

Thomas Jefferson Elementary School

Responsible Citizens ~ Lifelong Learners

Mrs. Rejrat, Principal

Spring 2016

Principal's Message

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

Birnie Bus: 797-4933

Jefferson Families,

We are excited to announce our 2015-2016 i-ready (on-line diagnostic and instruction program) testing data shows a 31% increase in students reading on grade level and a 36% increase in math! Your participation and support throughout the school year is appreciated and noteworthy. There is a collaborative necessity to our success. Thanks to everyone who has contributed to making this year, and all of our programs and fundraisers a success. Our PTO continues to find great ideas to support our students and our school programs. We are currently going through parent survey results and will use your feedback in developing our 2016-2017 School Comprehensive Education Plan (SCEP).

Summer vacation provides time for your child to relax and have some fun. However, reviewing information from the previous school year can help prevent learning loss and keep them up to date on information that they should know for next year. Helping your child retain learning over summer vacation can be a fun activity for you both. Talking to your child's teacher may be helpful in deciding which materials to review over the summer. They have been working with your child in the classroom for the last year and will have suggestions reading, projects and more.

Try finding some workbooks, quizzes, flash cards and practice problems to help your child review. You can also take one of your child's past assignments or projects and discuss what they learned. Reading is always a good way to exercise the mind and practice skills your child gained from the previous school year. Have your child set aside some time each day for reading a book they find interesting. This could be for 15-30 minutes depending on their age and abilities. -www.pathways.org

Keep up the great work everyone! On behalf of the entire Thomas Jefferson staff, we thank you for a very successful school year and we wish you a productive and fun-filled summer.

Sincerely,

Vanessa Rejrat

Vanessa F. Rejrat
Principal

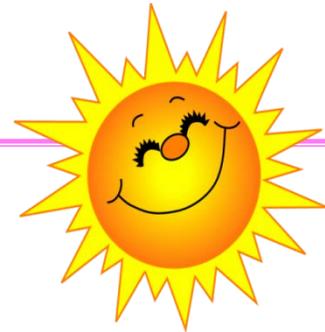
Kindergarten



Kindergarteners have continued to strengthen our wonderful brains. You wouldn't believe how smart we have become in such a short time. We have learned about plants, Native Americans, Christopher Columbus, and so much more. We went from reading letters all the way to reading four letter words. Our math knowledge is amazing. We have studied with geometry and measuring, that's what our teenage siblings are doing!

1st Grade

Our 1st grade adventure is coming to a close. We've learned so much this school year. Not only reading, writing and arithmetic but also many different things in science and social studies. We studied The Human Body, Early World Civilizations, Early American Civilizations, Astronomy, The History of the Earth, Animals and Habitats, American Independence, and Frontier Explorers. We know this will be a good foundation for future studies related to these topics. Thank you for helping us make 1st grade fabulous!



2nd Grade News

As the end of the year approaches, Grade 2 students are busy studying and reviewing. In English Language Arts, students are studying The War of 1812 and reviewing reading, writing and grammar skills. In Mathematics, students are reviewing facts, addition and subtraction skills and studying analyzing and interpreting graphs. Grade 2 students also recently went on a field trip to Munsun Williams Proctor Institute to learn more about the wonderful world of Art! We are busy working to prepare for end-of-the-year testing in E.L.A. and Mathematics. It has been a wonderfully productive school year and we thank our parents for all their kind and generous support!

