Dear Jefferson Community,

It is with great appreciation that I recognize and applaud your collective efforts in making this a wonderfully successful year at Jefferson Middle School. Your interest, attention and involvement in your child’s education makes a tremendous difference! In the past months we’ve enjoyed a Talent Show, an afternoon of BIG GAMES, a Student Academic Achievement event and much more. We are preparing for many curricular field trips, musical concerts, end-of-year trips and our 8th grade promotion activities. Add to this the comprehensive, end-of-year assessments of academic growth, and it’s a busy, busy time!

The end-of-the-year activities are spotlights on the growth and success of students. They are a testament to the hard work of staff. Right now, students and staff have been joining together to raise funds for end-of-year trips and for the Komen Race for the Cure. These efforts are great community-building activities that benefit our kids and our community. They allow our children to be involved in something that serves the greater good — something middle school youth crave.

I hope that included in your list of “Things to do in May” is finalizing summer planning. Summer planning with your children is about nurturing the whole child. We owe it to our kids to make sure we help them find the sparks that can shape their lives in so many positive ways. Check out the website on SPARKS at www.ignitesparks.com.

Help to keep your middle school child positively involved this summer – find a SPARK!

We’ve enjoyed the gift of your child with us this school year. Special thanks to the many, many volunteers who give their time, talent and resources so that our kids and our entire school community continues to thrive.

Have a great summer — I’ll see you before you know it!

RETIRING STAFF

Thousands of candles can be lighted from a single candle, and the life of the candle will not be shortened. Happiness never decreases by being shared. ~Buddha

It is always bittersweet to say goodbye to staff who are retiring. The dedication to our community from this group is formidable — the years of service accumulate to well over 100 years! Please make sure to bid farewell and thank you to the following retirees: Cindy LaPoint, Kay Willborn, Nancy Gants, Jeannie Bettlesworth, Henry Hawkins and Robert Buchanan. Jefferson Middle School is richer and wiser for the efforts of these dedicated and talented staff. They will be truly missed.

END-OF-YEAR FIELD TRIPS — TO THE DELLS

This year, 6th and 7th grades will be going to Chula Vista in Wisconsin Dells on June 9. They will be back for buses at the regular dismissal time.

Our 8th grade will arrive at school at 10 a.m. on June 9, spend the day at Mt. Olympus, and return to Jefferson at 5 p.m. They will need transportation to and from school that day.
JOIN THE JEFFERSON JAGUAR TEAM FOR KOMEN RACE FOR THE CURE
Jefferson staff have started up a Jefferson Jaguar Team for the June 4 Komen Race for the Cure. All are welcome, but families must supervise their children on the day of the race. We will not be sponsoring this as a “school event” with transportation or supervision. We hope you can join us. What a great way to conclude the school year and kick off the summer together! We will also have materials and information at school if you want to sign up or donate without using online resources.

At press time, the team had 40 members; the goal is 50. It’s not too late for you to join, too!

The following address gets you right to the point of joining our team. You can also go here to donate.


LIBRARY NEWS AND NOTES
By Eileen McGlynn, Librarian and Jean Penshorn, Library Assistant

Summer is coming: What’s there to do? This lament is often heard by parents during the summer months. Encourage reading books, magazines, newspapers, comic books, graphic novels, picture books — whatever — just encourage reading! The following sites might be helpful to you or your student when looking for new reading material:

Book Awards and Booklists
(Young Adult Library Association Services) www.ala.org/yalso/booklists

Book and Media Awards
(Association for Library Services to Children) http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/

JEFFERSON JABBER

The Jefferson Jabber is published monthly, with publication dates being mid-month. The next Jabber will be mailed during the summer and will contain registration and other important information regarding the 2011-12 school year.
FROM THE PTO
At the last PTO meeting, held May 4, the following board was elected for the 2011-2012 school year:

