



THE JENIFER EXPRESS

February Newsletter 2008

Jenifer Elementary School

Thadine Wright
Principal

2820 Jenifer School Lane
Waldorf, MD 20603

Wilhelmina Pugh
Vice Principal

Principal's Message

As we finish our first semester of school and prepare for much more learning, our school has taken time to insure the safety of our students and staff.

Along with monthly fire drills, Maryland State Law requires schools to conduct a "Shelter in Place" drill and a "Code Red" drill once a school year. A "Shelter in Place" procedure keeps students in their classroom and is needed if there is a danger outside the school building. A "Code Red" procedure is utilized if there is an immediate danger inside the building and again keeps the students safe inside their classrooms. Both of our drills were reviewed by members of the Charles County Sheriffs' department resulting in very positive feedback. If you should have any questions about any of our safety drills, please feel free to contact me or Mrs. Pugh our vice principal.

To further guarantee the safety of our staff and students, we are no longer permitting students to return to their classrooms to retrieve homework after 4:15pm. Classrooms will be locked when the teachers' day ends and our building service staff will not unlock classrooms.

Computer Bowl Event



We had two teams compete in the SMECO Computer Bowl this year. Our **Jenifer Warriors** team included: Gabriel Gonzales, Mariel Santos, Robert Carmona, Suha Ansari, J'Nai Anderson, Tyriq Sherman, Ryan Edwards and Kyra Cooke.

Our **Jenifer Patriots** included: Caleb Cotner, Jenna Williams, Linda Yeung, Sarah Rausch and Kylie Green. Congratulations to the **Jenifer Patriots** who were 1st place winners for Charles County.

Fairness



During the month of February, we will focus on "fairness" as the character trait of the month. Students are asked to show fairness by being tolerant, respectful, following rules, playing fair, and showing good sportsmanship. They are asked to do what their parents and teachers ask them to do even if they don't agree.

Important Numbers & Contact Information

Jenifer Elementary School
2820 Jenifer School Lane

301-932-9603
301-753-1768



Want quick access to closing information?

- Call the 24-hour information line at 301-932-6656
- Receive email notification from www.schoolsout.com
- Check the web site at www.ccboe.com



School Closures

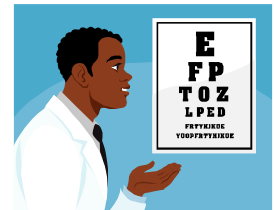
February 6th – 2 Hour Early Dismissal
AM Pre-K Attends

February 12th - No School
Primary Election Day

February 18th - No School
President's Day

If we requested further evaluation of your child's vision and or hearing, please return the information to the nurse's office as soon as possible.

Thank You,
Nurse Becky



News about what's happening in Charles County Public Schools' **Gifted Education Services** will be shared with interested parents on **Friday, February 8th at 6:30pm** in the Jenifer School Cafeteria. All parents and guardians are encouraged to attend!



3rd Grade

1st Place – DeVaughn Giscombe
2nd Place – Kenny Burks
3rd Place – Vince Brown
Honorable Mention – Marquise Merriweather



4th Grade

1st Place – Abigail Gough
2nd Place – Andrew Nagel
3rd Place – Sarah Golba
Honorable Mention – Matthew Bowie

5th Grade

1st Place – Kylie Green
2nd Place – Erin Green
3rd Place – Cullen Battle
Honorable Mention – Ryan Edwards



Yearbook sales are underway *The yearbook is a keepsake that will be cherished for a lifetime. The yearbook will include 64 full color pages pre-k thru 5th grade, candid shots from all year, sturdy soft cover with coating and a custom design created by one of our 5th grade students. Hurry and reserve your copy today. The price is \$17.00. Please make checks payable to **Jenifer Elementary School.***

The Reading Corner

by Jennifer DeAtley
Reading Resource Teacher



Reading everyday is one of the most important things you can teach your child. Everyone should read for enjoyment for at least 20 minutes every day. Just like anything else, reading takes practice. The more you practice, the better you'll be! Reading broadens one's knowledge base and enhances vocabulary.