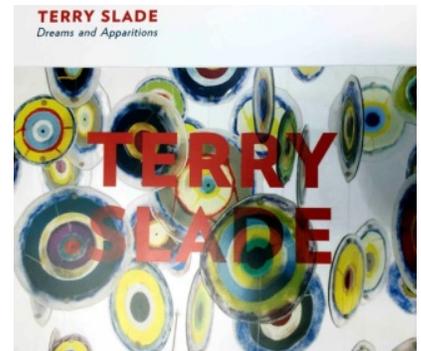
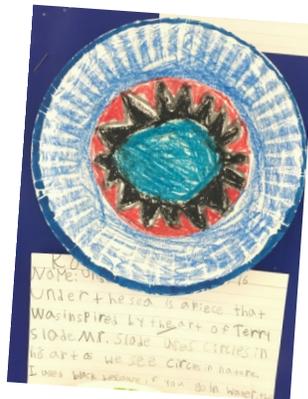


3rd Grade

The third grade students continue to work hard in preparation for 4th grade! In ELA and Science we are becoming experts on frogs! We are researching different types of frogs, and learning about their physical and behavioral adaptations. We even have real frog eggs and tadpoles to observe and care for! It is so exciting to watch the tadpoles develop into mature frogs!

In math we are continuing to practice our multiplication facts for mastery. We are also beginning our last math unit of the year which is Geometry and Measurement Word Problems. The third graders are becoming great math problem solvers!

Finally, we were also lucky enough to go on a field trip to the Munson Williams Proctor Arts Institute. There, we saw a cool glass exhibit titled Earth Mantra by an artist named Terry Slade. We were so inspired by his work, that we are making our own art exhibit to display in the third grade hallway!



4th Grade News

Fourth Graders “Rocked Their Socks” on World Down Syndrome Day. World Down Syndrome Day (WDS Day) is an annual global awareness day advocating for the rights, inclusion and well-being of individuals with Down syndrome. Students celebrated March 21st in an effort to raise awareness for Down syndrome and celebrate differences.



5th Grade News

Adeyemi, Jamielee, Kostyantyn, Marielice, and Robert

Fifth grade was fun because we learned so many new things. For example, we learned about human rights and the environment. We summarized, compared, found main ideas with supporting details, and worked on grammar, writing and poetry. We also learned a lot of math. If you want to be successful in fifth grade, you need to know your basic facts! Then, you will be able to understand the work and do it easier. We learned all the operations with wholes, decimals, fractions, volume, area, conversions, coordinates and more. Fifth grade was amazing. We enjoyed learning and made grand progress. We met new people and made cool friends. We all embraced the challenges and worked to overcome them, just like the important people we read about all year.



6th Grade

CAREER DAY



Thomas Jefferson hosted another 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. Students participated in several activities related to promoting team work, life skills, and 21st century skills.



Spring Into a Good Book



Thomas Jefferson students along with parents/guardians participated in this year's PARP, "Spring Into a Good Book!" The PARP program began Monday, February 29, 2016 and ran through Monday, March 21, 2016. When it was cold and rainy outside, children were having a good time reading a book for 15-20 minutes a day, with a parent/guardian. They kept track of their minutes, and returned completed weekly reading slips to their teacher. Students also created an "i-Read" project with a picture or photograph to show them reading. All projects were displayed throughout the hallways of our school. Thank you to all the students, parents/guardians and staff for being a part of our PARP spring activity!



Literacy Night

On Thursday, March 10, 2016 Jefferson School sponsored a Family Literacy Night. It was a fun evening. There were story readings, crafts, refreshments and door prizes donated by Charlie's Pizza and Jefferson's PTO. More than 75 students and their families attended this event. Teacher's shared Dr. Seuss stories, assisted students with their crafts and Mrs. Rejrat discussed the importance of reading aloud to children. Keep reading to your children whenever you can! Here are 3 Ideas to help get you started:

1. Read from day one. Start a reading routine in those very first days with a newborn. Even very young babies respond to the warmth of a lap and the soothing sound of a book being read aloud.
2. Share books every day. Read with your child every day, even after he becomes an independent reader.
3. Reread favorites. Most children love to hear their favorite stories over and over again. Rereading books provides an opportunity to hear or see something that may have been missed the first time, and provides another chance to hear a favorite part.



