



A NATIONAL SCHOOL  
of  
EXCELLENCE

Thomas Jefferson  
Elementary School  
3805 Winston Drive  
Hoffman Estates, IL 60195

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963-5401

Principal  
Sean Walsh

Building Assistant  
Alessandra Kennedy

PTA President  
Michelle Hauser  
(847) 202-0320

Interim Editor

## Dates to Remember



- February 2 – ITBS testing begins (Grade 2)
- February 3 – PTA Meeting – 7:15 pm
- February 7 – Fun Fair – 11:00 to 3:00 pm
- February 9 – Market Day Orders Due
- February 9 – Boys Parent/child Activity Night (K&1)
- February 10 – Girls Parent/child Activity Night (K&1)
- February 13 – Valentine’s Day Parties – 2:00 pm
- February 16 – NO SCHOOL – President’s Day
- February 17 – PTA Founder’s Day

## From the President...

It may be the middle of winter and very cold outside, but that doesn't matter since the TJ PTA has so much to offer indoors. When the weather is too cold for outdoor recess the children now have some additional board games to play thanks to last year's excess funds. \$1,000 has been spent on grade level appropriate games to help keep them busy during these times.

We've also had a dance and Munchies with Mom. The fun doesn't stop there. As we look ahead, February may be a short month, but it is packed with lots of fun and excitement. Our monthly board meeting is set for February 3<sup>rd</sup> and is open to all PTA members. Our Ways & Means committee has been working hard to put the finishing touches on this year's Fun Fair set for February 7<sup>th</sup>. This is also a great volunteer event! Volunteering at the Fun Fair is a great way to meet new friends. The kids enjoy watching their parents get involved, too!

Valentine's Day parties, parent/child activity nights, and Market Day are just a few more of the activities slated for February. Oh and let's not forget February 16<sup>th</sup> – a day off from school to honor President's Day....let's hope it snows so we can do some of the fun winter activities that Mr. Fagerholm suggests in his article this month!!

**ILLINOIS**  
**PTA**<sup>®</sup>

*everychild.one voice.*

**[www.tjpta.org](http://www.tjpta.org)**

*Michelle*



January 2004



# Jaguar Journal

## Mr. Walsh

## Principal

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Welcome back from what I hope was a fun-filled and wonderful winter break with your children. By the count of our "TJ Terrific" kindergartners we have been in school for 91 days, meaning we have officially crossed over into the second half of the school year. And, if the second part of the year progresses as quickly as the first half, then we will all be discussing our summer vacation plans very soon.

The half way point of the school year is always a good time to review some procedures that have helped ensure safety, security and success for all of our TJ students thus far. Below are just a few reminders of simple things we can all do to help the second half of the year run as smoothly as the first.

### Arrival and Dismissal

Students should not arrive until 8:15 a.m. There is no staff supervision available for students until that time. Additionally, with some of the inclement weather we receive during the winter it is not healthy for the students to be waiting outside for long periods of time.

At all times of the year, and especially during the winter months, it is very important to follow the car lane drop-off procedures to ensure the safety of students and to allow the process to flow efficiently to get students into school on time. Some of these procedures include:

- Students must exit their cars from the passenger side of the car when being dropped off in the car lane. Exiting from the driver side of the car is unsafe as other cars may be trying to pass.
- Drivers are asked to stay in their cars while dropping the students off in the morning to help keep good flow of traffic.
- Please do not leave cars unattended in the drop-off lane during arrival or dismissal. If you need to walk your child to or meet your child at the front of the building, please park your car in the parking lot.
- For safety reasons, students should not walk unattended in the parking lot.
- For safety reasons, students will only be allowed to enter their cars during dismissal once their car has pulled up directly parallel to the building in the car lane along the sidewalk. There is a yellow line painted on the sidewalk along the car lane that students should wait behind until the car has come to a complete stop.
- Drivers are asked to pull as far forward as possible to help keep traffic flowing. The first car in line should pull as far forward as the three yellow lines painted on the car lane that are directly across from the handicapped parking spaces.

Upon dismissal, all walking students are required to go directly home unless they are staying for an adult sponsored after school event. Students who wish to play on the playground or in the fields must go home to check with their parents first.

