

# Thomas Jefferson Elementary Patriot Press

Newsletter March/April  
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## Upcoming Events

- ◆ ISAT Testing
- ◆ Spring Pictures
- ◆ Wendy's Night
- ◆ Butter Braids
- ◆ CAPE Meeting
- ◆ Daddy Daughter Dance
- ◆ Book Fair
- ◆ Conferences
- ◆ Mommy Son Dance
- ◆ CAPE Winners

## Principal's News

Dear Parents,

February flew by here at Thomas Jefferson! March is just around the corner and that month is just as full as any other with happenings at school. With March I look forward to some fair weather days so that we can get our students outside.

The Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) for our 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade students begins on March 5<sup>th</sup> and runs through March 16<sup>th</sup>. These assessments of what our students know are a vital component of our School Improvement Plan. The entire Thomas Jefferson Learning Community works to provide the learning and support that leads up to the assessment. Please join us in wishing our students the best of luck as they participate in this statewide assessment. BELIEVE, ACHIEVE AND SUCCEED AT TEST TIME!

The third quarter will end on March 9<sup>th</sup>.

## Reminders for Parents

As third quarter is underway, please make sure to check with your student to see if they need any replacement supplies. Check with them about pencils, markers, dry-erase markers, pens, crayons & folders. If they aren't sure, please reach out to their teacher to find out.

The first half of the year has been very busy for Thomas Jefferson. There have been two Second Hand Story book sale/trade events. There was a fall book fair in the Media Center with our annual Grand event, conferences, Chuck

The staff is looking forward to our Spring Parent Teacher Conferences that are scheduled for March 14<sup>th</sup> 4:30-7:30 PM, March 15<sup>th</sup> 3:00-9:00 PM and March 16<sup>th</sup> 2:30-3:30 PM. Teachers will be sending home a note to set up a conference to meet and discuss your child's learning and set goals for the rest of the year. We look forward to seeing everyone.

I would also like to take this opportunity to send a huge THANK YOU out to the entire Thomas Jefferson Community! We are truly blessed to have so many wonderful people that give of their time, talents, and energy to make our school simply GREAT! Please know that I know we could never do it alone...it takes all of us working together in order to make a difference.

Happy March!  
Mrs. Boyce

E Cheese Night, & let's not forget December's Holiday Shop. Amid Wendy's Nights, McDonald's Nights & TCBY Nights, there has also been Popcorn Fridays during the lunch times. We've had Bingo Night and Game Night too. All three classroom parties have come and gone.

Up next, ISAT Testing, Learning Luau, Spring pictures, and butter braids. The Daddy Daughter Dance & Mother Son Dance are both around the corner as well as the spring book fair. Read on for updates on all the events coming to our school.

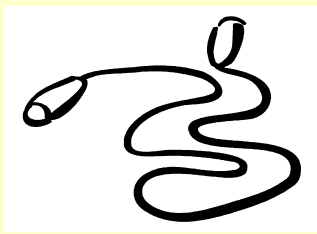
## From the PTO President, Adrienne Callahan

Hello, TJ Families!

This is a reminder that your charitable donations for the annual Jump Rope for Heart Campaign are due by Friday, February 24, 2012. We are excited that we have already exceeded our online fundraising goal (goal \$500), & overall school donations reached \$1700.00! A few more donations have yet to be tallied, & we may have reached our goal of \$2000! Participating students and individual classrooms will receive incentive items pictured

on the donation envelope. Thank you for your support of this charitable campaign and spreading the word about heart awareness and heart disease prevention.

PTO Board President, Adrienne Callahan



*Jump Rope for Heart Campaign 2012*

*Sue Misra, Joe Manahan, Karen Grozek, Amy Ehm & Brad Logren were the staff raffle winners for the Dunkin' Donuts gift cards*

*"In February, students received a free bag of popcorn if they wanted as well as a chance to win a raffled gift card."*

## TJ PTO Board is Spreading the Love

February, typically known for Valentine's Day, has inspired the Thomas Jefferson PTO Board to 'Spread the Love' throughout the month. By showing random act of kindness, we all help to make the world a better place. The PTO 'Spread the Love' on Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup> by raffling off five \$10.00 gift cards to Wal-Mart, then on Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>, five \$10.00 gift cards to McDonalds, & finally, on Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>, TJ had a free popcorn day for all students and staff as well as 5 \$10.00 gift cars for TCBY & 5

\$10.00 Dunkin' Donuts gift cards for teachers to win. The winners were: Angelina Zimmer, Ruby Delgado, Jacqueline Kujawa, Kenyi Callahan, Rachel Finnegan, Cody Gleim, Linzie Cirlincione, Isabella Williams, Samantha Cochran, & Winter Warren; Yaritza Patino, Justin Budz, Zach Gray, Brandon Jurczeski, & Brandon Wilke

Congratulations, everyone!