Community Readers Day



Students at Jefferson celebrated Community Readers' Day on March 24th! Several members of our community came to Jefferson to read a picture book with our students and to speak to students about their careers. It was a fun and exciting day for everyone! Our community readers included:

- ✚ Anthony Brindisi, NY State Assemblyman
- ✚ Louis LaPolla, Utica City School District Board Vice President
- ✚ Pam Reece
- ✚ Alicia Mroz
- ✚ Nurse Susan
- ✚ Margaret Beck (retired) from the Utica City School District
- ✚ Richard Cohen, Attorney
- ✚ John Treen, Stevens-Swan Humane Society
- ✚ Gil Palladino, Community Volunteer and former Clinton soccer coach
- ✚ Kevin Green, Oneida County Youth Bureau Director
- ✚ Samantha Colosimo-Testa, Utica Councilperson
- ✚ Robin Sullivan and Kathleen Mallory from the Utica Zoo
- ✚ Officer Rejrat and Officer Anken from the Utica Police Department
- ✚ Darby O'Brien, Director of the Utica Public Library
- ✚ Alissa Scott, Utica Observer-Dispatch Education Reporter
- ✚ Marolyn Wilson, Holland Farms Bakery and Deli
- ✚ Bill Kardas, WKTV Meteorologist
- ✚ Fire Marshal Gerald Foster, Utica Fire Department
- ✚ Jamie Tuttle, Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority

We thank our readers very much and we are already looking forward to next year!



Comprehension for Kindergarteners

Below are pictures of Miss Pentasuglia's class doing a fun lesson on the idea of, "being specific". She explained how important the word "specific" is when we write. First, we drew a picture of "fruit" and shared our work. Next, she passed out grapes and we discussed how important it is to make our descriptive writing "specific". The best part was when we practiced with candy!



Spring Basket Raffles

Jefferson School's PTO and Parent and Community ENL Outreach Committee sponsored a Spring basket fundraiser. We had some wonderful prizes to give away including a 4 pack of admission tickets to WonderWorks, a Utica Zoo Family Membership, Summer Fun and Rainy Day Fun baskets, a Too Hot to Cook basket, a Burrito By the Box for 25 from Chipotle, Fun at Enchanted Forest basket, Rockin' Jump basket and many more. Baskets were displayed at school and at the Spring Concert at JFK on June 2, 2016. Teachers, staff and local businesses donated many of the prizes and all of us hoped to win one. Many thanks to those who donated and congratulations to our winners!

*Special thanks to the following local businesses
for their donations for our Spring basket fundraiser:*



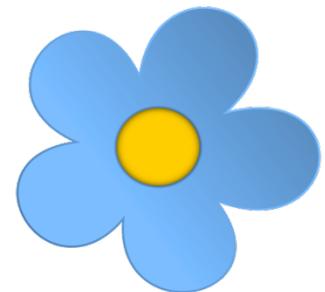
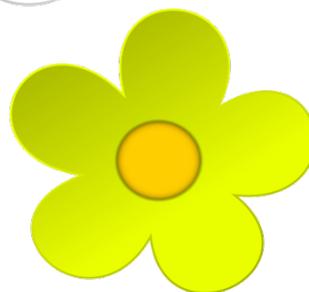
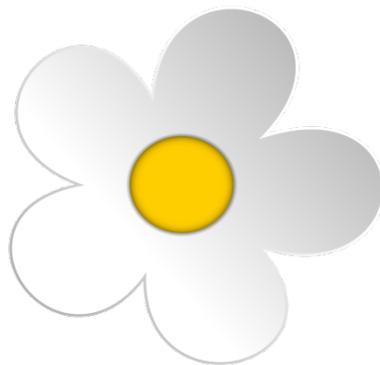
AMF- Pin O Rama
Bonomo's Dari Crème
Brucker's Home Improvements
Chipotle
Georgio's
Hapanowicz's
Hoopla!
Lukin's Pizza
Moe's
Outback Steakhouse
Price Chopper
T&M Sales
Utica Zoo
Wonder Works