President: Jill Tomalin
Vice President: Ann Wilson
Secretary: Pam Delfosse
Treasurer: Katherine Bidwell

In addition, the following class representatives and committee chairs were announced:

Class Representatives
6th grade parent representative (responsible for blood drive) ____________
7th grade parent representative: Jane Kaldor
8th grade parent representative: Cathy Wall

Committee Chairs
Book Fair Co-Chairs: Laura Temprano and ____________
Communication: ____________
Staff Appreciation: Darcy McCann and Barbara Blodi
Spaghetti Dinner: Ann Wilson
Popcorn: ____________
Registration: ____________
Volunteer Coordinator: Pam Delfosse
Fundraiser Chair: ____________
Endowment Chair: Mary Kay Battaglia
Eighth Grade Dance: Mary Kay Battaglia, Cathy Wall, Ann Wilson
Fall Picnic co-chairs: Charlene Drumm and ____________

Blank spaces indicate roles that still need to be filled. Want to join in the fun and get involved in your child’s school? Please contact incoming president Jill Tomalin at jtomalin@cuna.com with your questions or commitment. And thanks to all who have agreed to serve next year!

8th GRADE FAREWELL PARTY
What a fabulous “red carpet” send-off to the 8th Grade Class of 2011 is in the works! The PTO would like to recognize the following parents, staff, teachers and sponsors for sharing their time, talent, energy and monies to make this year’s 8th Grade Farewell Party, scheduled for May 26, an awesome event:

Committee Chair: Terri Neider
Decorations Coordinator: Debra Greene
Refreshment Coordinator: Ann Wilson
Invitations Coordinator: Karen Hodgkiss

Corporate Sponsors (Parent Solicitors):
Isthmus DJ, LLC (reduced rate)/Charles and Terri Neider (DJ sponsors)
Strike-A-Pose Photo Booth (reduced rate) (Terri Neider)
Costco (Janie Krohmer)
PDQ Food Stores (Denise Hoffman)
Schwoeglers Park Towne Lanes (ice donations) (Heidi Miller)
U-Bake It (reduced rate) (Liz Green)
Vanilla Bean (reduced rate) (Liz Green)
Parkcrest Pool (coolers) (Jane Kaldor)
James Madison Memorial High School Drama Department (Debra Greene)
Market Square Theatre (Debra Greene)

Parent Monetary Donations:
Liz Green
Debra Greene
Carolyn Heinrich
Terri Neider
Judy Nowak
Patricia Schweitzer
Karen Stuesser
Ann Wilson
Yina Xing

Paparazzi Coordinator: Sheila Eichorst
Paparazzi: Sara Peck
Robby Thompson, co-owner of Alterity Productions
Charles Neider
Sheila Eichorst

Farewell Committee: Mara Ansfield, Anne Marie Bell, Laura Burden, LaVonne Cornell-Swanson, Sheila Eichorst, Liz Green, Debra Greene, Carolyn Heinrich, Karen Hodgkiss, Denise Hoffman, Marjorie Horton, Peggy Huber, Jane Kaldor, Jenny Kimball, Joanne Krantz, Janie Krohmer, Sumi Lombardo, Heidi Miller, Terri Neider, Judy Nowak, Anne Murphy, Karyl Rice, Sandra Swenson, Mary Schmelzer, Patricia Schweitzer, Karen Stuesser, Meg Wakefield, Gail Walsh, Ann Wilson, Yina Xing

TJMS Administration & Staff: Anne Fischer, Lee Korpela, Cindy LaPoint, Scott Mueller, Julie Riebau, Adam Jensen, Emily Kintzer, Julie Trinkner, Cindy Ball, Molly Tomney, Tom Hind, Maiqua Ghayyad, Stephanie Bush, Ashley Wedige, Elise Strupp, Colleen Onzburn, Amanda Hauser, Natalie Kainz and TJMS Custodial Staff.

