Jefferson placed 8<sup>th</sup> in 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls, 10<sup>th</sup> in 6<sup>th</sup> grade boys, 8<sup>th</sup> in 5<sup>th</sup> grade girls, and 8<sup>th</sup> in 5<sup>th</sup> grade boys. Ema Causevic placed 1<sup>st</sup> in 5<sup>th</sup> grade girls. Abdulhamid Williams placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in 6<sup>th</sup> grade boys. Peyton Kimball placed 5<sup>th</sup> in 5<sup>th</sup> grade boys. We are proud of all who participated. Go Jefferson Jaguars!

## 5th Grade Girls

Grace Edwards  
Marielice Cardona Burdier  
Ema Causevic  
Erna Dizdarevic  
Emily Khiamdavanh  
Ustena Kiuchun



## 5th Grade Boys

Nyi Nyi Tway  
Nathan Mariani  
Asim Gacic  
Peyton Kimball  
Jeremy Brady  
Tommie Jerold Jr.  
Gennaro Rodriguez



## 6th Grade Girls

Honey Love  
Diana Melobog  
Aaliyah Drayton  
Pah Ehlar Thart  
Sher Nay Blu Ah  
Moo Ku Paw



## 6th Grade Boys

Abdulhamid Williams  
Martin Learnard  
Steven Keyes  
Be Nee  
Devante Wright  
Vincenzo Alderman  
Derrick Pavia

# Reflections on Our 2nd/5th Grade Buddy Experience

- One thing that was great about working with a partner was I had fun. For example, we both enjoyed using a magnifying glass to observe our leaf.  
~Nathan Mariani
- Working alone was a little hard because I didn't have a lot of ideas. My partner, Tamani, made it easier because she had answers that were better than mine.  
~Ehta Ler Kulay
- Working with my partner was better because she knew many things. She drew the leaf, and I wrote notes while she used the magnifying glass to observe the leaf closely.  
~Muslima Osman

**Our collaboration is off to a wonderful start!**



# Character Education

## How You Can Help...

Below are the lifelong guidelines and life skills we have reinforced this marking period. We choose two-three to focus on each month. Have your child define the monthly guidelines and/or skills, discuss their meanings, and provide an example of each. Have them draw a picture which portrays each guideline and/or skill.

### LIFE SKILLS

- **RESPECT:** How you feel about someone and how you treat him/her
- **ORGANIZATION:** To work in an orderly way
- **RESPONSIBILITY:** To do what's right
- **PATIENCE:** To wait calmly
- **COOPERATION:** To work together toward a common goal/purpose
- **COURAGE:** To act according to one's beliefs
- **PRIDE:** Satisfaction from doing your personal best
- **FRIENDSHIP:** To make and keep a friend through mutual trust and caring

## Career Day

start here...



Thomas Jefferson hosted a Career Day presentation in collaboration with the Genesis Group. Local speakers shared their educational and vocational experiences with grade six students highlighting local/regional career path opportunities. Stacey Smith and Megan Wickham from MVCC facilitated an engaging activity for students. Students created a tower out of spaghetti and marshmallows. This helped students to understand that sometimes things can be challenging but it's important to continue to work toward your goals and it's easier when we work together. Trooper Morrales reinforced the importance of making good decisions and following your dreams. A former principal, Gordon Bennett discussed the importance of education and encouraged students to pursue their interests.

We would like to thank Ray Durso and the Genesis group for providing a fun and educational experience for our students.



