



# The Jefferson Independent

Translations of Principal Maggie's letter available at [www.jefferson.berkeleypta.org](http://www.jefferson.berkeleypta.org).

## Letter from Principal Maggie



Dear Jefferson Families,

In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. **"Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't**

**have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."** January 20<sup>th</sup> is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. On this day, our country celebrates Dr. King's birthday, his accomplishments as a civil rights leader and activist and his legacy of service to the community.

During the month of January, your children have been learning about the life and vision of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. I'd like to invite you to our school assembly on January 23<sup>rd</sup> where they will share what they've learned with performances for our entire school.

Dr. King believed that **"Life's most persistent and urgent question is: 'What are you doing for others?'"** At Jefferson School we uphold this belief and teach our students what it means to be of service to their school and community by providing them with the opportunity to join Jefferson's Service Learning Club. Over 60 students from grades 3,4 and 5 are Service Learning Club members and are engaged in a wide variety of jobs that make our

*Continued on page 4*

## January 2014, Issue 4

### Calendar of Events

**January** 23 Assembly at 8:15AM  
27 Staff Development Day – No School

**February** 6 Assembly at 8:15AM  
7 Art Night at 6PM  
13 PTA Meeting at 6:30PM  
14 Lincoln's Birthday-No School  
17 Presidents' Day-No School  
20 Assembly at 8:15AM

**March** 1` Silent Auction at 6:30PM  
6 Assembly at 8:15AM  
13 PTA Meeting at 6:30PM  
14 Math & Science Night  
20 Assembly at 8:15AM  
28 Cesar Chavez Day of Service and Learning  
31 Spring Break Starts (through April 4)

## Letter from PTA Co-President Andrea Dejarlais

Welcome back from the holiday break Jefferson families! Our school has some exciting events coming up to keep us all entertained throughout the winter months! Art Night is Friday, February 7th. We will make: Valentines cards and crowns, wood sculptures, sewing projects, popsicle stick doll/bookmarks, canvas painting and more! There will be plenty of art to make and take home, as well as a project to beautify the school. Remember to dress for mess and feed your kids before-food and glitter don't tend to mix well! Volunteers are still needed to help out for short shifts on the night of. Contact [walmarta@speakeasy.net](mailto:walmarta@speakeasy.net) to help out.

Hopefully your calendars are marked for Saturday, March 1st, for our annual adults-only Silent Auction. The theme is Jefferson Mardi Gras! Check out the website to see auction items, party information or to buy tickets <http://jeffersonmardigras.blogspot.com> There will be a host of great prizes including: getaways, art, gift certificates to local restaurants & businesses, summer camps and the ever popular adult parties! Childcare will be available on the school campus for a very low fee (contact [susi@popsugar.com](mailto:susi@popsugar.com) for more info.) Tickets are available on a sliding scale \$15-\$35 and complimentary

*Continued on page 4*

# From Librarian Adoria Williams: Happy New Year!

January is often a time for reflection regarding the accomplishments of the past year. In that spirit, I want to thank you for your tremendous support.

Our library has witnessed a steady increase in usage last year despite the fact that we began this current school year with no physical space. I believe this success can be attributed to our fine staff, strong and relevant collection, and our enhanced technology. Being mobile this year and not having access to the entire collection has been a challenge, but it has been working (and I have been getting some much needed exercise). I love visiting the classrooms where I am able to see students in their "element." Their love of books and thirst for knowledge is an added bonus. It tells me that I am doing something right.

The virtue of the Jefferson School Library is its ability to evolve and address the opportunities presented by rapidly evolving technology, informational needs, and community expectations. Our new space will allow us to do even more for our students. My pledge for 2014 is to build on our past successes by continuing to provide quality materials. Once again, thank you for your support; I look forward to serving the Jefferson community throughout 2014.

And now, here are a few book recommendations. Enjoy!

## **How to Speak Dog: A Guide to Decoding Dog Language** (2014)

by Aline Alexander Newman  
Recommended for ages: 6+

Do you speak dog? This book is a fun, informative, and photographically driven book that helps kids understand what their dog is trying to tell them through body language and behavior. Beautiful dog photography, along with National Geographic Kids signature bold and bouncy design, helps illustrate the key canine concepts. Tips and fun facts about mankind's best friends, and informative sidebars from the experts enliven the text. **How to Speak Dog** is very kid friendly and would be an enjoyable read for children before the new furry addition joins the family. The content may also help educate the first time dog owner. It is a quick, enjoyable read.

Other books by this author: **APE ESCAPES! And More True Stories of Animals Behaving Badly** (2012); **Animal Superstars! And More True Stories of Amazing Animal Talents** (2013)

## **Bugs in My Hair!** (2013)

by David Shannon

Recommended for ages: 6+

Author and illustrator David Shannon's latest picture book, "Bugs in My Hair!" offers plenty of delousing advice along with lots of laughs. After his mother discovers that he has lice in his hair, our heroic narrator begins to freak out. Despite all the suggested cures, ranging from shaving his head to sticking it in a mayonnaise jar, the reader can see from the pictures that these bugs—with suitcases in tow—are determined to stay. Despite all the silliness, there is some useful information provided in this book as well. For instance, it's true that lice do dine on blood; dogs don't get them; and "stinky stuff" like eucalyptus oil, a nit comb, and maybe more than a few trips to the laundry can kill them. This book is guaranteed to make you laugh, itch, and understand all about lice.

