

Important

December 13
Half Day Staff
Development
Early Release
(12:45)

December 22
Early Release
(1:25)

**December 25 -
January 8**
Winter Break
No School

January 9
School Resumes

January 12
Report Cards

January 15
Martin Luther King
Jr Day
No School

Dear Jefferson Families,

I hope that all of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving break and are enjoying this beautiful weather! The next four full weeks will be very busy indeed! This newsletter has important information about events and programs for the month and opportunities for you to come to visit Jefferson. I hope to see you soon.

Jefferson students are working hard to achieve greater success with their academic goals. Probably the number one strategy that will help our students to help themselves in any academic area is to increase the amount of time that they read. I'd like to highlight two strategies that families might want to be aware of and that they might use to support reading at home. First, students might set a goal for themselves for the length of time that they want to read. They should set a personal timer with a time that would be about the halfway mark towards their goal. When the timer goes off, students can take a short break – stretch, let the mind wander, get a drink, etc. Then, reset the timer and get back into the book and read until the timer goes off again.

A second, and similar, strategy students might use to increase the amount of time reading is set a goal for the number of pages to read to before stopping for a break. Students should first ask themselves, "How many pages can I read before I get distracted?" and then put a sticky note on a page number for that chunk of pages. They should not stop until they get to that page number. When they do reach the sticky note, they can stop and reflect on whether they were focused for the whole time. Then, they should set another sticky note on another page and continue reading. Regardless of the strategy, it's a good idea for students to keep a log of their reading goals and progress. They can use this to push themselves to increase their goals over time. Family members can ask the student about their reading goal and how well these strategies are working for them.

You are always welcome at Jefferson and I hope to see many of you at any or all of the upcoming December events, the beginning band concert or our 2nd quarter celebration. And as always, if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Happy December,

Dr. Judy Floeter

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4th Grade News

McHenry County Conservation District will be visiting the school in December and talking about fur trading. This corresponds with the social studies units and the studying of the diverse regions. In science we are experimenting with robotics and also investigating layers of the earth and its rocks and minerals. Memorizing math facts is essential. Students who pass the multiplication facts test are awarded with a pizza party. Students need to have these by winter break. Classes are working on fractions as well. Speaking of winter break we will have some fun activities prior including making a gift that is an actual science experiment, We hope you have a wonderful holiday. Keep them reading as well. Enjoy!

5th Grade Student Council

The Jefferson School Student Council is hosting a Holiday Food Drive to benefit the Harvard Food Pantry. Please consider donating a few items to your child's classroom to be counted in their classes total collections for this great cause. The Food Drive will be held December 11th-19th.

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5th Grade News

The fifth graders have been doing some exciting activities. For example, we all read the book *Wonder*, and then we went on a trip to Woodstock to see the movie. It was an amazing experience. It is so important for us to be kind and compassionate and this movie and book helped us to see that in action. We also just finished our candle fundraiser, which helped us raise money for our field trip to Chicago in the spring. We are all really looking forward to that, it is a truly amazing experience every year.

In our classrooms, we are learning so much! In math, we have been concentrating on division, fractions, and decimals. It is so important that our students memorize the multiplication facts, so please continue to work on this at home. In science, students are learning about what plants need to survive. In social studies, we are learning about the Native American Cultural Regions and the Early Explorers. In reading and writing, we are doing all kinds of things! We are doing novels, short stories, poetry, ACE writing, and writing essays, to name but a few things. The students are working so hard and learning so much.

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PBIS News

Students continue to work hard demonstrating expectations of being Respectful, Responsible & Safe at Jefferson Elementary. Currently, we have 59 students participating in Tier 2 interventions with 84% meeting their goals of earning 80% or more of their daily points! These interventions are designed to increase positive behavior at school which can increase academic success. Our 2nd quarter school-wide celebration to acknowledge our successes will be held on Friday, December 22nd. The theme will be a winter wonderland. Parents are always welcome to attend our PBIS celebrations. Also, attached is an "At Home" matrix in English & Spanish that can be used to set guidelines and expectations at home.

Jefferson Elementary would like your feedback regarding the Positive Behavior Intervention and Support system. Please scan the QR code to complete a quick survey. This survey will help us make changes to the PBIS process for next year. Thank you for helping make Jefferson Elementary a more positive and successful school!



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Music News

In December, fourth and fifth grade general music classes will sing seasonal songs and learn about various traditions of the holiday season. We will continue to explore the orchestra by listening to different forms of music an orchestra plays: symphony, musical, film score, opera and ballet. We are learning about the different vocal ranges of singers: soprano, mezzo soprano, alto, tenor, baritone and bass. Fifth grade will be singing harmony in various forms: partner songs, rounds and composed harmony. Fifth grade will also explore rhythm and mood in jazz music.

General

Our October Box Top Collection 2017 was a huge success! We collected a total of 2,550 box tops this month, which is worth a \$255 cash reimbursement for our school! The Grand Prize Winners for the Pizza Party were as follows: fourth grade ~ Mrs. Jones with a total of 236 box tops for the month, and fifth grade ~ Mrs. Kruckenberg with a total of 407 box tops for the month. Our next big collection will be for our February 2018 Box Top Competition, so please continue clipping and saving! Thank you to our students, parents, and staff for your support in this worthy cause for our school!

