



A NATIONAL SCHOOL  
of  
EXCELLENCE



May 2004

## Dates to Remember

June 9 – Last Day of School!!  
June 10 – Market Day Pickup



Thomas Jefferson  
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Volume 28 – Issue 10

## From the President...

As my time winds down, I have so many people to thank for 2 great years! I have had the opportunity to meet so many wonderful people and make some lasting friendships.

To all the volunteers, I hope you all know how important and appreciated you are by both the PTA board and the staff at TJ. So many hours have been logged and the end result is working with the kids!

To the 2003-2004 Board, what a great year we had. Although we were short on some committees so many of you pulled together to help keep those programs running. You are a very dedicated group of individuals!

To the Executive Committee – Debbie, Lori, Karen, Kim, Sue – good luck to all of you as you continue to serve on the Executive Committee next year. To Laurie Guest, thank you for your never-ending support and friendship through the past two years. (Here's to our leave of absence until our youngest become kindergartners!)

To Mr. Walsh and Mrs. Kennedy – your strong commitment to our kids has made it so easy for all of us to want to give freely of our time to support the kids. You have truly helped to make TJ a place where parents (and even grandparents, too) feel welcome!

To the staff at TJ – thank you for supporting our programs through Innisbrook and Market Day purchases, as Fun Fair & Reading Night volunteers, and club sponsors! It has been a pleasure working with all of you!

And last but not least to my family – Ron, Ronny, Cody and Alexis for your patience over the past 2 years. Your support has meant a lot! With the extra time on my hands, I might actually make some more home-cooked meals!

Michelle

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**PTA**<sup>®</sup>

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



May 2004



# Jaguar Journal

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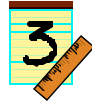
**N** **Mr. Walsh**  
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**m**

**Principal**

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May 2004



## A View From My Office

Mike Fagerholm  
School Social Worker  
963-5439



Since 1991 I have been writing an article for our PTA newsletter. At one time, my article was called “The Parents Corner” and for the past few years, I have called it “A View From My Office.” Parents who have had children at Thomas Jefferson for several years have gotten to know me and my family through these articles. My wife and I are pretty typical parents. We love our children and would do anything to help them grow into happy, independent, intelligent, loving adults who are prepared to contribute to society. I’m sure you feel the same about your children and want all the best for them.

Our son, Matt will be graduating from high school this June. I can’t believe I’m saying this because truthfully it doesn’t feel that long ago that he was going off to his first day of preschool. We have a picture of him on his first day of preschool, holding his totebag and proudly standing on the sidewalk in front of the preschool. I know it’s been almost 14 years, but it doesn’t feel like it. Our daughter, Emily is finishing up her sophomore year and is (gulp!) taking drivers education this summer. We have a picture of her when she was 3 or 4 years old; her hair full of red curls and standing in my shoes. I totally can’t believe that in the fall, she will be a junior in high school.

My wife and I are extremely proud of our kids. They have had their share of tough times in junior high and high school. I’m grateful... I’m thankful... I feel blessed... that they survived those really difficult years. Growing up in today’s world is an extremely hard thing to do. My wife and I have tried to be a solid foundation and positive influence on our kids, but they have done the work. They have made the effort in their schoolwork and activities. But I am mindful of what parents can do to support their children.

I write this especially with the parents of our 6<sup>th</sup> graders in mind, although it can be applied to children in all age ranges. Please take time to communicate with your child’s teachers. Get to know them as people. Develop a rapport with the teachers and let them know you want to communicate regularly with them. Call them, meet with them, and don’t hesitate to communicate with them whether your child is doing well or is beginning to develop academic, social, or emotional problems.

Develop or continue to develop a strong relationship with your child. Talk with them each day in a meaningful way. Be interested in all aspects of their lives. Be available to help, to study, and most importantly, to listen. You don’t have to be walking encyclopedia of knowledge. It’s much better to be a good listener. Don’t let a distance develop in your relationship. They need you now more than ever, though at times, they may seem to be pushing you away. It’s normal for peer relationships and peer pressure to have a rise in importance in your child’s life. Your children need your positive influence, love, acceptance, and guidance in these difficult years ahead.

