



Thomas Jefferson



Jaguar Journal

October 2004



A NATIONAL SCHOOL
of
EXCELLENCE

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

Office Phone: (847)
963-5400
Absence Phone: (847)
963-5401

Principal
Sean Walsh

Building Assistant
John Gibbas

PTA Co - Presidents
Karen Bochat
(847)359-3067
Debbie Mau
(847)776-7460

From the Presidents...

Dear TJ Families:

Thanks to all our volunteers and to incredible faculty and staff support. Because of you this year is off to a great start. Hopefully you have all seen the PTA in action. Our back to school picnic was a huge success. The creative writing encounter excited kids in September with an Olympics theme and awesome prizes. Market Day provided meal ideas, planning and convenience. Our newsletter is keeping you informed about TJ PTA. Legislation is watching out for all our children's best interests in Springfield. And, these are only a few of the committees hard at work for you here at TJ.

To support our programs that provide for every child we are asking each family to participate in the Kathryn Beich fundraiser. This is an incredible opportunity for you to support the PTA. The fall 2004 "Holiday Wishes" catalogue has many fun and tasty gift ideas. The sale ends October 14. Thank you for helping to make the TJ PTA work
Karen and Debbie

Dates to Remember

October 20 – ITBS Testing begins (Grades 4 & 6)

October 21 – Fall Festival of Learning

October 26 – Music Program 5th Grade

October 27 & 28 - Halloween Bingo

October 29 – Halloween Parade 1:45 p.m.

November 2-5 – Book Fair

November 4-5 – No School Parent/Teacher Conferences

November 8 – Market Day Orders Due

November 9 – 3rd Grade Veteran's Day Program

November 11 – Market Day Pick-up

Vision & Hearing Screening

November 16 & 18 – Daybreak w/Dad 7:45-8:15

November 16 – PTA Meeting 7:15p.m.



everychild.one voice.



N Mr. Walsh

Principal

O We have officially made it through the first month of school! What a wonderful beginning it has been. I hope all
t of you are enjoying the school year thus far.

e It is that time of year when many things are changing. Whether it is the schedule at home with new activities, the
s leaves on the trees, or the chill in the air noting the changing of seasons, there is a lot to adjust to. To help you
F adjust with the different things happening at school, here is some information that will be helpful over the next
r month so that you won't feel left out in the cold.

The Fall Festival of Learning

O The Fall Festival of Learning will take place on Thursday, October 21st from 6:45 – 8:00 p.m. This is a wonderful
m opportunity for you to “attend school” with your child and work together on some of the subjects and strategies
they are currently using in class. All of us at Thomas Jefferson School hope to see you there!

Halloween Parade and Parties

The Halloween parade and parties will take place on Friday, October 29th. Shortly you will receive a letter asking if your child will be going home for lunch on the day of the Halloween party to get into costume. If your child will be going home we ask that you complete the form and return it to school. Students going home for lunch that day can be picked up beginning at 11:20a.m. and should not be dropped back off at school until 12:15p.m. The parade will begin at 1:45p.m. and will follow the traditional path outside the building given good weather. (Students will exit the building from the multi-purpose room doors at the north end of the building, walk south on the sidewalk along Winston Drive to the front of the building, walk along the front of the building, and then re-enter the building at the southeast entrance by the primary playground.) Classroom parties will begin immediately following the parade. As a reminder, we ask that student costumes not include blood and gore or be overly scary taking into account the vast age variance across the building. Also, students should not bring any weapon-like items to school that are a part of their costume for the parade or party.

Grandparents Day

Thomas Jefferson School will absolutely be having Grandparents Day this year! While some of you may have noticed that the traditional Wednesday before Thanksgiving is now a non-attendance day, this does not change the commitment of the Thomas Jefferson staff to continuing this wonderful event. Grandparents Day will be held on Tuesday, November 23rd. Doors will open at 9:00 a.m. Look for the invitation to come home and be sure to invite all of the grandparents to come join us for a morning of fun and sharing.

