

Thomas Jefferson Elementary School

Responsible Citizens ~ Lifelong Learners

Jefferson Families,

Jefferson has kicked into spring mode. Spring brings a flurry of activities and a busyness that keeps us all hopping. In this newsletter, you will find a sampling of some of the activities in which our students are involved. Reflecting on the past school year makes us realize how fortunate we are at Jefferson Elementary. Our school has been successful due to the wonderful collaborative partnership between parents, students, and staff members

During the next two months of school, staff and students are busy with teaching and learning, assessments, and exciting events such as our Field Day, field trips, and end of the year picnics/parties, school events, and celebrations. Please see the calendar of events in this newsletter for specific times/dates that pertain to your child's grade level. Our Field Day will be held on Wednesday, June 7th. Please make sure your children are dressed appropriately, have sunscreen, water, and hats/glasses if needed. The Kindergarten Graduations will be held on Wednesday, June 14th at 9:15 (Laurer), 10:15 (Rivera), and 11:15 (Bonfardeci). The 6th grade Graduation will be held on Friday, June 16th at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, June 22nd and Friday, June 23rd (last day for students) are half days. Dismissal begins at 11:45 a.m.

Thank you to the various school comprehensive education plan committees for your endless contributions and dedication to providing beneficial activities, programs and events to our school. Our students are showing growth due to the teamwork of our wonderful faculty and staff. We must also recognize our students for their perseverance, hard-work, and effort displayed throughout the school year.

Another successful school year is coming to an end! As the year closes, I thank our wonderful parents on behalf of the Jefferson staff. We would not be the school we are without your support and dedication. Have a safe and happy summer. We look forward to next year!

Sincerely,

V. Rejrat
Vanessa Rejrat
Principal

ISSUE 3 | SPRING | 2017

Jefferson 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, and compassionate, and productive members of society.

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
8:30 – 3:30



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Utica, NY 13502
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www.uticaschools.org/jefferson

Kindergarten

Kindergartners have been learning a great deal about rhyming over the last few months, which helped us celebrate "Poem in Your Pocket Day" on April 13th. Students in each class decorated pockets and placed a color poem inside. They had a great time sharing their poems with other students and adults in the school.

The kindergarten classes have been enjoying a variety of poems throughout the month. We have heard funny ones, sad ones, silly ones, and even ones that are written in all sorts of weird shapes. Feel free to send in any poems that your family enjoys at home, so that we may share them with our classes.

1st Grade

The first graders are embarking on a new journey in math...adding two digit numbers. First we learned about the tens place and one's place. For example, in the number 25 there are two groups of ten that equal 20 and 5 ones come together to make 25. Now we are taking two digit numbers and learning how to add and subtract the numbers. Here is an example of a strategy we are working on in class. This strategy may be unfamiliar to some of you and if you feel more comfortable using a different strategy to produce the answers that is fine. The ultimate goal is for your child to learn the concepts of addition and subtraction.

$$\begin{array}{r} 14 + 13 = 27 \\ \quad \swarrow \quad \searrow \\ \quad 10 \quad 3 \\ 14 + 10 = 24 \\ 24 + 3 = 27 \end{array}$$

2nd Grade

In March second grade students had an opportunity to learn about New York State Agriculture during Agricultural Literacy Week. Mrs. Gregory-Salvo is actively involved in the Oneida County Farm Bureau and volunteered to read to 2nd and 3rd grade students at Jefferson. Did you know that New York ranks third in grape production, making grapes a valuable and important crop for our state? 75% of grape production in our state is devoted towards grape juice and products made from grape concentrate. Students listened to the book, "The Grapes We Grow" and had fun tasting two different types of grape juice. They then compared what they learned about Niagara Grapes and Concord grapes using a Venn Diagram. Thank you New York Agriculture in the Classroom for allowing us to increase agricultural literacy by donating the book to our library.



3rd Grade

Spring has arrived and the third graders are working hard to prepare for fourth grade! In ELA we are on Wonders Unit 5: Take Action! We are considering the question- "What are ways people can take action?" We will be focusing on summarizing, asking/answering questions, identifying point of view, fact and opinion, and building our vocabulary skills. In Mathematics, we are preparing for the NY State Test while working on Unit 6: Collecting and Displaying Data. Also, we continue to work on our multiplication facts for mastery. Thank you for supporting academic growth and achievement at home by monitoring homework, practicing multiplication facts (0-10) and encouraging independent reading time!