Continued on page 4



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# Jaguar Journal

Continued from page

Finally, encourage your children to get involved in school clubs, activities, or athletics. Being involved in school activities helps your child to meet other students who have similar interests. It gives them a healthy place to put their energy and talent. Quite often, school activities help students increase confidence and self-esteem. My son Matt has been in the concert band and symphonic band throughout jr. high and high school. He has participated in drama club for 4 years and acted in 14 plays. He writes for the student paper and makes morning announcements. My daughter, Emily has been in the chorus throughout jr. high and high school. She has acted in plays and recently had the lead role in the spring musical. All of these activities have helped both children to develop friends, while giving them a healthy outlet for their talents and energy.

There are many pitfalls, distractions, and negative influences that can confront our children in today's society. Peer pressure can lead some very good kids down a dangerous path. Our job as parents is to be there for our children; really be there and be present in their lives. We can't live our children's life for them, but we can be there always to give them love and listen to them non-judgmentally. We can continue to improve our communication and therefore, our relationship with our children. We are the guardrails that keep our children on the slippery road. We are the signposts, which help to give them direction. We are the stoplights when they need to stop, the caution light when they need to slow down, and the green light when the way is clear and the hazards are gone. Be a real presence in your children's lives. Whether they know it or not, they need you.



Don't forget to visit  
even  
during the summer!!

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

Looking for a great way to get involved in the 2004-2005 school year? Then the PTA is looking for YOU!!

Committee Openings still remain for:

- Publicity
- Reflections
- Yearbook



May 2004



## Environmental ED

Keri Kent      Lisa  
Weber

- ✓The Eco Kids Club was able to plant in front of the school. This was done the week after Earth Day because of weather and scheduling conflicts. We were not able to pass out seed packets to each of the students due to the cost.
- ✓We had a Waste Free lunch on May 11<sup>th</sup>.
- ✓We had 5 students enter the Art of Garbage Contest. All of their posters will be framed and displayed at SWANNCC's Glenview transfer station. Each student received an insulated lunch box and a chance to win a US Savings Bond. In addition, the TJ received a CD entitled The Imagination Factory which includes creative reuse and recycling activities. The CD was given to the Eco Kids Club.
- ✓We will be conducting a year end locker clean out...details to come.
- ✓Don't forget to send your old ink cartridges and batteries to school. We will continue to collect them through the end of the year.

### **NORTHWEST SUBURBAN COUNCIL...**

Is looking to fill the Board for the upcoming 2004-2005 school year. There are still some positions open. If you are interested in being on the Northwest Suburban Council or would like more information, please feel free to give me a call. THANKS!!

Mary Podjasek – 991-8738 – cakebakerm@aol.com

### **Special Events**

Vanya Castle  
991-8285

Lisa Bosco  
358-5536

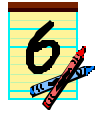
Joan Scheck  
991-1379

The 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Farewell Picnic is set for June 4<sup>th</sup>. It will run from 11:30 to 1:30 p.m. at the Inverness Park District on Highland Avenue. There will be A short presentation after the picnic in the Multipurpose room at TJ. It will go from 1:45 to 2:15 pm approximately.

All 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents are welcome to attend. Bring your tissues!



May 2004



# Jaguar Journal

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## Pop Warner Academic Scholars!

Congratulations to 5<sup>th</sup> graders Brian Draznin and Charlie Mau for being named Pop Warner Football All-American Scholars for 2003-2004. Brian and Charlie rank academically in the top 1% of approximately 400,000 children who take part in Pop Warner spirit and football programs nationally. They will be recognized during Pop Warner's 44<sup>th</sup> Annual National Awards program held in Walt Disney World over Memorial Day weekend. Let's wish them a great trip. The boys want to give a special thanks to Miss Maxwell. It was their final report card from 4<sup>th</sup> grade that won them this honor.

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## Room Reps Needed for 2004-2005 School Year!

If you are interested in being a room representative for the next school year, please send in this form. Room representatives will be picked by the second week in June.

If you have any questions, please call Annette Grabowski (705-8842) or Lynne Benson (963-0672).

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Level: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Return to School – Attention: Room Representatives

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