

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!

As 2022 nears its close, and our school year is well underway, I wanted to say thank you for partnering with us this past calendar year. School has mostly returned to normal following Happy New Year Jefferson Community!

In the first issue of The Jefferson Journal in December, 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 share that as of December 5th, scholars at Jefferson have shown an average of 4.9 months of literacy growth in Lexia so far this year. This is after only three months of school, where one would expect 3 months of growth. This measure places Jefferson as the school building with the highest amount of growth among all buildings in the city!

Looking at Dreambox and math growth, scholars have shown an average of 3.4 months of growth thus far. This places Jefferson as the second highest growing school, behind only Balboa on the north side of town.

I am excited to see the data continue to improve as a result of expert instruction in the classroom, combined with the above-mentioned on-line programs and amazing support at home. What a perfect recipe for success! I can't wait to see what this New Year will bring!

Brent A. Perdue (he, his, him)

Principal brentp@spokaneschools.org

JANUARY 2ND, 2023



CALENDAR

December 19-January 2
Winter Break-No School

January 3
PTG Meeting Via Zoom 7pm

January 4
Leadership Meeting
3-3:45pm

January 12
Multicultural Club Meeting
3-3:45pm



STAR AWARD

Jenna S.

Alana M.

Matteo H.

Annabel B.

Kalya G.

A'Dante B.

Ashton W.

Jacob P.

James H.

Moyer D.

Rhoeman B.

Opal M.

Finnian C.



THE PTG SCOOP.....

- The next PTG meeting is Tuesday, January 3rd, 2023 on Zoom at 7pm. See you there!
- If you have children's books that aren't being used on your shelves, please donate them for our book swap during Jefferson Reading Night. Bring books for Pre-K-6th grade ages to the Jefferson Office. Thank you!
- Treats for Staff is January 4th. Can you bring a treat? Sign up [here](#).
- It's never too soon to start thinking about next year. Several PTG Board members will be transitioning away in the 2023-2024 school year, and their roles will need to be filled. Could you step in? Earlier planning opens the door for possible mentorship. Stay tuned for more information, and contact PTG with questions!

Promoting Good Attendance
All Winter Long





Every winter, bad weather — snow, slush, freezing temperatures or even heavy rains — can present challenges to getting children to school. So do the illnesses such as colds, flu, fevers and earaches that often come with the winter months. Students might also have to stay home due to Covid-19.

- 1. Develop back up plans for getting your children to school in bad weather.**
 - a. Check to see who can give your children a ride to school if you aren't able to take them or the bus doesn't arrive.
 - b. Talk with your school about forming a "walking school bus" with other families to get students to school safely.
 - c. Contact your local government if roads to school are not regularly plowed.
 - d. Join other families to clear snow from the sidewalks closest to the school.
 - e. Tell school administrators about transportation challenges, including safety, and ask if they have plans for transporting students.
- 2. Keep your children healthy.**
 - a. Maintain a regular bedtime and morning routine.
 - b. Ensure students eat a good breakfast every morning or check to see if your school serves breakfast.
 - c. Ensure your children visit their medical provider and have received their vaccines, including flu and Covid.
 - d. Stress hand washing, particularly before and after eating, and after using the restroom.
 - e. Reinforce the importance of avoiding close contact with individuals who are sick, and not sharing cups and/or utensils with others.
 - f. If your children seem anxious about going to school, ask teachers, school counselors, your medical provider and parents for advice on how to make your children feel comfortable and excited about learning.
 - g. If you are concerned your children may have Covid, call your medical provider or school nurse for advice.
- 3. Keep your children engaged in learning if they cannot attend school in person.**
 - a. Ask your teacher or school for resources that you can use at home to keep your children learning, including computer tablets, internet access and online learning platforms.
 - b. Identify who can support your children's learning at home, especially if you must go to work.
 - c. Encourage your children to call classmates and stay connected to the teacher to find out about what they missed.

WHAT CAN PARENTS DO?



To learn more about attendance and strategies that make a difference visit www.attendanceworks.org

Updated December 2022

FROM YOUR

Jefferson Scholar & Family Handbook

(located on the Jefferson Website in the "Students" dropdown menu or click [here](#))

Meal Program (page 14)

Breakfast and lunch are free for all students in Spokane Public Schools. Monthly breakfast and lunch menus can be found on the SPS website at www.spokaneschools.org/Page/380. Parents are welcome to join their students for lunch. Please check in to the office and pay for your meal with cash or check.



A "SUPER" MEAL OPTION

Both breakfast and lunch at Jefferson are part of a federally subsidized program to feed children across the United States. There are strict nutrition and portion size guidelines that schools must follow as part of being reimbursed for costs associated with the program. While all school meals are free in the United States again this year, the portion size may not be enough for all students.



Families are permitted to add money to their child's lunch account for them to order extra milk or an additional entrée. [Al-a-carte prices](#) can be found on the district's website. It is easy to add money by visiting the [School Bucks website](#) and setting up an account. There must be money on the account before a super can be requested.

Scholars ordering "supers" are asked to be discreet about the practice, as there are families who do not wish for their scholar to have this option or who may have challenges funding this extra expenditure.



CROSSING GUARDS AND NOON SUPERVISORS NEEDED!

Jefferson is in need of crossing guards and in building aides to serve as morning and afternoon crossing patrol guards, as well as for the lunchroom and playground during the noon hour. Even if you only have 2 or 3 days per week of availability, consider applying.



The wage for these positions is \$14.99 per hour. It is a great way to get outdoors, interact with students and become more involved in the school that your child or children attend. For more information, please call the Jefferson office at 354-3200 between the hours of 8 and 4 pm.

CHESS ANYONE?

Young chess players have been gathering in Mr. LaBarre's classroom a couple times per week to take part in Jefferson's chess club. The club, open to 4th-6th grade students, teaches strategy and provides plenty of opportunity to play this age-old game.