4th Grade



Fourth grade has been enjoying the start of spring! We started off by "Rockin Our Socks" to raise awareness for World Down Syndrome Day. Students participated in activities to teach them to accept people for who they are including their differences. We also have been exploring science and the states of matter. Students had fun getting messy and making oobleck. They identified it as both a solid and a liquid. Last, we kicked off our Spring Break with a trip to the movies to see

Beauty and the Beast. Students did an analysis of the characters and compared it the 1991 version. We are excited for the next couple months!



5th Grade

The BIG IDEA in ELA this month is "In what ways can things change?" We will be discussing how our experiences can change our perspectives on how we see ourselves and the world around us. Through writing and discussions students will explain how changes can have both positive and negative impacts.

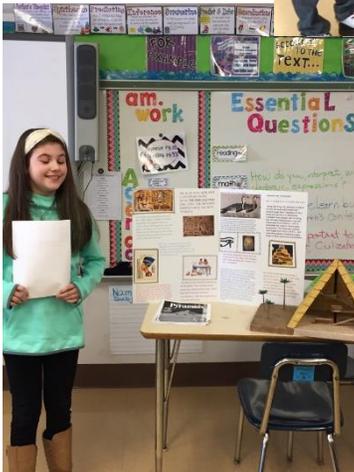
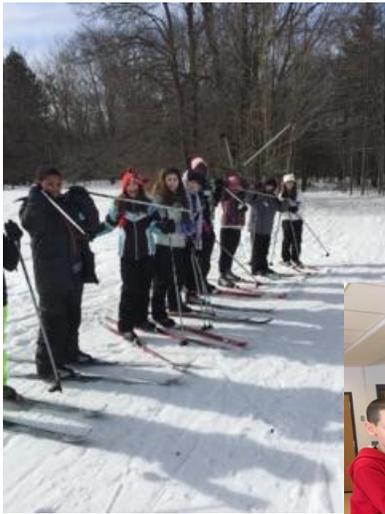
In Math, we are working on multiplying and dividing fractions. Students will engage in real-world problems. Also, they will make connections between models and equations while reasoning about their results. At home, we encourage you to guide your child through the process of learning fractions. You can use the following tips to help answer questions they might have about fractions:

1. think about sharing equally
2. the numerator is the number on the top
3. the denominator is the number on the bottom (memory tip: d is for denominator; d is for down – at the bottom)
4. Like with all math, experiencing the concept is the best for learning. Use objects and share them, pizza is always a popular example.

6th Grade – What a year!

By Nathan Mariani

Where do I start? Sixth grade is a wonderful place to be, especially when you have Ms. Simon, Ms. Mazzara or Ms. Inkawich as a teacher. Everybody in any classroom would know how much fun and how much learning will happen as soon as they walk through the doors. We've done songs, field trips, and awesome learning activities. For example, we learned about Greece and took a field trip to the museum to add to our knowledge. Then, we took a field trip to Black River Outdoor Education Program. There, you had the choice to either bike ride or go hiking. If I'm being honest, it was an amazing experience. We also went there again for cross country skiing, which was also a real blast! Another thrilling activity was when the teachers made flubber for all of sixth grade. It felt really weird, but cool at the same time. A special event at Jefferson this year has been Fun Fridays. Ms. Rejrat brought out Twister, puzzles, snap circuits, chess, computers, and many other entertaining activities. In summation, you can tell that sixth grade, and Jefferson in general, is tremendously fun and interesting!



Snowman Family Literacy Night

On Wednesday, January 25, 2017 Jefferson School sponsored a Snowman Themed 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. There was an estimation station, a photo booth, snowman themed games, teacher shared stories, craft tables, 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.

Congratulations to Htoo Ku Kpw Moo from Mrs. Marsden's class, who estimated that there were 162 Hershey Kisses in the jar. His educated guess was the closest to the actual number of Kisses. He was only one Kiss away. There were actually 163 Kisses in the jar!



World Down Syndrome Day

Celebrated 3.21



Did you know that March 21st is World Down Syndrome Day? Down syndrome (DS) is where a person is born with an extra chromosome. They have 3 copies of the 21st chromosome (chromosomes are the stuff that makes us who we are: eye color, hair color, height, etc.) Therefore, at

Jefferson School on March 21 (3.21), we celebrated people with DS.

Students and staff were encouraged to wear their brightest, mismatched socks to show their colors and spread awareness and knowledge about Down syndrome. Students and staff who donated a dollar to The 21 Club were given temporary tattoos as a thank you. Thanks to your help, Jefferson School was able to donate \$250 to The 21 Club. The 21 Club raises awareness; supports, educates and connects people with Down syndrome and their families in the greater Utica and Central New York area. We're more alike than different!