It’s not too late to get involved. Want to help decorate or clean up on May 26? Contact Terri Neider at tneider@neiderboucher.com or 833-2576.
MSCR YOUTH RESOURCE CENTER
AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM
(A partnership of Lussier Community Education Center, Madison School and Community Recreation and Centro Hispano)

The last day of after-school programming is Thursday, May 19. This ends our homework clubs and open recreation programs. Sports will continue into the first week of June, based on their game schedules.

Soccer
Coach: Sam Slater
May 19, HOME, Wright @ Jefferson
May 26, HOME, Cherokee @ Jefferson
June 2, AWAY, Jefferson @ Toki

Softball
Coaches: Nicole Duhr, Ben Cashen and David Freeman
May 23, Jefferson @ Sherman
June 6, Jefferson @ O’Keefe

Tennis
Jefferson Jag Aces – Mondays
Coaches: Karen Schultz and Bob Pellegrino
May 19 vs. Eagle Eyes at McKee
May 26 vs. Cherokee Slice at Walnut Grove
June 2 vs. Toki at Toki
June 4 Final Tournament, location TBD

Jefferson Jaguars – Tuesdays
Coaches: Kohisha Blaylock and Bob Pellegrino
May 19 vs. Spring Harbor Extreme Force at Walnut Grove
May 26 vs. Cherokee Top Spin at Odana Park
June 2 vs. Toki at Toki
June 4 Final Tournament, location TBD

Look for co-ed flag football and co-ed volleyball for 7th and 8th grade students next fall!

2011-2012 REGISTRATION DAYS
Please mark your calendars for Jefferson’s registration days for the 2011-12 school year:

Monday, Aug. 22, 9-11:30 a.m. and 3:30- 6:30 p.m. for grades 7 & 8
Wednesday, Aug 24, same times (grade 6)
New students may enroll either day.

DRESS FOR SUCCESS
There is a close relationship between student attire and student attitudes toward school. For that reason, the district Student Conduct and Discipline Plan (#107) prohibits students from “dressing or grooming in a manner which disrupts teaching or learning.” Please note the particulars as it relates to Jefferson students “dressing for success.” These guidelines are similar to those in other of our middle schools.

General – Not Allowed
- Coats or jackets worn to class
- Bare feet
- Wallet chains or pant chains
- Sunglasses or play glasses
- House slippers
- Visible underwear
- Clothing that is too skimpy or revealing
- Clothing that carries profane, obscene, gang-related or offensive slogans or pictures
- Hats, bandanas, hoods, hairnets, scarves, sweatbands, “do rags,” etc. Headgear worn for religious reasons is allowed.

Tops – Not Allowed
- Muscle shirts
- Spaghetti straps, see-through mesh shirts, backless tops, halter tops, tube tops, tops that expose the stomach and sleeveless shirts that expose the sides.

Bottoms – Not Allowed
- Short shorts
- Sagging pants – even if you have gym shorts underneath!

A student who wears a shirt that violates the dress code is asked to turn the shirt inside out or is offered a clean, replacement shirt. A student who wears sagging pants is offered a length of string as a belt or a belt.

A student who repeatedly refuses to conform to the dress code may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension.

Help your student dress for success!
CONGRATULATIONS, 7th GRADERS!
What an amazing day! On May 4, the 7th grade held a silent auction to raise money for our end-of-the-year field trip. Students, staff and parents were frantically bidding on items from bookmarks to a signed Bo Ryan basketball, and even a brand new iPod Nano! We want to thank everyone involved in the auction, especially those who committed to buying an item and helping out our wonderful 7th grade!

MEDICATIONS TOSSED AT END OF YEAR
Parents, please remember to come to school to pick up your student’s medications at the end of the school year. Medications cannot be stored until the following school year. Medications left at school will be discarded on June 17, one week after school is out. The only medications that can be sent home with a student if parents give permission are Inhalers, Epipens or Glucagon. All other medication must be picked up by a parent. Please contact the school health office at 663-6439 or 663-6440 to let us know how you will handle your student’s medication at the end of year. Thanks for your assistance with this issue. We hate to throw away medication.

