

November 2006

**Susie Fowler**  
Principal

**JENIFER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

2820 Jenifer School Lane  
Waldorf, MD 20603

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Vice Principal

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## *Principal's Message*

Thanks to all who supported our Fall Festival. The children enjoyed the festivities and it is always fun to have so many family members join our celebration!

November is a very busy month here at Jenifer. We are hoping to see most of our parents on **Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>** for report card conferences. Students have worked hard during the first quarter and teachers are anxious to share your child's performance and progress with you. This is a great opportunity for you to have 20 minutes of the teacher's time focused just on your child!

Have you been saying to yourself, "What is this BCR thing that my child keeps talking about?" Well, we want you to be "in the know." Mrs. Wehausen and Mrs. DeAtley will be making a presentation geared to parents of 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students at the PTA meeting on **Thursday, November 8<sup>th</sup>**. We encourage you to come and learn how you can help your child explain his/her thinking in writing.

**American Education Week is November 13-17<sup>th</sup>**. We will have the Scholastic Book Fair that week. **Parent Visitation Day will be Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup>**. This will be a wonderful time to see your child in action!

November also begins the holiday season. We wish everyone in the Jenifer community a safe and Happy Thanksgiving!







**REMINDER**

## School Closures

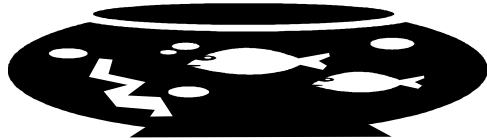
November 3<sup>rd</sup> – 2 hour early dismissal, No Pre-K

November 6<sup>th</sup> – No Pre-K or K /parent conferences

November 7<sup>th</sup> – No School / Election Day

November 10<sup>th</sup> – No School / Veterans Day

November 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> / Thanksgiving Holiday Break



## *Counselor's Corner*

*Carolyn Pijanowski*

*A primary goal this year at Jenifer is to become more connected with our students, our community and our Jenifer families. One way we're trying to accomplish this goal is by implementing the FISH! Philosophy.*

*FISH! Is a philosophy that encourages people to connect, cooperate and be compassionate based on four ideas:*

***Be There*** – Take care of and pay attention to the people right in front of you!

***Play*** – Learning can be fun!

***Make Their Day*** – Try to do something to engage another person. Say something kind!

***Choose Your Attitude*** – Before leaving for work or school, we can pick out the attitude that we will have all day....just like picking out an outfit!

*By implementing the FISH! Philosophy, we are striving to achieve a more productive and engaged school. FISH! Encourages imagination and creativity while building strong relationships among students and staff.*



Yearbooks are coming, yearbooks are coming! Keep your eyes open, yearbook sales will be coming home soon.

The yearbook is looking for dedicated and loyal volunteers. Please contact Mrs. Tracy Cundiff, if you can help. 301-753-1768.

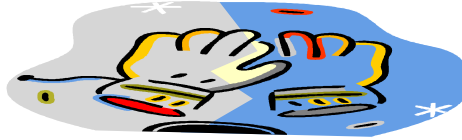
# Fundraiser

*Thank you to the many who participated in our fall Cherrydale Fundraiser for the school. It was a huge success. We had a total of \$15118.91 in sales with a profit of \$6550.00. Jenifer will be utilizing our profit from the sales to purchase supplies for 2 Risograph machines, PBIS student incentives and instructional materials for the classroom. We thank you for your continued support during this time of the year.*



### Lost and Found

Parents are encouraged to label your child's belongings with a permanent marker on the inside of their coats, jackets, sweaters, lunchboxes, book bags and other belongings that may be lost or misplaced. This is so that items could be easily recognized and returned to the owner. This also helps in identifying belongings that have been in the lost and found over a period of time. The lost and found is located in the front lobby area of the school.



# PTA NEWS

The PTA would like to extend a huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who ordered Spiritwear. Way to show that school spirit! We would also like to thank everyone who purchased a Kidstuff coupon book. If you haven't purchased your coupon book yet and still wish to, please send in your payment by November 3<sup>rd</sup>. If you still have a Kidstuff coupon book at home that you do NOT plan to purchase, please return it to school with your student as soon as possible. Thank you for helping us raise funds for this year's assemblies.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

Wednesday, November 8 – A PTA meeting will be held at 6:30pm in the media center. The business meeting will be followed by a presentation explaining BCRs for intermediate grades (3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup>). The following questions will be addressed:

- What is a BCR?
- What does a BCR look like?
- What is considered a good answer and why?

This presentation will be given by Mrs. DeAtley for reading and Mrs. Wehausen for math. Please come with any questions you may have about this topic.

Friday, November 17 – The Family Reading Night & Book Swap will be held from 7pm – 9pm in the cafeteria and gym. Bring your pillow and a good book to share with your family before visiting the Book Swap tables. Details will be coming later in Friday folders.

Friday, December 1 – The PTA fall dance will be held in the cafeteria and gym from 7pm – 9pm. Our theme is a “Western Ho-down” so dig out those cowboy hats and boots for a foot-stomping good time! YEE HAW!

November 1 marks the kickoff of the Box Tops for Education and Campbell’s Labels for Education collection contests. The *class* (not grade level) that sends in the most Box Tops will earn a classroom party. The *class* that sends in the most eligible Campbell’s Labels for Education will also earn a classroom party. The contests will be run three times: November & December, January & February, and March & April. We look forward to sponsoring six classroom parties so SAVE, SAVE, SAVE those Box Tops and Labels! Hint: Ask grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends and neighbors to save on your behalf so you can send in even more.

