

# Jeffrey NEWS FLASH

## Principally Speaking

Dear Parents,

As parents and educators, we desire the same thing for our children, the best possible education. We are committed to every child's success. It is essential that equitable, balanced classes be assembled, which reflect what teachers know about the conditions under which your child best functions. You can be sure that throughout the placement process one concern will be foremost in our minds, that your child will be in a classroom in which he or she flourishes both academically and socially.

Meetings for placements in grades one through four will take place during the months of May and June. At each grade level, the classroom teachers and all our professional staff will meet to provide input for placement for the 2005/2006 school year.

As you may know, each of our classes is comprised of a heterogeneous group of children. When we develop our classes, we consider reading and math abilities, gender, learning style/teaching style, behavioral patterns, peer relationships, and overall class balance.

The professional staff has the responsibility to determine the best placement for each child. If your child has needs, which are not already known to the school, or if you would like to share your view of your child's learning style, please submit this in writing to me by Friday, May 13. We can then utilize this information in the placement process. We are not able to consider requests for individual teachers but ask that you provide us with the necessary information that will enable us to select the best placement for your child.

We appreciate your input and will give it serious consideration. Through a collaborative partnership, we are confident that we can provide the best possible instructional program for every child.

Sincerely,

Mona Goodman



## At a Glance

### TEAM UPDATE

TEAM is working hard to preserve the quality of education in Madison. The budget referendum is set for May 24, 2005. If you need to register to vote, you may do so at the Town Clerk's office located in Town Campus. They are open from 8:30 am to 4:00 PM, Monday - Friday. To find out more information about TEAM and education in Madison, please go to [www.TEAMmadison.org](http://www.TEAMmadison.org).

### LOST & FOUND

Please come check the Big Gray Box for missing sweaters, jackets, sweatshirts and lunchboxes (behind the cafeteria). Durham Transit also has a Lost & Found box at the Bradley Road office for items left on busses.

## Kindergarten News

The kindergarten rooms have been "eggs-traordinarily" busy! With the approach of spring, our rooms are buzzing with spring themes including weather, eggs, bunnies, and dental health. These thematic units are being incorporated into our learning journals, as well as into our literacy center rotations for some "hands-on" learning.

We are continuing to celebrate our letters each week as well. There aren't too many letters left, so many of us are playing games and finding various ways to review the letters and their sounds. We also continue to practice and review our sight words!

Many rooms are writing and illustrating fiction and non-fiction stories. The children are beginning with "sloppy copies" where they "test the waters" of being authors and illustrators. These sloppy copies are turned into published books in which the children illustrate each page carefully. Upon completion, many classrooms do an Author Share. During this time, the author/illustrator proudly shares his/her book with the class. Compliments are then gladly received! It is such a rewarding process for the children to see their completed work, and to hear how much their peers enjoy their hard work. These books are kept in the classroom until our end of the year "Writing Celebration." These promise to delight all!

## Grade 1 News

The young scientists in first grade have been classifying, observing, communicating, questioning, predicting and measuring. It's dinosaur time and the students are learning important science concepts about dinosaurs and the time when they lived. They are learning about the three periods of dinosaurs: Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous. This timeline of dinosaurs helps the students understand that not all of the dinosaurs were on earth at the same time. Students are learning that vegetation and land formations were different in each period and to distinguish the features of a meat eater from a plant eater as well as those dinosaurs that walked on two legs and four legs. Students have become knowledgeable about fossils and are exploring the possible reasons the dinosaurs became extinct. There are many new and interesting facts that replace old theories in the ever-changing world of dinosaurs.

Students are learning key concepts about the dinosaur period while reading and writing both fact and fiction. They are also creating clay dinosaurs to go in our dioramas, making fossil necklaces, erupting volcanoes and painting dinosaur t-shirts. Dinosaurs have invaded all areas of our curriculum!

## Grade 2 News

Spring is proving to be a very busy and exciting time for Second Grade. Flat Stanley was sent to the far reaches of the United States and is coming back with more information and souvenirs than we ever imagined! Relatives and friends from many states took the time to take Stanley on amazing adventures and wrote wonderful letters back to the students. This project has given us the opportunity to explore the United States in a personal way and has made for meaningful learning in the classroom. The children truly enjoyed getting to know their country and it was much more meaningful to them due to the Flat Stanley project.

Second grades will soon be exploring the ocean depths. We are looking forward to our coastal study at Hammonasset State Park in May. Some of the topics of study include shells, the rocky shore, coral reef, ocean zones and the many creatures that inhabit our waters.

All of the second grades continue to work in small, guided reading groups and we are thrilled with how much the children have grown in this area. The children can't wait to join their reading group as the books are becoming more challenging and interesting.

Writing lessons continue to build upon elaboration of characters, settings and objects. Techniques we are practicing include building suspense, writing detailed main events and creating "Great Endings." All parents of second graders should be very proud of the stories their children have crafted this winter (thank you typing volunteers)! What an accomplishment! The children are looking forward to applying what they learn to their spring stories.

In math, we have completed our unit on geometry and measurement and are presently exploring 3-digit place value. Students have the opportunity to play games and use manipulatives to reinforce and help them understand the many math concepts we study. As we move through the spring, we will concentrate on more addition and subtraction strategies, fractions, time, money, probability and multiplication and division concepts.

We want to remind parents to help their children dress appropriately in this unpredictable weather. While the mornings are chilly, as recess time approaches the air warms up. It might be helpful to dress in layers on these days.