Medications for students enrolled in summer school will be given to the school nurse for summer school.

SCHOOLS OF HOPE TUTORING PROGRAM
(A partnership of the Urban League of Greater Madison, Centro Hispano of Dane County and the United Way)

We had a great Tutor Appreciation Celebration on the evening of April 27 at the Great Dane-Hilldale. Over 200 tutors from the Schools of Hope Program came to eat some good food, take part in a raffle and hear a few short thank-you speeches. It was a fun-filled event and a great way to show our gratitude to all of our volunteers.

Hopefully, next year you will join us as a tutor! If you are interested in volunteering next school year, call Layne Hammond-Champion, at 663-6427.

NEW DOOR SECURITY SYSTEM
As part of the Madison Metropolitan School District’s continual assessment and updating of school safety, the district applied for and received a federal grant that — along with matching funds from the district — has allowed for the purchase of additional school security equipment.

Some of the new equipment includes remote-controlled locking devices with cameras and intercom sound systems that will be installed this summer on the main entrance doors of 17 schools.

The door security systems will be installed in these MMSD schools:
- all 11 middle schools;
- schools adjacent to middle schools: Gompers, Marquette, Orchard Ridge, Schenck, Shabazz and Van Hise.

This means that starting in September, entrance to these schools after the morning student arrival period will be limited to the main entrance only and will require students and visitors to be “buzzed in” to the buildings and to register at the main office. Staff members will have electronic access.

The installation of these door security systems is consistent with the school safety plan to improve physical security of buildings; in particular, to restrict building access. These systems will allow school staff to monitor and control who enters the building during the school day.

Recommendations for installation at the remaining elementary schools with the next round of funding will be forthcoming. High schools are in the process of having welcome centers installed so as to better control access there during the school day.

The Madison School District takes very seriously its responsibility to provide a safe and secure learning environment for students and staff. While these entrance changes might cause inconveniences, they are being made in the spirit of enhancing overall school security.
BAND NEWS
By Allison Jaeger

Summer Rentals
Summer instrument rental forms will go home during the last week of May, and students will have two options:

- Have form filled out by parents and return it immediately with the check for the rental fee for one semester’s band fees ($70 for 6th and 7th graders -- 8th graders should contact the high school for rentals but the fees are the same) or scholarship form, to rent an instrument over the summer.
- Or, if you are planning on renting or purchasing an instrument from an outside source, students will have to return the instrument itself by Monday, June 6.

Important: During the first year of band (6th grade), students are offered the use of starter instruments for a modest rental fee. Madison School Board policy states that during the following years of 7th and 8th grades, most students need to provide their own band instruments. However, because of the greater expense, the school will continue to try to provide French Horns, Baritones, Tubas, Bassoons, Baritone Saxes and Bass Clarinets.

This year Jefferson’s beginning band program has remained very large. It was necessary to borrow 35 instruments from other schools to provide enough. I am so pleased to have so many children anxious to make music, but now it’s even more important that next year’s 7th and 8th graders attempt to provide their own instruments since the inbound 6th graders will use up what Jefferson owns on the shelves.

Buying a good used instrument is always the best value -- musical instruments luckily tend to not depreciate in value as long as they are well cared for.

Instruments can be acquired in many ways:
1. Check at the music store for a RENTAL-PURCHASE plan.
2. Buy a new instrument from a music store.
3. Buy a used or “rental-return” instrument from a music store.
4. Buy a used instrument from a private individual. (Want ads, bulletin boards, garage sales)
5. Buy a used instrument from a store dealing in used goods.

SUMMER SCHOOL FOR 8TH GRADERS — EARN HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT!
8th grade students will have the opportunity to take courses for high school credit this summer. Courses are in Art, Keyboarding, Computer Literacy, Study Skills, Algebra Prep, Read 180, Health and Physical Education. These courses will allow students to get a jump start on high school and to free up time during the regular school year for additional course work.