Be A Reading Champion

March of Dimes

During the month of February your child can become a reading champion by reading books and asking sponsors to donate money for each book they have read. Our reading efforts and pledges will help the March of Dimes organization. The March of Dimes mission is to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth, and infant mortality. Each child who participates in the program will receive a certificate. Those students who read 4 or more books will be awarded a medal. We will have a kick off the first week of February to begin the program. At this time students will be given detailed information about the program and an envelope to record the books read and their sponsors. Let's work together to promote reading and compassion toward others in need.

Read Across America Celebration February 29, 2008

On Friday February 29th Jenifer Elementary will celebrate Read Across America along with Dr. Seuss' birthday. Each year this day is filled with exciting reading activities that involve all the students. As part of the celebration each class will have a guest reader share a favorite piece of children's literature. I am looking for volunteers to be readers on Friday February 29th. I have plenty of books you can choose from to read. If you are able to join our reading celebration, please send me a note or email (jdeatley@ccboe.com). Also if there is a specific class or grade level that you would prefer let me know and I'll do my best to partner you up with that one. Thank you for helping to make this day a success!



Media News

Mrs. Jarboe, Mrs. Ryan and Ms. Brehon



Thank you to all of our students for taking such good care of our library books. To our younger students: remember the more reading practice you do the better you become at reading. So exchange your books often!

Congratulations to Mrs. Ramsey's 5th grade class for ending the second quarter with 426 Accelerated Reader points. They will be receiving a class party next week.

Our next Book Fair will be March 10th-14th. Look for information soon.

Internet Safety

The Internet can be a vital tool for research and studying, but can be a danger to our young ones. At the beginning of this school year intermediate level students learned how to be more careful on the Internet in the Computer Lab. Students learned about what sites they are allowed to visit at school or home. Students also learned about not giving out personal information on the web and about “chat rooms.” They also engaged in some computer games that teach Internet safety.

Please have your child visit the following websites to reinforce the message of Internet safety:

From PBS- take a “Safety Test” online and get their web license if they are successful:

<http://pbskids.org/license/>

Disney- “Surf Swell Island” is an animated adventure where kids learn the safety rules of the Internet:

<http://disney.go.com/surfswell/index.html>

and also from Disney - “Cybernetiquette Comix”, an interactive way to learn valuable lessons about being safe on the Internet:

<http://disney.go.com/cybersafety/>

NetSmartzKids from the Center For Missing and Exploited Children- These are the type of games that parents would love to know about and use with their children when discussing online safety:

<http://www.netzsmartzkids.org/indexFL.htm>


Netty’s World from Australia is a fun way for younger students to not only learn about online safety, but to understand the Internet and how it works:

<http://www.nettysworld.com.au/>

Thank you for your continued support in working with your child(ren) to learn about Internet safety. Together we can provide them with the necessary skills to make right choices.

February Math Ideas: From the Heart

by Lisa Wehausen, Instructional Specialist

Why not make a commitment to help your child develop a  for mathematics by participating in some of the following activities together as a family?

Materials needed:

Bag of candy hearts

Stop watch or watch with a second hand

Calculator

Paper / pencil

Ruler

- Estimate the perimeter of the kitchen table using candy hearts. *Hint: find out how many candy hearts you would need for 12 inches.*
- Estimate the area of the kitchen table using candy hearts. *Hint: use a sample to find the area of a small space such as 4" X 4" and then think about how many 4 inch by 4 inch squares would fit on the table.*
- How many candy hearts will it take to fill a short, wide glass? A tall, thin glass? *Before you begin, predict which glass will hold more. Then fill the glass you thought would hold less with candy hearts to the top. Now empty the glass of candy hearts into the other glass. Was your prediction correct?*
- How many times does your heart beat in 10 seconds? One minute? One hour? One day? One month? One year? **Estimate then calculate!** *Remember, 50% of the math skills we use involve estimation!*
- Find everyone's heart rate for 1 minute. What is the 'mean' or average of your family's heart rate?
- If you were offered 2 dozen roses, or 1 rose on day one and doubled it the next day and doubled each day for the next 5 days, which offer would you take?