

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

Good day to you,

In "[Mathematical Mindsets](#)," Jo Boaler surfaces some interesting findings when looking at what employers seek most from prospective employees. She highlights a TED talk given by Conrad Wolfram, director of Wolfram-Alpha, a highly successful mathematics company. In his talk, Wolfram shares that 80% of school mathematics is spent performing calculations by hand, something that now can be done by calculators and computers. What companies need, rather, are employees who "ask good questions, set up models, analyze results and interpret mathematical answers." (Boaler 27)



This was not always the case. In 1970, "computational skills" was the second most important skill that Fortune 500 companies were seeking. Interestingly, in 1999 computational skills ranked 12th, behind skills such as teamwork, problem solving, interpersonal skills, oral communications, listening skills and others. And in today's work world, computational skills have likely fallen even farther in importance.

What does this mean for a Jefferson Elementary School mathematician? It does not mean that students no longer need to know how to arrive at answers, or to understand how to calculate. What it does mean, is that more and more time will be spent in thinking deeply about mathematics, solving meaningful real-world problems, and embracing the challenge and struggle that come with this practice.

And this is where mindset comes in. "The powerful thinkers in today's world are not those who can calculate fast, as used to be true; fast calculations are now fully automated, routine and uninspiring. The powerful thinkers are those who make connections, think logically, and use space, data, and numbers creatively." (Boaler 31) So, if the greatest mathematical minds in the world think slowly and deeply about math, it is about time we let our children do the same.

In the words of Jo Boaler, Viva the Revolution!

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

CALENDAR

March 7

PTG Meeting, 7:00pm, in person and on Zoom

March 9

March 9 – Sports Day!
(Wear your favorite sports clothes to school. No sports equipment should be brought to school.)
STEM Expo, 5-7pm

March 10

4th Grade Field Trip to SFCC for Drama Performance

March 20

PTG Sponsored Missoula Children's Theater Auditions for Rumpelstiltskin, 3-5pm

March 24

Missoula Children's Theater Performance of Rumpelstiltskin, 6:30pm

March 25

Missoula Children's Theater Performance of Rumpelstiltskin, 3:00pm

MARCH 3RD, 2023

THE PTG SCOOP.....

- 5th and 6th Grade Parents: You should have received an email from the Memory Book Committee (via your child's teacher) regarding submitting permission forms and photos. PLEASE get these needed items in soon if you haven't already.
- Jefferson students in grades K-5 have the opportunity to participate in the play Rumpelstiltskin from the Missoula Children's Theater and happening at Jefferson! Tryouts are March 20th, with shows on the 24th and 25th. See flyers for details.
- The next PTG Meeting will be Tues March 7th at 7pm in the Library and on Zoom. See you there!

STEM EXPO SERIES COMING SOON

This Thursday, March 9th, will be Jefferson's first STEM EXPO! The event takes place from 5:00-7:00pm. There will be over 40 exhibits, demonstrations and guest speakers that would love to talk all things STEM!



Are you and your young scholar curious about what STEM looks like at Sacajawea or LC? Come talk with some student scientists and engineers about what they are doing to help the community.

There will be scientists and engineers of all ages sharing their passion and how they use their passion to make the world a better place.

There are still some tables available. Jefferson would love to have you present if you have a hobby or a STEM related profession. If interested, please contact Melissa Percy at melissape@spokaneschools.org or Kate Kearney at mkkearney@gmail.com.

There will also be a Student STEM Expo on Thursday, April 13th, from 5-7pm.

Don't miss out! The March event will focus on adult scientists in our community. Then, the April event will see our own Jefferson Patriots' STEM projects, with community members who take part in the March event being invited back to join in the celebration of STEM being presented by young Jefferson scientists!

STAR AWARD

- Molly W.
- Levi K.
- Noah K.-D.
- Parker J.
- Eleanor T.
- Logan D.
- Koji M.
- Colton M.
- Alec B.
- Martin S.
- Logan A.
- Gabe C.
- Ella H.
- Liliana A.
- Samantha R.
- Alex F.
- Nathan S.
- Zachary F.
- Alessandra B.J.
- Jack C.



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, to the use of a trained 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. The following Civil Rights Compliance Coordinators have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination:
•Civil Rights Coordinator and Title IX Coordinator: Jodi Harmon, 509-354-7344
•Section 504 Coordinator: Melanie Smith, 509-354-7284

FROM YOUR

Jefferson Scholar & Family Handbook

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

Helping Your Child With School (page 12)

Jefferson encourages families to be highly involved with their children's activities at school.

Following are some things you can do to help your child with his/her school life:

Partner with teachers, principals, nurse, counselor and other school personnel.

Show enthusiasm and interest in the things your child is doing in school

Help your child understand the need to be considerate of others and to respect their property and rights.

Encourage your child to tell you about school activities and listen sincerely when he/she does.

Call the school when unsure of school-related matters.

Hear both the child's and the teacher's version of a controversial issue.

Praise your child for work well done and praise him/her for improvement. (Improvement may take place in work and study habits, conduct, attitude and specific skills.)

Respect your child's turn in the family to help him/her learn to do so at school.

Visit school often and accept invitations for classroom and school activities.

Help your child schedule time so that he/she has an opportunity for study time at home when necessary.



TEACHERS GO TO SCHOOL

Tuesday, February 21 saw Jefferson teachers "go to school" as part of a Professional Learning Improvement Day. Jefferson's School Improvement Plan, something all schools in SPS draft in the fall of each year, was the driver for the day. The morning was spent on diving deeper on ensuring all scholars have a sense of belonging and on how we can better include scholars with special needs within our general education classroom environments. The afternoon saw teachers continuing their learning journeys with [Universal Design for Learning](#), a framework for planning instruction that reaches all students and builds on a learner's need for autonomy and self-efficacy to deepen both learning outcomes and engagement. The end of the day saw staff choosing from offerings on equity, the [ZONES of Regulation](#), supporting scholars with autism and technology integration. It was a powerful day of learning and collaboration for teachers.