Canvassing Committee

With the upcoming referendum for School District 15 there are many ways for you to be involved. One of those opportunities is through joining the Thomas Jefferson Canvassing Committee, which will be comprised of parents and staff from the school. This committee will be involved in activities such as phone calls, stuffing mailings, and other events to get important information out to the community surrounding TJ. The more individuals that are involved on the committee the more effectively and efficiently we can get the information out. Being part of the canvassing committee does not mean you will absolutely have to take part in all activities. You may feel more comfortable with one activity versus another. Whatever level of help and support you can offer will be of great value and service. More information will be available soon on the specific activities along with a time line of events. If you would like to talk further about this opportunity, please feel free to give me a call. Or, if you would like to volunteer to be a part of the committee please call, email, or stop by the school any time to sign-up.



Notes From Mr. Walsh (cont'd.)

Dogs on School Property

While walking to and from school with your child is a great opportunity to spend time together, and creates a time to walk the dog, we ask that dogs not be brought onto school property during arrival and dismissal time for reasons of safety and courtesy. Not all students and families are as comfortable with dogs. Seeing a dog as they are trying to enter school may frighten a child causing stress during what should be a relaxing and enjoyable start to the day. It is also a concern for safety in how a dog might react to unfamiliar people trying to pet or approach them. Thank you for your help with this matter.

Mike Fagerholm
School Social Worker
963-5439

A View From My Office



My son Matt sat on his bed in his college dorm and looked a little overwhelmed. We had spent the better part of the day moving him and his stuff into this massive building in the heart of Chicago. My wife and daughter helped him to fill his closet with his clothes, shoes, jackets, towels, soap, razor, and all the other necessities of daily life. I helped Matt hang posters and set up his stereo and TV. The whole day had an energizing, yet mind-boggling feeling. Seven hundred students moving into the dorm on the same day! New faces, new roommate, new surroundings, and a new world awaited my son.

As we were getting ready to go home, I looked at Matt. He seemed like all of this was maybe just a bit too much for him. But as the time came to leave, Matt took on a different persona. Without saying a word, Matt seemed confident as if to say, "don't worry, I'll make it." The ride home seemed extra long and the traffic was extra slow. Mile after mile, as we drove farther from Chicago, I had plenty of time to think back over the years that seemed to fly by so fast.

Was it yesterday or was it 14 years ago, that Matt went to preschool for the first day. My wife Allison took him to the small park district building that housed the "Morning Munchkins" preschool. I've heard the story many times before and it's firmly etched in my mind. Matt walked into the preschool room. He wandered around looking at the classroom and its contents. Matt stopped by a felt story board for a few minutes and then declared to my wife, "You can go now Mom, I'm comfrable." And with that statement, Matt began his many years of formal education which have been filled with wonderful experiences, as well as some painful ones.

Throughout elementary school, middle school, and high school the goal has been to help our children to slowly, but surely get to that independent place in their lives. My wife and I have been so proud watching our son develop and grow into his own person. Day by day, Matthew learned from difficult experiences and joyful successes. It's very hard to believe that he is away at college now. I have no idea how time has passed so rapidly.

As we drove down the road, mile after mile, I thought about Matt and how he was suddenly ready for college. It hadn't happened overnight. It was a gradual developmental and experiential process. Matt gave me that look that said he was a little hesitant, but he knew he could make it in this new environment. We have seen that look a few times before... so that was a good sign. I know he's ready. I wish I could say the same about me.



Spark 2004-2005

By JoAnn Paldo, Spark Committee

SPARK – Special Education Parents Accessing Resources and Knowledge is a group that believes in providing a means to educate parents, provide resources, network, and support families of children receiving special education in District 15.

Join us for our upcoming meeting on November 2nd where we will have a panel from the district who will explain their roles and services in the IEP process.

November 2 – **Understanding Central Auditory Processing Disorders (CAPD)**

Dr. Jeanane Ferre

SPARK meetings are held at Plum Grove Junior High School, 2600 Plum Grove Road, Rolling Meadows from 7:00-8:30p.m. in the LRC. They are open to all parents and staff of CCSD 15.

If you have any questions or would like more information about SPARK, please Contact: JoAnn Paldo at joannpaldo@aol or Fran Saplis at saplis@comcast.net

Newsletter
Patti Burke 934-7381



Due date for November's newsletter will be Tuesday, November 2nd. Any questions, please email me at Dpstl@aol.com. Thank you.



