ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL  Lee Korpela -663-6435

Welcoming New Families to Jefferson
Each school year, Jefferson becomes the new middle school for about fifty families from across the town, the state, or our country’s borders. This is often an exciting and stressful time as the parents and students become acclimated to their new surroundings.

This year, with the assistance of Jefferson students, we have changed how we welcome our newest community members. As the parents complete all the necessary paperwork to register their child and share information with our Support Staff, our “Jefferson Ambassadors” (student volunteers from each homeroom) take the new student on a guided tour of our building, showing them all the different spaces and introducing them to all the new faces. After the tour, the new students shadow their Ambassador for the remainder of the day, learning about passing time, our lunch routine, morning break, and catching the bus.

The benefits of our Jefferson Ambassador program are many:

- The families know their child(ren) can start school immediately and not have to worry about balancing child care and work;
- Our support staff have additional time to gather the necessary information to develop the best schedule for the enrollee;
- Our Ambassadors have the opportunity to be a student leader and share their knowledge and insights with a newcomer;
- Our new students are often more comfortable asking questions of a peer (i.e. “When can I use the bathroom?”);
- On their second day our new student can follow their own schedule, knowing the routine of the building and one familiar face in their homeroom.

Our new program has been an overwhelming success with staff, families, and students. Check with your student to see if they have been a Jefferson Ambassador this year – they have provided a valuable service!

CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS

8th Grade Washington DC trip!

8TH GRADE STUDENTS - Interested in what’s going on in our country? Like to travel? Enjoy learning about the country’s history, and experience history first hand? Want to hang out with your friends in D.C. for a week? Then this trip is for you!!

There will be a trip for any interested 8th grade students to Washington D.C. from Saturday, June 13th – Tuesday June 16th. We will be meeting at Jefferson taking a bus to Milwaukee airport, and flying from there to D.C. For the next four days we will be touring D.C., visiting over 15 different sites!

Possible sites include:
- Arlington National Cemetery
- Tomb of the Unknown Soldier
- Changing of the Guard
- Challenger Memorial
- Kennedy Gravesites
- White House
- Air & Space Museum
- National Gallery of Art
- Capital Hill
- Holocaust Museum
- Library of Congress

The price is only $1,099.00 per person, and includes all food, lodging, airfare, bus fare, sightseeing fees, DVD of the trip, and insurance. This price is based on minimum of 35 students attending! Help spread the word, and sign up to go! A deposit of $500.00 must be made by March 9th, and the full balance paid by April 10th.

I look forward to having your son or daughter attend this trip with me! It will be a wonderful lasting memory and hands-on learning experience they’ll never forget!

For more information or if you have any questions/concerns, please call or email Ms. Ouchakof, or New Century Tours.

Mary Ouchakof
mouchakof@madison.k12.wi.us
663-6458
New Century Tours
www.nctours.com
(410) 573-2368
SCHOOL NEWS

Jefferson Talent Show

Dates to Remember: The show will be on Thursday, March 26th at Memorial in the afternoon for the whole school.

PTO Spaghetti Dinner

Wednesday, March 4, 2009: 5:30 - 7:00pm
Join us for good food and conversation prior to the 6th and 7th Grade Band and Jazz Concerts.

Menu includes: Spaghetti and Meatballs, Roll and Butter, Salad, Dessert, Lemonade and Coffee.

The cost is: $5 Adults, $4 Children (under 12)

Look for information on purchasing tickets in your child’s backpack. Hope to see you there.

Want to help? E-mail: Darcy McCann at shdm@earthlink.net or call: 833-0144

Library News and Notes

Info @ Home Bookmarks
If you have not received an “Info @ Home” bookmark that provides information on how to access at home the library catalog and several online databases, please have your student stop in the library and pick one up. Post it beside your home computer in order to provide instant access to some great resources.

The Library is in need of a few more volunteers. In addition to the usual work load of teaching research skills, checking materials in and out, ordering and processing new materials, giving book talks, tracking down overdue books, etc., etc., we are also trying to work on a massive weeding project in order to keep the library looking fresh and up-to-date. We could use a few people all day on Tuesday, Thursday morning and an occasional Friday. If you could help out, please call Jean Penshorn at 663-6449. Here’s kudos to the great crew of volunteers that we already have!

