



Jefferson Journal

April 2011

PTO NEWS

Next meeting is April 6th @ noon in the conference room. All are welcome to attend.

The TALENT SHOW was a success! Thanks to everyone that helped out to make this evening great.

President - Kami Canfield

Secretary - Heidi Fiechtner

Treasurer- Heather Engstrom

Sincerely, PTO

Principal's Corner



Wow! Spring is here and we are in the last quarter of school. This year seems to have flown by. It is an honor to be with your children every day.

As many of you are aware, there are budget cuts in education this upcoming year. There was 1.2 million dollars in cuts. One of the cuts will be the summer school program for reading and math. There will be open library on Tuesdays. More information will come in May on library times and incentives.

If there are any families that are interested in having a tutor, there will be information available in the May newsletter. You can also email or call me for more information on summer tutors.

Occasionally students need a change of clothes. We are in need of pants and shorts for students. If you have any "hand me downs" and would like to donate some clothing, we would happily take them.

4th graders will have the opportunity on April 1st to experience what it would be like to have a disability. Ask your 4th grader what they experienced.

Special Points of Interest:

- ☉ April 1st - No kindergarten - kindergarten conferences
- ☉ April 1st - Disability Awareness Day for 4th graders
- ☉ April 6th- PTO meeting at 12:00
- ☉ April 13th - Kindergarten screening
- ☉ April 14th - Kindergarten screening
- ☉ April 15th - Kindergarten screening
- ☉ April 19th - 3rd grade music program at 6:30 pm in the Jefferson gym
- ☉ April 21st - 4th quarter mid-terms
- ☉ April 22nd - NO SCHOOL
- ☉ April 25th - Make up snow day - School in session.
- ☉ April 26th - Senior Citizens tour Jefferson School
- ☉ April 27th - 12:30 early out - AM kindergarten is here
- ☉ April 28th - 6th grade physicals
- ☉ April 29th - preschool screening
- ☉ May 3rd - 1st grade FARM day



During the month of April the classroom teachers and I will begin placing students into next year's classrooms. We look at many different factors when placing a student in a classroom. To create balanced classrooms, we take into account a child's academic ability, learning style, gender, and personality characteristics. We strive to balance each classroom with the right learning chemistry based on all curricular schedules.

In the past, we have accepted parent requests for a classroom teacher for their child. If a request is made, please send it through Mrs. Morrow **in writing with an explanation for the request.** This can be in the form of a note or an email. The request can be made until April 15th. The goal is to finalize classroom lists so as to distribute on your child's report card by the end of May. Thank you for your cooperation. laura.morrow@k12.sd.us

Remember to wear your hat, mittens, coat, boots, and snow pants every day. Don't forget to bring your tennis shoes for physical education class.

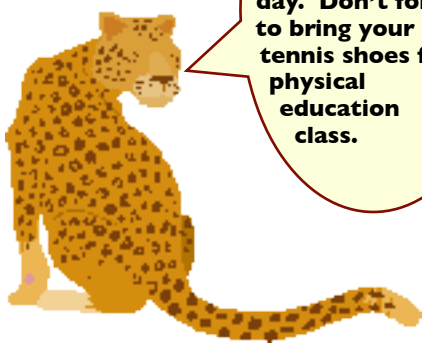


Ways Parents Can Help Children Succeed on Standardized Tests.

Dakota Step testing for grades 3, 4, 5, and 6 will be during April. The testing window is from April 4th to April 22nd.

Good Health = Good Test Scores

Have a nutritious breakfast, enough sleep, and daily exercise.



Students can get anxiety before tests. Talk to you child about taking a deep breath and "relaxing". Remind them to read the directions carefully. Remind them that they can skip the question and come back to it. Some children will get overcome with anxiety if they can't figure out a question.

If they get nervous, tell them to remember past tests where they did well. Tell them that they can do well again if they try their best!

Attendance - Thank you for making school a top priority in your child's life. By building the habit of daily attendance, you will help your child see that school is important. Learning builds day by day. A child who misses a day of school also misses a day of learning.

Parenting Network Suggestions:

- * Make sure your child is in school every day.
- * Don't schedule medical appointments during school hours.
- * Don't take your child out of school for a family trip or activity.
- * Don't allow your child to be tardy. Have your child get ready the night before so he can get to school on time.





List-serve- If you get a new email address, you need to unsubscribe your old address first and then subscribe with the new one. <http://www.watertown.k12.sd.us/schools/elem/jefferson/index.htm>



Summer Kidscope

Boys & Girls Club of Watertown
“BGC Studios: Where You’re the Star!”