## Grade 3 News

January and February were months to remember famous people like Martin Luther King Jr., George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. The third grade classes have learned about well-known figures in past or present history through a biography study. Classes took notes on a variety of distinguished people. Additionally, children chose a biography to read on their own. During the month of February our students presented their biography reports to their classmates in the form of a speech. Students dressed up as their famous person. We enjoyed meeting and greeting these famous people roaming the third grade halls of Jeffrey School.

As part of our Countries of the World unit, our world travelers have selected countries to study far and wide. Now they are beginning to gather information about people, customs, geography, and government. The students will be learning and practicing many new research skills as they search for interesting facts about their chosen countries. Classroom activities include making maps and flags from around the world, writing speeches, and learning to sing many international songs. Join us at the International Festival on Friday, May 20th to see the culmination of this exciting unit!

April is poetry month! Third grade has been reading poetry by Shel Silverstein, Jack Prelutsky, Robert Frost, Eve Merriam and many more. Students have been introduced to various types of poetry such as Couplets, Haiku, Free Verse and Acrostic. In Writer's Workshop, the children have had opportunities to write poetry using the various forms. As we travel around the world in our study of countries, the students will be learning to identify poetry from different parts of the globe.

The third grade has been dividing its time between learning division and multiplication concepts. Students are beginning to learn the relationship between multiplication and division and should continue to study facts at home on a regular basis. Problem solving is an ongoing activity that we explore in our classrooms on a daily basis. We encourage our students to use a variety of strategies as we look at new and different ways to solve problems.

Weather patterns all around affect our daily lives. Our third graders are studying the water cycle and how the sun's energy heats our earth. In addition, students are writing reports, designing posters and dioramas and experimenting with scientific observations. As information is collected, children will present their results to their classmates. Stay tuned for further details from your local Jeffrey meteorologist!

On Friday, May 6th our classes will attend Ballet Hispanico at the Shubert Theater in New Haven. This international performance features dances that are closely related to traditional folk dances found in the regions of Latin America. This trip, which is funded by the Parents' Council, is sure to be a wonderful treat. Please look for details in your child's backpack very soon.

### SAVE THE DATE!

THIRD GRADE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL  
FRIDAY, MAY 20TH

## Grade 4 News

Fourth grade students are busy with activities designed to give them the opportunity to make connections between the curriculum and the world around them. As part of this experience, children in fourth grade have begun to study the life in colonial times as they explore the rich heritage of our country. On June 3rd, students will have the opportunity to try different arts and crafts during a colonial day rotation. Below are the descriptions of the various arts and crafts students will experience on colonial day rotation.

### Our craft rotation will consist of:

The craft of weaving has been around long before the colonists settled in the New World. Native Americans have been weaving baskets and rugs for centuries. During colonial craft rotations, students will construct, with Mrs. Cinquino's guidance, a portable lightweight loom to learn the basics of weaving. A brief history of weaving will also be discussed.

The fine art of marbleizing was first developed in Turkey in the 1100's. It is the process of streaking, mottling, or veining paper to make it look like a marble surface. It was a way to enhance the outside cover of a book, before jackets were made. The tradition traveled to America in the Colonial 1600's. Students in Miss Marshall's rotation will learn the art of marbleizing as they use inks to create the illusion of marble paper.

In Mrs. Sullivan's rotation, children will learn the art of tin-smithing. This skill was used to produce silverware, lanterns, and everyday necessities. Students will have the opportunity to create a design commonly used at the time.

In Mrs. Ouimet's stenciling class, children will have the chance to practice a decorative art that goes back even before the colonial era. This craft was practiced in various forms on wood, tin, furniture, and walls. Students will have an opportunity to try their hand at some authentic motifs as well as contemporary patterns.

In Mrs. Healey's rotation the art of quilling will be taught. Quilling is a craft in which paper strips are rolled into two and three-dimensional designs. It was used by colonial women to decorate items in their homes, such as candle scones and tea caddies.

Students will also sit, as many colonial children did, to have their silhouette "cut". During the 16th and 17th centuries silhouette artists traveled from town to town offering to cut the children's silhouettes for very little money. Because there were no cameras and oil portraits were so costly, parents jumped at the opportunity to have these likenesses of their children. Silhouettes will proudly be hung on each bulletin board. If you are in school be sure to check them out and see if you can tell which silhouette is your child.

On June 9th, the fourth grade will take part in Colonial Day at the Deacon John Graves House. On Colonial Day students and teachers will dress in colonial fashion as if they were in the colonial times. We will use role-playing to act out what a typical day for a colonial child was like and students will enjoy learning colonial style games. In addition, on May 25th, students will spend a day in Sturbridge Village where they will experience colonial life firsthand.

# Teacher Profiles

## Denise Chabot

First Grade Teacher

**My Background:** I taught for 3 years in Westport, Connecticut and this is my 13th year in Madison!

**My Favorite Part of the School Day:** Literacy Centers because I can get creative with the activities and I love teaching reading.

What seems different about school to me now: Assessments, portfolios...the list goes on. The children are so much further ahead than when I was in first grade.

**My Favorite Hobbies:** Jewelry making, drawing, knitting, skiing and biking.

**My Favorite Team:** I love the Boston Red Sox!!

**My Family:** I live in Waterford with my husband and two daughters, Casey (10) and Julie (7). We enjoy soccer games on the weekends and traveling to Hilton Head, SC in the summer with our friends.

## Shirley Kiely

First Grade Teacher

**My Background:** This is my 23rd year teaching in Madison! I taught Kindergarten for 12 years, multi-age for 7 years and this is my fourth year as a first grade teacher.