Battle of the Books District competition will be held in early March
Eileen McGlynn, Librarian & Jean Penshorn, Library Asst.

Scholastic Software and Tab
For grade 7 and above are available in the LMC.
Colleen Stilson

Yearbook Information
Yearbooks are available to purchase for $12.00 – Order forms are available in the office or from Ms. Stilson – Room 200.

Optimist's Oratorical Contest
Topic: For me, Optimism is . . .
Length of Speeches: Four or five minutes

Club Contest Date: March 5th at 7:00 PM in the lecture hall at Jefferson. If you have any questions contact Cindy La Point at 663-7349 or clapoint@madison.k12.wi.us

Anti-Drug and Alcohol Pilot Program: STAND STRONG
A team of Jefferson Middle School students, lead by 7th grade teacher, Jill Olsen is part of a pilot project in partnership with Charter Communications. The students are: Andi Schultz, Rhilly Cole, Alyiah Bolles, Leanne Hagen, Juan Martinez, Seth Wald, Mike McCabe, Aaron Moller, and Keyaune Buchanan.

The project offers an exciting opportunity for Jefferson, along with Spring Harbor and Hamilton Middle Schools, to create public services announcements that are focused on not using drugs and alcohol. Charter Communications has provided staff and technical support that will allow these three schools to make creative, positive and professionally produced PSA’s. During the month of April, in conjunction with other activities supporting Alcohol and other Drugs Awareness Month (proclamation of Governor Doyle), each school’s completed 30 second message will be aired on all Charter Cable stations throughout the state. The project has assembled a panel of judges who will rank and announce 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place awards. We have some cool prizes and awards for each participating team!

This project is just one important initiative focused on supporting our students in making the right choices about drug and alcohol use. Probably the most important component in raising positive and strong decision makers is you, the parent. Research supports the reality that our students are better equipped to make good decisions when parents talk about (and consistently model) their positions on alcohol and other drugs (AOD). Strong bonding in the parent-child relationship enhances communication and parental involvement. Parental involvement, monitoring and supervision of your child are critical in preventing AOD experimentation and use.

Part of my position with MMSSD is in Memorial High as the Alcohol and Other Drug Counselor. During the first half of the school year, I have worked with more than 50 students affected by drugs and/or alcohol use. Many of these students began experimenting during their middle school years. This reality only points out the need to work as a team with concerned others to provide education, skill building opportunities, counseling supports and activities like the pilot collaboration described in this article. The teams involved in this pilot, their families and each school community will be proud of the strong and positive messages focused on helping their peers Stand Strong when it comes to staying away from using drugs and alcohol.

Next year, Charter will expand the STAND STRONG program to include all middle schools within the MMSSD. Stay tuned about this year’s project as well as other useful information to support our youth. Robert Howard, Social Worker 663-6434 – rhoward@madison.k12.wi.us
UW-DoIT
Information Technology Academy for 8th Grade Students
The UW-DoIT Information Technology Academy (ITA) is accepting applications from 8th grade students until March 27, 2009. The ITA is a unique 4-year pre-college technology access and training program for underrepresented students attending Madison Public Schools. ITA graduates who are admitted to degree-seeking programs at the UW-Madison will receive a tuition scholarship for up to four years. Participation requires a significant time commitment by students. Students will attend a 2-week summer technology training camp in August and upon successful completion of the camp will receive a desktop computer, printer and internet dial-up account to use at home.
Applications for ITA are available from Mr. O’Neal, from Mary Heffrich, School Counselor, or online at: http://ita.wisc.edu.

HONORS AND ACCOLADES
Math Count Team Results
Our entire Jefferson Math Counts team did extremely well at the District Meet and Sohil Shah took 1st place out of all the competitors. Our team of Sohil Shah, Kelly Shen, Charles He, Edwin Wu, and Brian Luo will go to represent our school at the State Meet. Congratulations to Wilson Lu, Isaiah Mitchell and Daniel Li also for excellent scores.

