



# Jefferson Elementary

Responsible Citizens ~ Lifelong Learners

Jefferson Families,

With the second semester well under way, we want to thank everyone for your continued support of our students, teachers and school as we collectively strive to provide optimal opportunities for learning each and every day. Parent-teacher *and* student conferences are scheduled for Thursday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. They will include collaborative conversations around data and student commitment goals, so please bring your children.

Students have just completed I-Ready Diagnostic 2 testing. The data indicates 68% of Jefferson students are on, above or emerging grade level in Reading (+13% since September) and 75% of students are on, above or emerging grade level in Math (+19%). Thank you for reading with your child and practicing basic math facts at home. Ask your child to summarize what they have read using the RACES strategy. Students in grade 3-6 are also using the "Stop Light" paragraph format. Please stop into our parent room anytime during school hours or visit our website for resources and materials to support your child's learning at home.

Jefferson's staff values the important contributions families make towards students' success in school. There is no question about it—success at school starts at home. We continue to share with families that attendance and promptness also contribute to a student's performance in class.

TIPS for Families:

- ◆ Let your child know that you think school is important.
- ◆ Set a regular bedtime and enforce it.
- ◆ Provide your child with plenty of time to get ready for school.
- ◆ Provide an alternate transportation plan for getting your child to school on time.
- ◆ Make sure your child arrives at school on time daily. Class begins promptly at 9:00 a.m. Students should arrive at least ten minutes early.
- ◆ If possible plan medical, dental, and other appointments before and after school. If appointments must be during the school day, plan them so that your child does not miss the same class every time.
- ◆ Request a meeting with the school's Instructional Support Team or School Social Worker to discuss your child's attendance concerns.

We appreciate all you do for Jefferson students and for the support you provide to our staff. If you need anything, let us know!

Sincerely,

*V. Rejrat*

Vanessa F. Rejrat  
Principal



## 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. 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**



# Kindergarten

The Kindergarten classes have continued to work hard each day. We have explored flat and solid shapes, and have begun measuring. Soon we will be adding and subtracting. Our classes have learned more and more sight words, which have helped us become stronger readers and writers. The kindergarteners and their literacy buddies have had more fun creating sequencing events and completing gingerbread activities. Soon we will be celebrating the 100th day of school! It's so hard to believe that it is here already. In honor of the 100th day, please find creative ways to count to 100 with your child. Things such as 100 exercises (jumping jacks, toe touches, etc...), 10 groups of 10 objects in each group, or counting using funny voices. All of these will help your child become better counters, all the while having fun.

Parents, please check students' folders everyday. Many important notices, homework, sight words, etc... go 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 so. 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.



# 1st Grade

The first graders have started Unit 3 in ELA and Module 3 in Math and are learning some fantastic new things. In ELA, our big question for the unit is "What can happen over time?" We are discussing how things change and grow over a day, a month, to a year. They are also learning about the long vowel sounds and how that "sneaky e" helps a letter say its name. We are also learning how to write more complex sentences, use nouns and verbs, don't forget your punctuation! In math we are learning how to measure and graph information. As always, keep practicing the high frequency words and math facts every day. Read with your child every night.



# 2nd Grade

Happy New Year to All from Grade 2! As we commence the new year, Gr. 2 students are studying and preparing for mid-year testing including I-Ready Diagnostic 2. In English Language Arts, we are studying Unit 3: Live and Learn- reading comprehension, vocabulary, spelling and writing skills. In Mathematics, we are focusing on basic addition and subtraction facts, addition and subtraction with 3-digit numbers and word problem solving skills. Please continue to monitor your child's homework and to encourage independent reading and math practice at home to reinforce learning and achievement. Best wishes for a happy, healthy New Year!



## 3rd Grade

Happy New Year! Our third graders are working hard to prepare for the upcoming NYS ELA and Math assessments. During Unit 3 of our Wonders reading series, we will be working on the literacy skills of main idea, sequencing and cause and effect. We are also learning to write a written response using text evidence. Third grade is currently working on Math Module 4, Multiplication and Area. During this module we will explore area and perimeter of two-dimensional figures. Coming up in Module 5, we will deepen our understanding of fractions. To help at home, please encourage your child to read and practice multiplication facts every day.



## 4th Grade

Fourth grade students are reading non-fiction and informational text. The goal is to get the children to identify the main idea and supporting details about the topic, as well as identify cause and effect events when possible. Please encourage your child to read a chapter book for at least 15 minutes each night. In addition, it is important that students read to an adult for at least a part of their nightly reading. This helps with fluency and comprehension and gives an opportunity for discussion about the book being read. In writing, the students are using the Stoplight paragraph format, to teach students how to write a structured paragraph.