**My Favorite Part of the School Day:** Teaching creative writing (Writer's Workshop). The children are so proud of what they have written and they delight in illustrating and sharing their stories. It is always a special experience for me to help them develop their writing skills and to watch their creativity grow.

**My Favorite Hobbies:** I love to read and I also like just about everything outdoors. In the summer I go for long walks and spend many happy hours in my flower garden. In the winter as a family we spend most weekends in Vermont as we love all winter sports.

**My Family:** My husband Jim and I have two grown children with families of their own. We have four grandchildren; the youngest (Madalyn Rose) is three years old and the apple of everyone's eye.

## Yvonne Pinette

First Grade Teacher

**My Background:** I taught at Brown School 1993-97, Grade 6 Science & Language Arts and 1997-04 at Academy Elementary, Grades 5, 3, and 1.

**Favorite part of the School Day:** Writing Lessons - I love to write myself and so I really enjoy teaching kids how to do it.

What seems different about school to me now: We ask kids to do so much more now. I'm sure I never had to write a whole story in first Grade!

**My Favorite Hobbies:** Cooking, reading and being outdoors.

**My Family:** I have one daughter, Julia age 7, who is in Grade 2.

## Bethany Taylor

First Grade Teacher

**My Background:** I taught Kindergarten for 4 years at the Town Campus Kindergarten Center; this is my first year in first grade.

**My Favorite Part of the School Day:** Reading-I love helping children become confident and enthusiastic readers.

What seems different about school to me now: Kindergarten was play, story time, socialization and naps! First grade was letters and numbers and sitting at desks. It feels as though everything has moved ahead one year.

**My Favorite Hobbies:** I love reading a good action-packed book! I also enjoy swimming, walking, cooking for my family and going to the movies.

**My Favorite Team:** Whichever soccer teams my son happens to be on!

**My Family:** I was recently married. My son is 8 and attends Ryerson. My step-daughter is 18 and attends SUNY. My parents live in Madison and see us often!

## MaryEllen Babik

Second Grade Teacher

**My Background:** I have been teaching for 12 years. I have taught ninth, fifth, multiage and second grade.

**My Favorite Part of the School Day:** Everything! It really does not matter what the subject matter may be, when a child grasps whatever you're guiding them to.

What seems different about school to me now: Many things have changed and many things have stayed the same. Teachers have taken on many new rolls other than delivering instruction.

**My Favorite Hobbies:** Painting and collecting art glass.

**My Favorite Team:** I am a Giants and Red Sox Fan!

## Lisa Caldwell

Second Grade Teacher

**My Background:** 2004-2005 marks my fourth year teaching second grade in Madison.

**My Favorite Part of the School Day:** I love to meet and greet my students every morning and to have the opportunity to share in our morning meeting. Whether it is about the book they are currently reading or the flag football game they won over the weekend. It is a great chance to not only discuss academic concepts but to really get to know the kids and develop a close-knit classroom community.

What seems different about school to me now: No more corporal punishment (just kidding!). I have to say the hands-on approach to learning in today's environment. Children today have much greater opportunities academically. We also consider the children's learning style when that wasn't even thought about years ago.

**My Favorite Hobbies:** I love to garden, play with my daughter and new puppy and read, read, read!

**My Favorite Teams:** GO YANKEES!

# Teacher Profiles

**My Family:** My daughter Sophie is 8 years old and in third grade. My husband, Jack, is a musician and a partner at the Wall Street Gallery in Madison. He will take care of all your picture framing needs!

## Christa Laragy

Second Grade Teacher

**My Background:** This is my 14th year teaching. My first year I taught 4th grade at Our Lady of Mercy School in Madison and then I taught fifth and sixth grade in East Hartford and fourth grade in Waterford. I have spent the last 6 years teaching second grade in Madison.

**My Favorite Part of the School Day:** Writer's Workshop-second graders blossom as writers over the course of the year!

What seems different about school to me now: Social and academic learning go hand in hand. Children are given and learn many concrete examples of how to treat others the way they want to be treated.

**My Favorite Hobbies:** Spending time with my children, reading and going to the beach!

**My Family:** My husband and I have a 5 year old daughter, 2 year old son and a Springer spaniel.

## Jean Stewart

Multiage Teacher

**My Background:** I have taught Kindergarten, first grade and now multi-age.

**My Favorite Part of the School Day:** I love reading aloud to the children—especially a chapter book like “Stuart Little”.

What seems different about school to me now: I went home for lunch with my Mom.

**My Favorite Hobbies:** Going to New York City

**My Favorite Teams:** The Yankees and New York Giants!

**My Family:** I have 3 children, ages 24, 21 and 18.

## Cindi Gardner

Multiage Teacher

**My Background:** I have taught first and second grades and now multi-age.

**My Favorite Part of the School Day:** Reading chapter books to children

**My Favorite Hobbies:** Going to New York City

**My Favorite Teams:** The Yankees and New York Giants!

**My Family:** I have 2 girls in college and 1 in high school.

## Sandra Brand

Third Grade Teacher

**My Background:** I taught first grade in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, third grade and gifted at A.W. Cox School in Guilford and grades 3, 4 and 5 at Academy School in Madison.

**My Favorite Part of the School Day:** Reading and Writing - I love poetry and making kids love it too! It's a wonder how you

can plant these reading and writing seeds.

What seems different about school to me now: Kids used to sit in their seats and be quiet in yester years. Today we get to move and learn in all sorts of groups-buddies, small groups and we even get to talk and learn from each other.

