



October 2009- Newsletter

## JENIFER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

2820 Jenifer School Lane  
Waldorf, MD 20603  
301-932-9603 301-753-1768

Thadine Wright  
Principal

Karen Lewis  
Vice-Principal

### Principal's Message

We are off to a fantastic start to the 2009-10 school year! The entire Jenifer school family is settling into daily routines and processes which will guarantee a successful school year. It is hard to believe that we are to the mid-point of first quarter already! The teachers have taken time to get to know their students, not only academically but also each students/ individual personality, interest, and talents. This bonding time creates valuable connections that can last a life time. Please take some time to read your child's grade level newsletter that will be sent home at the end of each month for information about the upcoming month. This is an excellent way to connect to the classroom and the curriculum being taught. Ask your child about the information; you'll be pleasantly surprised how much they know!

Routines are needed for success during the school day but are also very important at home during homework time. Homework assignments are designed to reinforce and practice skills taught during the school. Time to complete these tasks should be no longer than 10 minutes multiplied by the student's grade level (e.g. Grade 1 = 10 minutes, Grade 2 = 20 minutes). This time frame accomplishes the purpose of the homework while avoiding frustration.

A very important part of school/home responsibility for our students is remembering the materials needed each night for homework. Our teachers communicate assigned homework through weekly/monthly assignment sheets (K – 1) and through the agenda book (gr. 2 – 5). They also review homework and expectations before the children are dismissed every day. **Students and/or their parents can not return to the classroom to retrieve any school materials after 4:15 each day.** This encourages personal responsibility in our students and guarantees the safety of our staff and our families. Classrooms will be locked when the teachers' day ends and our building service staff will not unlock classrooms. Thank you for your support and understanding.



# School Closures

**October 16<sup>th</sup> School Closed**  
MSTA Convention

**October 21<sup>st</sup> 2 Hour Early**  
Dismissal  
PM Pre-K Attends

**October 29<sup>th</sup> 2 Hour Early**  
Dismissal  
AM Pre-K Attends

# Calendar Notes



October is Crime Prevention Month



Fire Prevention Week 4<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup>



School Lunch Week 12<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>



School Bus Safety Week 19<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup>

**A note from Mr. Lawless**  
**School Counselor**

*Hello, and thank you for welcoming me with open arms into the Jenifer community. I come here from the University of Maryland after having taught fifth grade for two years in Texas (Hook Em Horns!). I will offer individual and group counseling sessions throughout the year as well as consult with teachers and parents when a need arises. If you have any questions feel free to contact me at [dlawless@ccboe.com](mailto:dlawless@ccboe.com). I look forward to working with you.*

*In October I will be discussing responsibility with the students. Everyday, students come to school with a list of responsibilities they must fulfill including completing work, listening to the teacher, showing a willingness to learn, etc..... As a class they will learn what those responsibilities are, why they are important, and how to make the choice to fulfill them.*

**Respect**

During the month of October and through the rest of the year, we will be focusing on respect. Respect is regard for people or property. It is important that you always display respect for yourself, for others, and for property. Always treat others as you would want to be treated by them. Remember to think before you speak and think before you act. You can show respect by not interrupting when others are talking, by having a positive attitude and by including everyone in group activities. If you give respect, you will get respect. Respect begins with you!

**Important Numbers and Contact Information**

**Jenifer Elementary School**  
2820 Jenifer School Lane  
Waldorf, MD. 20603  
301-753-1768 or 301-932-9603  
Fax: 301-374-9496

**Charles County Public Schools**  
P.O. Box 2770  
La Plata, MD. 20646  
301-932-6610



## The Reading Corner

by Tammy Barnes  
Reading Resource Teacher



“Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body.”  
– Sir Richard Steele

As partners in your child’s education, I would like to offer reading strategies for you to incorporate in your home. These strategies parallel with what we are doing in the school setting and can be easily implemented at home. It is my hope that as a team our efforts will instill a love of reading and help develop lifelong readers.

To promote reading school-wide, we are encouraging students to read books and take Accelerated Reader (AR) quizzes at school. During this time, students answer questions about the books they have read to earn points. We will be holding various competitions between classes and grade levels this year. Students can read AR books at school, at home, and through read alouds. This wonderful program will help with reading comprehension and build a love of reading. So...open your books...get set...and READ!

