



Jefferson Journal



February 2010

PTO Meeting

12:00—1:00 February 10th

All are welcome to attend. This will be held in the Jefferson conference room.

Send us your email address if you'd like to be added to the PTO email group. Please email Kami Canfield at kcanfiel@firstpremier.com or Melissa Werner at wernerm@fcsamerica.com

Mark your calendars! April 19th, at the Expo Building, there will be Pizza and talents. 6:00 we will eat, 7:00 will be the talent show. Photo booth for pictures will be available too. More information to come.

Wrestling will begin in March

Here are the tentative dates:

Practice: March 1st, 2nd, 8th, 9th, 12th

Triangulars & Tournaments: March 4th, 11th, 15th



Principal's Corner

Weather, weather, weather. This has been a year of interesting weather. When we have late starts, there will be no breakfast served. It is too close to lunch preparation for the food service to be able to accommodate the **breakfast** program.

Thank you for visiting with your children about your plans when we have an early out. Early outs are stressful for students. Many students get nervous and forget what their parents told them to do. It would be helpful for you to write a note to your child's teacher in regards to **early dismissals**. Let the teacher know where your child should go during a weather related early dismissal. If there are changes in your plan, then a call from you could be made to the office.

Sometimes mornings can be hectic. Some ideas to help the mornings run smoothly. 1. Allow time for a good breakfast 2. Send positive notes in your child's book bag. 3. Instead of saying "Hurry Up", be specific. "Time to brush your teeth" "Time to put your coat on". 4. Have book bags

HAPPY VALENTINES DAY JAGUARS!

Special points of interest:

- ☺ February 1st - Boy's Basketball Games
- ☺ February 4th - Boy's Basketball Games
- ☺ February 5th - Sport Day / Hat Day
- ☺ February 8th - Boy's Basketball Games
- ☺ February 8th - School Board Meeting
- ☺ February 9th - Student Council Meeting
- ☺ February 10th - PTO meeting 12:00 - 1:00
- ☺ February 11th - Boy's Basketball Games
- ☺ February 12th - Boy's Basketball Games
- ☺ February 15th - No School / President's Day
- ☺ February 16th - Boy's Basketball Games
- ☺ February 18th - Boy's Basketball Games
- ☺ February 22nd - Wrestling sign- up this week
- ☺ February 24th - 12:30 Dismissal / in-service
- ☺ March 1st - 5th grade swimming begins
- ☺ March 8th - Middle School comes to Jefferson visit with our 6th graders about next year



TRAFFIC - Between 8:15 to 8:30 and 3:15 to 3:30, thank you for moving forward in the circular drive with your vehicles before dropping off and picking up your child. Dropping them off and picking them up directly in front of the door creates a traffic jam in the street. Please do not leave your vehicle parked in the circular drive during those times as it makes it difficult for traffic to keep moving. Also, thank you for not parking in the north parking lot as it is for buses and employee parking only. This is due to SAFETY. It is not safe for children to walk between the buses to get to vehicles.

Collect -Bring in your Land O'Lakes milk caps, General Mills box tops, Tyson Labels, and Campbells products UPC labels. Also bring in empty ink cartridges and old cell phones. This brings in money for special items for the classrooms. We are still trying to fill our pop tab house. Your child will get their name in a drawing for each filled baggie.

Identifying Your Child's Gifts and Talents

Step 1: Assume that all children have special gifts and talents.

All children possess gifts, talents, strengths, and areas of interest. Every youngster, from the most disabled to the highest achieving, has one or more special qualities, skills, or characteristics. Once we believe this, then even the most seemingly average child takes

on a whole new look. Try not to mold your child into something they are not, nor should you try to mold them into what YOU want them to be. When you look openly at your children, you will see so much more than average. The key is to recognize that all children have strengths, and to learn to utilize those strengths as a foundation for growth.

Step 2: Observe your child openly and without judgment.

Look at your child and see him/her for who they really are. Sometimes parents are so busy guiding their child's choices, instilling appropriate values, and teaching proper behavior, that they fail to see the individual standing before them. We often times forget that children are separate and distinct individuals with their own likes and dislikes – not mirror images of their parents. Find out what your child thinks of his or her own strengths. This can be illuminating and sometimes quite surprising. Grades, ratings, and written evaluations from teachers are important sources of data concerning your child. Yet we should also look beyond these perspectives and consider the “whole” child.

