



*James Faulkner
Elementary
School Monthly
Newsletter*

February 3, 2015

Principal's News

On Friday, January 23rd the teachers alongside our Literacy Coach, Kelli Killion, sat down together and was able to explore and become acquainted with the Lucy Calkins Writing Program components and practice. The expectation this year is for the teachers to begin using the program by trying out certain pieces of it within their writing times. Next year, as a school, we will fully implement the program so we have consistency with how we teach and practice writing throughout all grades. I am looking forward to the improvement in our students' writing as we move forward to a whole school writing program.

I have had many parents approach me about the limited selection of After-School Enrichment Activities being offered for the younger grades and/or the number allowed in the offerings. Unfortunately, with the increase in our enrollment and the increased demands on our teachers we don't have the staff or resources to offer something for everyone. This is where I ask for your support, if you have a special talent or an idea for an after-school activity please think about volunteering your time and offering an After-School Enrichment opportunity. If you are interested in offering something please contact me as soon as possible. Our next session will begin after February break, March 2nd.

If you have a child or know someone that does in town that will turn 5 years old prior to September 1, 2015, and will be entering Kindergarten next year, please call the school office

Important Dates:

- 2/12 6:00 PM
School Board Meeting
PTO Meeting
7:00 PM
Budget Hearing Meeting
- 2/20 All-School
Meeting 2:40-3:10
- 2/23-2/27 Winter
Break No School
- 2/21 PTO
Sponsored Winter
Festival
- 3/12 Annual
Meeting 7:00 PM
- 3/13 Early Release
Day-dismissal at 12:30
- 3/20 All-School
Meeting 2:40-3:10

to put their name on our registration list. We will then contact you in regards to the date and time for Kindergarten registration.

Each year, the Keene Middle School coordinates with JFES during this time in the year to begin the transition with our Fifth graders to Middle School. We currently have two meetings scheduled, Wednesday, February 4th and Wednesday, March 11th and a culminating meeting when the fifth graders go to KMS for the day on May 8th. These meetings happen during the school day and last approximately an hour. They are a time for the KMS guidance counselor and principal to discuss expectations, but also listen to the students' questions and concerns. They will also review their schedules and offer what type of afterschool opportunities will be available for 6th graders. I am looking forward to a smooth and informed transition for our 5th graders this year!

As a working mother, I know it is very hard when your child becomes sick during the school week and even during the school day, but I ask all of you to please be considerate of our sickness policy that is stated in our Parent Handbook. It states: If your child presents with a fever of 100 or higher, it is absolutely essential that s/he stay home until s/he has been **fever free for 24 hours without medication**. This is very important for all us to follow to ensure the wellbeing of not only of other students in the school, but also our staff who work with our children all day. Thank you for your efforts in this matter during our cold/flu season.

As I had mentioned in an earlier newsletter Alan Palmer, our PE teacher had resigned as of November. During this time I have been looking to fill his position. I am happy to welcome Matthew Schmidt, he comes to us with many years of teaching and coaching experience. He is a wonderful addition to our staff, and the students love his teaching style and activities.

On another note, Leah Nelson our Art teacher resigned as of January 5th to work closer to her home and also work as a full time teacher. If you know of a certified Art teacher who is looking to work one day a week at JFES, please have them contact me.

From now until the end of school in June, our All-School Meetings will be held on the 3rd Friday of each month from 2:40-3:10. Parents are always welcomed to attend. Our next one is scheduled on Friday, February 20th.

There is a School Budget Hearing Meeting schedule for Thursday, February 12 at 7:00 PM. This is the meeting to review and ask questions about the proposed school budget. On Thursday, March 12th is the Annual School Meeting where you are able to vote on the proposed school budget. The PTO will provide free babysitting for both meetings, please RSVP to the PTO.

I wish everyone a heart healthy February!

Martha LeMahieu, Principal