**My Favorite Hobbies:** I love gardening, reading and golf. If you are looking for me, I'm in the garden!

**Favorite Team:** YANKEES - love them!

**My Family:** My husband Myron is a GI Doctor and the Director of the new Shoreline Emergency Facility. I have 3 children. My son, Doug, works for Campbell Soup in Finance in Philadelphia; my daughter, Erica, is in law school at Berkley in California and married to Ben; my son, Dan, works for Bank of America in New York City.

## Maura Doxsee

Third Grade Teacher

**My Background:** I have always taught third grade. I started at Jeffrey for one year, moved to Ryerson and now back to Jeffrey.

**My Favorite Part of the School Day:** SSR (sustained silent reading) - I love having the chance to sit with the kids and read. It is strictly pleasure reading and it is great one on one time with the kids..

What seems different about school to me now: Reading lessons-when I was in school I remember having the big basals. Now the kids get to read real books!

**My Favorite Hobbies:** Playing with my girls!

**Favorite Team:** RED SOX!

**My Family:** My husband Jim and I have lived in Killingworth for the past 4 years. We have 2 children. Elizabeth is 4 and attends the Red Barn. Meghan just turned 2 in February...she is into everything!

## Julie Elting

Third Grade Teacher

**My Background:** I taught second grade for one year in Phoenix, AZ and six years teaching grades 1 and 3 in Iowa City. This is my 14th year teaching in Madison, including 12 years at my favorite, third grade!

**My Favorite Part of the School Day:** I enjoy having time to talk to the children individually as they arrive in the morning, and discussions and games during meeting. D.E.A.R (Drop Everything and Read) is also a favorite time.

What seems different about school to me now: I had to wear dresses or skirts to school every day, even in the winter. We always had recess outdoors and put on snowsuits for the very snowy Iowa weather. We didn't have as much fun as students now. Although we didn't have computers, we had Spanish by television.

**My Favorite Hobbies:** I love traveling, especially to other countries and experiencing new cultures. Walking along the water and curling up with a good book are favorite leisure activities. I'm trying to improve my photography skills.

**My Family:** My husband, Jim, is a research scientist at Bayer

# Teacher Profiles

Pharmaceutical. My son, Ryan, is 27, just married and lives and works in North Carolina. My son, Andy, is 25 and worked on the Kerry Campaign this fall.

## Esther Magee

Third Grade Teacher

**My Background:** I taught for 10 years in Waterville, NY - second and fourth grade. Then I taught for 10 years at Academy School, with 9 years as a third grade teacher.

**My Favorite Part of the School Day:** Celebration Fridays - a time to celebrate and reflect on our achievements.

What seems different about school to me now: I remember inkwells I dipped my pen into. I also remember children who were left handed sat in a separate row and there were separate boy and girl entrances to school.

**Favorite Hobbies:** I love scrap-booking, cooking and spending time with my family and my 2 golden retrievers.

**My Favorite Team:** Hand Football, lacrosse, field hockey and ice hockey!

**My Family:** My husband is John and my children are Hillary who is 22 and Mark who is 19. Both children attend Union College in Upstate New York.

## Ruth Rose

Third Grade Teacher

**My Background:** I taught 3rd grade at Island Avenue School for 3 years before coming to Jeffrey. After serving 14 years on a Board of Education, I'm truly where I want to be - in the classroom!

**My Favorite Part of the School Day:** The very beginning of the school day, when everyone comes in full of energy with stories to share! I also love read-alouds and math games, as well as morning meeting.

What seems different about school to me now: Now, our students learn WHY something works, not just THAT it works. We used to just memorize mathematical theorems and algorithms, now we get to prove them with hands-on activities. It makes such a difference, because the knowledge is long lasting.

**My Favorite Hobbies:** I prefer to watch kids' games - all the way through high school. I do love high school football, because I am a "football Mom." In Connecticut, you've got to love the Huskies, too. I especially enjoy UCONN Basketball-both the women's and the men's teams!

**My Family:** I live with my family on our ten-generation family farm in North Branford. My husband, who's a general contractor, and I have 3 children: Abigail, 23, is a high school biology teacher; Jonathan, 20, is a junior at the University of Maine studying engineering; and Nathaniel is a sophomore in high school.

## Ella Cinquino

Fourth Grade Teacher

**My Background:** I taught second grade for one year and this is my second year teaching fourth grade - all in Madison..

**My Favorite Part of the School Day:** Morning Meeting - it is a great time to talk to my students and learn about them as individuals. It creates a great classroom community and sets the tone for the day!

**My Favorite Hobbies:** Biking, hiking and READING!

**My Family:** I am married and have been living in Connecticut for 8 years. I grew up in Hingham, MA, where the rest of my family still lives!

## Margaret Healey

Fourth Grade Teacher

**My Background:** I taught 4th grade at Jeffrey and Academy in Madison, 3rd and 4th grade in Belmont, MA and 4th and 5th grade in Sioux City, Iowa.

**My Favorite Part of the School Day:** I prefer the morning in my classroom. I enjoy our morning meeting time and our time as we are ready to work.

**My Favorite Hobbies:** Reading, walking, gardening!

**My Family:** My husband and I have lived in Madison for 27 years and have three children -two daughters and a son. They live in Chicago, New Jersey and Connecticut.

## Kirsten Marshall

Fourth Grade Teacher

**My Background:** I taught 5th grade for 3 years at Jeffrey, first grade for one year at Ryerson and now at Jeffrey.

**My Favorite Part of the School Day:** Math - I enjoy solving problems and looking at all the many ways to solve different problems.