Students who are arriving late to school, but are here before 8:45 a.m. may go directly to the office with out the parents to get a pass to go to class. Students arriving after 8:45 a.m. should be escorted to the office by a parent to get a pass to go to class.

I am confident that by remembering these guidelines that all of the Thomas Jefferson community, and especially our precious children, will continue to have a safe, secure and successful school year.

For additional information, please refer to the Thomas Jefferson Parent Handbook or phone me at (847) 963-5400.



January 2004



# Jaguar Journal

## Ways & Means

Lori Austin  
963-0474

Karen Mlynarczyk  
991-5803

Please join us for a fun filled day of games, prizes, raffles, food, cake walk and much, much more!!! We will be serving hot dogs, chips, pizza, pop, coffee, popcorn and cotton candy. We also have several items in the raffle this year for both children and adults. **Purchase your tickets below in advance and receive a Gamework's savings booklet.**

We are still in need of **VOLUNTEERS!** Parents and Alumni (7<sup>th</sup> grade and up), please lend us your support and volunteer an hour or two of your time. We need assistance to run the games, sell tickets, distribute prizes and assist in the lunchroom. All you need to do is complete the volunteer form below and return it to school as soon as possible. If you are not available to volunteer, please think about donating a cake or baked goods for the cake walk. We are so excited about the fun fair and look forward to seeing you there.

### TJ FUN FAIR 2004 VOLUNTEER FORM

Child's Name (Oldest): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate your first, second or third shift choices:

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_ 1<sup>st</sup> shift (10:45-12:15) \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> shift (12:15-1:45) \_\_\_\_\_ 3<sup>rd</sup> shift (1:45-3:15)

Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ 1<sup>st</sup> shift (10:45-12:15) \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> shift (12:15-1:45) \_\_\_\_\_ 3<sup>rd</sup> shift (1:45-3:15)

TJ Alumni Name: \_\_\_\_\_ 1<sup>st</sup> shift (10:45-12:15) \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> shift (12:15-1:45) \_\_\_\_\_ 3<sup>rd</sup> shift (1:45-3:15)

\_\_\_\_ I am interested in donating a cake or baked goods for the cake walk.

### TJ FUN FAIR 2004 ADVANCE TICKET SALES (Cash or Check Made Payable to TJ PTA)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher/Rm. #: \_\_\_\_\_

# of GAME tickets \_\_\_\_\_ x .25 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ # of FOOD tickets \_\_\_\_\_ x .50 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ # of RAFFLE tickets \_\_\_\_\_ x .50 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_



January 2004



# Jaguar Journal

## Spanish Liaison

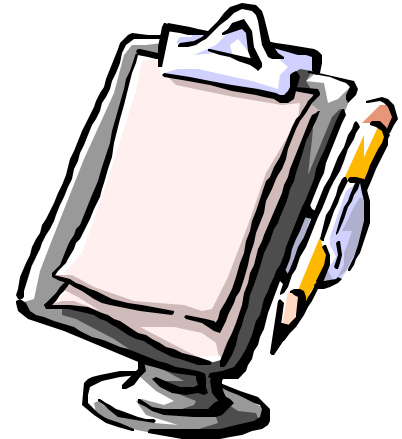
Ninon Flasch  
963-0407

Virginia Lake ha planeado una charla acerca de la ciudadanía, el jueves 11 de Marzo a las 7PM y un workshop el sábado 3 de Abril de 10AM a 2PM. Los dos eventos serán presentados por Jesus Rodriguez. Jesus es el coordinador de inmigraciones para la Erie House en Chicago. La Erie House es una organización sin fines de lucro que ayuda a inmigrantes. Jesus trabaja para inmigraciones desde 1989. La charla será sobre el proceso de como obtener la ciudadanía y Jesus podra contestar todas las preguntas de aquellos que participen. Al final de la charla, los participantes podrán anotarse para el workshop que se llevará a cabo el sábado 3 de Abril. En el workshop, los participantes podrán comenzar el proceso de la ciudadanía. Jesus se enorgullece en el hecho que él, a la par de sus 15 o más voluntarios podrán ayudar a cada persona que esté interesada en obtener la ciudadanía Americana. Ellos los ayudarán, paso a paso hasta el final. Información acerca de esta charla será enviada mas adelante.

