

# 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

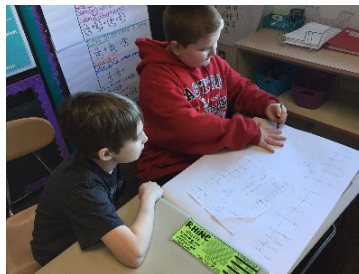
Greetings Jefferson community,

*In last week's Principal's Corner, I shared some of the findings about math anxiety, something that is exacerbated by the United States' obsession with speed, rather than deep thinking, in mathematics. Nowhere is this more apparent than with math facts, and the belief that timed tests and flashcards are the pathway to being a "good" mathematician.*

*As promised, this week I will share better ways of helping students learn fluidity with math facts as a component of overall Number Sense, which is best described as an ability to easily and fluidly break apart and assemble numbers in ways that allow efficient, and often mental, calculations.*

*Let's begin with some research findings noted by Jo Boaler, in "[Mathematical Mindsets](#)."*

Brain researchers studied students learning math facts in two ways. One approach was through strategies; for example, learning  $17 \times 8$  by working out  $17 \times 10$  (170) and subtracting  $17 \times 2$  (34); the other strategy was memorization of the facts ( $17 \times 8 = 136$ ). They found that both pathways are perfectly good for lifelong use. Importantly, though, the study also found that those who learned through strategies achieved "superior performance" over those who memorized; they solved test questions at the same speed and showed better transfer to new problems. The brain researchers concluded that automaticity should be reached through understanding of numerical relations, achieved through thinking about number strategies. (Boaler 39)



*In a recent study:*

Scientists examined students' brains as they were taught to memorize math facts. They saw that some students memorized them much more easily than others... but the researchers found that the students who memorized more easily were not higher achieving; they did not have what the researchers described as more "math

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**MARCH 20<sup>TH</sup>, 2023**

## CALENDAR

### March 20

PTG Sponsored Missoula Children's Theater Auditions for Rumpelstiltskin 3-5pm  
Chess Club 3-4pm

### March 21

Chess Club 3-4pm  
Unicycle Club 3-4pm

### March 21-23

Missoula Children's Theater Rehearsals 3-5pm

### March 22

Chess Club 3-4pm

### March 23

Dormant Oil Spray of Trees & Shrubs  
Unicycle Club 3-4pm

### March 24

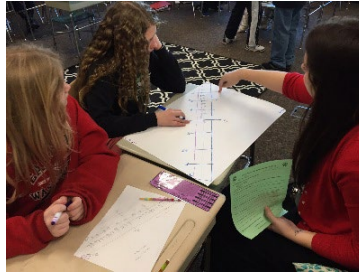
Missoula Children's Theater Performance of Rumpelstiltskin 6:30pm  
(Free Admission/  
Donations Accepted)

### March 25

Missoula Children's Theater Performance of Rumpelstiltskin 3:00pm  
(Free Admission/

## Principal's Corner Continued

ability,” nor did they have higher IQ scores (Supekar et al., 2013). The only differences the researchers found were in a brain region called the hippocampus. The hippocampus, like other brain regions, is not fixed and can grow at any time... but it will always be the case that some students are faster or slower when memorizing and this has **nothing to do with mathematics potential**. (emphasis added, Boaler 40)



*As our journey continues, you will see more and more focus on strategy and pattern usage as we focus on the development of Number Sense over the mere memorization of facts and procedures. I continue to be excited by what I am seeing in classrooms at Jefferson and know that while it will take some time, you will see a different type of young mathematician sitting across from the table from you at dinner.*

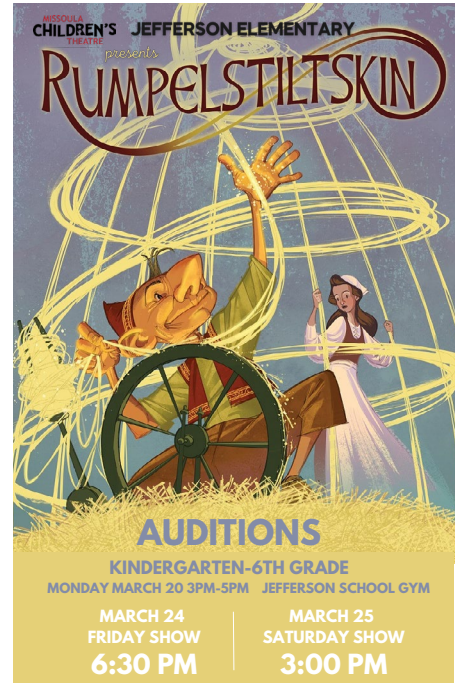
*Make it a great mathematical day!*

*Brent P. Anderson*, his, him)

Principal [brentp@spokaneschools.org](mailto:brentp@spokaneschools.org)

## THE PTG SCOOP

- 5th and 6th Grade Parents: PLEASE get the needed items for the Memory Book in soon if you haven't already. Email is [jeffersonpatriotmemories@gmail.com](mailto:jeffersonpatriotmemories@gmail.com)
- Jefferson students in grades K-6 have the opportunity to participate in the play, Rumpelstiltskin, from the Missoula Children's Theater happening at Jefferson. Tryouts are March 20th with shows on the 24th and 25th. See flyers for details.
- The next PTG Meeting will be Tuesday April 11th at 7pm in the Library and on Zoom. See you there!
- If your student would like to participate in the upcoming Science Fair on April 13th, please help them fill out the application (available [here](#)).



CLASS PRIDE THROUGH AND THROUGH  
Congratulations to Ms. Tinney's 3rd graders for recently filling up the 60 spaces on their classroom PRIDE poster!

Classrooms at Jefferson can earn stickers for their PRIDE posters when



they collectively meet PRIDE expectations across the building. When their poster is filled with stars, classes receive a Smart Snack compliant treat and extra recess with Mr. Perdue or Mrs. Gage. The five PRIDE expectations include:

Positive Problem Solver

Responsible Citizen

Independent Learner

Doing My Best

Earning and Giving Respect



**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](http://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.

**STEM EXPO BRINGS OUT THE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS!**

On Thursday, March 9, Jefferson welcomed scientists from our local community, sharing their hobbies and professions with our STEM enthusiasts! A few of the presenters included the National Audubon Society, WSU Master Gardeners, Gonzaga Biology Neuroscience "Holding A Brain," Ice Age Flood Institute, Lewis and Clark High School Science Club and Sacajawea Advanced Engineering students.



Mark your calendars for Thursday, April 13th, when the tables will be turned and young Jefferson scientists will be running their own STEM Expo for the adults!

More pictures from the event can be found on Jefferson's Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/jeffersonelementaryspokane>) and Instagram ([www.instagram.com/jeffersonelementaryspokane](http://www.instagram.com/jeffersonelementaryspokane)) pages.

**PESTICIDE APPLICATION ALERT**

Jefferson's annual dormant oil spray will be applied to the trees and shrubs around the school on March 23. This spray application consists of one gallon of mineral oil mixed in 80 gallons of water to cover and kill dormant insect eggs that overwinter in our area.

Jefferson will take steps to keep school children away from these areas for 24 hours following the application of spray. We would like to ask that you and your children refrain from brushing up against or playing around the trees and shrubs at our school. A variation from this schedule may occur as a result of inclement weather.



Marshall C.

Ryan S.

Fletcher B.

Molly S.

Ruby G.

Anders C.

Emma S.

Jacob L.

Finn T.

Harley B.

Declan D.

Orin J.

Aly S.

Ben S.

Guthrie L.

Alyssa K.

Chloe G.

Alexandra T. A.