# Crazy Hat Day





# September

Grade	Teacher	Student
K	Mrs. Bonfardeci	Chrysanthemum Htoo
K	Ms. Pentasuglia	Guilianna Deserre
K	Mrs. Rivera	Alexis Stockbridge
1	Mrs. T. Brown	Alyssa Zenobio
1	Ms. Czepiel	Alfonso Jefferson
1	Mrs. Karelus	Matthew Rys
2	Ms. Adamo	Nephretiri Hill
2	Mrs. Ferris	Anthony Pike
2	Mrs. Kallies	Kyleigh Brady
2	Mrs. Gregory-Salvo	Gabriella Dade
3	Mrs. Brown	Ava Chandler
3	Ms. Griffin	Kody Pai
3	Mrs. Laurer	Jacqueline Della
3	Mrs. Montanarelli	Eh Nay Than
4	Mrs. Delia	Abigail Lewis
4	Mrs. Marsden	Naomi Smith
4	Mrs. Simon	Jayana Korzeniowski
5	Ms. Grant/Mrs. Manino	Ustena Kiuchen
5	Mr. Green	Erna Dizarevic
5	Ms. Inkawhich	Ehta Ler Kulay
5	Mrs. Mallozzi	Yomar Morales-Colon
6	Mrs. Almy	Diana Melobog
6	Mrs. Colucci	Pah Ehlar Thart
6	Ms. Mazzara	Valeryia Savich
6	Mrs. Stalker	Jeremy Dirienzo



# October

Grade	Teacher	Student
K	Mrs. Bonfardeci	Kemoni Spruiel
K	Ms. Pentasuglia	Jeremiah Harris
K	Mrs. Rivera	Mazen Elhadashi
1	Mrs. T. Brown	Nicholas Mariani
1	Ms. Czepiel	Ja Fe
1	Mrs. Karelus	Vitaly Savich
2	Ms. Adamo	Tamani Knight
2	Mrs. Ferris	Shiquan Tarver
2	Mrs. Kallies	Shahed Salih
2	Mrs. Gregory-Salvo	Tarah Deserre
3	Mrs. Brown	Aiden Charbel
3	Ms. Griffin	Khathy Le
3	Mrs. Laurer	Zackery Thomas
3	Mrs. Montanarelli	Ferid Causevic
4	Mrs. Delia	Bee Ju
4	Mrs. Marsden	Abrar Obaid
4	Mrs. Simon	Si Si La
5	Ms. Grant/Mrs. Manino	Peyton Kimball
5	Mr. Green	Abigail Rippo
5	Ms. Inkawhich	Robert Delia
5	Mrs. Mallozzi	Ashley Hafele
6	Mrs. Almy	Semir Muskic
6	Mrs. Colucci	Sie Sie
6	Ms. Mazzara	Steven Keyes
6	Mrs. Stalker	Shaheim Hall



# Student of the Month September



# Students of the Month October

# **SAFETY IS EVERYBODY'S RESPONSIBILITY!**

Please refrain from double parking during parent pick-up and drop-off to insure the safety of our students.



It is recognized that regular attendance is essential to a successful education. Our goal is to maximize student achievement. Please assist the school in ensuring your child receives a quality education by maintaining appropriate attendance.

Students at the elementary level are expected to be in attendance a minimum of 90% of the time school is in session unless legally excused. Please be reminded that a written note is required following an absence.

## Report to PARENTS

# Fight Flu and Germs

**Y**ou've probably already heard it: the telltale sniffles of flu season, which peaks in January and February. Navigate flu and germ season with these tactics for prevention and care.

### About the Vaccine

Though it's best to get vaccinated in the fall, it's not too late to get a flu shot at the start of winter. Everyone age six months and older can receive the vaccine, which is available as a shot or nasal spray. Children are at a higher risk for the flu, since their immune systems are developing. It's especially important to vaccinate children younger than 5 and those with chronic health conditions. Don't forget to get vaccinated yourself!

If you're not sure where to get a flu shot, ask your principal or school nurse for information on clinics or community agencies that may be providing flu shots.

### If Your Child Is Sick

Children who can't keep their eyes open, even after having a normal night's sleep, may be coming down with something. Add an "achy" feeling and loss of appetite, and it's likely that the flu is on the way. If, before school, you think your child may be starting to get sick, alert the teacher and make sure an adult is available for pick-up in case your child needs to come home.

Children who are feverish, nauseated, or bone-tired can't learn well, and can spread their illness to others. So, keep them home. Before returning to school, your child needs to have gone without a fever or vomiting for at least 24 hours.

