



A NATIONAL SCHOOL
of
EXCELLENCE

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Volume 28 – Issue 1

ILLINOIS
PTA[®]
everychild.one voice.



Dates to Remember

Oct. 15	ITBS Testing Begins – Grades 4 & 6
Oct. 16	Market Day Pick Up – 5:30 to 6:30 pm
Oct. 17	Innisbrook Orders Due
Oct. 23	Fall Festival of Learning
Oct. 26	Daylight Savings Time Ends
Oct. 28	5 th Grade Music Program – 7:30pm
Oct. 31	Halloween Parade – 1:45 pm
Nov. 3	Market Day Orders Due
Nov. 3-7	Book Fair
Nov. 4	PTA Meeting – 7:15 pm
Nov. 6 & 7	No School – Parent Teacher Conferences
Nov. 11	3 rd Grade Veteran's Day Program
Nov 12	School Store



From the President...

Well, we can officially say that it is fall! Not only is it getting colder and the leaves are turning colors, the children are getting back into the routine of school, sports, school activities, religion activities, etc. I hope that everyone has adjusted to their new routines. As you are planning your fall activities, don't forget to mark your calendar for the Halloween Bingo nights on October 27th and 29th. This year we will also be holding a pumpkin carving contest. Be sure to see the flyer for more details.

We were also blessed with beautiful fall weather at our annual Back to School picnic. What a great day we had! Face painting, dancing, fire trucks..there was plenty to do that evening. Thanks for coming out and taking part in the fun.

I hope you will also participate in our major fundraiser of the year. Innisbrook packets went home to all students. This year there is also the option to make a donation to the PTA in lieu of or in addition to the Innisbrook sale. We hope we can count on your support to keep the great programs rolling here at TJ...or flying...

Speaking of flying, we hope your children enjoyed our first Cultural Arts assembly in September about the Wright Brothers. This year marks the 100th anniversary of their first flight.

There's so much going on here at TJ..so please don't forget to volunteer your time. We can always use extra hands!

I hope you have a Spooktacular Halloween!

Michelle



Notes From...: Mr. Walsh

Interim Principal

Go Cubs GO! Go Cubs GO! Hey Chicago what do you say, the Cubs are going to win today! (Sung with music.)

As human, the desire to celebrate is innate. We love to rejoice at our accomplishments and the accomplishments of those around us. This feeling has never been so apparent to me quite as much as it has now with our Chicago Cubs and their recent run into the playoffs. I think most people living in the Chicago area are familiar with the celebration song at the beginning of this article meant to praise and encourage our beloved Cubs on to more success. The sense of euphoria is even more heightened by the fact that it has been so long since the Cubs have been in this position. This is no minor step in the organization's history, but a large monumental moment that has come with rare frequency. Yet, even in those years when the Cubs were doomed to be sent home at the end of the regular season we still heard this song of celebration with every little Cubs victory. We use the song to celebrate both the minor and the major accomplishments of our team with a deep sense of dedication.

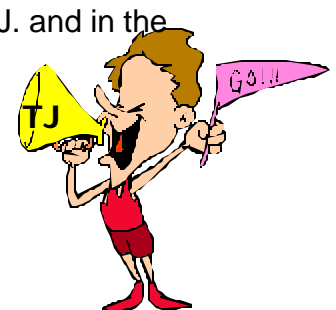
At Thomas Jefferson, I have the great opportunity to be a part of a different type of celebration that I would like to encourage each one of us to take part in each day – the celebration of each accomplishment that our many "T.J. Terrific" students make. Some days they are those major accomplishments that seem to come with rare frequency. These accomplishments are more easily noted by the vast and highly visible impact they have on our children. On other days they may be more of the minor variety. These minor accomplishments, although not as highly visible, still have a clear influence in our students' lives in bringing them closer to reaching their goals. Whether it is the "educational grand slam" that wins the game or the quiet single that gets our child on the right path, there is a need to celebrate both with great fervor. I would propose that we even have a celebratory song just like our Cubbies.