MakerSpace Project

Brush bots have taken off! Ms. Grant's students finished building their brush bots and testing their designs. They made adjustments to their motor location, number of batteries used, and electrical connections to ensure a strong current powered their bots. They then challenged against each other. Group discussion followed to allow for students to share their experiences and describe what did and didn't work. Stay tuned for the next MakerSpace project!



Jump Rope for Heart



On February 6 - 17, students at Jefferson Elementary jumped all over heart disease and stroke by participating in Jump Rope For Heart. The students raised 2,132.42 dollars for the American Heart Association, which funds research, programs and education to fight heart disease and stroke, our nation's No. 1 and No. 4 killers.

"I'm so pleased with the success of this year's event," said Mrs. Leape, Jump Rope for Heart coordinator. "We all had a lot of fun, and the kids enjoyed learning about the importance of physical activity and how they can play a role in saving lives."

Jump Rope for Heart is a program that promotes physical activity and heart health through jumping rope. It is co-sponsored by the American Heart Association and S.H.A.P.E America-Society of Health and Physical Educators.

To make a donation or to find out more about Jump Rope for Heart, call your nearest American Heart Association office at 315.725.8453 or call 1-800-AHA-USA1 (1-800-242-8721). You can also visit us online at heart.org/jump.

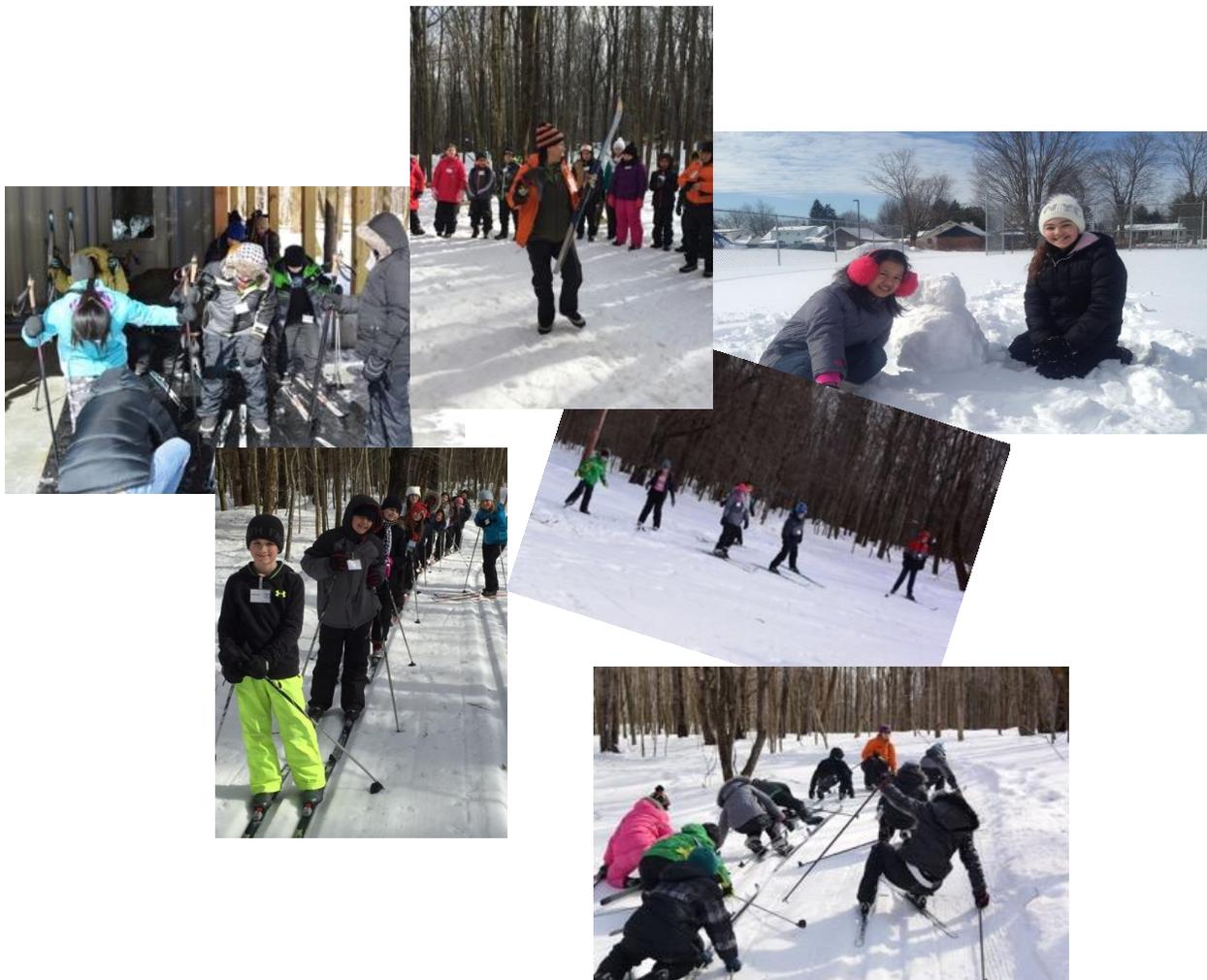
5th & 6th Grade Cross Country Skiing

By Julia Harvey and Ju Mi La

Field trips are an amazing and informational experience for any pupil at school. During the month of February, the 6th graders had a lot of fun cross country skiing on the beautiful trails at Black River Outdoor Educational Program.

A lot of us never before went skiing. Therefore, this was a very new activity for many of the kids. In our opinion, starting off was the hardest part. We had to learn all the positions, motions and techniques. However, once we got on the trail the entertainment started. On the straight parts of the trail, we could just glide across the snow as long as we didn't bump into anyone in front of us. Once in a while, we would reach a downhill slope. For us, it was pretty scary, yet fun, because our speed accelerated as we descended from the top. Most of the time, many of us fell flat on our faces as we zoomed down the hills. We will need to practice more next time we go skiing.

In conclusion, going to Black River Outdoor Educational Program for cross country skiing was immensely enjoyable. We learned a lot throughout the duration of this field trip. It was a great opportunity to ski and enjoy nature's majestic sights!