Don't forget the time change on Sunday, October 31st. Set your clocks **BACK** 1 hour.



PHOTOS NEEDED

The TJ Yearbook Committee is looking for pictures taken by parents on the first day of school and the Back-To-School Picnic. Please note that these pictures will not be returned whether they are used or not for the yearbook.

Just drop these pictures off in the PTA room or send them to school with your child and address them to the Yearbook Committee.

If you have any questions, please contact one of us.

Sandy Burnitz 991-4907
Lori Halfman 705-6574
Dora Leonard 776-9341
Yearbook Committee



MegaSkills Parent Workshop Coming Soon!

A “MegaSkills®” workshop for parents of students in Community Consolidated School District 15, is being offered from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, October 20, at the Joseph M. Kiszka Educational Service Center, 580 N. First Bank Dr., Palatine.

MegaSkills is a program designed to teach parents new ways of helping their children succeed in school and in life. It focuses on 11 skills that children need:

- o**Confidence: feeling able to do it**
- o**Motivation: wanting to do it**
- o**Effort: being willing to work hard**
- o**Responsibility: doing what’s right**
- o**Initiative: moving into action**
- o**Perseverance: completing what you start**
- o**Caring: showing concern for others**
- o**Teamwork: working with others**
- o**Common sense: using good judgment**
- o**Problem solving: putting what you know and what you can do into action**
- o**Focus: concentrating with a goal in mind**

The October 20 workshop will be led by Harriett Stonehill, a MegaSkills trainer. Ms. Stonehill will help parents explore ways to develop and reinforce these 11 critical skills in their own children.

There is no charge to District 15 parents for this workshop, which is being supported by the District Fifteen Educational Foundation. To register, contact Mary Podjasek at 847-991-8738 or Dr. Christine Rauscher, 847-963-3105.

Cultural Arts

Linda Divizio
Kathy McDermott

The cultural arts committee is very excited about the assemblies we have planned for this year. The first one will take place on October 19, 2004. The presentation is called “**Yes You Can**”, and is a motivational and educational program created by Lloyd Bachrach. Lloyd is a physically challenged gymnast who has never let anything keep him from achieving his goals. While captivating audiences with live gymnastics and volleyball demonstrations, he shows that anything in life is possible. This program provides a great opportunity to talk to your children about the different challenges in life.

In January, the children will get to experience the art of juggling. Andy Head will be captivating the children’s attention with music and lights while juggling and balancing various objects. The final assembly will be in April, and will coincide with family reading night. Chris Fascione will be bringing literature to life during 2 assemblies during the day and then again at night for the entire family!





Teacher Feature

Mrs. Jamie Trow

Position at TJ: I am a first year fourth grade teacher.

Hometown: I grew up in Palatine.

Education: I graduated from Palatine High School in 1999 and Monmouth College in December, 2003 with a major in Elementary Education and a minor in English.

Hobbies/Interests: I have always participated in choir and love to sing. I sang in the Palatine Children's Chorus until college, and then sang with the Monmouth College Chorale until I graduated. Now I sing with Allegro, an adult chorus. I also love to write and I am currently learning more about photography.

Family: Because I am an only child, I have a small family. I like to spend as much time with my parents and grandparents as possible, and I acquired a new family in July when I got married.

Favorite Food: Anything Italian

Favorite Subject in School: My favorite subject is definitely English, specifically poetry, analysis and British literature.

Favorite Book: My favorite books are The Notebook by Nicholas Sparks and Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albom (among others).

Favorite Color: Blue

Prized Possession: My prized possession is my uncle's original pair of airborne wings given to him after his first parachute jump with the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He is now in the Special Forces serving at the Pentagon. His wings remind me to challenge myself every day.

I decided to become a teacher when... I decided to become a teacher when I was in grade school at Virginia Lake School in Palatine. I honestly never wanted to be anything else and to this day love all the intellectual and personal learning that goes on everyday in the classroom.

People who knew me in elementary school thought... People who knew me in grade school thought that I was studious and dramatic, though at times shy. They associated me with anything musical including school productions and band.

The best thing about being a teacher is... The best thing about being a teacher is being a part of the social and academic growth of my students. I enjoy watching kids grasp new concepts, inspiring them to know more and learning from their honesty and enthusiasm.