## Remember to Recycle Those Magazines

Recently, Thomas Jefferson had a green and yellow recycling container in the front of the school near the kindergarten door. This receptacle is for paper products of all types (with a few exceptions) and some cardboard. Although no corrugated cardboard is allowed, things like cereal boxes & card stock certainly are. The more weight we put in it, the better. The school is paid for this recycling, but only by the ton. Keep bringing in those magazines, papers, old school work,

newspapers, & cereal boxes to help our school!



## Peace Love & My Daddy

This year's Daddy/Daughter Dance theme is Peace, Love & My Daddy. March 2, 2012 at 7pm until 8:30pm, TJ daughters have the opportunity to spend some quality time with their dads. With a retro, hippie theme, couples are encouraged to come dressed up in tie-dye or 70's wear. There will be snacks, juice, DJ'd music & photo booth with complimentary photos! Raffles will include an American Girl Doll store gift certificate & tickets to a sporting event. Tickets are \$15

per couple with an additional \$5 per extra TJ daughter.

Come have a **groovy** time with Dad & your friends!!



## Thomas Jefferson's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Drama Club Production a Huge Success

The February 2012 Drama production of *Willie Wonka* was an extravaganza in color and energy. Based on the popular book, Charlie & the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl, & adapted for stage by Leslie Bricusse & Timothy A. McDonald, the three-performance musical was a delight to behold. Set design, bright and whimsical, was generously created by Mr. Dan Laib. Mr. Laib is familiar to TJ as one of our featured artists on Fine Arts Night. It is a pleasure to see his talent on a larger scale.

Director Extraordinaire, Karen Blair, truly works her magic this year. With a cast of 146 it seems there is nothing she can't do to bring music and dancing to the masses! Her seemingly boundless energy was practically palpable days before the performances.



*The cast of Oompa Loompas add color & fun to this year's performance of Willie Wonka Junior*

Lisa Heaton, assistant director & mom of multiple cast members, has been a strong supporter of the Drama Club over the last three years and is continuously rewarded by the children's accomplishments and growth. Her contributions are apparent in the students' spot-on dancing & singing.

Heather Johns, a new addition to TJ, brings her competitive dance experience to the choreography of the production. She spent many hours with the cast going over the variety of dances in the show.

Ms. Kirk & Ms. Northrup also spent many hours helping with the preparation of the production, organizing the students &

had the challenging task of wrangling Oompa Loompas between scenes.

Mrs. Budz, PTO Chairperson of the Bake Sale Committee, ran a 'factory' of her own days leading up to the performances. With her own crew, a wide variety of baked treats decorated, specially packaged, & made available for modest prices throughout the shows & intermissions. Over \$1300.00 in sales was generated by this most productive committee.

As a delightful surprise, & in keeping with the theme of the play, a group of parents sold 'Wonka Bars'. The money raised was given back to the Drama Club, except for \$100 each performance. One lucky audience member was awarded a crisp \$100 bill if they had the 'Golden Ticket' inside the wrappings of their candy bar.



*Tyler Bockhol, Jaylah McKinnie, Jack Wiemeler & Morgan Gray portray Charlie's grandparents*

Without the help of parents and staff, it is clear the annual Drama Club production would not generate the excitement it currently does. In the program, the cast members had little biographies written. Over & over moms & dads were thanked as well as teachers & siblings. Everyone worked hard to put this production together & it showed. From the program layout, set design & construction, prop design & creation, costuming, set up & then tear down of the Multi Purpose Room, stage & equipment support-the effort made was the effort achieved. Everyone behind the scenes sure made our TJ students shine like the stars they truly are.

## Student Council Serves Their Community contributed by Carrie Torkelson, Student Council Advisor

Student Council has been busy so far this year. We started the school year preparing & helping with Red Ribbon Week activities. We then hosted a Thanksgiving food drive for Creekside Cares. Over 1000 items were collected & donated. Students helped out with the Holiday Shop & collected hats, mittens & scarves to pass out to families in need of a little warmth. In the beginning of February, Students volunteered to package dry, vitamin rich food at Feed My Starving Children (FMSC). We then sold over 1500 Heart Grams for Valentine's Day with all the profit going back to FMSC. With the money we raised, 5 malnourished children will receive life saving food for a whole year! Students are now busy planning activities for Earth Day to teach our community the importance of saving our Earth & will help Thomas Jefferson earn the Will County Earth Flag award for the third year in a row.



## Mommy & Son Dance March 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Groovin' With Mom** is the theme this year for the Mother Son dance. Scheduled for 7pm, the night will be filled with music, dancing, laughing, snacking & picture taking. A DJ will get everyone dancing while

others take turns having their photo taken in a curtained photo booth to commemorate the occasion! A \$100.00 Spa Gift Card for a lucky mom, & a \$100.00 XBOX Points Card for a lucky TJ son. Tickets are \$15.00 per couple, \$5 each additional son. Keep watch for the flyers to come home! Join us for some fun!!