STUDENT COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes from January 29, 2009
By Natalie Hodgkiss
Treasurer’s Report- Total Balance: $798.30
1. $800 raised for Heifer International, $3400 total along with Stephens Elementary
2. $295.00 raised with popcorn sales since November

Old Business
• Bathrooms - The school voted on if they would like shelves in the downstairs bathrooms and the majority of students voted yes. But some Student Council members were worried about possible theft and the monetary cost of the shelves. The school custodians have agreed to put in hooks for a while to try them out. Another idea brought up was small tables, but that was ultimately overturned.
• Hand Sanitizers - The hand sanitizer has been working well in the cafeteria, but the Student Council would like to add two more bottles on either side of the lunch lines. We are also contemplating asking for donations to buy more bottles.
• Recycling Committee - The Recycling Committee needs to meet! There has been only one poster advertising recycling in our lunch room since the last Student Council Meeting, so the committee needs to make more to make sure they get their message out.

New Business
• Lost and Found - Some Student Council members think that the benches in front of the office that serve as our lost and found are not working so well! No action has been decided yet.
• After School Dance - The Student Council has decided to hold an after-school dance on March 20th. Some of the things we still need to work out are transportation for students, who is going to DJ; if there will be an entry fee, staff supervision and the theme. The student council has to go to this dance. We have made a Decoration/Theme committee and a Music committee.

Decorations/ Theme Committee
1. Juan - Chair
2. Rachel
3. Ashleigh
4. Emily
5. Lindsay
6. Rasika
7. Hannah
8. Qwamisa

Music Committee - In charge of Playlist and DJ
1. Adam - Chair
2. Natalie
3. Kate
4. Chet
5. Rhielly

• The next Student Council meeting will be the last Thursday before the end of February.

That’s what happened in this week’s meeting! Keep reading the Jabber for more Student Council Updates.

DISTRICT NEWS
MMSD Board of Education Progress Report – February, 2009
The month of January got off to a quick start for the Board as we started our new committee structures and school visits to our liaison schools. For a list of Board members and their school assignments, please see http://www.mmsd.org/boe/. In addition to being school liaisons, Board members will also be linked to the community service programs we have funded through Fund 80.

Committee Structure: We started our new committee structure in January. The three Board committees are: 1) Student Achievement and Performance Monitoring; 2) Planning and Development; and 3) Operational Support. All Board members sit on each committee. The committees meet on the first Monday of the month. This is where the major discussion takes place on agenda items. No voting takes place at committee meetings.

The Regular Board meeting is now on the second Monday of the month. Voting takes place at this meeting. The staggered time between discussion and voting gives the Board time to collect more information, if needed, and hear from the community on topics.

Legislative Agenda: The Board approved our 2009-2011 Legislative agenda in January. We encourage
community involvement in advocating on behalf of the students in our district. The legislative agenda, talking points and contact information for the state legislature can be found at http://drupal.madison.k12.wi.us/node/2136. If you would like more information on how to get involved, please contact us at comments@madison.k12.wi.us.

2008 Board of Education Priorities: The Board’s three priorities related to the current strategic plan are: 1) All students complete 3rd grade able to read and grade level or beyond; 2) All students complete algebra by the end of 9th grade and geometry by the end of 10th grade; 3) all students attend school at a 94% attendance rate. The Board received this report in January. The report is located at http://www.madison.k12.wi.us/boe/reports/BOE_Priorities_Nov_2008.pdf.

The report details where we as a district have made progress and where we are lacking. The information in this report was provided to our strategic planning team so the information can be used in the development of our new strategic plan. The report also gives a history of the demographic changes in our district.

Strategic Planning Process: The community-based strategic planning team met for three days in January and developed draft mission, belief and strategy statements. The planning continues. Action teams are being formed to further develop the strategies. We are planning community engagement sessions so the community can get involved and learn about the plan and provide feedback.

What’s Coming Up? Mark your calendars. There will be two opportunities for the community to hear the recommendations from the Fine Arts Task Force and comment on these findings: Tuesday, March 10, 6:00pm at Memorial HS and Thursday, March 12, 6:00pm at La Follette HS.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact the Board at comments@madison.k12.wi.us or call me at 516-8981.