Below are steps you can take at home to promote reading:

- ☆ Have reading material available. Books, magazines, newspapers, greeting cards, cookbooks, catalogs, and song lyrics are great resources.
- ☆ Find a special reading spot. This place should be comfortable, have good lighting, and be away from any distractions.
- ☆ Be a reading role model. Show your child how important reading is by letting him/her see you read, discussing what you’re reading with your child, reading together, taking trips to the local library, and giving books as gifts.
- ☆ Practice, practice, practice! Research shows that children who spend 30 minutes a day reading for enjoyment are more likely to become lifelong readers.
- ☆ Keep reading FUN! Read aloud together and use different voices for the characters. Praise your child for his/her efforts and use words of encouragement.

Follow this link from the Library of Congress for families to play and learn online!

<http://www.loc.gov/families/>

## Gifted News

Welcome back! I am Tawanda Walker, the Gifted Resource teacher at Jenifer Elementary. Look here each month for news and notes related to gifted events in the county. This is an exciting year for Gifted Education in Charles County. Students in grades 3 – 5 who were identified last year for gifted services in reading and/or math will be receiving services this year. Returning students to the program will continue with the program. Services will be provided through their classroom teacher with support from the gifted education teacher. If you have any questions throughout the year, call me at Jenifer or email me at my address below. For more information and other upcoming gifted events continue to visit the county gifted web site at: [www.ccboe.com/gifted](http://www.ccboe.com/gifted). Mrs. Walker (301) 753-1768 Ext 118005



### Artists of the Month

#### **Kindergarten “Painting with Teddy”**

Leanne Berry, Devynne Best, Lauren Gray, Taylor King-Walker, Reyna Reyes-Spellers, Angelina Smith, Braina Williams

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Grade “Birds of Many Colors”**

Samantha Alvarez, Alexis Cartner, Kim Dumas, Sebreeya Holly, Jordan Holmes, Casey Pham

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade “Seahorse Painting”**

Hannah Bigler, Alix Dove, Dylan Cook, Leah Johnson, Kaemen Shepherd, Havalynn Thorn

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade “Warm/Cool Cityscapes”**

Alexandra Erhunmwunse, Dequan Holly, Anna Jones, Artez Jones, Jared Jones

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Grade “Fabric Sketchbooks”**

Deja Briscoe, Michael Gonzales, Caleb Payton, Trinity Sauls, Allison Vanhorn, Diamond Worthy, Jonathan Yates

#### **5<sup>th</sup> Grade “Printed Sketchbooks”**

Chaz Beverly, Kara Harley, Kayla Jurew, Yesenia Morales, Rei Razo, Isaiah Reed, Jordan Towler

## Media News

We're off to a wonderful start in the Media Center. Our students are exchanging their books frequently and challenging themselves with harder titles. We have discussed library and book care rules and they understand the importance of keeping their books safe and returning them at least each week.

Our Kindergarten and first graders are experiencing the wonderful world of the library. We encourage our students to select books that they would like to read. At this level, they are relying on adults at home to read to them. Research shows that children learn to read faster when they are read to. The only way this can be achieved is through exposure and recognizing words as you are reading with them. Pointing to each word as you read and saying the word together is a great strategy.

Please make sure you have signed the code of conduct insert and return it with your child. This enables them to utilize protected curriculum based websites on the internet in the computer lab.

Thank you,

Mrs. Jarboe and Mrs. Ryan





## **10 Minute Math**

by Lisa Wehausen, Instructional Specialist

There are 180 school days. If your child were to spend just 10 minutes a day on math (either before or after school), that equates to 1,800 minutes or 30 additional hours of math practice! So here's a challenge... set up a 10 minute math incentives program at home.

To help you with this challenge, check out the website → <http://www.ixl.com>. It has math skills listed by grade level from pre-K to grade 6 that are aligned with the Maryland state standards/curriculum for math.

That is just one possibility. There are many math websites available that have practice problems, games, virtual manipulatives, and so on.

Don't have access to the internet at home? No problem. Here are some quick ways to work in 10 minutes of math... set the timer 10 minutes and then:

- Have your child count the money you have in your purse, wallet, or pocket at the end of the day.
- Have your child use measuring cups/spoons and estimate how many  $\frac{1}{4}$  cups (for example) it will take to fill various containers with water, and then see if they are correct.
- Roll 2, 3, or 4 dice and ask your child to find the sum. Or give your child a sum and have them roll the dice and see how many times they were able to roll that sum.
- Find examples of data displays in the newspaper and have your child analyze the data.
- Have your child sort the laundry. Which pile has the most articles of clothing? Which has the least? How many more dark clothes are there than white clothes?
- Try and find 5 things in the house that weigh between 3-5 pounds. For example, if your child put a canned food item, a box of cereal, a large pot, a towel, and stapler on the scale, would that group of items make the target weight of 3-5 pounds?