The Bagel Grove
Broad Street Cash and Carry
Charlie's Pizza
Franco's
Hannaford-Mohawk Street
Holland Farms
John's Pizza
Michael T's
O'Scugnizzo-North Utica
Parkway Pizza
Symeon's
Utica Teacher's Association
Voss'

Grade 5 revisits B.R.O.E.P

Jasmine, Jeremy, Kee Dah and Nathan

All the fifth graders had so much fun together at Black River Outdoor Educational Program. Because we had biked in the fall, this time we reviewed the safety tips, were put into groups, got our gear and then were off to ride or hike. It was hard because it was warm and the hills were like mountains for our tired legs. This made the going down over the bridges and roots all the more fun! We really enjoyed the beautiful sights like the flowers and blooming maple trees. Our coach said, "The mother maple tree makes many perfect baby maples." We saw this rare Adirondack flower called the trillium. "Tri" means three and this flower has three deep red petals surrounded by three green leaves. Some of us even saw a snake and deer. We also saw a chipmunk and a hole in the ground which we inferred was the chipmunk's home. As you can see, we learned some things and loved the day!



SPRING

Scholastic Book Fair

During the week of May 2-6, 2016, a book fair was held in Jefferson Library. Students had the option of attending the book fair during the school day, or attending with their parents on Family Night, Wednesday, May 4th. During Book Fair week over \$3,200 worth of merchandise was purchased by staff, students, and parents. Thomas Jefferson School will receive \$1,600 worth of books and related articles from Scholastic Books. We could not have held such a successful book fair without the dedication of several retired teachers, parents and staff members. Thank you to Vickie Anderson, retired Jefferson teacher, for running the fair. Other retired teachers who worked at the fair were Peggy Dowling, Joyce Crowter, Cathy Blystone, and Mary-Theresa Balutis. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of the book fair.



Volunteer Readers



June 3rd was a special day at Jefferson. The Volunteer Reading Tutors were honored for their work in the School District this year. The Volunteer Reading Program is celebrating its 46th year in the Utica City School District. There are approximately 70 volunteers that work with students in all of the elementary buildings. Ms. Inkawich's 5th graders gave a wonderful presentation to thank the volunteers for their dedication.

Creative Summer Learning Ideas

Keep kids learning during vacation with these great activities, from road-trip bingo to ice cube experiments, and much more.



Summer Math Activities

Help students maintain their math skills and keep them thinking in numbers all summer long.

For Grades K–3:

Shopaholic: What can you buy for \$5 at the corner store? From the ice cream truck? In a hardware store? At the beach?

Change it up: Start collecting change in a jar on the first day of summer. On the last day, estimate your change, count it, and plan a special purchase.

Summer patterns: Create patterns using summer items (popsicle sticks, shells, flowers). Or, draw patterns in the sand or dirt using a stick or your hands. See how long you can carry out your pattern — along the length of the sandbox, or across the grass.

Napkin fractions: Fold paper towels or napkins into large and small fractions, from one-half to 1/16. Use markers to label and decorate the different fractions.

Design hunt: Keep an eye out for shapes, patterns, and designs when you're out and about. You never know what you'll find in the architecture at the airport, the shopping mall, or even the grocery store.

100% delicious: Use ice cream to make fraction sundaes. Can you make an ice cream sundae that is one-half vanilla and one-half chocolate? What about one-third chocolate, one-third vanilla, and one-third strawberry? Can you cover a scoop of ice cream with one-quarter each nuts, sprinkles, cookie crumbs, and gummy bears? Or can you eat a bite of ice cream that is one-half chocolate, one-half vanilla? For older children, calculate the percentage of each ice cream flavor in the sundae.

For Grades 4–8:

Record-breakers: Use a stopwatch to time yourself running, roller blading, swimming, or biking. Then try to beat your time. Be sure to keep the distance you're moving the same for each trial. Graph the results. (You may need a partner for this.)