Go__Go! Go__Go! Hey T.J. what do you say, my child's life was changed today! (Add your child's name in the blanks.)

I look forward to hearing this song echoing through the halls of T.J. and in the neighborhood celebrating with passion and enthusiasm
Our wonderful students!

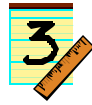
Go T.J.! Go Cubbies!

Have a wonderful October!





October 2003

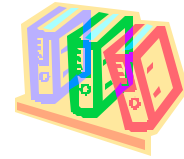


Jaguar Journal

G.R.E.A.T.

Lisa Pozzi
358-5922
Lisa Isaacs
776-7359

Maribeth Kamen
359-3926
Renee Cupidro
202-8242



G.R.E.A.T. needs you! What could be more rewarding than tutoring children in reading? As a volunteer, you will benefit from building a one-on-one relationship with a child who needs a little extra help with reading. GREAT will provide the training, if you can provide one (or so) hour a week for 18 weeks. If you cannot commit every week, but are still interested, perhaps you might consider being a substitute. So please, if you or someone you know would like to volunteer for a special and meaningful program, consider becoming a reading mentor at Thomas Jefferson. You may call any one of us for more details, or to sign up today. THANKS!

Ways & Means

Lori Austin
963-0474

Karen Mlynarczyk
991-5803

Help us "Leap to Success" with our biggest and best fundraiser. The Innisbrook 2003 catalog was sent home the last week of September along with a donation letter. This year, families can choose to sell Innisbrook and/or make a donation. Although we realize many families are already selling other items through sports or scouts, please don't forget that the proceeds from this fundraiser directly benefit our students through the wonderful programs PTA sponsors here at TJ. Any order and/or donation is greatly appreciated. We need your help now in making this fundraiser a success. Additional Innisbrook packets/donation letters can be found in the school office.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the following promotions:

Congratulations to the Hop to It winners. There were actually 630 frogs on the Innisbrook Hop to It roll. Michael Bermudez won with his guess of 610. Runner-up prizes went to Kelly Breen, Danny Chambers, Mrs. Duffy and Mrs. Schumacher. Everyone who entered a guess received a token prize.

Congratulations to our Blitz Weekend winners: Sean Jones (Innisbrook Product Voucher), Justine Venegoni (Sportmart), Michael Kochanski (Tower Records), and Mary Chambers (Toys R Us).

A big thanks goes out to Mrs. Clenard and her wonderful TJN morning announcers for their help in supporting our promotions/fundraising efforts.

Innisbrook and the Ways and Means Committee have many awesome prizes and fun promotions still to come. The Innisbrook top seller will receive a one night stay at the Timber Ridge Resort Indoor Waterpark in Lake Geneva, WI and the Innisbrook Bonus Entry Tickets will be entered in the drawings for: Gameboy Advance SP, DVD Player, and Innisbrook Parent Gift Basket. The class with the best participation wins a Pizza Party. Please share your catalog with friends, family, co-workers and neighbors. Innisbrook even offers on-line orders that TJ will get credit for and the order is delivered directly to the customer. This makes it easy for your out-of-town family and friends. Innisbrook orders must be turned in by 3PM Thursday, October 16th to qualify. Students will have a nice long weekend coming up to get more sales. Good luck to all you sellers and thank you for your continued support.





October 2003



Principal Appreciation Day! October 24, 2003

Name: Sean Walsh

Position at TJ: Principal

Hometown: Cary, IL

Education: BA – Wheaton College (Education & History), MA – University of Illinois

Family: Wife – Beth, daughters – Emma 4, Kate 1 and son Jacob 1

Favorite Food: hamburgers, especially cheeseburgers

Favorite Subject in School: Math and Science

Favorite School Book: Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing

Favorite Childhood Movie: "Star Wars" (all three)

Favorite Color: Red

Personal Hero: My mom

Prized Possession: A certificate from my 2nd grade teacher for reading – stop by my office if you want to see it. The certificate was a boost for my confidence in reading. Reading was a subject that I struggled with and did not have confidence in. My 2nd grade teacher, Mrs. Lockhart, gave me the certificate for accomplishing my reading goals. I saw that I could accomplish my goals, even in reading, if I worked hard. Over time reading became a subject that I loved and looked forward to.