Our team is passionate about creating a fun and exciting educational experience for the children of our community to supplement their school year learning throughout the summer months. We offer a wide variety of activities focusing on Education, Life Skills, & Physical Wellness. Please visit our website at www.bgcofwatertown.com to view our weekly activity plans, meal menus, and other helpful parent resources.

This summer we are proud to offer our Summer Kidscope program at two locations. One will be hosted by Jefferson Elementary School and the other will be hosted by Roosevelt Elementary School. Services will begin the day after school dismisses for the summer until Friday, August 5, 2011. Our hours of operation are from 7:30am until 6:00pm Monday through Friday.

Nurses Corner:

PUBERTY TALKS have been set for 4th, 5th, and 6th grade on April 27th.

ASTHMA CAMP for kids ages 8-14. Camp F.A.N. (Fix Asthma Now) will be held June 19-25 for kids who are on daily asthma medication. Children from all over SD, Northwest IA, and Southwest MN attend and learn more about how to better manage their lung disease. Daily asthma education sessions are included and a medical support staff is on hand 24/7 to monitor children.

The camp is held at Camp Foster, Spirit Lake, IA, just 90 miles east of Sioux Falls. Financial help is available to cover the camp fee. For more information, call 1-800-873-5864.



Kindergarten Screening will be held at Garfield School on April 13th, 14th, and 15th. This is for all children in the Watertown School District who will be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2011. Parents are asked to bring a certified birth certificate (not a hospital certificate) and immunization records. (Remember to start early with Chicken Pox vaccines as they need to be given months apart; Please call Garfield School @ 882-6399 for an appointment. Registration will take approximately one hour to complete. Please have your child wear tennis shoes for the motor skills portion of the testing.

PRE-SCHOOL SCREENING

Preschool screening will be at McKinley School on Friday, April 29th, and Friday, May 6th. It is for children who will be 4 years of age on or before September 1, 2011, who reside in the Watertown School District, and qualify according to screening scores, and household income. Please bring the following items with you to screening...

Certified Birth Certificate (not the hospital copy) & Immunization Records

To make an appointment, please call McKinley School at 882-6350.

Social Work Corner

by Sara Foust

Free meals are served every week at these times and locations:

Monday - The Banquet 5:30-7:30 pm at Grace Lutheran Church

Tuesday - 7-9 am First United Methodist Church

Thursday - 6:15-7:30pm County Fair Banquet Hall.

Saturday - 7-9am Salvation Army Community Room



Boys Town Common Sense Parenting Classes

Are you having trouble getting your kids to listen to you?

Do you feel like you are in a power struggle with your children?

Would you like to have some strategies to make parenting easier?

If so, come and learn the strategies the schools use to address behavior concerns.

A new session of classes will begin **Tuesday, April 19th**, from 5:30-7:30 at the Boys & Girls Club. Classes run for six consecutive Tuesdays. This is a great opportunity to learn strategies to help make parenting more enjoyable. Childcare will be available. Call Louis or Linda to register at 886-6666.

PACH (People Against Child Hunger) Program

Students will receive food equivalent to two snacks and two meals that will be sent home from school prior to the weekend or break. Participants are taken on a first come basis and there are no eligibility requirements. Applications are available at Hy-Vee, Salvation Army, Watertown Regional Library, County Fair, Department of Social Services, Boys & Girls Club, Lutheran Social Services, Watertown Resource Center, or on-line at www.watertownunitedway.org They may be returned to Hy-Vee, The Salvation Army, turned in on-line, or mailed to P.O. Box 176 in Watertown.

Household Products

Through donations and support from the Watertown community, we have household cleaning and personal care items such as laundry soap, toilet paper, deodorant, shampoo, etc to give to families who cannot afford them. If you need these items to help you get by, please contact your school social worker.



“Enhancing educational opportunities for students”

\$15,200 was Awarded!

Teachers’ and students’ faces lit with excitement as the Arrow Education Foundation Prize Patrol visited Jefferson Elementary. Six Innovative Education grants were awarded in the Watertown School District for \$15,200.



Congratulations, Jefferson Students!

Mrs. Kromann, Mrs. Labore and their reading students were part of an all WSD Elementary Reading grant awarded \$7000 for two iPads for each building. These iPads can help young readers with letter recognition, phonics, fluency and comprehension.

Mrs. Kromann, Mrs. Labore, reading students and Principal Morrow are joined by the Arrow Education Foundation Prize Patrol members Heather Engstrom, Claudia Brunick, and Suzanne Dargatz.

Arrow Education Foundation
Office at Garfield School

www.arrowfoundation.org Waneen.Polly@k12.sd.us
(605) 882-6399 or (605) 520-4432