Where will you be? Using a map, calculate where you will be if you travel 20, 50, 100, or 1,000 miles from home.

How many ways? As you're exploring your neighborhood during the summer, how many routes can you take to the school, the grocery store, the mall, or your friend's house? The catch: No backtracking, and you must take a new route each time.

Let's eat: Prepare a meal or dish for the family. Before you go to the supermarket, find a recipe, write what you need and how much. At the supermarket, choose the best-priced option.

Summer Reading Activities

These ideas will keep kids engaged in reading, writing, and thinking creatively even on the hottest days.

Water writer: Using a pail of water and a brush, have kids write words on the blacktop or sidewalk.

Sell summer: Tell kids: Try a new product or activity and write about it. How would you describe it? Would you recommend it? Create an advertisement to sell it to others.

Plan a trip: Have kids use the Internet, travel guidebooks, brochures, and maps to plan a dream day, weekend, week, or month-long trip.

Summer sleuth: Have kids follow a story in a newspaper during the summer, or investigate a local story (e.g., an upcoming fair). Tell kids: Write about the event as it unfolds so that you have it documented from start to finish.

Play it: Take an adventure book with a clear plot (*The Phantom Tollbooth*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, etc.) and invent a board game based on it.

Comic strip: Write a comic strip about a fictional character or yourself. See how long you can keep the strip going. Read classic comics for inspiration.

Student of the Month

February

Grade	Teacher	Student
K	Mrs. Bonfardeci	Ella Carcone
K	Ms. Pentasuglia	Doh Say
K	Mrs. Rivera	Tiana McRae
1	Mrs. T. Brown	Amela Nadarevic
1	Ms. Czepiel	Landon Roche
1	Mrs. Karelus	Jalayah Alston
2	Ms. Adamo	Jail Aguayo
2	Mrs. Ferris	Jontai Pierce
2	Mrs. Kallies	Anna Zemanek
2	Mrs. Gregory-Salvo	Morgan Randall
3	Mrs. Brown	Dominick Piperata Jr.
3	Ms. Griffin	Nicholas Allen
3	Mrs. Laurer	Talea Sarjou
3	Mrs. Montanarelli	Muhammed Ali
4	Mrs. Delia	Victoria McConeghy
4	Mrs. Marsden	Ella Bonvicino
4	Mrs. Simon	Angela Ciccone
5	Ms. Grant/Mrs. Manino	Elma Skijan
5	Mr. Green	Asim Gacic
5	Ms. Inkawhich	Jeremy Brady
5	Mrs. Mallozzi	Jalisa Pennicooke
6	Mrs. Almy	Ilan Aguayo
6	Mrs. Colucci	Eh Moo Serr
6	Ms. Mazzara	Alexia Gary
6	Mrs. Stalker	Muridi Omar



Student of the Month

March

Grade	Teacher	Student
K	Mrs. Bonfardeci	Jaida Austin
K	Ms. Pentasuglia	A'Mura Jackson
K	Mrs. Rivera	Anastaciya Kachanovich
1	Mrs. T. Brown	Juliana Antonuk
1	Ms. Czepiel	Ke'Vonna Johnson-Warmack
1	Mrs. Karelus	Sylvia Roberts
2	Ms. Adamo	Moises Magana
2	Mrs. Ferris	Shiquan Tarver
2	Mrs. Kallies	Lamia Zeric
2	Mrs. Gregory-Salvo	Scott Yourdon
3	Mrs. Brown	Aisha Mawier
3	Ms. Griffin	Marian Haji
3	Mrs. Laurer	Alex Jones-Semaia
3	Mrs. Montanarelli	Paw Kpru Moo
4	Mrs. Delia	Easily Cho
4	Mrs. Marsden	Trinity Velez
4	Mrs. Simon	Mia Bejic
5	Ms. Grant/Mrs. Manino	Emmalee Roser
5	Mr. Green	Emily Khiamdavahn
5	Ms. Inkawhich	Ju Mi La
5	Mrs. Mallozzi	Yomar Morales-Colon
6	Mrs. Almy	Vicenzo Alderman
6	Mrs. Colucci	Moo Ku Paw
6	Ms. Mazzara	Magdy Mufatah
6	Mrs. Stalker	Thom Carrero-Rosado