People who knew me in elementary school thought...quiet and shy; athletic.

What you probably didn't know about me is that I love spending time on the water. I love activities like water skiing, tubing, knee boarding (yes, I can knee board), etc. I would like to learn to use a wake board. I have done a bit of sailing. Stop by my office if you want to swap fish stories. I have taken up fly fishing and would love to share.

What do you hope to accomplish this year? Learn the names of all the students, help all students to do their best and have an exciting year of learning, show students that learning is a life long journey.

The best thing about being a Principal is working with the incredible students who come to TJ every day ready and excited to learn.

In honor of Principal Appreciation Day, we are pleased to feature our new Interim Principal and Building Assistant. Look for our Teacher Feature to resume next month!



Name: Alessandra Kennedy

Position at TJ: Building Assistant

Hometown: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Education: Bachelor in Education, Masters in Curriculum and Instruction, and currently Pursuing a doctoral degree in Curriculum and Supervision (4 classes away from dissertation!)

Hobbies/Interests: Theater and photography. I also love to cook and bake cakes.

Family: Married for 10 years to Michael and a baby, Alexa Maria born this past January.

My parents and brother live in Brazil.

Favorite Food: Veal parmegiana, BBQ ribs, and crab cakes.

Favorite Subject in School: Math and writing

Favorite Book: so many...Where the Red Fern Grows, The Polar Express

Favorite Movie: "Mrs. Doubtfire" and "Forest Gump"

Favorite Color: White

Personal Hero: My mom and my dad. They gave me wings that made me fly, always believed and encouraged me, and were my role models of great character.

Prized Possession: Nothing material...my family is what I value the most in my life.

People who knew me in elementary school thought...I was very bossy and helpful as well. I was always speaking out of turn and rarely remembered to raise my hand. Before posing a Question my teacher would say, "Alessandra, this question IS NOT for you to answer!"

What you probably didn't know about me is that I was born and raised in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. I received all of my elementary, middle and high school education in Brazil and didn't move to the United States until I was 19 years old.

What do you hope to accomplish this year? I want every TJ student to feel respected and cared for. I want students to realize the crucial role that education will forever play in their lives and consequently, strive to do nothing less than their personal best. I want TJ teachers, parents, students and community to remain connected and to truly have "One Terrific Journey".

The best thing about being a Building Assistant is to have a chance to interact with ALL students. As much as I miss having my own class (and I do miss it terribly!), I am looking at my new role as someone who is responsible for the education and well being of almost 700 students.



October 2003



A View From My Office

Mike Fagerholm
School Social Worker
963-5439



We boarded the large wagon and waited for the tractor to start pulling us down the gravel road to the apple orchard. My wife, Allison, our 17-year-old son, Matt, our 15-year-old daughter, Emily, and I sat close together as the wagon began its slow trip. It had been many years since our whole family had picked apples together. As the wagon creaked and gently moved back and forth, I stared at my children, hardly believing that so many autumns had come and gone.

A trip to the apple orchard is one of those great autumn experiences. It signifies that cooler weather is coming, leaves will be falling, and Halloween is only a few weeks away. As we picked our apples, I thought about the many Halloweens that had passed and all the fun we enjoyed as a family. Some parents probably dread the candy filled night, but I always enjoyed every minute of it.