What seems different about school to me now: I remember big food celebrations and parties and we did not have World Language.

**My Favorite Hobbies:** Scrapbooking and Reading!

## Mary Ouimet

Fourth Grade Teacher

**My Background:** I taught 6th-8th grades at Brown School and Kindergarten in New Orleans, LA before Jeffrey.

**My Favorite Part of the School Day:** All day because I like the kids and my colleagues.

**My Favorite Hobbies:** Reading and gardening.

**My Family:** I have 4 married children who all have successful professions and went through the Madison school system. I also have 4 granddaughters.

## Cultural Arts

We are pleased to have had two great programs since January. First, to celebrate reading, we had a wonderful storyteller come for the Read Across America program. It coincided with Dr. Seuss' birthday which made it all the more fun, and very effective in inspiring the children to read.

Secondly, we had Johnny the K come on March 11, with his program "I Can, I Am and I Will". Using a highly energetic musical format, Johnny's program promotes the principles of respect and cooperation in a way that the children were truly able to understand.

Our last program for the year, was on April 8. Dennis Kobray of Meet the Musicians came to introduce the children to the life and music of Mozart. A wonderful pianist and actor, Dennis appears in full costume as Mozart to tell his life story and play his music. Remember to ask your child about it if you have the chance.

As the year begins to wind down, we begin thinking about next year's programs. If you have any ideas or thoughts about particular programs or just areas of interest that you would like to see be a part of cultural arts, please let us know. Thanks very much.

Cynthia Dorfman and Louisa Iacurci



The kindergarten classes are working on a variety of Mother Goose songs to be presented at a program for parents in June. The program will be held during the day in the Jeffrey School Multipurpose room.

The first grade and multi-age classes prepared a group of Animal songs for their Spring Concert on April 12.

The second graders sang a number of songs and poems at their Spring Concert.

The fourth grade students have signed up for their music electives for next year at Robert H. Brown Middle School. We are enjoying learning new songs and playing songs as a group. Please remember that home practice is a necessity in improving on your child's instrument.

Jeffrey School Music Teachers  
Charliah Best, Reid Gerritt, Bonnie Lancraft, and Heather Meachen

## Health Office

### RE-ENTRY TO SCHOOL

When a student re-enters school after a serious illness or injury, the nurse needs to be notified in order to plan for safety:

- If your child has sustained a fracture (broken bone), you will need to provide a note from the treating physician and speak with the nurse before your child can return to school. This allows the necessary time for the nurse to develop a plan for safety and alert the teachers who are involved with your child.

- Any child who is restricted from participation in Physical Education is automatically restricted from recess.

- If your child has any surgical procedure or hospitalization, you will need to consult with the nurse and provide documentation from a physician regarding any restrictions/precautions to ensure safety.



### ASTHMA and ALLERGIES

Hopefully, we have passed the season of viral illnesses and are headed for the enjoyment of spring! Nurses' thoughts often turn to management of allergy symptoms, asthma flare-ups and increased physical activity outdoors.

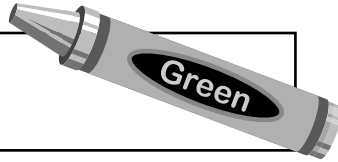
Please call me if your child's asthma is more symptomatic and he/she bears closer monitoring. If your child will be taking a new allergy medication before school it is helpful for us to be aware, in the event of any untoward side effects.

Our goal is to maximize the safety of your child when in school and we need your cooperation to be effective in this area.

Thank you!

Joann Boulden, RN, BS, NCSN  
Christine Grondin, Health Paraprofessional

## Art



Jeffrey Elementary School is ready for their annual art show. Student artwork will be on display through the month of April. Come see the amount of talent Jeffrey students have to offer. The Art Department had an opening on April 13th to kick off the event.

The District Art Show, which includes student artwork from all grade levels, will be on display in the downstairs room in the Scranton Library. The opening was held on April 4th and will be on display for the month of April.

**Kindergarten:** During a unit on the human figure the students created self-portraits and full body paintings. The students looked at portraits by Vincent Van Gogh. We discussed the different parts of the face. We talked about how the face changes when the feelings inside change. They used small mirrors to look at their own faces. The first week they did self-portraits and the following week they did self-portraits showing happy and sad feelings. The students created paintings of full bodies using tempera bottle paints. The next week they added details to the paintings with colored pencil sticks. We repeatedly worked with the idea of blending colors, beginning with the large shapes then adding details.

**First grade:** The first grade students have been exploring the theme of medieval times. They painted castles and secondary color dragons. We looked at several paintings of dragons and how Chinese painters and European painters portray them. Then the students practiced drawing the human figure. First they did portraits of themselves as someone who lived during the medieval times and then they did full body drawings of kings, queens and knights.

**Multiage:** The multiage students have been exploring the theme of farm life. They drew farms, farm animals and themselves as a person who lives on a farm. They created clay farm animals.

**Second Grade:** The second grade students have created the illustrations for a display that hung up the night of the Spring concert on April 14th.

**Third grade:** The third grade students created landscapes. They looked at artwork created by The American Impressionists Childe Hassam and William Merritt Chase. Before beginning their landscapes they experimented creating tints and shades of a color and a color wheel. The students had to mix their own secondary colors for their landscape.

**Fourth Grade:** The fourth grade students have been studying Henri Matisse. They have been focusing on abstract art. They are working with shape and color to create a paper collage.

