

The Jefferson Journal

September Edition

September 14th, 2020

A monthly publication from
Jefferson Elementary School ~ Home of the Mustangs

Visit us at <http://jefferson.helenaschools.org/>

And check us out on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/Jefferson-Elementary-School-HSD1-Helena-MT-59601-159208504202983/>



IT HAS BEEN A GREAT START TO
THIS MOST UNUSUAL
2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR!

It has been a wonderful start to our school year in spite COVID and the smoke! Thank you so much for all your support to prepare your child(ren) for this schoolyear, whether your child is in-person/remote or DLI.

As we travel through this year together, I may still send quick updates but hope to be able to get back to “normal communication”. This would include sending you our latest news via the *Jefferson Journal*. Please do not hesitate to let me know if you have any questions. I know we have been sending you a tremendous amount of information the last few weeks.

Again, my sincere thanks on behalf of all of Jefferson's staff for your help to successfully kick off this school year. We have a wonderful school ~ and we know we would not be as strong if it was not for our partnership with each of you.

Sincerely,

Lona Carter, Principal

lcarter1@helenaschools.org

324-2063

Please make sure your child(ren) have an extra, clean mask at school!

If your child misplaces their mask, or the one they are wearing gets too soiled to wear, please have an extra mask for them to use in their backpack or locker. Thank you!



It's Smoky Out There!

We will continue to offer to students with respiratory issues the option of staying indoors while we are dealing with these poor air conditions. As we have done in the past, if our air quality is Moderate (yellow) respiratory kids will be given the option to go outside or stay inside; if air quality is Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (orange) respiratory kids will stay in, and if the air quality is Unhealthy (red), Very Unhealthy (purple) or Hazardous (maroon) all kids will stay in. If we are in the red, purple or maroon zones, all kids will be inside, and we will conduct indoor recess. If your child has been identified as a student with respiratory concerns, as identified by the child's health records, the child will not be allowed to go out if the air quality zone is orange or worse. If your child is upset with this, we will call you to get your perspective (some parents are ok with their child going out when we are in the orange zone and some are not). With regards to open windows, we will most likely have windows in the morning to get some cool air in the building and will then close them as it gets too hot/smoky outside.

The website we monitor is <http://svc.mt.gov/deq/todaysair/> . If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your child's teacher, Mrs. Leonard RN School Nurse at 431-2695 or Ms. Carter at 324-2063.

2020-2021 School Pictures

School Pictures of individual students will be taken at the following times:

A-Cohort; September 29th starting at 8:45

B-Cohort; October 2nd at 8:45 and

DLI Students; October 2nd at 10:30.

Due to C-19 we will not be able to take class pictures or pictures of siblings who are not yet school-aged. More picture information will be coming home soon!

NO Private Party Invitations – PLEASE!

Please remember that invitations to student birthday parties can be passed out at school **ONLY if all students in your child's classroom** are invited. Too many hurt feelings result if some are excluded. If you are inviting only a few, please mail the invitations or deliver them *at another place and time*.

Birthday Treats at School:

We are only allowed to distribute birthday treats if they have been individually, commercially wrapped while we are navigating C-19 in Phase 1. Thank you, in advance, for your understanding!

Emergency Drills

During September and October, we will have several emergency drills (fire, earthquake, shelter in place and how to re-enter the building practice). These drills will then occur less frequently throughout the year. Please help us by explaining the need for these drills to your children and talking about safety and following adult directions.

PLEASE NOTE: Our playground coverage, on the South playground, begins at 8:15am on in-school days. Students need to stay out on the South playground in their zones until the bell rings at 8:45am. The only exceptions are when we have temperatures below zero (actual temperature and/or wind chill), or atmospheric smoke that is at unhealthy levels. On these days we will have students sit in their classroom, while maintaining social distancing within family groups.

We are invested in ensuring your child returns safely to your home after the school day. We ask that you please plan for your child to be picked up by **2:40 on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.**

JEFFERSON PARENT COUNCIL (JPC) NEWS

- **NEXT JPC MEETING:** Our next meeting is **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8TH AT 5:30 on Google Meet.** You are welcome to attend any and all meetings. Your participation will be greatly appreciated, so we hope to see you at the meeting!

Jefferson Parent Council (JPC) –



Please Join Us!

What do we do?

- **Raise funds for curriculum/education and art enrichment at Jefferson including:**
 - ALL field trips for all students (hopefully we will have fieldtrips again soon!)
 - New library books for our library
 - Supplemental curriculum supplies for classrooms
 - New technology for our school
- **Coordinate parent volunteers for fundraisers**
- **Bring up questions/concerns about our school and learn more about how our school operates.**

Who participates? Any parent/guardian/community member of a Jefferson student and Principal Lona Carter.

When do we meet? Virtually every 2nd Thursday of every month at 5:30 during the school year. We post the link each month before the meeting at <https://jeffersonjpc.org/>. If you have questions please email JPC at <https://jeffersonjpc.org/contact/> . **Thank you!**