The brochures have been mailed to all MMSD 8th grade student homes; it is available on the MMSD website and from the school counselor.
DO TRY all five steps listed above before calling for help. No one will have to drop out of band if you can’t come up with an instrument. Call me at school (663-7604) or at home if you have tried the five steps and are still stuck. Please also see me for a list of good brand names to rent/buy new or used. Many parents find it helpful to email me first when they find deals online, so I can check to make sure it’s a quality instrument.

Summer Lessons
Now is also a great time to look into taking private lessons over the summer. It is EXTREMELY important that students continue to use their skills over the break, so that they come in the first day of school next year prepared to forge ahead instead of catch up. See me for an extensive list of recommended teachers that your student could take lessons from -- some have packages that are very flexible with family vacation schedules.

Fundraising
A huge thanks to those who have donated to our fundraising efforts. We are still accepting donations, and we continue to receive a lot of positive parent and student feedback on the nature of giving donations in place of a “sales” fundraiser. We are just $1,000 short of our $5,000 goal, but we’re hoping that with your help we may still yet reach our goal by the end of this school year. Thank you so much already for how supportive and strong our school community continues to be. We have already purchased new music, have awarded scholarships for students to attend music camps, and we are still saving for updating technology in the band room. The kids and I thank you so much for your support! Listed below are our current donors for the 2010-2011 school year as of May 5.

Director
Doc DeHaven
Jefferson PTO

Baton
The Moy Family
Yasmeen and Azeez Pasha

Soloist
Anonymous
The Bonazza Family
Liebau Family
The Daniel Petersen Family
Randy and Jessica Ruplinger

Principal Patron
Anonymous
Kevin Briski Family

Casanova Family
Family of Adrian Godfrey
Griep Family
Greg and Sally Hollman
Homacek Family
Ben and Allison Jaeger
Jason and Julie Jensen
Ben Kermgard
Sylvia and Kingsley Smith
The Tomalin Family
Tray Turner Family
The Vaughans
The Werner Family
Carly and Austin Wilson
Whisenant Family
The Xu Family

Patron
Ahuja Family
Anonymous
Marissa Chang
Collins Family
Greenleaf Family
Leta Hensen
Cindy LaPoint
The Muskat Family
Rath Family
Tim Schlenker and Kelly Rusch
Stuesser/Cornwell Family
Dave and Sara Tilsen
Marc and Martha Vallon

Friend
Anonymous
The Hannah Cryer Family
The Huber Family

Upcoming events:
May 25: 6th Grade Band and Chorus Concert
June 1: 7th, 8th Grade Bands and Jazz Band Concert

TRAFFIC ISSUES AROUND THE SCHOOL
Traffic flow continues to be a safety issue around Jefferson. Please be aware of children coming and going in all directions when you drive up to Jefferson to drop off or pick up your child. Traffic cones will be in use soon to help with traffic flow – please watch for them.

TRAVELER ALERT — MEASLES
If you or your family are planning any international travel this summer, be especially sure that you are fully protected from measles.
Countries worldwide are seeing more measles cases this year. In Europe, France (approximately 5,000 cases this year), Serbia, Spain, Macedonia, Turkey and Belgium have particularly large outbreaks, but the disease is widespread worldwide. Airport and airline exposures are possible.

Measles is one of the most contagious diseases known. The organism can remain in the air and infectious for as long as two hours.

The MMR vaccine provides excellent protection. Anyone born after 1956 should have two doses of MMR vaccine. MMR vaccine is available from your medical clinic or free for children and some adults at Public Health – Madison and Dane County (266-4821; www.publichealthmdc.com).

Look up your child’s immunization record on the Wisconsin Immunization Registry at Public Immunization Access – www.dhfswir.org.