Source: How to Develop Your Child's Gifts and Talents During the Elementary Years, RaeLynne P. Rein, Ph.D., and Rachel Rein, 1994

Child Find Notice

The Watertown School District has an ongoing “Child Find” system, which is designed to locate, identify and evaluate any child residing within its geographical boundaries who may have a disability and be in need of Special Education or 504 services. This includes children who are not in school; those who are in public, private, or home school; those who are highly mobile such as children who are migrant or homeless; and those who are advancing from grade to grade, who may need but are not receiving Special Education or 504 services.

The Watertown School District will make sure any child enrolled in its district who qualifies for Special Education or 504 services, regardless of how severe the disability, is provided appropriate Special Education or 504 services at no cost to the parents of the child.

If you know of a child who lives within the boundaries of the Watertown School District, who may have a disability, and may need but is not receiving Special Education or 504 services, please contact Sandie Jungers, Special Services Director, at 882-6399.

“Child Find” activities will continue throughout the school year. As part of these efforts the Watertown School District will use screening information, student records, and basic assessment information it collects on all children in the District to help locate those children who have a disability and need Special Education or 504 services. Any information the District collects through “Child Find” is maintained confidentially.

Social Work Corner

A conversation starts. Your child's upset. You're tired. Pretty soon the conversation heats into an argument. We've all had arguments with our children. Though it can be challenging to develop the skills, being available for frequent, in-depth conversations is an important role we play in our children's lives—from the time they learn to talk all the way into adulthood. What we have to do is create an atmosphere of communication—an open door.

Youth are more likely to grow up healthy when they and their parents communicate positively, and they are willing to seek their parents' advice and counsel. When Watertown High School Students took the Search Survey in fall 2008, 30% of the students indicated that they have positive family communication.

The trick with open-door communication is that we often don't realize we create invisible closed doors around us. We get preoccupied and don't pay enough attention. We're exhausted, and we nod off as our child is in midsentence. We jump to conclusions before our child says things. We assume the worst. We criticize our kids for what they tell us, so they close the door the next time out of fear or resentment. Sometimes there is no communication to begin with, and it's hard to get your child to say what's going on in her or his life.

Having an open door means having an open mind, an open attitude. It means listening to understand, not to advocate our position. It means being available when our children need us—and when they don't. It means taking good care of ourselves so that when our children want to talk, we have open ears and an open heart.

Watch for hints that your child wants to talk such as hanging around. Don't contradict what you say by doing the opposite. Be available, be open, and be willing to drop what you're doing in order to talk. Talk in the car when you're side by side, rather than face to face.

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Common Sense Parenting Classes

Thursday, February 4th 6:30-8:30 pm To enroll: Sara Foust 882-6385

Friday, February 5th 9:30 - 11:30 am To enroll: Jan Sanford 886-6321



February is Dental Health Month. Every year local dentists come to Jefferson School to do a free dental screening for the second grade students. They will be at Jefferson School on Wednesday, February 17th, 2010. A note will be sent home for you following the visit to notify you of the results of the screening. If you do not want your child to participate, please let his/her teacher know.

Notice of Non-discrimination

The Watertown School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Dr. Lesli Hanson, Superintendent
P.O. Box 730, Watertown, SD 57201
605-882-6312

Steve Moore, Assistant Superintendent
P.O. Box 730, Watertown, SD 57201
605-882-6312

For further information on notice of non-discrimination, see list of [OCR enforcement offices](#) for the address and phone number of the office that serves your area, or call 1-(800)-421-3481



PIZZA BASH *

ARROW FANS
&

FRIENDS OF ARROW EDUCATION FOUNDATION



Come One! Come All!

Friday, February 12

5:00 to 7:00 PM

at the WHS Cafeteria



before the Boys' Basketball Game

Join us for Godfather's Pizza,

(Hot pizza will be brought out every 15 minutes)

Hy-Vee Salad & Coca Cola

\$6-Adults \$3-Children 10 and under \$20-per family

*The Pizza Bash is an annual fundraiser for the Arrow Education Foundation.

Let us **"do the cookin'"** while you **help support the Foundation and what they do for students in the Watertown Public Schools!**

Our hats off to **Godfather's Pizza, Hy-Vee and Coca Cola** for their donations!

UPCOMING EVENT:

February 22 **Innovative Education Grants Announced**

— Watch for the results in the next newsletter!



The **WHS Alumni and Friends Newsletter** was sent out in January. If you did not receive a copy but would like one, please contact us.

Arrow Education Foundation

Office at Garfield School www.arrowfoundation.org (605) 882-6399 or (605) 520-4432



Jaguars got a chance to play with Sheltered Reality