Best regards,
Arlene Silveira

Fine Arts Task Force Informational Meetings
Dear MMSD Community Members,

The Board of Education and I would like to invite you to attend an information session about the findings and recommendations of the Fine Arts Task Force. Two sessions will be held, the first on Tuesday, March 10 at Memorial High School from 6:00 – 8:00 PM and the second on Thursday, March 12 at Lafollette High School from 6:00 – 8:00 PM. The flyer accompanying this note provides more information about the community sessions and how to access the task force report.

The Fine Arts Task Force was appointed by the Board of Education and developed their recommendations over the course of a yearlong study. The report represents the best thinking of this committed group of parents and community members. We are grateful for the effort and thought they put into gathering information and compiling the report and their recommendations.

Now it is time to share their thinking with the broader community and gather additional reactions. Your input will help us as we begin thinking about how to implement their recommendations and are establishing future priorities through the strategic planning process we began in January. I hope to see you at one of the two forums if your schedule permits.

Sincerely,
Daniel Nerad, Superintendent

Talented and Gifted Education Parent Meeting
MMSD Family Forum Invitation

Dear MMSD Community Members,

Talented and Gifted Education Parent Meeting

MMSD Wellness Committee

2008-2009 Recommended Snack List for Classroom or Program Snacks

Snacks containing peanuts or other nuts may not be served at school. This includes snacks with almonds, Brazil nuts, cashews, hazelnuts, macadamias, pecans, pine nuts, pistachios, and walnuts. Items on this list have been selected because, at this time, they do not contain peanuts or nuts products and the fat content meets the standard set by the Board of Education Policy. The intention of this list is to provide guidance to parents about snacks that are peanut and nut free. Parents whose children have peanut or nut allergies should check product labels every time to be sure that the products are peanut and nut free, free from cross contamination during processing and safe for their child to eat. Checking manufacturer web sites may also provide helpful information.

Food prepared at home to be served at school should be accompanied by a general list of ingredients or sent with a checklist indicating whether any of the following ingredients are included: milk, eggs, fish, shellfish, wheat, soy. Along with peanuts and tree nuts, these ingredients are responsible for 90% of all food allergy reactions in children.

Sincerely,
Daniel Nerad, Superintendent

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Arlene Silveira

Franklin Taft

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Sincerely,
Daniel Nerad, Superintendent


Fruits/Vegetables
- Fresh fruit (any, such as oranges, apples, bananas, grapes, pears, plums, tangerines) that has been thoroughly washed
- Raisins and other dried fruits – prepackaged (except Eileen’s brand)
- Fruit in individual cups (applesauce, pears, peaches, etc.)
- Fresh vegetables that have been thoroughly washed, with low fat dips

Juices
- 100% fruit or vegetable juices
- Frozen 100% juice pops

Dairy
- Yogurt in individual cups or tubes
- Pudding in individual cups or tubes
- String cheese or other individually packaged cheeses (1 oz)
- Frozen yogurt bars

Crackers/Snack Items
Nabisco/Kraft:
- Crackers (Wheat Thins, Triscuits or Vegetable Thins)
- Red Oval Farms Stoned Wheat Thins
- Honey Maid Graham crackers or sticks [honey, cinnamon or chocolate flavor]
- Ritz crackers (original flavor or wheat), dinosaurs or sticks (EXCEPT Ritz bits)
- Cheese Nips or Better Cheddars
- Teddy Grahams or Teddy Graham character brands
- Nilla Wafers, Barnum’s Animal Crackers

Keebler:
- Wheatables (wheat or honey flavors)
- Club Crackers
- Town House Crackers
- Scooby Doo Graham Cracker Sticks
- Grahams
- Golden Vanilla Wafers (regular and mini)

Shur Fine
- Graham (honey or cinnamon)
- Snap crackers

Great Value (Wal-Mart)
- Double Cross Snacks (like triscuits)
- Cheese Crackers
- Crackles butter crackers
- Snap Crackers
- Honey or Cinnamon Grahams

Saltines and Oyster Crackers (any brand except Great Value Brand)

Pepperidge Farm
- Goldfish Crackers (any EXCEPT Sandwich Snackers)
- Pretzels (regular, unseasoned, any brand EXCEPT Snyder’s or Great Value)