## Library Media Center

### READ-ACROSS-AMERICA

The students at Jeffrey Elementary have had an incredible start in our Read-Across-America reading program. The first week of the program the children read an astonishing 1057 books. Instead of heading directly for the West Coast we decided to take a trip that will have us go through all 48 contiguous states. So, starting in Connecticut we traveled through Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and we ended up in North Carolina.

In week two they read an inspiring 1092 books, so we continued our trek and ended week two in Mississippi. By the way, we also tie in U.S. geography into the program by listing interesting and fun facts about each state that we reach at week's end.

During week three, the students read another 784 books and we headed north and ended up in Ohio.

The children are doing a great job. Let us all do our part to keep the enthusiasm up and our children will be the great beneficiaries.







## PTO Corner



### PRESIDENTS' LETTER

Dear Jeffrey School Parents & Guardians,

The PTO has many great events planned for our students, staff and families over the coming months. There's an Event Calendar in this newsletter, as well as some Save the Date information. Backpack notices will generally precede all events and include important details, so be sure to check what's coming home.

Another spring PTO happening is nominations for next year's Executive Board. Self-nominations are highly encouraged! We are also looking for volunteers to chair the many General Board positions that are available. Forms for volunteering as a committee member or to offer general help will be available in the lobby, and sent in the summer mailing. Thank you to everyone who donates their time and energy to helping at JS. It is truly appreciated by students and staff alike. So many PTO endeavors would not be possible without each and every volunteer!

A reminder that our last two fundraisers are wrapping up. These events are especially important and we encourage all families to participate. Your support is needed to ensure that our financial forecast stays on track, and that we can follow through with all the wonderful field trips and events planned for the spring.

As previously done in the Kindergarten Center with much excitement and success, we offered Kids Art Stationary at Jeffrey this spring. This project is open to ALL students. Kindergartners completed their artwork in class. The orders are anticipated by early June.

The Annual Plant & Bake Sale has begun again. Although hot, sunny gardening days seem far away, its time to start planning now. Orders will be in on May 6.

Warm thank-yous go out to all of our PTO volunteers, and especially:

Jim Wygonik from the Brown School for presenting Internet Safety at our 4/8 PTO Meeting,

Karen Nichols & Tracey Rossi for organizing the Kindergarten Bingo Night,

Natalie Thompson for chairing the Kids Art Stationary,

Rene Chin and Kathy D'Agostino for chairing the Plant & Bake Sale,

Laura Jamra for coordinating our enormous Lost & Found,

Sue Cosgriff & Dara Terrio for the newsletter production this year,

Cari Nelson, Amy Santoro & the many classroom Publishing volunteers for assembling the hardcover books that are so cherished by our students,

Kris Moss for championing the Reflections on Kindness showcase.

And last but hardly least, we thank the executive board: Nancy Banasiak, Sue Buckley, Lisa Hilton, Kris Moss and Debbie Orlando, for their selfless dedication throughout the past year. What an amazing year it's been, and we are grateful to have been a part of building the "new" Jeffrey School community.

Cindy Wood & Susan Wivell  
PTO Co-Presidents

### TREASURER'S UPDATE

Debbie Orlando

The PTO thanks you all for your support in our fundraising efforts! The Book Fair brought in over \$4,000 and sales of "Jeffrey" sportswear were outstanding. Funds earned enable the PTO to make many contributions to the school throughout the year, such as Cultural Arts programs, Winter Workshops, and recently our wonderful teacher collage.

As Jeffrey School is a new entity as of this year, creating a budget was a challenge. But careful planning and consideration have paid off, the budget is on track for the second half of the school year. Thanks to all who have supported our fundraising efforts. The PTO looks forward to your continued support as we plan to fund more activities for JS students and families this spring, such as a Cutters Baseball Game and Kindergarten Bingo night. Be sure to look for more information in the Newsletters and backpacks!

## SCHOOL BANKING



School banking continues to have great number of students participating. A reminder: banking is located in the multipurpose room every Tuesday from 8:50am - 9:15am. A special thank you to all of the wonderful banking volunteers: Beth Berestecky, Laurene Gill, Michele Newman, Marian Altman, Kim Nihill, Kerry Melino, Sue Buckley, Krista Stratton, Sue Evans, & Cathy Goodway. We couldn't do it without you!!!

## CUTTERS BASEBALL GAME

### SAVE THE DATE!

JS PTO, along with Island Avenue and Ryerson schools, will be hosting a Family Night on June 3rd at the New Haven County Cutters Game. Details to follow. Hope to see you there!



## PTO MAILBOXES

All PTO Committee Chairs, please remember to check your mailboxes on the stage. Mail and incoming items pertaining to your events are often put there when the lobby table is organized.

## SPORTSWEAR COMMITTEE

Spring sportswear is now on sale. We are selling short sleeve T-shirts and shorts. Pickup an order form on the table in the lobby. If you have any questions please contact Nancy Banasiak at 421-8692

## PLAYGROUND UPDATE

### Fence Installation & Grounds Improvement

As the weather warms, the children are enjoying the new playground. The rock-climbing wall and double slides are real favorites. A few more improvements are planned...and parent help is needed!

The picket fence needs to be installed and the ground cover needs some raking after the winter.

Please join us on Saturday, June 4th at 8:00 am to pitch in!!

To RSVP, call Cindy Wood at 245-6226.

Additional donations to the playground fund will be accepted to begin fundraising for new swings. Tax-deductible checks can be made payable to the "Madison Foundation" and sent in to the PTO.

