

## 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, compassionate and productive members of society.

# Thomas Jefferson Elementary School

Responsible Citizens ~ Lifelong Learners

Jefferson Families,

It is exciting to be starting off what I am sure will prove to be another great year at Jefferson Elementary School. We are entering our tenth week of school! It's time to schedule a Quarterly Learning Conference and review your child's first report card. Quarter 1 report cards are scheduled to be sent home on November 15<sup>th</sup>! Please begin speaking with your child about developing goals for Marking Period 2. After the conference please review your child's Student Learning Conference Form with them regularly to reinforce goals and activities.

This year at Jefferson Elementary School we will be working toward meeting the following school comprehensive education goals (SCEP) and will continue to welcome your input on how we can help all students to succeed. Jefferson staff will...

- *Foster* student participation and critical thinking
- *Prioritize* content within the mathematics modules
- *Incorporate* research-based student engagement strategies to support student-centered learning
- *Serve* and track the social emotional needs of students
- *Utilize* an electronic communication tool in order to engage, educate, and empower parents

We will also continue to reinforce positive behaviors and life skills through our PBIS PAW and Lifelong Guidelines programs.

A special thank you to the entire Jefferson community for your dedication to success! It is through working together as a team that we all succeed.

Sincerely,

*Vanessa Rejrat*

Vanessa F. Rejrat  
Principal

## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Mrs. Rejrat - Principal  
**792-2163**

Mrs. Rightmier – 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**



190 Booth Street  
Utica, NY 13502  
(315) 792-2163

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



The Jefferson Kindergartners have well to the new school year. We have been busy counting, learning letters and sounds, and we have already! Additionally, we have met with our literacy while learning about main idea. Next, we will work Kindergarten has been very busy, and all of the check the students folders everyday. Many important home each day, and we don't want you to miss a thing. Also, if you haven't already signed up for class dojo, please do. It is a fantastic way to communicate with your child's teacher, and find out what is going on in their classrooms. If you are unsure how to sign up, contact your child's teacher, and we will be happy to help you.

been working hard and adjusting practicing how to write our names, even learned a few sight words buddies and completed fun projects together with them on sequencing. classes are doing so well. Parents, please notices, homework, sight words, etc... go

## 1st Grade News



First graders have learned a lot since the first day of school. During Unit 1 of the new Wonders Reading program we discovered ways in which we are all special. Our skills focused on short vowel sounds and letter blends. In Unit 2 of Wonders we will be exploring what makes a community and our skills will introduce long vowels, contractions, plural nouns and proper nouns. In math we have been working hard on our addition strategies and soon will be working on subtraction too. As always, continue to practice high frequency words and math facts at home.

## 2nd Grade News

The second grade class is busy with Fall activities and learning! In our Wonders reading series, we are working on our reading, writing, listening and speaking skills and in Mathematics we are starting our year reviewing basic math skills, practicing addition and subtraction up to 2 and 3 digit numbers and much more. Parents, please support our second graders at home by reading regularly with your child, reviewing your child's homework assignments and practicing basic math skills to reinforce learning at home! For a fun Fall activity, we are making colorful leaf projects for our PARP Parents as Reading Partners Program to exhibit in our school!



## 3rd Grade

Happy Fall! The third graders have been working hard to become more independent learners and critical thinkers!



In ELA, we are beginning the second unit of our Wonders Series. We will be focusing on the essential question “What does it take to solve a problem?” We will explore this question as we read, discuss and write about a variety of texts including expository, historical fiction and folktales. We are learning that successful readers ask and answer questions, make predictions and reread text for better understanding. We are also working on the comprehension skills of theme, sequencing and author’s point of view. Finally, we are learning the RACES strategy and incorporating the stoplight organizer for writing complete paragraphs.

In Math, we are completing our first unit on multiplication and division concepts. Soon we will be starting place value and problem solving with units of measure. Please remember to encourage your third grader to read at home daily and to work on multiplication facts for mastery!