Cereals
General Mills
- Cheerios (EXCEPT Honey Nut)
- Trix, Lucky Charms or Kix
- Rice Chex, Corn Chex, Wheat Chex or Multibran Chex

Malt-o-Meal
- Apple Zings
- Frosted Mini Spooners
- Honey Buzzers
- Cinnamon Toasters
- Colossal Crunch (regular or berry)
- Tootie Fruities
- Cocoa Roos
- Marshmallow Mateys

Kellogg’s
- Apple Jacks
- Fruit Loops

Mom’s Best Naturals (at Woodman’s)
- Toasted Wheat-fuls
- Mallow Oats
- Honey Grahams
- Honey-fyl Wheats

Great Value (Wal-Mart)
- Toasted Rice
- Corn or wheat squares (like Chex)

Cereal Bars
- Kellogg’s NutriGrain Bars
- Kellogg’s Special K Bars (strawberry, blueberry, vanilla or chocolate)
- Rice Krispie Treats (original)
- Nabisco Honey Maid Soft Baked Bars

Other
- Small bagels (Lenders and Thomas brand) with cream cheese (no nut types)
- Popcorn (no or low fat)
- Baked Tortilla chips and salsa (Tostitos brand)
- Jello snacks (individual cups)
- Popcorn (POP-Secret brand)
- New York bagel chips

Please remember that in order to be candy and nut-free, these items are not acceptable as daily classroom snacks:
- Peanut butter, nuts or other nut butters
- Candy
- Bakery items
- Bulk bin items
- Granola or granola bars
- Chex or other party snack mixes

**Please read labels carefully to make sure products are nut free. As of May 2007, some manufacturers have discontinued labeling products that may have nuts or are produced on equipment also used for products with nuts.

JEFFERSON YOUTH RESOURCE CENTER

ATTENTION PARENTS AND PARTICIPANTS:
There will be no After School at Jefferson on Monday, March 2nd. All after-school programming including Homework Club (with the exception of students going to Memorial for Wrestling Club) is cancelled for staff development. Please contact our office if you have any concerns regarding this cancellation (663-6427).

Black History Bowl
Jefferson is forming a team to compete at a Black History Bowl competition! Team members will meet with Coach Assad three days a week during Homework Club to study the curriculum and discuss relevant topics. All students are encouraged to join!! Please visit the YRC office if you are interested.

Check Mate!
MSCR’s 9th Annual City-Wide Chess Championship is taking place Saturday, February 28th at Warner Park Community Recreation Center. Jefferson enters as the reigning champion and we wish them luck in defending their title! Girls’ Basketball
Jefferson’s girls have been working hard every week and improving their skills. The season is quick and fast approaching its finale. The City-Wide Tournament will be
2009 Middle School Tennis League

For the tenth year, an after-school tennis program will be offered in all Madison Middle Schools. Last year, there were a total of 18 teams. The success of this program is extremely dependent on parental involvement. Parents are needed as volunteer phone persons, coordinators, coaches, and drivers. No amount of volunteer time is too little. Please let one of the persons listed below know how and when you can help.

Highlights of the program are:

- One practice session each week after school beginning April 20th.
- All levels from beginners to experienced players are welcome.
- Matches each Wednesday after school beginning April 29nd.
- Practices will be Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday after school, depending on the middle school.
- Practices will be at 2 or 3 court sites as close as possible to your middle school.
- An all-league tournament/party/celebration on Saturday, June 6th.

Important Dates:
- March 1: Registration and permission forms will be available at your school.
- March 27: Registration and permission forms are due back at school.
- April 17 or before - After-school informational/organizational meeting will be held.
- April 20 – Practices begin this week
- April 29 - Weekly Wednesday matches begin
- June 3 – Last Wednesday match.
- June 6 – All-City tournament/party to end middle school tennis season.

At our school:
Registration and permission forms will be available in the office by March 1st.

Persons organizing the team for our school are:
MSCR Activity Director: Layne Hammond-Champion
Parent Contact: Eileen Goode
MSCR Coordinator: 663-6427
Lchampion@ulgm.org  egoode@northernloon.com

FUNDRAISING NEWS

1. Simplified SCRIP
Check out the attachments in the back of the newsletter regarding a way to support your school and win a gift card.