Finally, the PTA would like to congratulate all Jenifer students, teachers and staff for a successful first quarter. Keep up the great work!

# The Reading Corner

by Jennifer DeAtley  
Reading Resource Teacher



*"The more that you read,  
The more things you will know,  
The more that you learn,  
The more places you'll go!"*  
Dr. Seuss

Readers use certain strategies before, during, and after reading to assist them with understanding of the text. Discussing these strategies with your children will help them to become better readers. Our goal is for these strategies to become automatic as students read.

## **Before Reading:**

- Have your child look at the title, illustrations, and captions.
- Discuss what you already know about the topic.
- Make predictions.
- Decide on the purpose for reading; What do you hope to find out?

## **During Reading**

- Think about your predictions and make new ones. Think about what will happen next.
- Visualize/picture in your mind what is happening.
- Identify new information and important vocabulary.
- Reread any unclear passages.
- Think about how you feel about what you are reading.
- Make connections within the text and your prior knowledge.
- Make inferences; What conclusions can I make from what is stated in the text?

## After Reading

- Confirm or refute your prediction.
- Discuss any unclear parts with someone.
- State the main idea.
- Summarize what you have read.
- Decide the most important parts of the story.
- Think about how you will use what you read.

September Reading

Total:

7398

Top primary class:

Miss Meyl - 927

Top intermediate cl:

Miss Spiker - 888



## Media News

- Our students are reading so much that we have circulated 5,834 books since the beginning of September. Wow! Take a look at our Reading Goal bulletin board and our Accelerated Reader bulletin board to see the classes that have read the most books as well as those with the most Accelerated Reader points. So far this year our students have 182 points and this was just one week's worth!
- Our first Book Fair will take place November 13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>. We will have a family night on Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> from 4pm-6pm. Look for more information and an opportunity to volunteer.
- Our students have been working hard in the computer lab with third, fourth and fifth graders designing an Acrostic Poem utilizing Microsoft Word. All grade levels have been practicing their reading and math skills with Riverdeep in order to support their instruction.

Mrs. Jarboe, Mrs. Ryan and Ms. Brehon



## Thinking about Math

by Lisa Wehausen, Instructional Specialist

In the column by Marilyn Vos Savant (*The Washington Post*, October 13, 2002), a woman wrote and asked, "Do you have any ideas about why more people don't understand math any better than they do?" In her response, Marilyn stated that the problem lies in the lack of logic and reasoning skills, and that success with math requires the ability to reason effectively. She also added that often times children are taught *what* to think and not *how* to think.

How were you taught math? Was the emphasis placed on learning math skills, facts, standard algorithms, and formulas? If you were taught math like most, this was probably the case. I'm not suggesting that mastery of basic skills is not important, but minimally we should give equal time to learning how to reason, problem-solve, make connections, and communicate our mathematical thinking.

If the key to a deeper understanding of math is developing reasoning skills, how do we help our children learn how to think?

Here are a few things that you can do to help at home:

- ◆ **Estimate amounts, distance, time, capacity, and then comparing the estimate to an exact answer.** For example before going somewhere in the car, ask your child, "How many minutes do you think it will take us to get there?" Then actually time the trip and compare the actual time to their estimate.
- ◆ **Discuss the math involved in everyday activities** such as sorting laundry. Sorting, grouping and categorizing are all skills that require reasoning. Ask your child how the clothes could be sorted into two groups. What would happen if we added another group? If they have difficulty thinking of possible ways to sort the clothes, prompt them by giving them ideas such as, "What if we made one group clothes that we hang up?" "What would the other group be?"
- ◆ **Find all the possible solutions to a given problem and discuss how you can be sure that no other solutions exist.** I recently told my son the score of a football game and asked him to figure out all the ways that the team could have scored 14 points. His first response was 2 touchdowns and 2 extra points, but he and I both laughed when he thought of the possibility of a team scoring 7 safeties in one game!

The ability to think logically, reason, communicate and solve problems are essential life skills. You don't need to be a mathematician to help your child, just look for ways to include math from everyday activities into your discussions.

For more ideas, check out this website→ <http://www.coolmath4parents.com/>

**From the desk of  
Denise Grote, Gifted Education Resource Teacher**

The **Fall Chess Tournament** was held on Saturday, October 14, 2006. Congratulations to **Bianca Lyons**, who won a 2nd place trophy in the grade 3-4 Division. Bianca represented Jenifer in a fine manner!

Information will soon be going home about the **By Kids For Kids Invent a Cool School Tool** contest! Parents can familiarize themselves by visiting the informational website, <http://www.bkfk.com/iq/kids/kidsLanding.aspx>  
If you remember, we had a \$1000 Grand Prize Winner at Jenifer last year-**Emily Staudmeyer**, now in Mrs. Pryde's 4<sup>th</sup> Grade!

I attended the **Maryland Association for Curriculum and Development** conference on October 7 and returned with many new ideas for differentiation and also some new materials!

The next **Gifted Education Parent Advisory Meeting** will be held on October 26 at 5:30 at the Starkey Building in La Plata and the **Gifted Education Parent Meeting** will be held on November 27 at 7:00 p.m. at Starkey.



