



Jefferson Journal

August 3rd, 2011

Principal's Corner

Dear parents and students,

The 2011-2012 year is fast approaching. Many students came to the library program this summer. Thank you parents for taking the time to bring your children to the Jefferson Elementary Library program. Keeping up on summer reading skills will help your child be ready to go for this fall.

School begins on **Thursday, August 25th, 2011 @ 8:30.** (pm kindergarten starts at 12:20)

Our **Open House** will be on **Tuesday, August 23rd from 5 pm - 7 pm.** We are trying something new this year. This year we will have specific times when your child's teacher will speak to all students and parents. You may go to the meeting that works best for your family. These meetings are for teachers to share with parents what parents may want to know and what teachers' expectations are for a fantastic year. Teachers may give "how to's" on how to help your child have a great year. This is a communication tool that we hope will be very helpful to our families.

5:00 - 5:10 Kindergarten, 3rd, 6th, K/1st class(Dr. Buechler's class)

5:15 - 5:25 1st, 4th

5:30 - 5:40 2nd, 5th

5:45 - 5:55 kindergarten, 6th, k/1st class(Dr. Buechler's class)

6:00 - 6:10 3rd, 5th

6:15- 6:25 4th, 2nd, 1st

6:30-6:40 kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, k/1(Dr. Buecher's class)

If A-M families could come around 5 pm and if the N-Z families could come around 6 pm this would alleviate some congestion. We understand if your family has other plans and you need to come early or later.

Remember to bring your check books to purchase lunch tickets, activity tickets, and Jefferson "Jag" wear. We hope you all can make it.

If you would like to have the school newsletters sent through your email and haven't done so yet, you may get this done at Open House. If you get a new email address, you need to unsubscribe your old address first and then subscribe with the new one. <http://www.watertown.k12.sd.us/schools/elem/jefferson/index.htm>

We welcome Brett Krause, Shanna Ries, and Connie Johnson as new staff members this year. Brett will be an aid in the Learning Center, Shanna Ries will be the Computer Lab manager and Connie Johnson will be our administrative assistant. Zea Swenson took a years leave of absence.

Special Points of Interest:

- ☺ August 23rd - Open House
- ☺ August 25th - First day of school
- ☺ August 26th - Picture Day
- ☺ 2011-2012 calendar is at:
<http://watertown.k12.sd.us/>
- ☺ September 5th - Labor Day/No School
- ☺ Sept. 30th - Homecoming - early out

Jaguars!

PTO will be taking orders for new Jag wear! Very Cool new Jag wear. Go to page 2 for info.



NURSES CORNER

Those with severe allergies, please call the school before the 25th of August so that we can prepare a plan for your child.



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.

DISTRICT CALENDAR 2011-2012

- August 19 - New Teacher In-service
- August 22-23 - Teacher In-service Days
- August 25 - First Day of Classes
- September 5 - Labor Day (No School)
- September 21 - 12:20 PM Dismissal Elementary, 12:30 PM MS and HS Dismissal (In-service)
- October 10 - Native America Day (No-School)
- October 26 - 12:20 PM Elementary Dismissal · November 11 - Veterans Day (No School)
- November 23 - Parent/Teacher Conference Comp and Vacation (No School)
- November 24-25 - Thanksgiving Vacation (No School)
- November 30 - 12:20 PM Elementary Dismissal, 12:30 PM MS and HS Dismissal (In-service)
- Dec. 23 - Jan. 3 - Christmas Vacation
- January 3 - District In-Service Day (No School)
- January 4 - School Resumes
- January 20 - 12:20 PM Elementary Dismissal, 12:30 PM MS and HS Dismissal (In-Service)
- February 17 - Vacation Day (No School)
- February 20 - President's Day (No School)
- March 14 - Parent/Teacher Comp day, Vacation Day (No School)
- March 15-16 - Spring Break (No School)
- March 28 - 12:20 PM Elementary Dismissal, 12:30 PM MS and HS Dismissal (In-service)
- April 6 - Good Friday (No School)
- April 9 - Easter Monday (No School)
- April 25 - 12:20 PM Elementary Dismissal, 12:30 PM MS and HS Dismissal District (In-Service)
- May 23 - 12:20 PM Elementary Dismissal, 12:30 PM MS and HS Dismissal (Last Day of School)
- May 28 - Commencement (2:00 PM Arena)

If a make-up day is needed prior to January 31, school will be in session on February 17th. If a make-up day is needed from February 1-March 14, school will be in session on April 9th. If additional make-up days are needed, May 24th and 25th and additional days beyond that may be used.

JagWear Ordering Made Easy!!!



You can order on-line starting 8/15 at www.blue84spirit.com/schools/jefferson.

Online orders receive a 15% discount.

Samples available for viewing at OPEN HOUSE on 8/23. All orders must be placed by 9/2/11.



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 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?"

Putting all homework and school supplies in the book bag before bedtime will ensure that nothing gets left at home when hurrying out the door in the morning. This activity should be done together until your child can do this by themselves. Complimenting your child on staying organized will reinforce this habit.

PTO NEWS

The PTO, Parent Teacher Organization, has a mission that brings families together and assists the school with small activities. To help defray costs and assist with projects we ask for family donations. These dues can be given the night of the Open House. This donation helps provide items such as the FIT for LIFE program, Accelerated Reading program, meals for teachers on conference evenings, and teacher/student perks.

PTO Officers and Project Coordinators for 2011-2012 School Year.

President - Kami Canfield	Secretary - Heidi Fiechtner	Treasurer- Heather Engstrom
Special Events - Angela Sycks	Yearbook - Kari Keup	Recycling Projects - Susie Stroup
Jag Wear - Kari Keup & Heidi Fiechtner		

Everyone is invited to participate to whatever extent possible.

PTO Dues for 2011-2012 School Year:

-Dues were set at \$5.00/child or \$10.00/family

IMPORTANT DATES FOR NEXT SCHOOL YEAR:

-Turkey Bingo is November 22, 2011

-Talent Show is March 26, 2012

Sincerely, PTO

THINGS TO SAVE

(And have friends & family save too! ☺)

***WE WILL HAVE SOME CLASSROOM COLLECTION CONTESTS IN THE FALL, SO BE READY!!



1) **Box Tops For Education:** Can be found on an abundance of items you already purchase. Go to <http://www.boxtops4education.com> for a full product list if you would like to check it out. Just look for this little snippable logo, clip & save!

2)



Campbell's Labels for Education: These are on more than just soup!! They can be found on everything from popcorn to pencils!! Go to <http://www.labelsforeducation.com> for a full product list.



3) **LAND O'LAKES Milk Save Five For Schools:** Jefferson gets a nickel for every cap turned in!! (Please be sure caps are washed & dried when turned in—a little sour milk can get STINKY! ☺) Oh, & LAND O' LAKES orange juice lids work too!



4) **POP TABS:** Jefferson students collect pop tabs to help raise funds for the Ronald McDonald House, which is a wonderful organization that helps sick kids & their families. What an easy way to help a great cause!



5) **Ink Cartridges:** Any make, any model, just bring it in when you no longer have a use for it. We will recycle them!



6) **Cell Phones:** Have any old ones lying around? Bring them in & we will recycle them!