Parents as Reading Partners

Thomas Jefferson PARP theme this year was, **“Cozy Up to A Good Book”**. Students participated in PARP from Monday, January 9, 2017 through Monday, January 30, 2017 and had a blast reading. Students were encouraged to COZY UP with a book when it was cold and snowy outside and snuggle under a warm blanket to READ! They did an AWESOME job creating a **Cozy Mitten** with a picture or photograph showing themselves reading a favorite book. The mittens were displayed in the hallways of the school! Phenomenal job to all students that participated! Remember to keep reading!!!



The Marshmallow Build

The students in Ms. Griffin / Mr. Cunningham's class completed a science experiment called "The Marshmallow Build". Using their collective STEM skills, they were to create the tallest structure possible using 10 large marshmallows, 15 small marshmallows, 4 popsicle sticks, 5 toothpicks, and 2 straws in 15 minutes. Each group had to plan, design, and build their structure using their skills of communication, teamwork and collaboration.



Robotics Club Competition



We were on our way to the competition at Proctor High School and it was about 8:00 A.M. when the team was all there. Ms. Ferris, and Ms. Czepiel, had to go to a coaches' meeting. So, it was just me and the other 9 teammates chilling out, looking at other teams' projects. In the morning, we had to perform our presentations which consisted of robot design, project, and core values. Our project idea was to conserve the jaguar population, as their population is very scarce. You could tell the judges really liked the presentation, and to be honest I think we did a fairly good job.

After that, everybody had lunch and got ready for the opening ceremony. All the teams got in a line, while holding posters and banners to support their team. When everybody sat down in the gym, the announcer explained the rules about the robot games and then they started! After the games, we had an awesome dance party, including 80s songs. Then the most important part came up: the awards! Fortunately, we advanced to the championship at SUNY POLY. As you can see, the competition was a very cool and fun experience.



Optimist Award



Special honors have gone to some very deserving sixth graders from Jefferson School. These students have many admirable qualities that include: good citizenship, upbeat and enthusiastic attitudes, positive approaches to challenges and outstanding leadership potential.

The East Utica Elementary Optimist of the Year Award was received by **Nathan Mariani** at a banquet at Valley View on April 26th.

The Young Scholars Program has chosen: Maung Aye, Ju Mi La, Brady Murphy and Sha Wee Wee.

