

THE JEFFERSON JOURNAL

☆☆☆ News from Jefferson Elementary School ☆☆☆

Land Acknowledgement: We acknowledge that we are on the unceded lands of the Spokane Tribe. The Spokane people shared this place with other tribes through their relations, resources, history, trade, and ceremony. We thank the caretakers of this land, who lived, and continue to live here since Time Immemorial. This land holds the knowledge, culture, and spirit of "The People of the River."



PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Happy New Year Jefferson Community!

In the last issue of The Jefferson Journal before Winter Break, I spent some time sharing information about Lexia and Dreambox, two programs that supplement instruction in the classroom for literacy and mathematics respectively. In that issue, I mentioned the importance of scholars completing a minimum of 10 units in Lexia and 5 lessons in Dreambox to fully reach grade level standards by the end of the school year. Students working below grade level will need to complete more than those numbers to close their current gap in achievement.

I am happy to announce that December saw scholars complete an average of 6.3 lessons per week in Dreambox through the last day of school before break. Now averages can be deceiving, as some are completing many more lessons than that, and others fewer. But still, we have positive momentum!

In Lexia, our data indicated that 79% of students began the year in below grade level material, much of which was due to extended months away from in-person schooling due to the pandemic. In the few short months since returning to school this fall, the number of students working in below grade level material has dropped from 79% to 53%. This is significant, because as the year moves along, the grade level bar moves as well. So this reduction indicates that kids are closing the gap!

I am excited to see the data continue to improve, as expert instruction in the classroom, combined with the above-mentioned on-line programs and support at home is the perfect recipe for success!

I can't wait to see what this New Year will bring!

Brent

Brent A. Perdue (he, his, him)
Principal, brentp@spokaneschools.org



6TH GRADE LEADERSHIP CLUB CELEBRATES A GREAT START TO THE SCHOOL YEAR

Jefferson appreciates the efforts of the Leadership Club as they mentor younger students, help with advertising events and play a big role in the Citizen of the Month Assemblies! They deserve the party they had to finish out December!

EXTRA-CURRICULAR PROGRAMS RETURNING

After the pandemic prevented any in-person extra-curricular activities, it has been wonderful to see some activities slowly and safely returning to elementary schools. Cross country got things off and running (pun intended!) in the fall with



over 100 Jefferson scholars competing. More recently, a choral group for 4th graders and a 4th-6th grade chess club kicked off. Stay tuned in this New Year for more offerings across grade levels. To hear Jefferson singers enjoying themselves as they carol around the school, visit a recent post on the Jefferson Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/jeffersonelementaryspokane/videos/434781221384197/>) and while you are there, be sure to like and follow Jefferson Elementary!

JANUARY 3, 2022

CALENDAR

January 14 • Early Release
January 17 • Martin Luther King Jr. Day - No School

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT JEFFERSON AND SPOKANE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

When paraeducators and teachers are out, due to illness, trainings or other reasons, there is a need for guests to fill in. Each day, many of those positions go unfilled due to a shortage of substitutes. In fact, from the beginning of the year until Winter Break, Jefferson has had 34 teacher substitute days go unfilled and 50 paraeducator days.



Substitutes can choose to work as many, or as few, days as they wish. And can select which positions and which schools they wish to work in. More information can be found by visiting the web addresses included below.

Substitute Paraeducator

- **Rate of Pay**
 - General Education: \$14.73 per hour
 - Select Positions: \$15.73 per hour
- **Job Requirements**
 - Must have high school diploma (or equivalent)
 - Must have 72 quarter credits or 48 semester credits from an accredited college, AA or BA degree, OR pass an academic assessment.
- More information at <https://www.schooljobs.com/careers/spokaneschools/jobs/3327985/paraeducator-substitute-classified>

Emergency Substitute Teacher

- **Rate of Pay**
 - \$150 per day
- **Job Requirements**
 - Must hold bachelor's degree
- More information at <https://www.schooljobs.com/careers/spokaneschools/jobs/3328061/emergency-substitute-teacher>

THE PTG SCOOP

- **The next PTG Meeting will be Wednesday, January 5th at 7pm on Zoom,** and hopefully... IN PERSON! There will be a post on FB with more information prior to the meeting, and with a Zoom link for any attendees who prefer virtual meetings.
- **WE NEED CLOTHES!** We are in need of donations of clothing for the "Accident Closet" of boy's pants, sizes 4-10, with the highest need in the smaller sizes. Girls' pants in the same sizes are needed as well. Please check your closet and if you have anything you can donate, bring them to the office. (And if your child may have borrowed some of the pants from the closet and can return them, that would be great as well.) Thank you Patriots!

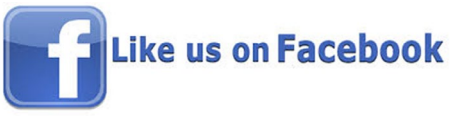
CLASSES OF THE WEEK



Mrs. Thomas's First Grade



Mrs. Mazzola's 4th Grade



Family and community members are encouraged to like Jefferson on Facebook to keep up on the latest happenings and to see many more pictures of events than are able to fit in an issue of The Jefferson Journal. This QR code can take you right there!



Spokane Public Schools complies with all federal and state rules and regulations and does not discriminate in the admission, treatment, employment, or access to its programs or activities on the basis of age, sex, marital status, race, color, creed, national origin, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability, sexual orientation including gender expression or gender identity, or honorably discharged veteran or military status. This holds true for all students who are interested in participating in educational programs and/or extracurricular school activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Inquiries regarding compliance and/or grievance procedures may be directed to the school district's Title IX/Staff Civil Rights Officer, ADA Officer, Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying (HIB)/Student Civil Rights Officer and/or 504 Compliance Officer listed on our website at www.spokaneschools.org/nondiscrimination

Safety tips for student drop off and pick up



The 10 minutes right before and after school can be quite a challenge. Busy and congested may be inconvenient, but it doesn't have to be unsafe. Please do your part to keep everyone safe.

- ✓ **If you can, walk to school with your student.**
- ✓ **Park and walk. Avoid the chaos!** Park down the block and walk with your student. It's safer and healthier. If you park across the street, take the time to walk with your young student(s), and show them how to use the crosswalk correctly.
- ✓ **Park only in designated areas.** Parking inappropriately or in a No Parking zone puts students and other drivers at risk.
- ✓ **Watch for and follow crossing guard instructions.** Help them keep our students safe!
- ✓ **Use curbside arrival/departure:** Have your student(s) exit the vehicle at the curb, not into or across traffic.
- ✓ **Slow down!** We get it. It's been a hectic day. But the school zone is where you need to slow down and practice patience.

Please do NOT:

- ✗ **Park in bus areas.** While this may seem convenient, it creates all kinds of student safety issues.
- ✗ **Drive in the wrong direction or make U-turns.** Besides being illegal, these actions put students and other drivers in danger.
- ✗ **Block crosswalks, sidewalks, or driveways.** This forces students and others to walk around your vehicle into traffic. It also makes neighbors mad.
- ✗ **Use your phone.** Distracted driving puts everyone in danger.
- ✗ **Back up in school zones.** This can be extremely dangerous in areas with many younger students.

Questions? Ask your school's principal or call SPS Safety Services at 354.7320.



Spokane Public Schools
excellence for everyone