Contact: Marisue Horton at marisue@simplifiedscrip.com or (608) 821-1024

2. TARGET Credit Card
Obtain a credit card from Target and designate Jefferson.

3. Box Tops, Soup Labels and Milk Bottle Caps
Keep collecting the Campbell Soup labels and the box tops which come on a variety of products and are usually pink and the milk caps turn into the office. Thank you, Colleen Stilson

4. Search Engine
Search the web with www.google.com and money from Yahoo advertisers will go to Jefferson without you spending a dime! Enter Jefferson Middle School – Madison as your charity and make Goodsearch your default search engine and just let the money collect.

TJMS CALENDAR

March 2009
4…………6 and 7 Grade Band/Jazz Band Concert-7:30 PM
4…………………..PTO Spaghetti Dinner
14…………………..Madison District Solo/Ensemble Festival
26……………………Talent Show
27…………Strings Festival 3/27 & 3/28-Memorial High School
27…………………..End of Third Quarter

April 2009
6 – 13………………..SCHOOL CLOSED – SPRING BREAK
14…………………………..School reopens
21……………………………..District Choral Festival
22…………………..Staff Development – Early Release 11:30 AM
24…………………..District Band/Orchestra Festival

May 2009
6……………………………..PTO Meeting – 7:00 PM
20………………………….6th Grade Band/chorus Concert-7:30 PM
20…………………..8th Grade Track Meet-Mansfield @ Memorial
22………………………….8th Grade Track Meet Rain Date
25………………………….MEMORIAL DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED
26……………….Orchestra Concert-Memorial Auditorium-7:30 PM
27…………………..7th Grade Choral/Band Concert -7:30 PM
27…………………..All City Track Meet - Mansfield @ Memorial

June 2009
3…………………..8th Grade Choral/Band Concert – 7:30 PM
4……………………………..8th Grade Farewell Dance
10…………………..7th Grade Completion Ceremony – 9:40 AM
10…………………..8th Grade Completion Ceremony – 7:00 PM
11………………………….6th, 7th, 8th Grade End of Year Field Trips
12…………………..Last Day of School – Early Release – 9:30 AM
**PTO BOARD**

**President:** Mary Kay Battaglia  
827-7993  
marybattaglia@tds.net

**Vice President:** Joanne DeNoble  
848-4266  
denoblej@firstweber.com

**Secretary:** Ann Wilson  
833-6221

**Treasurer:** Mark Cash micash01@charter.net  
663-6425  
tburrmaster@madison.k12.wi.us

**Principal:** John Burmaster  
663-6425  
jburrmaster@madison.k12.wi.us

**Teacher Rep:** Cindy LaPoint  
663-7349  
clapoint@madison.k12.wi.us

**Sixth Grade Rep:** Terri Neider  
833-2576  
tneider@neiderboucher.com

**Seventh Grade Rep:** Eileen Goode  
833-8804  
goode@northernloon.com

**Eight Grade Rep:** Andrea Diaczun  
833-0775  
adiaczun@tds.net

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

The Jefferson Community invites you to volunteer in any way you can. Please consider chairing a committee that is currently vacant, contact a board member for more information. If you are interested in helping out with a committee please contact the chairperson. The more hands that help, the lighter the load!

**Student Council Chair:** Cathy Wall  
827-7229  
wall7309@tds.net

**Communications Chair:** Cathy Wall  
827-7229  
wall7309@tds.net

**Jefferson Pride Chair:** Molly Plunkette

**Foundation for Public Schools Chair:**  
Mary Kay Battaglia  
827-7993  
marybattaglia@tds.net

**Lego League Chair:** Cathy Cryer  
833-9373  
ccryer@worldnet.att.net

**Popcorn Chair:** Darcy McCann  
833-0144  
shdm@earthlink.net

**Staff Appreciation Chair:** Debra Greene  
debra_greene@sbcglobal.net

**ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBERS TO KNOW**

Thomas Jefferson Middle School  
101 S. Gammon Road  
Madison, WI 53717

Attendance/Safe Arrival Line: 663-6415  
Office: 663-6403  
Auto Attendant: 663-6420