February SOM

Grade	Teacher	Student
K	Mrs. Bonfardeci	Alexander Ozog
K	Mrs. Laurer	Eh Khee Paw
K	Mrs. Rivera	Kaylene Figueroa
1	Mrs. T. Brown	Robert Conti
1	Ms. Czepiel	Cruz Jackson
1	Mrs. Karelus	James Rontundo
2	Mrs. Blemont	Raho Gedow
2	Mrs. Galiulo	Matthew Rys
2	Mrs. Salvo	Vitaly Savich
3	Mrs. Adamo	Moo Htoo Hae
3	Ms. Ferris	Esteban Burgos
3	Ms. Griffin	Jayden Hamilton
3	Mrs. Kallies	Haris Sabanagic
3	Mrs. Montanarelli	Cameron Jardieux
4	Mrs. M. Brown	Dominick Nieves
4	Mrs. Delia	Marian Haji
4	Mrs. Mallozzi	Aiden Diaz
4	Mrs. Marsden	Arianna Guzman-Gerstner
5	Ms. Grant/Mrs. Abeling	Duane Hayes Jr.
5	Mr. Green	Gabriella Garcia
5	Mrs. Lawruk	Melisa Bejic
6	Ms. Inkawhich	Shaliyah Gigliotti
6	Ms. Mazzara	Evelina Mironova
6	Mrs. Simon	Edriany Salcedo-Gonzalez
6	Mrs. Stalker	Buffy Stevens



March SOM

Grade	Teacher	Student
K	Mrs. Bonfardeci	Joshian Diaz-Cirino
K	Mrs. Laurer	Zin Lin Thu
K	Mrs. Rivera	Aaron Mims
1	Mrs. T. Brown	Giuliana Olsen
1	Ms. Czepiel	Rukia Hassan
1	Mrs. Karelus	Thomas Doe
2	Mrs. Belmont	Blessing Htoo
2	Mrs. Galiulo	Laila Ajang
2	Mrs. Salvo	Sohayla Mohamed
3	Mrs. Adamo	Colin Dillman
3	Ms. Ferris	Anthony Pike
3	Ms. Griffin	Bryson Randall
3	Mrs. Kallies	Lamia Zeric
3	Mrs. Montanarelli	Eh Khu Moo
4	Mrs. M. Brown	Aisha Mawier
4	Mrs. Delia	Alana Reccio
4	Mrs. Mallozzi	Marcus Stock Jr.
4	Mrs. Marsden	Paw Kpru Moo
5	Ms. Grant/Mrs. Abeling	Rosalys Planco
5	Mr. Green	Nicholas Dallaire
5	Mrs. Lawruk	Hana Mufatah
6	Ms. Inkawhich	Karisma Kittrell
6	Ms. Mazzara	Mia Donlon
6	Mrs. Simon	Abigail Rippo
6	Mrs. Stalker	Zachary Hassan



April SOM

Grade	Teacher	Student
K	Mrs. Bonfardeci	Chritsnow Oo
K	Mrs. Laurer	Genaro Servadio
K	Mrs. Rivera	Natalie Gomez
1	Mrs. T. Brown	Abubakar Mnondwa
1	Ms. Czepiel	Cho Win
1	Mrs. Karelus	Fatin Juniad
2	Mrs. Belmont	Arren Tamang
2	Mrs. Galiulo	Sylvia Roberts
2	Mrs. Salvo	Caleb Rios
3	Ms. Ferris	Jaquin Tarver
3	Mrs. Adamo	Sa St Him
3	Ms. Griffin	Jayleen Otero
3	Mrs. Kallies	Ryder Winfield
3	Mrs. Montanarelli	Yusuf Haji
4	Mrs. M. Brown	Aiden Charbel
4	Mrs. Delia	Mu Kler Soe
4	Mrs. Mallozzi	Sa'rye Engram
4	Mrs. Marsden	Htoo Ku Kpaw Moo
5	Ms. Grant/Mrs. Abeling	Shee Lah Htoo
5	Mr. Green	Xavier Salmond
5	Mrs. Lawruk	Olivia Thomas
6	Ms. Inkawhich	Nathan Mariani
6	Ms. Mazzara	Rehab Khames
6	Mrs. Simon	Erna Dizarevic
6	Mrs. Stalker	Marshall Owens





The following students have earned Paw Tokens during special area classes (PE, Art, Music, Library) and lunch for being extraordinarily respectful, responsible and/or safe. These students had their choice of Fun Friday (games, etc.), participation in an extra special of their choice, or a prize out of our prize bucket! Congratulations and keep up the great work Jefferson Jaguars!