¡Alerta para los viajeros! Sarampión
Si usted o su familia están planificando un viaje internacional durante este verano, asegúrense de estar completamente protegidos contra el sarampión.

Países en todo el mundo están viendo más casos de brotes de sarampión este año. En Europa: en Francia (en donde se han detectado aproximadamente 5000 casos este año), Serbia, España, Macedonia, Turquía y Bélgica tienen particularmente una gran cantidad de brotes, pero la enfermedad se ha generalizado. También es posible la exposición en los aeropuertos y las aerolíneas.

El sarampión es una de las enfermedades conocidas más contagiosas; el organismo puede permanecer en el aire con un poder infectante hasta por dos horas.

La vacuna contra el sarampión, las paperas y la rubeola (MMR por su sigla en inglés) ofrece una protección excelente. Cualquier persona nacida después del año 1956 debe haber recibido dos dosis de la vacuna MMR. La vacuna MMR se puede obtener en su clínica de atención médica o gratuitamente para los niños y algunos adultos en Salud Pública de Madison y el Condado Dane (266-4821; www.publichealthmdc.com).

THE FOUNDATION FOR MADISON’S PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND ITS INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL ENDOWMENT INITIATIVE
The Foundation for Madison’s Public Schools (FMPS) is an independent, tax-exempt organization that was established by local community members in 2000. Since formed, the foundation has distributed more than a million dollars, through grants, to our schools for creative educational development that the regular school budget is unable to provide.

The Individual School Endowment Fund, which is the first of its kind in this country, was designed to help build an individual endowment for all 47 schools within MMSD. Jefferson’s Endowment was established in 2006 and profits from the endowment have provided funds for staff through a grant every fall. Staff members submit a grant request and a committee of parents, staff and administrators award a grant annually to the Jefferson staff. The goal of the FMPS is for each school to reach $50,000 in their fund; four schools in the district have already reached that level.

Now that our endowment has been established, the staff has the opportunity to annually request 4% of the profit from the fund to create, develop and implement new programs or improve some that already exist. You can continue to add to this endowment and increase the amount of funds our school can receive. The larger our fund the larger the grant our staff can receive from the individual endowment. For an easy way to contribute, see the flyer on the next page regarding End-of-Year gifts. For more information about the foundation, go to www.fmps.org.

Salud Pública de Madison y el Condado Dane
End-of-the-Year Gifts for Jefferson Endowment

Give a gift that keeps on giving with our end-of-the-year honorary gift cards. Make a donation to the Jefferson Individual Endowment Fund in honor of a staff member or student. The Endowment Fund continues to grow each year to provide grant monies for Jefferson each year. For more info visit www.fmps.org. Complete the form below and return to the school office.

It's the Perfect End-of-the-Year Gift.

What: Donate to the endowment in honor of a staff member, graduating 8th grade student or a volunteer. A beautiful gift card will be hand-delivered to the honored person of your choice. No shopping required.

How: Return below form, completed, with a check made to: “FMPS-Jefferson Endowment.” We will distribute gift cards the week of June 6.

When: Please send in by June 3.

Why: It is a great way to honor your child’s teacher, a staff member, a student who worked hard, or a volunteer who gave many hours. It will help our school and provide an ongoing gift. And it's tax-deductible too!

Jefferson's End-of-the-Year Honorary Gift

Parent’s name______________________________________________________________

Name(s) gift is from_________________________________________________________

Donation amount____________________________________________________________

Address (for tax receipt) _____________________________________________________

My donation is in honor of: _________________________________________________

Please enclose check (made to FMPS - Jefferson Endowment) or money in an envelope and put “Endowment” on the envelope. Send this envelope with your child; his or her teacher will forward it to the office. Or bring to the office and ask it to be placed in PTO box. Please send in by June 3 to have it distributed as an end-of-the-year gift. We will distribute gift cards the week of June 6. If you have any questions, contact Mary Kay Battaglia at 827-7993.