

The Jefferson Independent

November 2004
Issue 3

Newsletter of the Jefferson PTA
For the 2004-05 school year



Jefferson Calendar

November

Nov. 25-26 NO SCHOOL
Thanksgiving

December

Tues. Dec. 14 PTA Meeting
7 pm, Library
Dec. 20-31 NO SCHOOL
Winter Recess

January

Mon. Jan. 3 Back to School
Tues. Jan. 11 PTA Meeting
7 pm, Library
Mon. Jan. 17 NO SCHOOL
MLK Day
Fri. Jan. 28 NO SCHOOL
Staff Development

February

Fri. Feb. 4 Family Art Night
Tues. Feb. 8 PTA Meeting
7 pm, Library
Fri. Feb. 11 NO SCHOOL
Lincoln's Birthday
Mon. Feb. 21 NO SCHOOL
Presidents' Day

The Jefferson Independent is edited by Lucinda Sikes. You can drop off your submissions to her box in the Jefferson school office, or contact her by e-mail at shiresikes@aol.com. Please give her your submissions by the second Friday of every month. The Jefferson Independent is distributed during the third week of every month.

Who is the PTA?

What are the goals of the PTA, what is our vision, who are we? -- each fall we seem to re-visit these questions. They are good questions and should be asked and looked at anew, every year.

Who are we? We are parents and guardians who have children attending public school. We want to be involved in our children's education and we value being part of the school community. We have different ethnic, educational, and professional backgrounds. We have different skills and interests. Some of us volunteer in the classroom with projects, tutoring, and field trips, and some of us help from our homes through financial support or helping teachers with prep work. Some of us love being part of school-wide events like those who gave a hand at the recent Halloween Night, Culture Night, and Book Fair. Others take on school leadership roles within and outside of the PTA: organizing events, sitting on committees, and

becoming involved in school-community fundraising, such as the successful Measure B campaign. Our children's teachers and principal are also involved in the PTA and actively work with parents to help foster the home-school connection.

There are many avenues for participation within the school community. First and foremost, we do what we do because we are advocates for our children. The Jefferson PTA is part of a larger district, state, and national PTA. Within the Berkeley school district, Jefferson School is known for its high rate of parent/guardian and PTA involvement. We should be proud of the work we do and continue with our efforts. Thanks for your ongoing involvement!

Allison & Kate
PTA Co-Presidents

Student Success Teams Work to Help Students

The Student Success Team (or SST) is a team of parents, teachers and specialists formed to address problems a child is having in the classroom. Although SSTs have proven successful in identifying student needs and improving achievement, many parents may be unaware that the process is available here at Jefferson.

Parents concerned that their child is struggling or at risk should talk with the teacher. Together, the teacher and parents may decide to form an SST. The SST will meet to develop a plan of action to address the child's problem.

The interventions designed by the team depend on the needs of the child. The teacher implements the SST plan and assesses the results. If the results are unsatisfactory, further assessments for additional services may be recommended.

At the November PTA meeting, the PTA discussed Jefferson's SST program and how to raise awareness of the process. Parents concerned that their child is struggling in school, should contact the child's teacher or Principal Delaney.

Jefferson Family Marketplace

Check out the back page for a list of items offered for free or for sale by Jefferson families and teachers. Enclosed is a form if you'd like to place your own ad next month.

Halloween Party a Great Success!

A crowd of ghouls, goblins and other monsters of the night invaded the school cafetorium on October 29th to enjoy the PTA-sponsored Halloween Party. A great time was had by all!

Co-chairs Chris Hoffman and Theresa Cerney extend their thanks to the army of volunteers that helped make this event so successful. If you have any comments or suggestions, please put them in the Halloween box in the office or send them to Chris Hoffman at chris_h@berkeley.edu.

Book Fair Raises \$\$

The Scholastic Book Fair raised about \$3,000 worth of books and other teaching supplies for our classrooms, and each child got to bring home a book. Thanks to the 40 volunteers, and all who came to the Fair and Ice Cream Social!

Support Jefferson's Dollar Drive!

Your Contributions will be Matched by an Anonymous Donor

Any family who contributes more to the Dollar Drive than they did last year will see that extra money doubled by an anonymous donor. Any family who did not donate to Jefferson's Dollar Drive last year will see their full donation doubled.

Make your donations now! The generous Jefferson family will match these Dollar Drive donations up to a total of \$2000, as long as the donations are made by December 17.

Jefferson's Dollar Drive is off to a strong start. Already this fall, 75 Jefferson families have joined the PTA and donated \$5,762 to the Drive. But

more participation is needed to meet the PTA's goals and funding commitments.

