



Jefferson Middle School

Committed to Excellence

Family Newsletter

As principal of Jefferson Middle School, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere appreciation for your continued support. It is the privilege of the staff and me to serve our students, and you, our parents during your child's educational experience at Jefferson Middle School.

The school web page is a communication vehicle which provides a wealth of information to keep you updated on the happenings both in and out of the classroom and is a continued effort on our part for a home-school connection. The **Family Newsletter and Panther Prowl** will give 'highlights' of events and other clicks will provide a viewing of the **weekly** listing of students who are recognized for the following: - **Panther Paw**: recognition for demonstrating character: trustworthiness, citizenship, caring, fairness, respect, and responsibility **Smile-O-Grams**: Outstanding Leadership- **Subway Super Student**: Academic Achievement-**Pizza Hut**: Good Student Award for model manners. **Kindness Kounts (monthly)** nominated by the classroom teacher and sponsored by the Pana Education Association. The following recognitions are done on a **nine week grading period** and will be posted during the time frame when students are recognized: **Homework Happy Grams**: recognition for completing all assigned homework/ projects by due date-**Tags of Achievement**: eligible to receive a tag if student has no more than 5 missing homework assignments and **Honor Roll and Perfect Attendance**.

Teacher Pages: All teachers in our building have created a teacher page which can be accessed via the **district web page and click teacher pages below the heading: Jefferson Middle School**. This feature is a service to assist you as parents/students of homework assignments and/or projects in the classroom.

Student Recognition: On Friday, students are recognized for a variety of things that make a positive difference and make Jefferson a rewarding experience. Below you will find a listing of those recognitions. Please find those students listed under the category of 'Student Recognition on our Jefferson Web Page.

'Making a Difference': The following programs are used at Jefferson Middle School to assist students in making a difference: academic achievement, character and leadership. **To view: Click on Jefferson Middle School and on the button (right column) Student Recognition**. You will find a weekly listing of students who have been recognized for the following:

Friday Recognition:

- **Panther Paw**: recognition for demonstrating character: trustworthiness, citizenship, caring, fairness, respect, and responsibility
- **Smile-O-Grams**: Outstanding Leadership
- **Subway Super Students**. These students bring academics to a 'higher' level by exhibiting academic achievement at its best. Each recipient is awarded a certificate for a free 6" sub from Subway.

- **Pizza Hut: Star Pupil Pizza Hut Award** In recognition of academic achievement being good role models Pizza Hut is awarding all qualifying students a free single- topping personal pan pizza. The coupon may be used in both Pana/Shelbyville restaurants.

Kindness Kounts: Every month all homeroom teachers are given the opportunity to submit a student name to be recognized as a recipient of Kindness Kounts: Thanks to Mr. Osborn for his assistance with this program.

Progress Reports continue to be sent home the 5th and 20th of each month which makes you aware of grades, assignments that have not been completed, and/or assignments that have been given partial credit due to being late. This is a tool that will assist you in keeping your child from falling behind educationally. If you notice that grades are falling and/or assignments are not being completed and you have not had a contact from the teacher, please contact the homeroom teacher for a conference. Staff members team on a daily basis which gives an opportunity to meet with them.

Staff email: All staff members including myself have an email address with easy access on the panaschools.com web site. Please do not hesitate in emailing your concerns and/or questions.

***Parent FYI's: (For Your Information:**
December 2010

Governor Quinn Holiday Cards: Students in grades 5-6 created and sent holiday greetings to our service members at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. The medical center is about 80 miles southwest of Frankfort Germany and is the location for those recovering wounded from Iraq or Afghanistan. The holiday greeting cards will be delivered by Governor Quinn.

Angel Tree/Food Drive: Students in grades 5-6 participated in taking up a canned good collection which was donated for Christmas Food Baskets. In addition, Jefferson hosted names from the community Angel Tree to assist in adding holiday cheer to those in need during the holiday season. The concept gives students an awareness of the 'Spirit of the Season'

Inflatables! All students had an opportunity to enjoy a fun-filled day of 'inflatables' on Tuesday, December 7th. The Chip Shoppe provided 5 inflatable items for students to enjoy as an end to the 2010 fundraising project. Thanks to Ryan-Justin-Dena-and other staff members who supervised and enjoyed challenging students to a variety of 'skills'. **A special thanks to ALL students and parents who supported the fundraiser, we appreciate your continued support in our events and projects!**

Parents-Players-Fans: Parents-players-and fans are being given an opportunity to order: t-shirts-long sleeve t-shirts-sweatshirts-and hoodies with their player name and number printed on the back. Custom Design will be printing the garment of choice and orders must be turned into the office by Dec. 13, 2010.

Voyage of the Dawn Treader: As a gift, all students will have a private viewing of **The Voyage of the Dawn Treader** as they go to the Roseland Theater on Wednesday, Dec. 15. They will experience another episode of The Chronicles of Narnia as Lucy and Edmund Pevensie return to Narnia with their cousin Eustace where they meet up with Prince Caspian for a trip across the sea aboard the royal ship The Dawn Treader.

Christmas Concert: Under the direction(s) of Mr. Dean and Mrs. Tynan, students in band/chorus will perform a holiday concert on Friday, December 17th at 6 p.m. in the PJHS auditorium.

End of 1st semester will be December 21st. Grade cards will be sent home on January 10, 2011

***Education Update:**

.So Many Exciting, Learning Experiences are Happening at Jefferson MS and the students are generated by their accomplishments:

Plymouth Plantation: The 5th grade students went to Mrs. Berner's room to view another Live Web cast via the SMART Board as the virtual field trip. Students traveled back in time 400 years to meet the pilgrims and Wampanoag Indians. **Thanks** to Mrs. Berner for giving our students this wonderful learning experience...Technology at it's BEST!

All Skate! Mr. Lipe began a skating unit on Monday, December 6th in the PE classes. Students are participating in an in-house skating program that will provide a variety of benefits: balance, coordination, and motor skills. **Thanks** to Mr. Lipe for arranging and providing the unit.

Biomes: Mrs. Maxedon is inviting her classes to think about settings in various parts of the world. Students are exploring the world's biomes and paying close attention to details and differences. They discuss types of animals and how these animals and organisms interact. The SmartBoard is a tool that gives students a visual of these locations and brings the 'rainforest' to a higher level of viewing and learning.

Soap Sculptures: Students in Mrs. Berner's reading classes are reading the novel: "From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler" The story takes the readers on a grand adventure by running and hiding in a Metropolitan Museum. Museums house sculptures and as an activity, all students have created a soap sculpture of their choosing: (to name a few) cell phones-ships-hearts-TV's-skateboards etc. Students enjoyed the activity and it adds a 'clean' fragrance to the classroom.

The staff and I extend our Best Wishes to you and yours for the Holiday Season and a Happy, Healthy 2011!