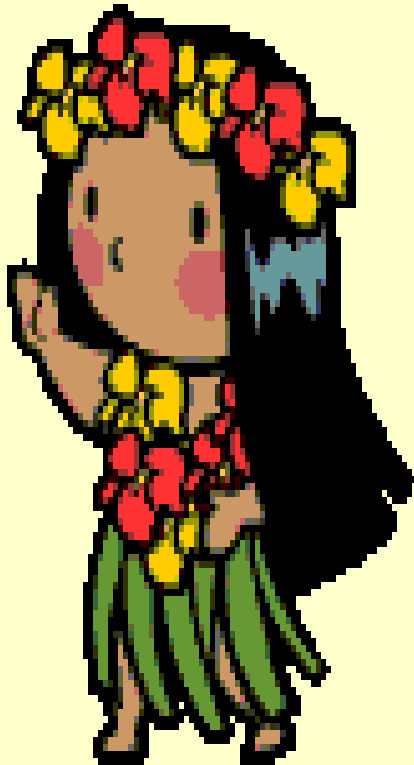
## Butter Braid Order Forms are Coming Home March 1<sup>st</sup>!!

This annual delectable treat will be coming soon, so get ready! If you aren't familiar, Butter Braids are a coffee cake-like sweet bread that comes in fruit flavors as well as cheese! They are well worth the money! They go from freezer, thaw and let proof, then bake! Yummy!!! Order some for family & friends!

## Thomas Jefferson's Fifth Annual Spring Book Fair

Beginning March 9<sup>th</sup> with a Student Preview, the spring book fair comes to our school. The theme this year, Reading Luau, works well in conjunction with the Learning Luau being held on February 28<sup>th</sup>. Co-chaired this year by Nicole Sourek, Media Specialist, the fair promises to be exciting for all who attend. Mrs. Sourek has already started to build excitement by having the students create posters. Student & teacher raffles will also draw people in to the Media Center. Once again the Book Fair Committee will sponsor the One 4 Books Program offered during the fair. This program

promotes literacy and for every dollar TJ collects, a book is donated by Scholastic and distributed through one of three foundations that help put books into the hands of children in need. The book fair will be open throughout the school day & will be open during Parent Teacher Conferences too. The fair runs from March 12 through March 16<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in helping host this event, please get in touch with Mrs. Sourek at [amg118@att.net](mailto:amg118@att.net). Ready, Set, READ!!



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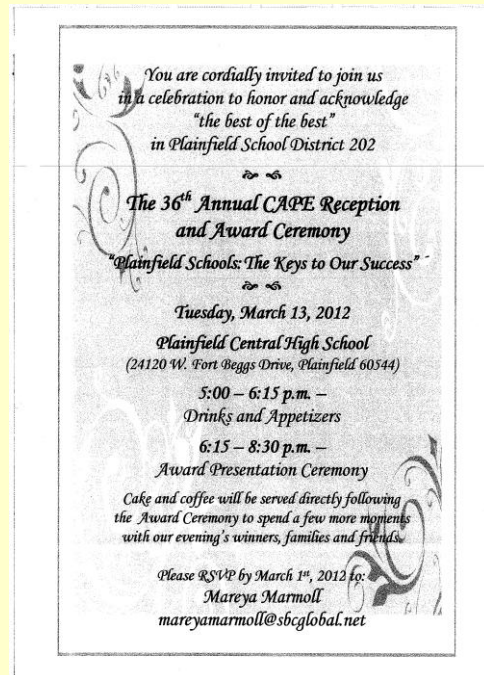
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We're on the Web!  
www.learningcommunity  
202.org/Jefferson



Congratulations to TJ  
C.A.P.E. winners:

*Tracey Kirk, Educator of the Year*

*Cory Carver, Support Educator*

*Jeanette Erickson, Staff Service*

*Amanda Poston, Mom Volunteer*

*Dan Schimel, Dad Volunteer*

*YOU ARE ALL AWESOME!!!!*

*We thank you for all you do!*

Remember:

Keep on Recycling!

Dress the kids appropriately for the weather.

Check their school supplies

Keep on saving those box tops and Campbell's Soup labels, as well as Coke product caps. All of these bring in money for our school and help provide the staff and students with new equipment or materials to help them learn and grow!

Volunteer! It's fun!

March 1: Butter Braid order forms go home

March 2: Daddy/Daughter Dance 7pm

March 6: PTO Meeting 7pm

March 8: Book Fair begins until 03/16/12

March 14: Market Day Pick Up

March 15-16: **Conferences-5 HOUR DAY**

March 16: Butter braid orders due

March 23: Mommy/Son Dance 7pm

March 23: Popcorn Friday

March 28: Wendy's Night 5-8pm

March 30: Butter Braid Pick up

April 2-6: **SPRING BREAK!**

April 10: PTO Meeting 7pm