## 4th Grade News



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 place-value, comparing and rounding numbers, how animals are classified, the continents and oceans that make up our world, and have read some interesting stories.

To quote Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Nothing great is ever achieved without enthusiasm." In our 4th grade classrooms, enthusiasm abounds!

We look forward to meeting with you soon for parent teacher conferences!

## 5th Grade News

Our 5th grade students are finishing up Module 1 in Math. They have been working very hard on place value and decimal fractions. Soon, they will be moving onto multiplying and dividing decimal numbers in Module 2. Please encourage your child to practice their multiplication math facts as these fundamental skills are crucial to the success of the upcoming module lessons.

In ELA, students have been reading passages that focus on the big idea, “Where can an idea begin?” It is very important that our 5th grade students are reading daily at home. It would be very beneficial if you read with your child as much as possible to improve reading fluency and comprehension.

Please visit the “Student Links” page which is provided on our school website. These sites will greatly assist your child to reinforce math and literary skills. As always, we greatly appreciate your support at home.



## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade News

Our sixth grade classes have settled into our routines and schedules nicely! We have been working hard at finding main idea, supporting details and using textual evidence in ELA, as well as ratios and proportions in math. Our new chromebooks have been a great addition to our classrooms and our students are loving them! We recently met with our kindergarten buddies for our literacy projects! 6th grade will soon be doing a fundraiser to raise money for our end of the year field trip. We encourage you to practice your child's math facts with them each night and read with them as much as possible. We cannot stress the value of this enough for your child! We look forward to meeting with you soon for parent teacher conferences!

## PTO News



Again this year, Jefferson School's PTO will sponsor monthly fundraisers. Our first one was a popsicle sale and it was held on Friday, September 21, 2018. More than 200 popsicles were delivered to classrooms and were appreciated by our students as a celebration of a successful beginning of the school year.

Our October fundraiser was a World's Finest Candy bar sale. Students could select from milk chocolate, dark chocolate, crisp, caramel or almond candy bars. This was a very successful sale; everyone seems to love chocolate! We also had a Dine and Donate fundraiser evening hosted by Texas Roadhouse in New Hartford. Many Jefferson families enjoyed a night off from cooking and a portion of the evening's sales were donated back to Jefferson School's PTO.

Our November calendar is filled with many events including our Math Trivia and Treat Night (November 7, 2018) a popcorn sale (November 16, 2018), a Feed Our Vets Food Drive (November 9-19, 2018), Superhero Day (November 20, 2018) and much more. Please check the monthly calendar for these events and the Jefferson website for updates.

We hope to see you at the next PTO meeting which is scheduled at 8:30am on **Tuesday, November 27, 2018.**



Thomas Jefferson's PARP theme this Fall was, "Fall Into A Good Book". Students participated in PARP from Monday, October 1, 2018 through Monday, October 22, 2018 and had a blast reading. Students were encouraged to FALL INTO a book and snuggle under a warm blanket to READ! They did an AWESOME job creating a Fall Leaf with a picture or photograph showing him/her reading their favorite book. The leaves were displayed in the hallways of the school! Phenomenal job to all students that participated! Remember to keep reading!!!

## ENL Family Information Meeting

Jefferson's ENL (English as a New Language) Family Informational Meeting was held on Thursday, September 20, 2018. Over 35 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, and our families appreciated the information translated.

La reunión para los padres de los estudiantes de inglés como Nuevo idioma(ENL) en la escuela primaria de Jefferson fue jueves, el 20 de septiembre 2018. Más de 35 familias asistieron la reunión Sra. Rejrat, entrenadores académicos del Distrito Escolar de la Ciudad de Utica, y nuestro E.S.O.L. los maestros presentaron información sobre las expectativas de los estudiantes, los procedimientos escolares y hablaron sobre los próximos eventos de la Escuela Jefferson. Nuestros entrenadores académicos tradujeron toda la información escolar pertinente a nuestras familias en sus idiomas nativos, y nuestras familias apreciaron la información traducida.

