



THE JENIFER EXPRESS

April 2007 Newsletter

Susie Fowler
Principal

JENIFER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
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Waldorf, MD. 20603

Thadine Wright
Vice Principal

Principal's Message

I am incredibly proud of our students and staff for their hard work and effort on MSA! Our daily instructional program is the "preparation" for MSA. The Jenifer teachers, in all grade levels, provide your children with the knowledge and skills that they will need to be successful in school and life. The assessment is aligned with our curriculum, so there were no surprises on the test. We expected all of our students to do their best so that the results will be a true reflection of their achievement. They did everything we asked and we believe that the results will reflect that. While MSA is important, we teach your children many life skills as well, such as getting along with others, coping when things do not go their way, taking responsibility for their actions and always doing their best. These behaviors are not as easily measured as academic skills, but I am sure that you will agree that they are every bit as important to succeeding in life. It is a joy for me to watch your children and the teachers working together in the instructional program!

Although we have finished MSA, there is still a lot of teaching and learning to be done this year! We have an entire quarter of school left and it is important that students understand that we have the same expectations now that we did early in the year. Please talk with your child about working hard and doing their best every day until the end of the school year.

ATTENDANCE

REGULAR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IS CRITICAL TO STUDENT SUCCESS. THE EVIDENCE IS VERY CLEAR THAT ATTENDANCE HABITS FORMED IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PERSIST INTO MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL. STUDENTS WHO HAVE EXCELLENT ATTENDANCE WHEN THEY ARE YOUNG CONTINUE THIS PATTERN. UNFORTUNATELY, STUDENTS WHO HAVE POOR ATTENDANCE IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ARE AT RISK FOR DOING POORLY OR DROPPING OUT IN HIGH SCHOOL. PARENTS' ATTITUDES TOWARD SCHOOL ATTENDANCE SHAPE THEIR CHILDREN'S ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIORS. IT IS AN IMPORTANT PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THAT YOUR CHILD ATTENDS SCHOOL EVERY DAY THAT THEY ARE WELL. WE ARE, UNFORTUNATELY, SEEING MORE FAMILIES TAKING VACATIONS DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR. A FAMILY TRIP IS NOT AN ACCEPTABLE REASON FOR A CHILD TO MISS SCHOOL. PLEASE KEEP

THE SCHOOL CALENDAR IN MIND WHEN PLANNING FAMILY TRIPS AND SCHEDULE THEM WHEN YOUR CHILD WILL NOT BE IN SCHOOL.

IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT TO SEND IN A NOTE EACH TIME YOUR CHILD IS ABSENT. WE MUST ALWAYS HAVE WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION FOR ABSENCES, NO MATTER WHAT THE REASON.

Counselor's Corner

By Ms. Pijanowski

Perseverance is the hard work you do after you get tired of doing the hard work you already did. –Newt Gingrich

The Character Education Trait for the month of April is Perseverance. Perseverance is the ability to stick with a task despite inexperience or difficulties in accomplishing the task. Signs of perseverance in young children can be seen in a baby's determination to reach for a toy, learn to walk, or eat without assistance. All of the efforts and small successes that a child can achieve help to reinforce the value of perseverance. Children whose learning and discovery are encouraged when they are infants and preschoolers will be more likely to persevere and succeed later in school.

What can parents do to help teach PERSEVERANCE?

- ❖ Provide children with age-appropriate and safe challenges
- ❖ Encourage creative problem solving
- ❖ Model an optimistic outlook for your child
- ❖ Offer more encouragement than criticism
- ❖ Allow children to take breaks when they are working hard toward accomplishing a goal

Encouraging your child to persevere will not only help them academically, but also when they face many of life's other challenges!

Congratulations Science Fair Winners !!!

- Mariel Santos - 3rd Grade
- Kylie Green - 4th Grade
- Jackson Burton - 5th Grade

From the Desk of...

