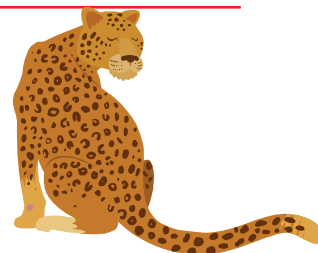




Jefferson Journal



August 2010

School begins on Thursday, August 26th, 2010 @ 8:30.
(pm kindergarten starts at 12:20)

OPEN HOUSE

Jefferson students and parents are invited to an Open House on Tuesday, August 24th, 2010. If your last name begins with: A-M 5:00 - 5:45 pm & N-Z 5:45 - 6:30. You and your child will meet their teacher, find their room, find their desks, and locate their locker and mailboxes. Bring your checkbooks to purchase lunch tickets, activity tickets, and buy Jefferson "Jag" wear. We hope you all can make it.

NEW STAFF

Mrs. Maag (4th grade teacher) will be taking a one year leave of absence.

Mrs. Feininger (6th grade teacher) will be taking her place. Ms. Clausen will be our new 6th grade teacher. She will be an excellent addition to our staff.

In our computer lab, Mrs. Campbell will be one of our part time aides in the building. We welcome her to our staff.



Special points of interest:

- ☺ August 24th - Open House
- ☺ August 27th - Picture Day
- ☺ August PTO meeting—August 17th from 12:00- 1:00 in the office conference room
- ☺ Sept 6th - Labor Day, No School
- ☺ Homecoming—Sept. 24th, 1:30 dismissal for the parade
- ☺ Sept. 27th - 6th grade starts swimming

Principal's Corner

The 2010-2011 school year is fast approaching. This summer has been filled with reading. Thank you parents for taking the time to bring your children to the Jefferson Library this summer. We had record numbers attend and also go to the Toy Story II movie. I am looking forward to a new year with your children.

Last year we had a theme for the building, "Race into Learning". This year grade levels will have the opportunity to create their own themes for learning. The focus for our student council will be how "We can make a difference". The student council and staff will brain storm ways that we can make a difference in our own lives and in our community.



ATTENDANCE

School attendance is very important. Imagine missing 10 days of school each year. 13 years of school times 10 days is 130 days of school. That is almost one whole year of school missed! Students learn every day in school. Attendance is a key component to graduating from high school. Getting to school on time and attending everyday shows a child the importance of a good work ethic in the adult world. The District's mission is to "Enable all students to achieve in an ever-changing world".

The PTO, Parent Teacher Organization, has a mission that brings families together and assists the school with small activities. Two years ago the Watertown School Board passed a policy to limit the way the money was raised by PTO's. The Watertown School District has chosen to purchase large items through the district's budget. In other words, the district families will not sell magazines, candy, or other items such as these.

There is a \$5 donation to the PTO when school starts. This donation will be used to provide items such as the FIT for LIFE program, Accelerated Reading program, meals for teachers on conference evenings, and teacher/student perks.

All parents are invited to our next meeting on August 17th in the Jefferson office conference room. Bring your lunch, it is from 12:00 to 1:00.

I want to thank the room mothers/fathers that helped out this past year. Children get excited when their parents get to help out. Room mothers/fathers are needed. They will be in charge of assisting your child's teacher in class parties, field trips, and other fun events. Perhaps the class needs cupcakes. Your child's teacher may ask you to call parents to see who can bring cupcakes or napkins etc. Teachers will visit with you in sharing his/her needs for the year as each teacher will have different yet similar needs.



GOING GREEN

The Jefferson School newsletter can be viewed on the web. Go to www.watertown.k12.sd.us and click on Jefferson School. Our activity calendar, along with the breakfast and lunch menus can also be viewed. To conserve paper, we will be sending monthly newsletters, menus and calendars electronically. If you do not have access to a computer or email, we do understand, a paper copy will be sent home with your child. The Watertown Technology Department is setting up access so that our newsletter, breakfast/lunch menus, and calendar can be emailed directly to you. It is our hope that we get information to you in a timely manner and save a few trees in the process.

5th Graders: COME JOIN THE BAND!!!!

Information regarding 5th grade band recruitment will be sent home during the first week of school. Please look for this letter and return to school the following day. Each student will be given the opportunity to play two instruments to help the music staff determine the best instrument for them. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Thank you, Mrs. Magstadt Robyn.Magstadt@k12.sd.us

Arrow Education Foundation

AEF enhances educational opportunities for student in the Watertown School District. (www.arrowfoundation.org) This past year Jefferson has benefited greatly from their generosity. The grants our students will enjoy are:



Flipping for Learning - Lori Rook, 5th graders, \$1350

Nooks for Kids - Jalynn Feininger, 6th graders, \$1350

Up with Learning through Collaboration and Technology - Heidi Stoik and Denise Lightfield, 1st grade, \$800

Meet with Real D.W. - Keri Tisher and Kathy DeJong - ALL Elementary students in the community \$5000 Marlys Bunde Elementary Education Grant

The Arrow Foundation helps provide us with new and innovative ways to teach our children. Thank your Jefferson staff for applying for such grants. This fall our students will get to visit with a real author, "D.W.". More information to come.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Parent involvement is so important for your child's success. "The more parent involvement in the student's academic learning, including homework, the more the student is motivated to achieve." (Gonzalez, 2002)

Here are some homework tips to prepare for the upcoming year:

Designate a well-lit space for homework.

Remember teachers want to hear from you especially if your child needed lots of coaching from a family member to get their homework done.

When parents do work at home with their children, achievement increases. (Christenson & Sheridan, 2001)

Ask your child questions like: "I know you usually have a vocabulary test on Tuesdays. Have you studied for it?" or "What needs to be done tonight for homework?"