Student of the Month

April

Grade	Teacher	Student
K	Mrs. Bonfardeci	Saw Eh Soe
K	Ms. Pentasuglia	Kaiden Appel
K	Mrs. Rivera	Liam Parsons
1	Mrs. T. Brown	Ajla Majcic
1	Ms. Czepiel	Mariah Enos
1	Mrs. Karelus	Savannah Hardy
2	Ms. Adamo	Darell Harris Jr.
2	Mrs. Ferris	Anthony Pike
2	Mrs. Kallies	Amina Capra
2	Mrs. Gregory-Salvo	Sean Rodriguez
3	Mrs. Brown	Laile Tejada
3	Ms. Griffin	Prajwal Magar
3	Mrs. Laurer	Wah He Da Be
3	Mrs. Montanarelli	Arianna Guzman-Gerstner
4	Mrs. Delia	Carmine Donatello
4	Mrs. Marsden	Maung Maung Htway
4	Mrs. Simon	Tyler Ward
5	Ms. Grant/Mrs. Manino	Jackson Surinach
5	Mr. Green	Gabriela Gomez-Gonzalez
5	Ms. Inkawhich	Frank Pelli Jr.
5	Mrs. Mallozzi	Buffy Stevens
6	Mrs. Almy	Araria McWilliams
6	Mrs. Colucci	Makayla Gianconna
6	Ms. Mazzara	Selma Muskic
6	Mrs. Stalker	Montanae Washington



Student of the Month

May

Grade	Teacher	Student
K	Mrs. Bonfardeci	Desmond Gibson
K	Ms. Pentasuglia	Eh Hser Khu
K	Mrs. Rivera	Jasmin Aung
1	Mrs. T. Brown	Anita Kiuchun
1	Ms. Czepiel	Jenecia Taylor
1	Mrs. Karelus	Halima Haji
2	Ms. Adamo	Ajna Gabrovica
2	Mrs. Ferris	Romy Na
2	Mrs. Kallies	TaPo Kwa
2	Mrs. Gregory-Salvo	Jaelyn Suero
3	Mrs. Brown	Marcus Stock Jr.
3	Ms. Griffin	Craig Lay
3	Mrs. Laurer	Daria Kachanovich
3	Mrs. Montanarelli	Abrie Taurisani
4	Mrs. Delia	Kathy Le
4	Mrs. Marsden	Somchat Ampaimakun
4	Mrs. Simon	Thi Da Soe
5	Ms. Grant/Mrs. Manino	Ki'Shawn Burgess
5	Mr. Green	Amir Halilovic
5	Ms. Inkawhich	Shailyah Gigliotti
5	Mrs. Mallozzi	Ashley Hafele
6	Mrs. Almy	Alycia Richard
6	Mrs. Colucci	She Nay Ah
6	Ms. Mazzara	Chloe Murphy
6	Mrs. Stalker	Obie Hawkins





June 9	½ Day – Students Dismissed @ 11:55 am
June 15	Kindergarten Graduation Rivera – 9:15 am Bonfardeci – 10:15 am Pentasuglia – 12:00 pm
June 17	6 th Grade Graduation @ 10 am
June 17	½ Day – Students Dismissed @ 11:55 am
June 23	No School for Student Only
June 24	Last Day for Students – Dismissal @ 10:00 am Breakfast will not be served.

Utica City School District
Mission Statement
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The 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.



Jefferson's Vision

We, 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