Denise Grote, Gifted Education Resource Teacher

Congratulations to Michaela Cain, who was a State Winner in the Short Story Division of the Daughters of the American Revolution Junior American Citizen Contest! The subject of the short story was the 400th anniversary of the Jamestown settlement. She will be treated to an Awards Ceremony and luncheon at The Turf Valley Resort in Ellicott City, Maryland!

This year we have 24 participants in the **Maryland By Kids For Kids Invention Challenge!** This year's theme is **Get Your Head in the Game** and the purpose of this competition is to invent a new sport or sporting good! Inquiring minds have been meeting twice a week trying to invent this year's Grand Prize! They are very excited!

The next **Gifted Education Parent's Meeting** will be held on April 23 at the Starkey Administration building at 7 p.m. Until then, enjoy the extra sunlight and warm weather. It's Spring!

Perseverance

During the month of April we will focus on "Perseverance" as the character trait of the month through the Personal Responsibility Program. Parents are encouraged to talk with their children about working hard on school assignments and never giving up until the assignment is finished. Perseverance is especially important when completing homework. Parents are asked to help their child agree to complete a particular task thoroughly. Motivation and hard work are needed to persevere.

The Reading Corner



by Jennifer DeAtley
Reading Resource Teacher



Congratulations to our Top Readers:

| | | | |
|-----------|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| February: | Mrs. Mac Donald's | 2 nd Grade | 870 books read! |
| | Miss Spiker's | 3 rd Grade | 797 books read! |

Charles County Reading Night at the Bowie Baysox

Saturday May 12, 2007

6:15pm

Earn a free ticket by reading 4 books outside of school and completing your "baseball" sheet. Turn in your "baseballs" and have your teacher check off your name on the Baysox Class Poster.

Pre game parade on the field for students is at 6:30pm.

Thank You!

Our Read Across America Celebration was a huge success! Every classroom had at least 1 guest reader visit on March 2nd. We had moms, dads, former students, teachers, administrators, student council members, and community members reading with us. Thank you to all our volunteers for making this day extra special!

Our March of Dimes Fundraiser was a giant success also! We raised \$1085 to help newborn babies in need. Those students who participated in the program will receive their medal and certificate at their Grade Level Quarterly Recognition assembly in April.

April is National Poetry Month!

Celebrate National Poetry by enjoying poetry with your child.

Questions to think about while reading poetry:

What is the topic of the poem?

Who is speaking?

What is the tone or overall feeling you get from reading the poem?

What do you like about this poem?

What techniques did the author use (simile, metaphor, onomatopoeia, alliteration, rhyming)?

WHEN YOU CAN READ

By: Bobbi Katz

When you can read, then you can go
from Kalamazoo to Idaho-
Or read directions that explain
just how to build a model plane-
Or bake a cake or cook a stew-
The words will tell you what to do!
When you can read, then you can play
a brand new game the proper way-
Or get a letter from a friend
and read it...to the very end!

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

Mathathon

Jenifer students will once again participate in the St. Jude's Math-a-thon. This year however, the money our students raise will be donated to St. Jude's in memory of Michael Stark, Jr. Michael, a pre-Kindergarten student at Jenifer, passed away in February.

We will have our school-wide math-a-thon kick off on Thursday, April 5th. Students will be given a math-a-thon fun book filled with about 250 math problems and puzzles to work on over spring break and throughout the month of April. Family members, friends and neighbors can pledge 3,5,10 cents or more for each problem the student completes. Once the math-a-thon window ends- on Friday, April 20th, students collect his/her pledge money and return it to school by Friday, April 27th. Students who raise \$35 will receive a t-shirt and a free pass to Six Flags. All students who participate will receive a math-a-thon certificate of honor.

Please consider giving to this worthy cause. Your encouragement will foster your child's math skills and will promote the idea that Jenifer Patriots are thoughtful and respectful of the children in our community and around the world. It's a win/win situation.