



The

January 2016

JAG WIRIE

Jefferson Elementary School Monthly Newsletter

Principal's Corner

Hello Jaguar Families and Happy New Year! It was so lovely to see our Jaguars come back to school, albeit a day later than expected. It did not take us long to get back in our school routine and now we are rocking and rolling into January.

**“I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it.”
-Nelson Mandela**

Our behavior focus for January is COURAGE. A new year seems to encourage people to try something new and take a risk they normally would not consider. As a school community we will celebrate acts of courage this month, both big and small.

This brings me to a question I have been presented with quite a bit in the last few months – should parents prevent their children from failing? Our first instinct as parents is to protect our children from any harm – whether it be physical or social-emotional. But what if preventing them from experiencing failure is impeding their progress to become successful young adults? Jessica Lahey is a teacher, an author, and a parent who wrote a book all about this topic called *The Gift of Failure*. In her book, she puts forward the following idea: “Out of love and a desire to protect our children’s self-esteem, we have bulldozed every uncomfortable bump and obstacle out of their way, depriving our children of the most important lesson of childhood: that setbacks, mistakes and failures are the very experiences that will teach them how to be resourceful, persistent, innovative and resilient.”

As you most of you are aware, my children are 18 and 20 years old. Whenever one of them wanted to give up or give in, my husband and I would recite the family mantra, “Harders Never Quit.” A silly statement for sure, but I have come to appreciate the deeper meaning behind it. When George wanted to drop a math class to prevent his earning a ‘B’, we reminded him that Harders Never Quit. When Elisia wanted to quit softball because she could not field a ball to save her life, we reminded her that Harders Never Quit. Our bigger message to both of our kids was that a person does not have to have a perfectly successful experience to make it a worthwhile endeavor. All experiences have value whether they are successful or not.

Jessica Lahey points out, “The sooner parents learn to appreciate the positive aspects of hardship and allow children to benefit from the upside of failure, the sooner all of us will have the opportunity to share in... moments of pride....” Those not-so-perfect experiences, like earning not getting that ‘A’ (*gasp!*) or not catching every ball sent to right field, helps children to understand that all experiences provide an opportunity to learn more about themselves. It also helps them to be unafraid of challenges and gives them tools to approach unfamiliar situations. What an amazing gift to give to our children as they move into adulthood.

Go Jaguars!

Jefferson Java, January 20

8:15-9:15, Jefferson Library

Topic: Smarter Balanced Assessment

- Understanding the Smarter Balanced Assessment
- Taking a look at the question types
- The Assessment Schedule for Jefferson



Message from the JPAT President



As I was poking around on Facebook the other day, I ran across an article written by a former teacher who was disheartened – even despondent – about her children’s elementary school experience. Too many tests. Not enough fun. From the author’s perspective, her kids were not learning enough about being whole people and were focused too much on paperwork.

Luckily, after reading the article the main thing I felt was grateful for all the ways my kids’ elementary school experience is different from what this parent described.

There are a lot of factors that go into making an elementary school great. But there is no doubt that one important factor at Jefferson is all of the ways that funds raised by JPAT help to create a well-rounded student experience.

What is it worth to you to make sure that our kids have access to art instruction, band, and a full-fledged 5th grade musical? Do you value their opportunity to participate in clubs, help to plant a garden, and have access to an enhanced library program?

For me, as a parent, these opportunities are priceless.

But as JPAT President, I know that they come with a specific cost. Contributions from JPAT supported \$60,000 worth of programs and supplies at Jefferson this year.

We earn that money primarily through three major fundraisers. The first of these, the Direct Donation Drive, was supposed to end on December 31st. But we fell significantly short of our \$14,000 goal – we’ve brought in about \$9,000 to date.

We still need to raise \$5,000 to reach our goal for this fundraiser.

If you haven’t yet contributed to the DDD, please consider chipping in what you can. Fewer than 25% of Jefferson families have contributed so far – if 100 more families each give \$50, we’ll meet our goal. Or if 200 families give \$25, we’ll also get there. Together, we can support the programs that help to make Jefferson a vibrant learning environment with opportunities for every child to excel.

Go Jaguars!

*Nina Erlich-Williams
2015-16 JPAT President*

Mark Your Calendar

January

- 4 School Resumes
- 6 Walk/Bike/Bus to School Day
- 12 JPAT Meeting, 6:30pm, Library
- 15 2-Hour Early Dismissal, 12:40pm
- 18 Non-Contract Day- NO SCHOOL
- 20 Jefferson Java, 8:15am, Library
- 22 Sock Hop, 6:30-8:00pm, Gym
- 24 Wildlife Stewards work party
- 26 Dine Out- Laughing Planet

February

- 2 Hearing Screening K,1,3
- 3 WB2S Day
- 4-5 NO SCHOOL
- 9 JPAT Meeting, 6:30pm, Library
- 10-11 Jog-A-Thon, Gym
- 16 Dine Out- American Dream (downtown location only)
- 17 Jefferson Java, 8:15am, Library
- 19 Carnival, 6:00-8:30pm
- 21 Wildlife Stewards Work Party
- 26 NO SCHOOL

JPAT BOARD

PRESIDENT: NINA ERLICH-WILLIAMS
VICE PRESIDENT: CHRISTY KOEGLER
SECRETARY: AMY MAYFIELD
TREASURER: BRANDI FUHRMAN

Bring in Your Box Tops!