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Thank you to Kathi Watson and Maureen Cochran for taking on Creative Writing Encounter for the second half of the school year! Your help is greatly appreciated. Be sure to look for their flyers coming home for upcoming contests!

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The Northwest Suburban Council of PTA/PTSA Nominating Committee would like to report that we have filled the Slate of Nominees for the 2004-2005 NSWSC Executive Board. The Slate of Nominees are as follows:

President – Mary Podjasek  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President/Programs – Alissa DePue  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President/Legislation – Terri Miceli  
Secretary – Kim Inman  
Treasurer – Lynn Topp

These nominees will be voted on by the General Membership on Monday, February 23, 2004 at Carl Sandburg Junior High.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lynn Topp, Terri Miceli, Lisa Urban, Lisa VorBroker, Lora Schallmoser  
NWSC Nominating Committee



January 2004



# Jaguar Journal

## **Nominating Committee**

Annette Grabowski  
705-8842

The Nominating Committee will meet on February 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm. If you are interested in serving on the Executive Board for the 2004-2005 school year, please notify Annette Grabowski. We are still in need of one more PTA member (not currently sitting on the board) to be on this important committee. Members of this committee are Annette Grabowski, Linda Divizio, Becky Staal, and Marianne Lucas. Please call if you are interested.

From our School Nurse...

Mrs. Olszewski & the Health & Safety Committee...

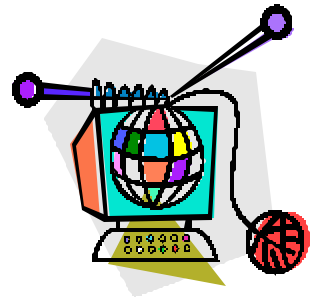
### New Law Takes Effect on New Year's Day

Booster Seat Law – Provides that whenever a person is transporting a child under age eight, the person is responsible for properly securing the child in an appropriate child restraint system, which includes a booster seat and when transporting a child eight years of age or older, but under age 16, is responsible for properly securing that child in a safety belt.

Don't forget to keep visiting our website

[www.tjpta.org](http://www.tjpta.org)

Webmaster: Lori Price (934-9731)





January 2004



# Jaguar Journal

## A View From My Office

Mike Fagerholm  
School Social Worker  
963-5439



A Winter's Day  
Cold and Grey  
Snowflakes  
Pancakes  
Cover your heads  
Skates and sleds  
A snowball grows  
Warm your toes  
Everything White  
Orange Light

A Winter's Night

By Douglas Florian

This winter has been rather mild. No snow of any significance accumulated during the holidays. Now as I write these words, it's almost mid January and outside my window there's very little snow on the ground. What's happened to the winter I grew up with? (now I must be getting old, remembering the winters of my youth...) We always seemed to have several feet of snow during the winter when I was a boy. I remember spending hours and hours outside, sledding and making snowmen, and snowwomen, and snowchildren. We would be outside so long, the skin on our hands would be raw and cracked and painfully chapped and our feet were so numb we couldn't feel them for about an hour. We would make huge snow caves with tunnels. We would go over to the church parking lot, where the plows had graciously made giant hills for us about 20 feet high (or do I exaggerate?). Snowball fights would last for hours because our ammunition never ran out. Winter was cold and there was plenty of snow.

I kind of long for those cold and snowy winters. No, I don't look forward to driving to and from school on slick and slippery roads in a snowstorm. But I like the idea of spending part of a day outside shoveling snow off the driveway with my kids. After the work is done, we get into our typical snowball fight and make a snowman. I like the idea of coming into the house and your nose and feet are frozen and you can't wait for the hot chocolate to warm your body from the inside out with some of my wife's biscuits right out of the oven with butter and honey.

On a cold and wintry day, it's great to come into the warm house. The afternoon can be spent playing family games for hours and hours. Uno, Monopoly, Clue, Scrabble, Yahtzee, Life, Mousetrap-the possibilities are endless. The emphasis would be on having fun and not winning or losing. Hopefully the afternoon will drift by filled with good conversation, some belly laughs, and most especially time for one another. Maybe your family would enjoy creating a tent in the living room, building a complicated Lego project, or working on a large puzzle together.