## Literacy Buddies

This month, Ms. Griffin's third grade class got together with our Literacy Buddies in Mrs. Rivera's Kindergarten class. We focused on the literacy skill of "Main Idea and Supporting Details". Together, we read the book "The Giving Tree" by Shel Silverstein. We discussed and wrote about the main idea. Then, we created fall trees together! We enjoyed working with our Kindergarten buddies and can't wait to see them again next time!



# The John Convertino & Santo Paniccia 5th & 6th Grade Cross Country Meet

On Wednesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, the John Convertino & Santo Paniccia 5th/6th Grade Cross Country Meet was held at Proctor Park. Jefferson had 26 students participate in the 1.3 mile race. We are proud of all who participated in the meet. Overall Jefferson's 6th grade girls placed 6th, the 6th grade boys placed 5th, the 5th grade girls placed 10th, and the 5th grade boys placed 9th. Go Jefferson Jaguars!

## 5th Girls

Angelina Kuzmich  
Anna Zemanek **Top finisher**  
Jayleen Otero  
Mia Tiffany  
Wilnelys Rivera Lozada  
Kyleigh Brady  
McKenzie Brady

## 5th Boys

Scott Yourdon  
Cameron Jardieu  
Charly Bi  
Jake Tiffany  
Jail Aguayo-Velazquez  
Antonio Bridenbecker **Top finisher**

## 6<sup>th</sup> Girls

Ariona Luyanda  
Jackie Delia  
Shee Kae Lar  
Siatun Hassan  
Daria Kachanovich **Top Finisher**  
Aubrie Taurisani

## 6<sup>th</sup> Boys

Jaden Bougourd  
Mark Mironov  
Halid Hozanovic  
Sang Le  
Dominick Piperata  
Mervin Poturovic **Top Finisher**  
Po Wah



## Ms. Czepiel's Class Making Applesauce



Ms. Czepiel's first grade class 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.

## Parent Room Updates

Thomas Jefferson Elementary School is very proud to share the expansion of our Parent Resource Room, located in the front office corridor, room 122. There is a plethora of materials available for the parents/guardians of our students to help foster the growth of their child's learning. Our latest expansion includes student school supplies (Book bags, notebooks, folders, pencils, crayons, markers, scissors, glue sticks, rulers and loose leaf paper). It also includes a basket of books (all reading levels) for you to take and keep at home with your child for home reading. The room is available during the school day for parents/guardians. You will need to sign in/out with security. We are excited to have our parents stop in and utilize the many wonderful resources that are readily available.

## Report to PARENTS

# So Many Activities, So Little Time

**S**tudents who are involved in extracurricular activities—from chess club to cheerleading to chorus—tend to have higher self-esteem and stronger connections to school. But an overloaded schedule with too many activities can have the opposite effect, leaving your child—and you!—stressed. Keep these tips in mind for managing your child's activity load.

### Aim for 3 activities.

Though every child is different, psychologists often suggest involving a child in no more than three activities at a time: one social activity (like Boys' Club or a church group); one physical activity (like gymnastics, swimming, or basketball); and one artistic activity, such as an art class or music lessons.

### Limit involvement.

To avoid burnout, keep involvement in any one activity to just a day or two a week, unless your child absolutely begs for more. Check with them periodically to make sure they are still eager to attend; if not, scale back.

### Broaden their horizons.

Although following your child's interests is important, introduce your child to something new, whether it's a new sport, a musical instrument, or a group like Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts.

The secret to keeping enthusiasm high is to start slowly and gauge your child's interest before committing beyond the first few sessions.

### Be supportive, not critical.

No matter what your child is interested in, remember that your job as a parent is to be supportive. The point of activities is to expand your child's interests and abilities, not to transform him or her into a child prodigy or the next sports superstar.