## REFLECTIONS ON KINDNESS

Jeffrey PTO Proudly Announces -  
REFLECTIONS ON KINDNESS  
A Showcase of Thoughts

### Grades K through 4

Explore your feelings and think about Kindness. What does it mean to you?

Create an essay, poem, or drawing about your interpretation of Kindness. It can be about the things you do everyday to be kind. It can be about the kindness that you see all around you in the world or even about the kindness that you wish to see.

Be creative! Use your imagination! Have Fun!

Essays, poems, and drawings will be displayed throughout the school during the month of May.

Please submit essays, poems, and drawings to your teacher now through April 29. Teachers will forward them on to the PTO.

Please encourage your child to participate in this school wide project.

Thank you for your support.

If you have any questions, please call Kris Moss at 245-2314.

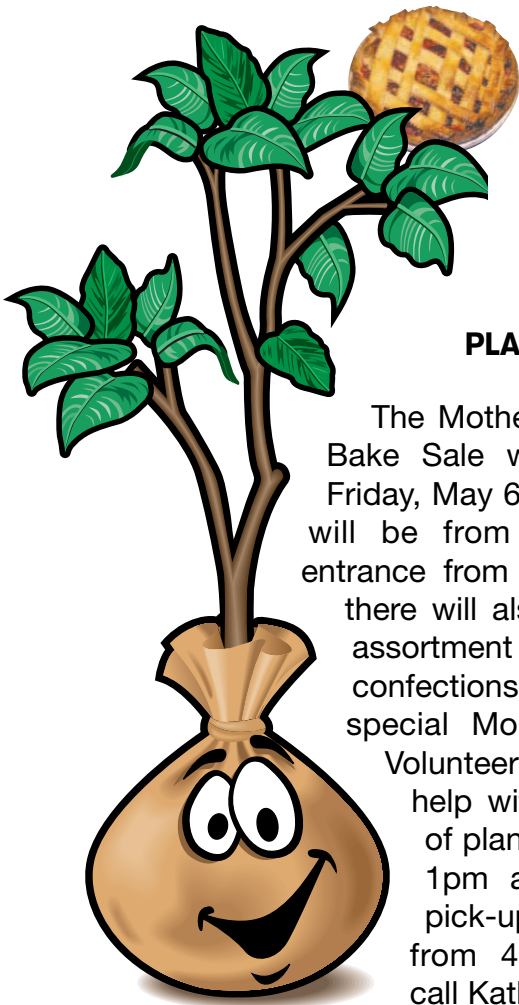
# BINGO!

## BINGO NIGHT

KINDERGARTEN BINGO NIGHT-

Co-chairs Karen Nichols and Tracey Rossi

We had a fantastic turnout for Jeffrey School's first Kindergarten Bingo Night on Friday, April 8th. Thank you to all those wonderful volunteers for helping out and making the evening a great success! A special thanks to the Jeffrey PTO for providing the fun prizes and tasty snacks.



## MOTHER'S DAY PLANT & BAKE SALE

The Mother's Day Plant & Bake Sale will be held on Friday, May 6, 2005. Pick-up will be from the rear gym entrance from 4-6 PM, where there will also be a yummy assortment of desserts and confections for sale for that special Mom in your life!

Volunteers are needed to help with the inventory of plants from 11am to 1pm and with flower pick-up and bake sale from 4-6pm. Please call Kathy D'Agostino @ 421-3708 to help.



## BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION NEWS

THE RECESS TOYS ARE HERE!!!!!!!!!!!!!! New balls of all kinds, hula hoops and jump ropes have hit the playground. Soon the soccer goals, flag football accessories and chalk will join them.

The box tops continue to roll in and we are nearing our goal of 20,000! As of March 31, when we shipped \$766.90 worth of box tops and bonus points, we have 18,582 box tops so far this year. I am confident the children will crush our goal as we still have three more "Box Top Friday" dates to go- April 29, May 27 and a final one on June 10.



Jeffrey students earned big bucks, \$1,800 worth of much needed playground equipment.

**SCHOOL BUDGET PROCESS BASICS 101**

Madison taxpayers have the privilege and duty each May to vote on the town and education budget. A great deal happens well before May, however:

In the summer and fall, for the budget year that begins the following July 1, the Superintendent of Schools and school administrators begin budget planning and review.

During the fall, a budget draft is developed and discussed by the Superintendent and the Board of Education's Finance and Budget Committee.

In December or January, the proposed budget is presented to the full Board of Education.

In February, the Board of Education holds one or more budget workshops in which the proposed budget is discussed. The full Board of Education determines its budget, the total of which may be higher or lower than the original proposal. Specific allocations may also change. The Board of Education votes on the proposed budget, which, when passed, is then presented to the Boards of Selectmen and Finance. The Board of Selectmen reviews the education and town budgets and makes a recommendation to the Board of Finance. They do not have authority to require changes to the education budget request, though their recommendation carries weight. The Board of Finance, on the other hand, does have authority to change the dollar amount of the budget, but not to dictate allocation. To assist in making its decision, the Board of Finance holds two public hearings, as provided by the Madison Town Charter.

In March, the first public hearing occurs as the Board of Finance considers the budget proposals from the Boards of Selectmen (town budget) and Education (education budget). After this hearing, the Board of Finance may require a change in the level of either budget.

In April, the second public hearing occurs during which the Board of Finance presents its recommended education and town budgets. After this hearing, the Board of Finance votes whether to send these budgets to referendum without further changes.