Talk to your child's teacher to find out the best way to make up missed work. Often, a child not quite well enough to return to class can complete assignments at home, making the workload easier to manage once he or she is back in school. Have your child make up the work as soon as possible.

### Preventing the Spread of Germs

Keep your family healthy all winter long by practicing everyday disease prevention tactics.

**Stress the importance of handwashing.** Because germs are invisible, it's difficult for children to understand how dangerous a cough or sneeze can be. Be sure to stress

the importance of washing hands, using lots of soap and water, and scrubbing until there are bubbles—before meals and snacks, and after coughing, sneezing, or using a tissue. Many brands of liquid hand soap come in fun designs, scents, or colors, and letting children pick their own can be a fun way to encourage hand washing.

**Use the "birthday song" method.** Teach your child to wash his or her hands for as long as it takes to sing the entire "Happy Birthday" song.

**Cough like Dracula.** Children need to learn to always cover their mouths when they cough. Have your child cough into his or her sleeves, not hands, to prevent the spread of germs.

**Keep hands away from eyes, nose, and mouth.** Children sometimes absentmindedly put their fingers in their mouth or nose, or rub their eyes. Help

your child keep his or her hands away from "germy" areas—eyes, nose, and mouth.

**Trash the tissues.** Used tissues are full of germs. Teach your child to immediately put used tissues in the trash, and then wash his or her hands.

**Set a healthy example.** Model all these healthy behaviors—sneezing into your elbow, washing your hands frequently—and your child will follow suit.



### Web Resources

Visit [Flu.gov](http://Flu.gov) for the latest updates on this flu season.

For a round-up of germ prevention techniques, visit this [Centers for Disease Control](http://Centers for Disease Control) page.  
[www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/stopgerms.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/stopgerms.htm)

This "Too Sick for School?" quiz from *Parents magazine* will help you decide whether your child should stay home.  
[www.parents.com/kids/too-sick-for-school/](http://www.parents.com/kids/too-sick-for-school/)

# GO HOME EARLY DRILL

***Under the Commissioner of Education's regulations for Emergency Management, (8 NYCRR – 155.17), school districts and BOCES must conduct an annual emergency drill to test their "Go Home" procedures. Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES component schools (Utica City School District) will conduct the drill on ....***

***Tuesday, November 24, 2015 -***

**All Students will be dismissed 15 minutes earlier than usual (2:45).**

***Please make arrangements for your children.***

## **CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND/OR PHONE NUMBER**

Student(s) Name \_\_\_\_\_

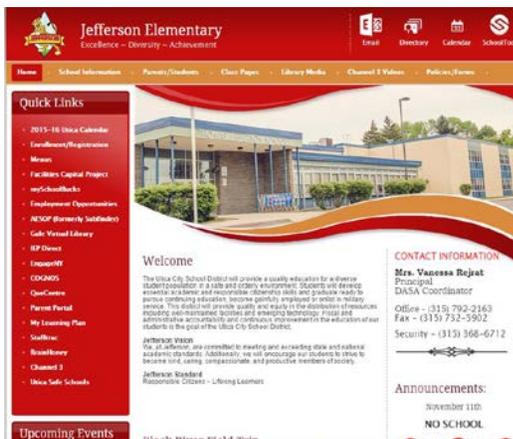
Parent(s) Name \_\_\_\_\_

Old Address: \_\_\_\_\_

New Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to your student(s) teacher ASAP. It could take 5 to 7 days for any bus changes.



We're on the Web!

Visit our website at:

[www.uticaschools.org/jefferson](http://www.uticaschools.org/jefferson)



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## Utica City School District

### Mission Statement



**T**he Utica City School District will provide a quality education for a diverse student population in a safe and orderly environment. Students will develop essential academic and responsible citizenship skills and graduate ready to pursue continuing education, become gainfully employed or enlist in military service. This district will provide quality and equity in the distribution of resources including well-maintained facilities and emerging technology. Fiscal and administrative accountability and continuous improvement in the education of our students is the goal of the Utica City School District.