Let's hope for a good old fashioned snowy day, a large snowman, a snowball fight, a cup of hot chocolate, warm muffins just out of the oven, a cozy afternoon spent on the living room floor playing some board games. And even if we don't get the snow, who cares? We can still enjoy the hot chocolate and the time spent together.



## Health & Safety

Thanks to all of this year's donor. You've helped make a difference to others!!!

Thank you to Ruth Spasoff for braving the cold and passing out Breakfast-to-Go bags to all of our bus drivers last week. We hope that kept their engines running for the rest of the morning! Ruth also helps with our Box Tops for Education program...



### **Become a Box Tops for Education Booster Club Member and Earn Points for TJ**

Announcing the latest and greatest way to support Thomas Jefferson School – the Box Tops for Education Booster Club. The Box Tops Booster Club focuses on parents, family and friends who want to lend a helping hand to TJ, rewarding their support with valuable online coupons, special offers, online mealtime solutions and family activities such as the Cheerios® Reading Room, Box Tops Quizzes and Polls and reviews for the latest family DVD and video movie releases.

Simply go to [boxtops4education.com](http://boxtops4education.com) to join the Booster Club. Sign up today because each new Booster Club member earns 5 Bonus Box Tops for Thomas Jefferson School!

## **SPARK**

The Northwest Suburban Council of PTA/PTSA has recently approved a new committee. This committee is named **SPARK** – **S**pecial Education **P**arents **A**ccessing **R**esources and **K**nowledge. Our goal is to provide resources, network, educate and support families of children receiving special education in District 15. There are many PTA councils in area districts that currently have similar programs. **SPARK** meetings will usually be held the first Tuesday of each month at Plum Grove Junior HS, 2600 Plum Grove Rd., Rolling Meadows from 7 to 8:30 pm in the Learning Resource Center. Due to the many activities at Plum Grove, we may have an occasional conflict with the first Tuesday, but the schedule for the year will be established in advance with the meeting dates and information about **SPARK** on a flyer. The format will be a presenter followed by questions and answers. They are open to all parents, guardians, and staff of CCSD15. Please join us for our kick-off meeting, Tuesday, February 3. This meeting will be an informational meeting. We will also be looking for feedback from families to know what future speakers would meet their needs. If you have any questions or would like more information about **SPARK** please contact:

JoAnn Paldo 303-1204 or [joannpaldo@aol.com](mailto:joannpaldo@aol.com)  
Fran Saplis 934-0614 or [saplis@attglobal.net](mailto:saplis@attglobal.net)



January 2004



## Teacher Feature!

Mrs. Mary Alberts



Position at TJ: Resource Teacher

Hometown: Huntley, IL

Education: BA-Illinois State in Special Ed. MA –Concordia Univ. in Curriculum/Instruction

Hobbies/Interests: I like to draw and paint.

Family: Husband: Married with a 5 year old son (Jonathon) and 2 year old twin daughters (Loren and Jenelle)

Favorite Food: Pasta

Favorite Subject in School: Writing

Favorite Book: The Word Eater

Favorite Movie: Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory

Favorite Color: Yellow

Personal Hero: My parents.

Prized Possession: My chocolate laborador – “Augie”

I decided to become a teacher when...I was in high school. I had been a lifeguard and camp counselor my junior year and realized how much fun kids were.

People who knew me in elementary school thought...I was a tomboy.

The best thing about a teacher is...that every day is different...and never boring.



January 2004



# Jaguar Journal



## Environmental ED

Keri Kent  
705-7823

Lisa Weber  
358-1585

Environmental Ed will continue to accept batteries for recycling. We apologize for an incorrect statement in the December newsletter. Don't throw those batteries away...bring them to us for recycling!! Thanks!

## Adventures In Reading

Jo Fischer  
202-0976

Kathy Parzynski  
934-6133

Have you ever wondered what to do with those used Adventures in Reading books you've purchased with an older child? Well this committee will gladly accept your gently used Adventure in Reading books and we will give them to the teacher's for next year's program, so they don't have to buy the books for themselves or so we can provide to a family in need. Please send them to school with your child and indicate AIR/PTA books. Thank you!

## Special Events

Vanya Castle  
991-8285

Lisa Bosco  
358-5536

Joan Scheck  
991-1379

This year's dance was a huge success with over 85 families attending. (386 people signed in. A special thank you to our 50+ volunteers. The night would not have happened without you!