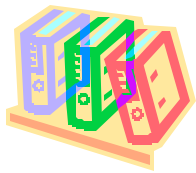
I'll never forget that even when my children were of preschool age, we would let them pick out their own pumpkins. They would draw pictures of how they wanted me to carve their pumpkins. I'm sure my ability to carve their pumpkins rarely did justice to their pictures. On Halloween night, when our children were young, our whole family loved walking through the neighborhood, visiting with other parents, as our children filled their trick-or-treat bags with goodies. When Matt and Emily were older, my wife stayed home to greet the steady stream of trick-or-treaters that come to our door. I remember one particular Halloween a few years ago when everything seemed practically perfect. The weather was in the 70's. There was a full moon overhead. Parents visited on the sidewalks having uncommonly friendly conversations, while their children ran from door to door. I was aware of the fact that this might have been the most perfect Halloween ever; kind of a "Norman Rockwell" type of Halloween.

I've told my children how it was when I was growing up in the 50's and 60's. We would start trick-or-treating in the afternoon right after school. We would stop home for a quick bite to eat and then be out gathering candy until 10:00 o'clock! We used pillowcases to hold our candy and those pillowcases got really heavy. When we got home, we would dump our candy on the living room floor and separate it into categories of favorite and marginal candies. I often put my candy into a large shoebox. There was no way I could even approach trying to eat all that candy. I remember one Christmas finding my Halloween candy, forgotten and stale under my bed.

The years have passed so rapidly. The days of taking my children trick-or-treating are sadly over. I enjoyed every minute of carving pumpkins, choosing costumes, and trick-or-treating. This year my kids are attending a masquerade party at their high school. My wife and I will answer the door and give out treats to the 100 to 150 children who typically stop by on Halloween. These are great days of cool weather, falling leaves, fresh crisp apples, and Halloween treats. Enjoy these moments with your children. Take some pictures with your camera, but keep the memories in your mind.



Resource Center Volunteers Needed!



Resource Center
Janice Kostelny
794-1212

Mondays (9 to 11:30am) Beginning Oct. 27th and continuing every other week.
Wednesdays (9 to 11:30am) Beginning ASAP. Currently we have no one.
Fridays (12:30 to 3pm) Beginning Oct. 17th and continuing every other week.

If you have free time during the following time slots, consider helping in the Resource Center. It is a great opportunity to work with the TJ children and our excellent library staff. Easy on-the-job training is provided. Contact Jan at 794-1212 or BobJan123@aol.com.

REFLECTIONS 2004



Denise McGovern
991-5534

I'm Really Happy When...

Karen Zambelli
202-0668

What does this statement make you think of? Can you express your thoughts through photography, writing, music, or visual arts? If so, then be sure to enter the PTA's annual Reflections contest.

Simply finish the sentence, "I am really happy when..." using an original piece of artwork in one of the following categories: photography, literature, musical composition, or visual art.

To view last year's national award recipients in the Reflection contest, visit the Parent Involvement area of the National PTA's website at www.pta.org.

Rules and regulations will be out soon. The deadline for entries is November 21, 2003. For more information, please contact one of us.

Membership

Diane Emerson
359-4029

Dora Leonard
776-9341

We want to thank all the families who have joined PTA and for their support. A special big thank you to the teaching and administrative staff for their 100% participation in support of our PTA. So far, 67% of our families have become members, but we are still looking for families who have not signed up for the PTA membership yet. Please help us to reach our 100% goal this year, and after all, we need all your support to keep the fun and enriching programs/activities going for our children. Please sign up today and be a part of the TJ PTA families who want to make a difference in their children's lives. If you have any questions, please contact us.



The Box Tops for Education Program is Off to a Good Start!

Thank you for supporting the Box Tops for Education program at Thomas Jefferson. Last year you saved and brought to school 7,245 Box Tops and the Box Tops for Education program sent TJ a check for \$724.50. This money was used to purchase new PE and recess related equipment.

So far this school year, you have saved and brought to school 3,450 Box Tops. Our goal is to save 9,000 Box Tops! We are off to a great start!

Remember, the Box Tops for Education program is truly as easy as 1, 2, 3.