Please continue to collect Box Tops and Labels for Education and have your child drop them off in the red classroom collection box.

Every Box Top and Label helps Jefferson Elementary!



Sarah Bastian and Wendy McLemore, Co-chairs of the Box Tops and Labels for Education Committee

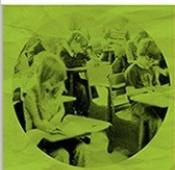
Do you shop at First Alternative Co-op?

First Alternative donates to schools in two ways – by allowing customers to “round-up” at checkout and donating the additional amount to a school – and by donating a percentage of your purchases to a school. To round up, just tell the cashier you wish to do so and to donate to Jefferson Elementary. For the percentage donation, owners may fill out a form to tie their ownership number to Jefferson (please note that the purchases will not be tracked to your ownership number for dividend reasons). Non-owners may simply tell the cashier they wish to donate to Jefferson.

Dining For Dollars FOR JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY

Laughing Planet Cafe
127 NW 2nd St

15 % to JPAT
support art, music and more



TUESDAY
JAN. 26
all day

Don't Miss the Sock Hop!

Everyone is invited for fun and dancing from the '50s! Hosted by our awesome Master of Ceremonies — Mr. Yeh!



Where: Jefferson Gym

When: Friday, January 22nd 6:30-8:00pm

Who: All Jefferson kids and families

Drinks and popcorn are provided. Please bring a dozen of your favorite treats to share. Mark if gluten-free.

The Jefferson Garden

You may have noticed a cascading wooden structure in the garden. Much thanks goes to Bill Young who generously built the raised work-table and raised garden beds. The Jefferson Garden has been quiet over the holiday break, except one windy day that blew the top off the composting bin. January will be another quiet month, but hopefully shoots will appear in February, if the many bulbs we planted were not damaged by the soil-soaking rains of this past December.

Marc Curtis, Garden Coordinator, Wellness Committee

Notes from the Office & Health Room

Corvallis School District Student Transfer Process for the 2016-2017 School Year:

- **2016-2017** Corvallis School District student transfers may be requested through our online process. A link for the 2016-17 school year will be provided on the CSD homepage <http://www.csd509j.net> beginning **March 1, 2016**.
- **March 1 – 31, 2016** – Open window when parents may request in-district and inter-district transfers into Corvallis 509j schools for the 2016-17 school year.
- **April 2016** – Offers of enrollment and school wait lists will be created from the online requests received in March.
- **April and May 2016** – Parents will be notified with offers of enrollment or placement on wait lists.
- **Parents are expected to enroll students at their neighborhood boundary schools until a transfer request is approved.**

IMPORTANT IMMUNIZATION INFORMATION

If you received a letter regarding your child's immunizations being incomplete, please be sure to obtain the immunizations to bring your child up to date and check in with the office to update our records with any new information.

Names of students with incomplete immunizations are required by law to be submitted to the Health Department on January 13, 2016 in order to begin the review process for exclusion from school on February 17, 2016. Students who are not current will not be allowed to attend school until they receive all their required immunizations on or after this date.

Due to vaccination law changes, a student who previously had a religious exemption to any vaccine signed prior to March 1, 2014 must have new documentation on file. You will need to do one of the following:

- If your child has since received these vaccines, please update the immunization record in the office.
- Obtain a new non-medical exemption. Information on this process can be found here: <http://public.health.oregon.gov/PreventionWellness/VaccinesImmunization/GettingImmunized/Pages/non-medical-exemption.aspx#get>
- Obtain a medical exemption. This requires a statement from your child's physician. This will be presented to the health department, where it will either be approved or denied.

If you have any questions about these changes, please feel free to contact the Corvallis School District nurses assigned to Jefferson: Trish Pokrzywa, 541-757-3854

Please contact the office if you have any questions.

Dress for the Weather!

Students go outside for much needed fresh air and exercise during morning and lunch recess EVERY DAY. Please make sure your student is sent to school with a water-resistant coat as well as hats, gloves, and boots (as you deem necessary). This makes their time outside much more enjoyable.



It is a GREAT idea to write your child's name inside their coats and hats. Many items end up in our Lost and Found and are eventually donated to local charities. An extra set of clothes in their backpack can also be a good idea in case your child needs a change of clothes during the day.

Messages to Teacher

Delivering notes and calling classrooms between 8:05 a.m. – 2:40 p.m. interrupts precious classroom instruction time. To help protect this valuable instruction time, please send a written note with your child to give the teacher when they arrive at school if you need to:

- change after school plans from the normal routine such as ride the bus home when they are usually picked up, etc.; or
- take your child out of school during the day or early for doctor, dentist, orthodontist, etc. appointments.

Thank you for your help with this.



Time to Arrive at School

All students may enter the school at 7:50 a.m. to eat breakfast. Mrs. Crane will open the front doors so students know they can enter the school. The bell rings at 8:05 a.m. for students to be released to classrooms. At 8:15 a.m., students are tardy and need to check into the office.

Absent or Tardy?

If your child will be absent or tardy, please call the Attendance Line the day of the absence by 8:15 a.m. at 541-757-5782.