Your dollars go directly to Jefferson.

While federal and state funding is being cut, your dollars go directly to help education at our school. The PTA helps pay Moriss Norrise for his innumerable contributions to our school. The PTA helps pay for tutoring services so that the services can begin early in the school year. Other vital components of education at Jefferson – assembly programs, computer equipment and supplies, class trips, after-school class scholarships – are also funded. Please support your school and teachers by donating to the Dollar Drive.

Join SchoolPop and eScrip to Support Jefferson

Pick Up Your Free Magazine Today

A free magazine from SchoolPop, *Achieve and Earn*, has arrived, and copies are available at the PTA literature rack in the office. This publication has lots of ideas for how to encourage kids to think of the holidays as a time of giving. There's also some great seasonal advice, as well as information about an essay contest kids can enter to win their own computer and printer. Pick up a copy of *Achieve and Earn* today in the office.

SchoolPop and eScrip: What's the difference? These two programs are so similar, it's no wonder people often get them mixed up. SchoolPop is mostly for people who like to shop online; eScrip applies mostly to our local "brick-and-mortar" stores. Both contribute a percentage of your purchase to Jefferson, at no cost to you. But to make it work, you need to register your credit cards!

Register for SchoolPop at www.schoolpop.com, and for eScrip at www.escrip.com. Both programs have us listed as "Jefferson Elementary PTA," so if you find yourself facing a list of Jefferson schools from all over the country, look for ours in Berkeley.

These programs are the easiest and least costly way for you to help out Jefferson! If you need any help at all in registering, please contact Letitia at 527-0139 or letitia.PTA@globetrotter.berkeley.edu, and she'll walk you through the process. You can even arrange to meet her at the Jefferson library and sign up at a computer together. You'll need your credit card number(s) and, if you've signed up before, you'll need to know your login and password.

Wendy Fong

Wendy Fong grew up in Hawaii, and studied elementary education at the University of Hawaii. She then moved to San Francisco, and received her early childhood specialist credential from San Francisco State University.

After college, Wendy worked with young children and families in San Francisco

Sally Goldstein

Sally Goldstein was educated at UC Berkeley. She got her BA in painting and studied ceramics with Peter Voukos. She then got her Elementary Credential and Masters in Early Child Education also at UC Berkeley.

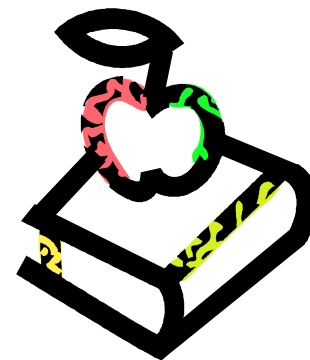
Sally began teaching at Jefferson School in 1969, teaching for 9 years in Extended

Chinatown as director of a state-funded childcare, resource and referral center. She was also a counselor at Chinatown Child Development Center.

This is her twentieth year teaching in Berkeley, all at Jefferson. She has taught grades K-3 in the Chinese Bicultural Program. She has two grown children.

Day Care, and the rest of the time in the classroom, teaching K, K-1, 1-2, 2, and 2-3.

Sally is a Literacy Teacher Leader and finds that work very informative. Sally quilts, and enjoys working on the Jefferson quilt for the annual Mayfair raffle.



This month we interview Second Grade teachers & students.

Second Grade Voices - What do you like doing in your class?

My favorite thing is probably science – studying about how trees grow and stuff. I really like math and reading a lot, too.
--Oliver, Room 207

One favorite thing is studying about fish because we cut one open today and saw the brain and the heart and the stomach (but it was empty). I like coloring and drawing things, too.
--Annika, Room 207

I usually like science and math. It's because I feel like I'm a scientist. I liked looking at the inside of the fish. I found the swim bladder and the brain, and I also found the heart and the gills.
--Ashlyn, Room 207

Math. I like figuring out the missing numbers.
--Nicole, Room 201

Activity Time. We get to play inside. I like playing with legos and playing chess.
--Jonathan, Room 201

Well, I like to write and to have activity time. I like to write stories about princes and princesses and sports. And, I like to write about gymnastics because it's my favorite sport. And I like art because we get to draw and paint and do a lot of other things like that.
--Aya, Room 207

I like math. I like subtraction and adding. I like to read. *Hop on Pop* and *Little Bear* are my favorite books.
--Hammad, Room 201

I like math, all kinds of math. And I like to read. My favorite books are *Hop on Pop* and Dr. Seuss.
--Victor, Room 201

Reading. I like reading Mouse Tales and about snakes. And, I like writing. I like writing about trips.
--Adrian, Room 207