1. 1. Clip and collect the Box Tops.
2. 2. Bring the Box Tops to school.
3. 3. Thomas Jefferson receives a check.

Thanks for your continued support!



HALLOWEEN BINGO

We look forward to seeing you in costume at Halloween Bingo on either Oct. 27th or Oct. 29th. Don't forget to fill out the reply and send it back to school! It's sure to a spooktacular evening!!

Scholarship

Liesl Ignoffo
359-5868

As in the past, we will be participating in the Jewel's Shop n' Share and Dominick's Benefit Days as a means of raising funds for our Illinois PTA Scholarship program. The Illinois Scholarship program awards scholarships to local high school seniors who are planning to pursue a degree in Education. Please consider supporting this program when you shop at Dominick's or Jewel – it's so easy!

Just take the coupons from this newsletter to the grocery store when you shop. Give the coupon to the clerk when you check out and a portion of your total purchase will be donated to the Scholarship Fund. These coupons can be used on October 20, 21 and 22 at either Jewel or Dominick's.

Future dates will include: November 17-19, December 15-17 (Jewel only) and December 8-10 (Dominick's only). Mark your calendars! Thank you for your support!

Special Events

Lisa Bosco Vanya Castle Joanie Scheck
358-5536 991-8285 991-1379

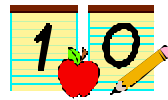
Thank you to all who helped with the Back to School Picnic. We had beautiful weather and a good time was had by all! See you at the Sock Hop in January!

TJPTA.ORG

Parents...visit tjpta.org and sign up for the TJ PTA E-News. You'll be given exclusive access to a tricky Halloween activity for your kids. All kids who complete and submit this activity will be given a special treat!



October 2003



Jaguar Journal



Linda Ratajczyk
359-0694

Bobbie Summers
934-0295

What's new at Market Day you ask? How about offering delivery, a new Market Day Rep, a new set up for our sale (okay, we're still working on that!!), a food drive for the Palatine Food Pantry, and a raffle to a customer in October. Also look for delicious Market Day samples at upcoming school functions!!

Regarding the food drive, attached at the end of this newsletter is a letter explaining how easy it is to donate to the Palatine Township Food Pantry. The orders will be submitted for the November sale, so all donations will be received by the food pantry just in time for Thanksgiving. We're hoping this is a simple, convenient way to show support for our community by helping those in need. Please take a moment to complete and return your donation.

Thanks so much to all our customers and volunteers for making our September sale a success and we hope our sales increase throughout the school year. We know Market Day is basically just shopping, and sure, you can get some items cheaper elsewhere. **But Market Day offers so much more!** Where else can you get great quality foods at reasonable prices, a unique neighborhood/community shopping experience, and some items you can't find in stores?? But most importantly --- **it is a monthly fundraiser that you and your children benefit from directly.** The profits from our monthly Market Day sales fund so many very important programs for your children here at Thomas Jefferson. We ask that if you haven't given Market Day a try, please do so. If you're already a customer --- THANK YOU!!

Quick Reference Sources

Online Encyclopedias and Almanacs
Web Page
Created by Cindy Clenard
Thomas Jefferson LRC Teacher

I created a web page called **QUICK REFERENCE WEBPAGE**. This page is designed to get your students to a reference site quickly for their initial search on a topic. From many of the sites they can then go to secondary support sites listed within the links on this webpage.

- Go to the District 15 web page at:
<http://www.ccsd15.net>
- Click to open the District 15 Schools tab
- Click on Thomas Jefferson
- Click on the option, Teacher/grade Web Sites
- Click on the **QUICK REFERENCE WEBPAGE**

Ways & Means

Lori Austin
963-0474

Karen Mlynarczyk
991-5803

Thank you to everyone who ordered TJ Spirit Wear. Sales were over \$7,500 with a PTA profit of \$900! The items will be delivered to your child's classroom by the end of October. We look forward to seeing the students show off their new spirit wear!