February



March



April



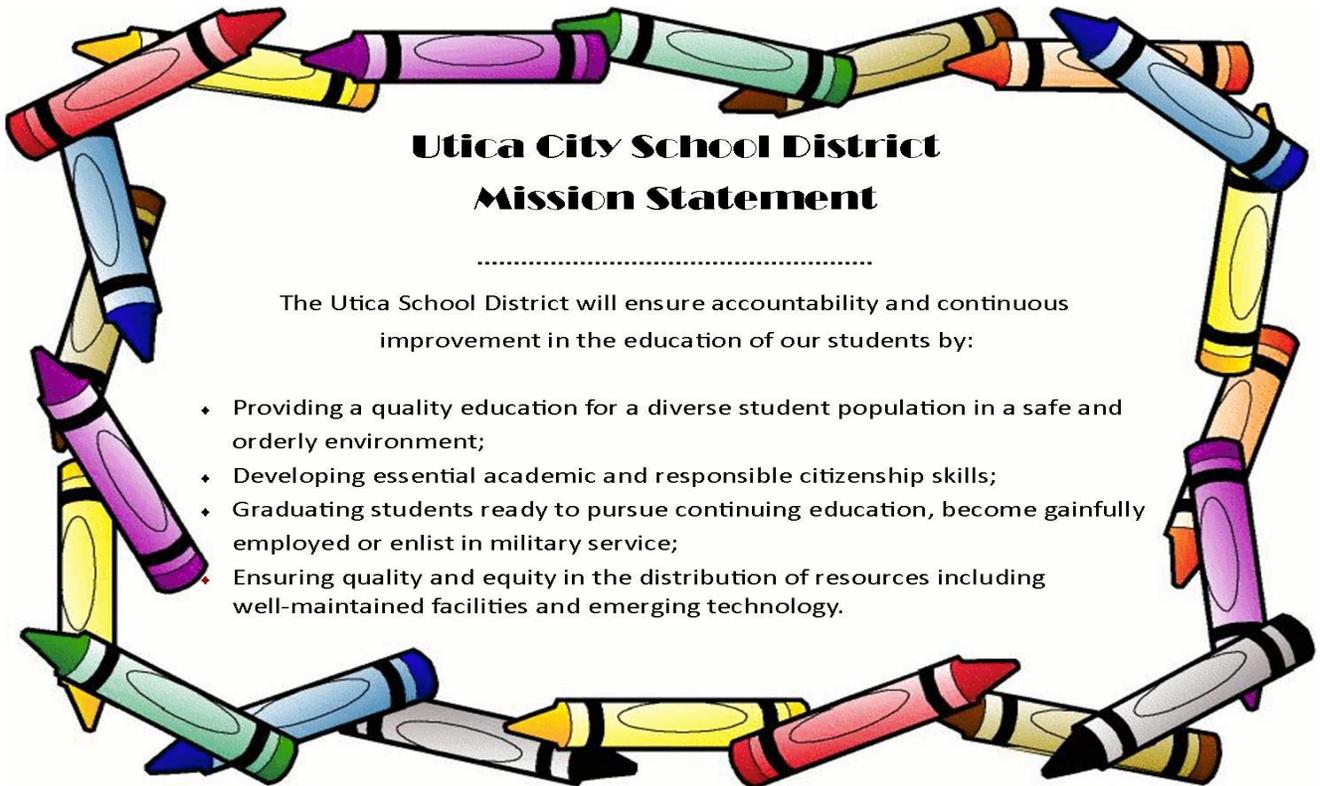
Important Dates

MAY 2017

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16 No School for Students Supr. Conf. Day	17 Ice Cream Social 6-7pm	18	19
22	23 Community Readers Day	24	25	26
29 Memorial Day NO SCHOOL	30 Ride For Missing Children	31 Student of the Month <u>Spring Concert</u> 6 pm @ JFK		

JUNE 2017

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1	3
5	6	7 Field Day	8	9 Superintendent Conference Day ½ Day Dismissal 11:15
12	13	14 Kindergarten Graduation Laurer – 9:15 Rivera – 10:15 Bonfardeci- 11:45	15 Superintendent Conference Day ½ Day Dismissal 11:45	16 6 th Grade Graduation 10:00
19	20	21	22 Half Day 11:45	23 Half Day 11:45 Last Day for Students
26	27	28	29	30



Utica City School District Mission Statement

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The Utica School District will ensure accountability and continuous improvement in the education of our students by:

- ◆ Providing a quality education for a diverse student population in a safe and orderly environment;
- ◆ Developing essential academic and responsible citizenship skills;
- ◆ Graduating students ready to pursue continuing education, become gainfully employed or enlist in military service;
- ◆ Ensuring quality and equity in the distribution of resources including well-maintained facilities and emerging technology.