

Jefferson Times

Alyssa Wooten, Principal
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Dear Jefferson Families,

I came across a great article (by: Tracy M. Fenton, M.Ed) discussing parenting and thought I'd pass it along. Also included in this newsletter is information regarding upcoming events, Parent Teacher Conferences, Box Tops, traffic procedures, and more. Please take the time to review this information. Your support is very much appreciated.

"Good parents spend a lot of time talking with their teens. They know that both the quantity and quality of their conversations count. Set an example by the courteous, caring, attentive way you communicate with your teen and others. Keep an open mind so your children feel free to readily express themselves to you.

Do Things Together. Share activities with your teen that promote conversation, such as playing games, taking walks, riding bikes, fishing, flying kites, or watching quality TV together. Simply being together!

Choose the Best Time to Talk. It's best to talk when everyone is well-rested and without pressing tasks to get done. Make time each day to talk to your teen.

Holding Family Meetings. Help bring the family together. Starting early will establish the meeting as a tradition. Plan meetings to discuss and write down family rules and the consequences or disobeying them. Hold meetings to discuss good things, too. Meetings can be held to celebrate a school or family success or to decide how to reinforce and increase progress.

Become an Active Listener. Good communicators practice the art of active listening. The behavior of active listeners tells those speaking that they're being paid attention to. When you actively listen to your teen, you help them feel valued. This makes them more willing to communicate with you. Active listening is an acquired skill. These techniques can help you master it:

Speak encouragingly: "Tell me more..." "Can you describe that..."

Ask for clarification: "Help me understand what you meant..."

Restate points: "Tell me if I heard you right..."

Share reflections: "It seems like you are feeling..."

Summarize: "If I understand you correctly, you said..."

Validate: "You have every right to feel..."

Show interest: "Wow, that must have been..."

Use body language: "Make good eye contact. Lean toward them."

Empathize: "Try to understand their feelings and thoughts."

Use a Quiet, Courteous Voice. Choose words and concepts teens will understand.

Give your Teen a Chance to Explain. Avoid jumping to conclusions.

Eliminate Communication-Stopppers. Avoid guilt, commands, ultimatums, preaching, judging or words like “never” or “always.”

Avoid Nagging. Most teens tune it out. Be brief. Teenagers retain shorter messages longer.

Preventing Isolation. While it’s natural for teens to seek out some privacy, isolation within their own family is a problem that must be addressed. Use your active listening skills to draw out any of your children who seem isolated, and find out if something is wrong.”

Our school is participating in a MJPFA Box Top contest. Our goal is to raise over \$2000 and the class that raises the most money will win a prize. Please ask neighbors, friends and family members for their Box Tops too. Each little square makes a big difference to our school. Students can turn in their Box Tops to their core teacher. The contest ends October 27th!

The Spelling Bee is coming soon!!! Students will participate in a class spelling bee (prior to October 7th) and then move on to the Jefferson School Spelling Bee on October 20th. The top 2 4th/5th grade students and top 2 7th/8th grade students will then compete in the Jefferson School District Spelling Bee on November 16th. From there, our top district spellers will move to the County Spelling Bee. The practice lists and rules can be found at this website: <http://www.sicoe.org/spellingbee/SpellingBeeRules.aspx#.V-IEZvkrLq4>

Parent Teacher Conferences are taking place the week of October 17th – 21st. Conferences will be scheduled from 10:30 – 6:00 on Monday with a lunch break from 12:30 – 1:00, and 2:15 to 4:00 on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. At this time you will be meeting with your child’s teacher to discuss their progress.

The county has stated that signage will be going up shortly stating “No Parking” along both Chrisman Road and Linne Road. Furthermore CHP will be patrolling the areas during drop off and pick up to ensure cars are not waiting in the turning or traffic lanes. Please do your part by parking in the parking lots if you are arriving prior to 3:00 if the drive through is full. We cannot have cars sticking out into the street. Your child can walk across the crosswalk to your car. Once the bell rings, traffic can flow through the drive through lane as usual. Thank you for your cooperation.

The Jefferson School Site Council researches strategies and procedures to support the school in its improvement efforts. The council helps develop, implement and evaluate a school plan that coordinates the application of categorical funds based on the requirements of the School-Based Program Coordination Act. The School Site Council provides all students, including students with special needs, with an enriched instructional program at Jefferson School. Our first meeting will take place on October 5th at 3:20 in the Media Room. Furthermore, we will be selecting officers at this time.

Please do not hesitate to come by and visit or contact me at 209-835-3053 or awooten@sicoe.net.

Alyssa Wooten, Principal

JEFFERSON SCHOOL DISTRICT

Hello parents!

We have openings for Substitute Teachers (B.A Degree and CBEST is required), Substitute Campus Aides, Substitute Instructional Aides/Paraprofessionals, Substitute Food Service Clerks and Substitute Food Service Workers! If you are interested in applying for any of these positions, please go to <http://www.edjoin.org/Home/Jobs?countyID=0&districtID=701> and apply right away! Feel free to share with anyone else who you think may be interested. Thank you!

We are also looking for people interested in being translators for parent meetings. We pay \$12 per hour. We need people who speak Spanish as well as other languages. If you are interested, please call the District Office at 209-836-3388 and speak to Rhonda for more information.

Our school offers breakfast in our school cafeteria from 7:30-8:00am. Our school cafeteria also offers 2nd chance breakfast at recess. Breakfast is \$1.50 and includes milk and/or juice as well as food items. Questions, please call Debbi Rogers @ 209-839-8759

~ VOLUNTEER INFORMATION ~

Our school nurse has to administer the risk assessment questionnaire in person; our district nurse (Tina) will be available the last Wednesday of every month from 3:00 to 4:00 in the student services office. Anyone needing a TB test can drop in during that time for her to administer the questionnaire. Please come in when you get your first reminder 3 months before it expires, so that you have enough time to obtain a test should you not pass the questionnaire.

The dates will be:

October 26, and November 30

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Mrs. Correll (Oct.5th) & Mr. Abraham (Oct.7th)