### Schedule downtime.

Children need time to ponder, explore, and play—but an overloaded schedule prevents that. Make sure that when the day is over and the homework is done, there's still time for your child to be a kid.

### Change it up.

Specializing in one activity—especially a sport—at a very young age can be harmful. Pediatricians discourage the kind of repetitive movements that come from concentrated effort in one sport. Plus, kids who dedicate themselves to a single sport early can burn out later and may regret not trying other sports.

### Watch for signs of stress.

The stress of trying to keep up with too many planned activities can take a physical toll on your child. Watch for signs of stress, including stomachaches and headaches, difficulty paying attention, a drop-off in interest in activities he or she used to enjoy, and increased "clinginess" with a parent or other close adult (e.g., teacher, babysitter). If you notice any of these signs, chances are your child needs to cut back on activities and de-stress.

### Decompress at home.

Make sure there's room in your schedule for family time. Children need to have meals with their parents, hear bedtime stories, share chores, and play games. Extra-curricular activities can help children learn and grow, but remember that what your child needs first and foremost is to feel special and loved.



# Student OF THE MONTH

## September



### Kindergarten

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Mrs. Bonfardeci	Rosemarie Arroyo
Mrs. Laurer	Miley Oleksik
Mrs. Rivera	Ian Cedano
Mrs. DeAngelo	Carlos Ruiz-Rodriguez

### 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

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Mrs. T. Brown	Arnela Hozanovic
Ms. Czepiel	Adel Causevic
Mrs. Karelus	Siranoush Marashian

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

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Mrs. Belmont	Anna Breckenridge
Mrs. Kallies	Julianna Constantine
Mrs. Salvo	Natalie Gomez

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

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Mrs. Adamo	Jayden Arabia
Ms. Griffin	Alyson Le
Mrs. Montanarelli	Michael Doolen
Mr. Deon	Ajla Gredelj

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

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Mrs. M. Brown	Gabriella Price
Mrs. Galiulo	Travius Yancey
Mrs. Marsden	Caleb Rios
Mrs. Pedulla	Jason Titus

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

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Mrs. Galiulo	Kyleigh Brady
Mr. Green	Alyssa Randall
Mrs. Lawruk	Ray Borrell
Mr. Rogowski	Antonio Bridenbecker

### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

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Mrs. Delia	Jaden Bougourd
Ms. Mazzara	Po Wah
Mrs. Simon	Maxim Kuzmich
Mrs. Stalker	Herman Pike



# Student OF THE MONTH



## Kindergarten

Mrs. Bonfardeci	Kellan Rys
Mrs. Laurer	Ariel Chol
Mrs. Rivera	Taliah Edington

## 1st Grade

Mrs. T. Brown	Soraya Charbel
Ms. Czepiel	Azaylea Davy
Mrs. DeAngelo	John Nguyen
Mrs. Karelus	Ehchris Paw

## 2nd Grade

Mrs. Belmont	Krystal Nieves-Martinez
Mrs. Kallies	Angelia Cardin
Mrs. Salvo	Zaid Aung

## 3rd Grade

Mrs. Adamo/Mrs. Campola	Marin Winfield
Ms. Griffin	Mary Claire Bagomboy
Mrs. Montanarelli	Jovani Goico

## 4th Grade

Mrs. M. Brown	Vitaly Savich
Mrs. Galiulo	Johanna Padilla-Rivera
Mrs. Marsden	Jass Tay

## 5th Grade

Mr. Deon	Muktar Somow
Mrs. Galiulo	McKenzie Fuller
Mr. Green	Ajna Grabovica
Mrs. Lawruk	Jack Matt
Mrs. Pedulla	India Huyler
Mr. Rogowski	Anna Zemanek

## 6th Grade

Mrs. Delia	Aubrie Taurisani
Ms. Mazzara	Philip Santacroce
Mrs. Simon	Star Estrella
Mrs. Stalker	Angeline Nguyen



# Paw Pride



## Winners

# September



# Paw Pride



## Winners

# October





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## **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.