Students should continue to review and practice basic multiplication and division facts. Many of the upcoming math concepts involve multiplication and division. Fact fluency will make these concepts easier for your child to learn.

Please sign your child's agenda daily, and feel free to use it as a communication tool.

**REMINDER:** Winter is upon us! Please make sure your child dresses for colder weather and brings a coat to school every day. Don't forget the hat and gloves!



## 5th Grade

Our 5th grade students are making great gains in I-Ready Reading and Math. We are so proud of their work ethic and the improvements that are being made.

In Math, we are working on fractions. Students are adding and subtracting fractions and mixed numbers. Multiplication facts are a crucial skill within this concept. Please encourage your children to practice their math facts. Students should refer to their math notebook and their class notes to support them with math homework. Youtube and Zearn are great websites to assist your child as well.

In ELA, we will continue to focus on reading "closely" and having students use textual evidence to support their responses to questions. We encourage our students to read daily to improve their fluency and comprehension. Parents can help to foster their child's love of reading by asking him/her to retell the stories they have read.



## 6th Grade

2019 is off to a great start! Sixth grade has begun fundraising for their end of the year field trip. We would like to extend a big thank you to all who have supported us. We will continue to fundraise throughout the year. These fundraisers tie in with what students are learning in ELA, what it takes to accomplish a goal. We are continuing to work and have fun with our Literacy Buddies. Our focus was on sequencing. We read stories and completed activities that were related. Children really enjoy working with and learning from their buddies. In Science, children were able to examine cells under a microscope and complete STEAM activities. Participation in homework has also been awesome! Please continue to practice math facts and read daily at home. We are excited for what is to come in this new year!



## Pennies for Pets

In January, we continued our annual tradition of participating in “Pennies for Pets” to raise money for the Stevens-Swan Humane Society. This year our theme was “Ring in the New Year by Helping the Pets at the Stevens-Swan Humane Society”. Many students bought ring pops for a \$1 donation. All of the money collected from the sale went toward our final total. We also collected pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters throughout the month of January. Some students even participated in a pet art contest to show their support for this wonderful cause. In total, we raised over \$400 for the Stevens-Swan Humane Society! Thank you, Jefferson Jaguars, for caring about and supporting this important organization in our community!



# PTO News

## Barnes and Noble Book Fair

Jefferson School's PTO sponsored a Book Fair fundraiser on Sunday, December 9, 2018 at Barnes and Noble in New Hartford, NY. Barnes and Noble contributed a portion of every sale made during our Book Fair to Jefferson. It was a fun filled day with many activities for those who attended, including story time, arts and crafts, caricature drawings, performances by our string students, complimentary gift wrapping, a student art display and the opportunity to win a Nook or Barnes and Noble gift card. A special thank you to all our students, staff and their families for helping make this event so successful.

## Jefferson School Superheroes

Thomas Jefferson Elementary School held a food drive for Feed Our Vets in honor of Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving. We collected over 250 pounds of non-perishable food items which were donated to local veterans. Teachers and Staff also held a "Flannel Friday" with optional cash donations given to this organization. Any student or staff member that made a contribution to Feed Our Vets was invited to wear a Superhero shirt on Tuesday, November 20, 2018. All collected food and cash contributions benefit the Utica Chapter of Feed Our Vets. Thank you to all those who participated.



# Robotics Club

The Jefferson Jaguar Robotics Team competed in their first competition at Proctor High School and did a fantastic job. This new and young team (with only 1 returning member), had a long journey ahead of them when they first met in late October. With lots of hard work, persistence, determination, and teamwork they learned how to code, program, and carry out several missions for the competition. Additionally, the team needed to create an innovative way to solve one of the many problems facing astronauts in space. Although the team did not advance to the next level of competition, our team beat out several seasoned teams and proved just how amazing Jefferson Jaguars really are! We would like to give a special thank you to Robert Delia, a former Jefferson Jaguar, who generously volunteered a great deal of time to teach the team how to code and program our robot.

## Team members include:

Jacqueline Delia, Jason Cooper, Harlem Guzman, Juliana Antonuk, Ali Rosic, Anthony Wozney, Michael Brinkley, Mu Kler Soe, and Sang Le.





# PAW Pride November Winners





# PAW Pride December Winners





# PAW Pride January Winners





# November Student of the Month



## Grade K-3 Students



## Grade 4-6 Students



# December Student of the Month



## Grade K-3 Students



## Grade 4-6 Students



# January Student of the Month



## Grade K-3 Students



## Grade 4-6 Students



## **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.