In May, the budget referendum is held. Voters vote 'yes' or 'no' on each of the town and education budgets. Following passage of the budget, the mill rate for the fiscal year beginning July 1 is set by the Board of Finance.

**GREAT WEB SITES!!**

**www.jeffreyschool.org**

Jeffrey's web site...with loads of school facts, including lunch calendar, teacher voice mails and some great library picks for the month!

**www.madison.k12.ct.us**

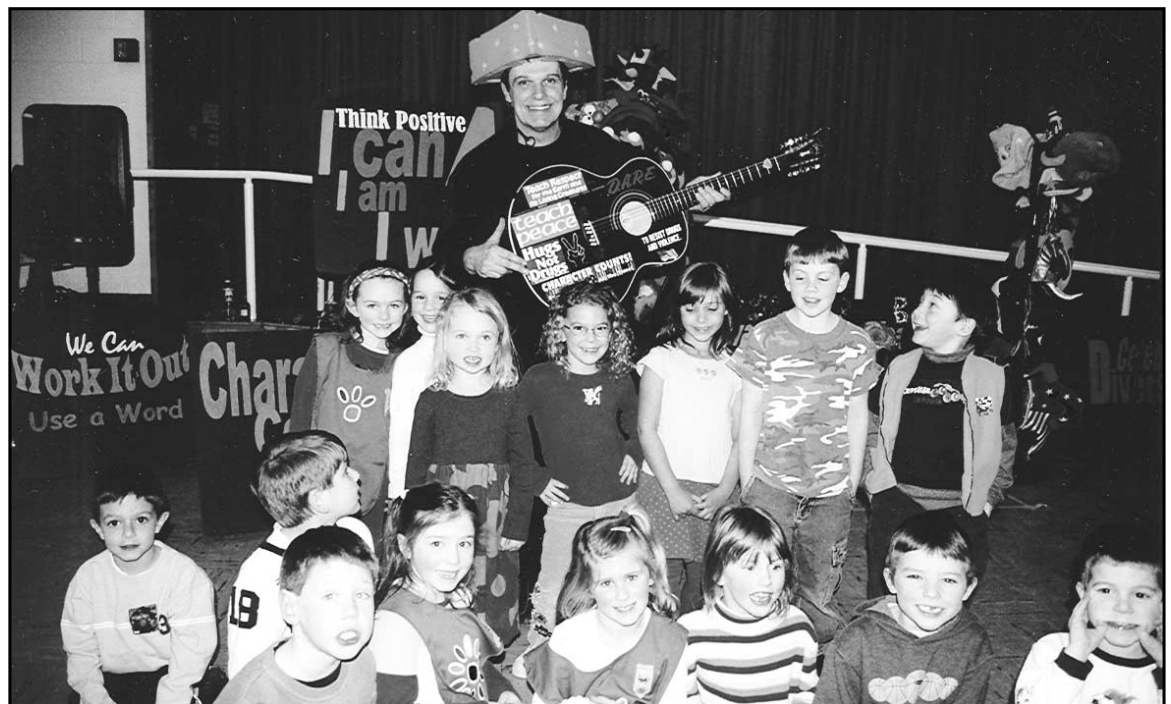
the district's web site...be sure to sign up for the info line to receive school updates, including school closings & delays! The Jeffrey PTO page has loads of info about upcoming events!

**www.TEAMmadison.org**

Taxpayer's Education Alliance of Madison site... important info about the town and school budget process!

**JOHNNY THE K WITH KIDS FROM MRS. LYNCH'S KINDERGARTEN CLASS.**

Nationally acclaimed teacher and musician "Johnny the K" (aka John Kelleher of North Reading, MA) entertained Jeffrey Elementary students on Friday, March 11th. With music and his famous collection of hats, he inspires kids to make a difference in their school, community, and the world-through respect, kindness and honesty.



## SLAPSHOT FOR SUCCESS



DHHS Girls' Ice Hockey Team kicked off "Slapshot For Success" on Friday, January 28th. Team members read to classes. The girls also answered questions from the students. The team returned to Jeffrey on Friday, February 18th.

## TEACHER COLLAGE

The new teacher collage was a gift from the PTO.



## JEFFREY SCHOOL EVENT CALENDAR -

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>
May 2-6	Teacher Appreciation Week (actual day is May 3)	
May 6	Grade 3 Trip to the Shubert Bake Sale & Plant Sale PickUp	4-6pm
May 11	Grade 1 Trip to Peabody Museum	
May 13	Read Across America Beach Party	
May 16, 17, 19	Grade 2 to Hammonasset for Coastline Study	
May 19	PTO Voting Meeting	
May 20	Grade 3 International Day	
May 25	Grade 4 Trip to Sturbridge Village	
May 27	Boxtop Friday Sportswear Orders Due	
May 30	Memorial Day Holiday--No School	
June 3	Field Day for Grades 1, MA, 2 Cutters Baseball Game	
June 4	Playground Fence Installation Family Walk-A-Thon	
June 6	PTO Volunteer Reception & Officer Installation	9:30am
June 7	Kindergarten Concert & Writing Celebration	
June 8	Field Day for Kindergarten	
June 10	Field Day for Grades 3 & 4 Boxtop Friday	
June 15	Book Swap Drop Off Day	
June 16	AM Kindergarten attends all day & Trip to Niantic Children's Museum (no school PM-K)	
June 17	PM Kindergarten attends all day & Trip to Niantic Children's Museum (no school AM-K) Field Day Raindate Book Swapping Day	
June 24	LAST DAY OF SCHOOL	