Other books by this author: **No, David!** (1998); **A Bad Case of Stripes** (2004)

## **Josephine: The Dazzling Life of Josephine Baker** (2014)

by Patricia Hruby Powell

Recommended for ages: 10+

If Josephine Baker had stayed in her native Missouri, she never would have become a beloved singer-dancer in Parisian cafes or a film star capable of exciting audiences 50 years after her heyday. Tall, tawny and uninhibited on the dance floor, Baker embodied the ideal of the natural woman. This beautiful picture book tells the story about her fascinating life. The story is told through quotes, poems, and verse and the vibrant illustrations perfectly capture Baker's essence and personality. Although this is a beautiful picture book, be warned that there are some references to some difficult topics: the KKK, the persecution of Jews in Europe, the Resistance, race riots, and more. These references add to the impact of the story and helps relate the author's message in a powerful way, but this book is more appropriate for older students.

Other books by this author: **Blossom Tales, Flower Stories of Many Folk** (2002); **Zinnia: How the Corn Was Saved** (2004)

## Classroom Report: Art with Ms. Lucy Ames

First and second grade students continue to experiment a range of media and techniques in their weekly art classes. They all started the year drawing inspiration from Peter Reynold's book The Dot. We painted circles and dots using watercolor techniques such as wet on wet, dry brush and color mixing on the paper. Now we are exploring African crafts. The first graders will be learning about Kente cloth from Ghana, West Africa. We will use the colors and geometric shapes to create our own paper panels. Second graders will learn about Moroccan Khamsas, sometimes called Hand of Fatima. They will design their own abstract hand shape on tooling metal and then emboss intricate designs into the metal. Look for these on display in the second grade hall some time in February!

### Afterschool Class Update

The final registration deadline for PTA classes is next week: Friday, Jan. 24, 2:30pm. All applications are now accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Please note, the following classes are now FULL and CLOSED to registration:

Art Exploration (Grades 1-5)  
Constructing Art: Mon (Grades 1-5)  
Skilly Circus (Kindergarten)

Classes start week of Feb. 3.

If you have any questions, please ask any member of the PTA Classes team: Shui Wong, Patricia Mok, Walmaria Caldas and Anne Cockle. Shui can be reached at [shuiw2012@gmail.com](mailto:shuiw2012@gmail.com).

**The next PTA meeting is on Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM in the cafeteria. Translation & child care are available!**

### Fun for the whole family



Friday, February 7  
6-8pm in the Cafetorium  
Make Art for the School,  
Art to take Home,  
And Valentines  
(Please DRESS for MESS.)

**The Jefferson Times, our school's literary-art magazine, is back!** Each year, Jefferson students have the opportunity to share their writing and artwork through our school magazine. Entry forms (with rules) and the submission box will be located in the front office starting on Tuesday this week. Students are welcome to submit their stories, poetry, plays, songs, and other writing and/or their black-and-white drawings by Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup>. To learn more or to help out, please contact Jess at [jessica.reich@yahoo.com](mailto:jessica.reich@yahoo.com).

## Principal's Letter, Continued

school a better place for everyone. The jobs include:

- Peacemakers- Conflict Managers
- Library Support Team
- Green Team
- K-1<sup>st</sup> grade tutors
- Yard Team
- Office Team
- Playground Team

The Service Learning Club is coordinated by school counselor Virginia Peden and is supported by funding from our generous PTA.

On any given day our Service Learning Club volunteers can be seen all over the school, signing up in the office, bustling along in the halls and on the yard, wearing their sashes and vests and making a difference. They take their jobs very seriously and carry them out with tremendous pride and joy. Through their actions, they are following in the steps of our great leader, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. I, too, am proud of our students. They are truly keeping Dr. King's dream alive by working in service of their school community and, as such, are great role models for all of us.

Sincerely,  
Principal Maggie

## PTA Letter, Continued

tickets are available to anyone with need so get your tickets now and join celebration!

We have a volunteer opportunity! Our school needs a new Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) co-coordinator. SRTS is a great program which enables our school to use the bike blender many of us enjoyed last Mayfair and also organizes Walk and Roll to school days. We need someone who can help Jefferson to keep our school actively involved with this program that we can keep enjoying its benefits. Contact Andrew Graham [andyanddebg@gmail.com](mailto:andyanddebg@gmail.com) for more information on what this job entails.

Our school Giving Campaign is well underway! We currently have over \$6,000 in contributions for this year's

## HELP WANTED

**Do You ♥ Art?** Art Night (February 7) needs help with set-up, clean-up, and staffing art tables. Sign up through Volunteer Spot at <http://vols.pt/rfCEGp> or contact Walmaria Caldas ([walmaria@speakeasy.net](mailto:walmaria@speakeasy.net)), Deirdre Murphy ([deirdre@metopic.com](mailto:deirdre@metopic.com)), Jana Vourgourakis ([andrewjana@earthlink.net](mailto:andrewjana@earthlink.net)), or Laura Atkins ([laura@lauraatkins.com](mailto:laura@lauraatkins.com)).

**Love Wheels?** Jefferson parent Andy Graham helped organize our school's Walk and Roll to school day in October (thanks Andy!), but needs help with implementing other Safe Routes to School programs to promote biking, walking and carpooling to school. Contact Andy at [andyanddebg@gmail.com](mailto:andyanddebg@gmail.com).

**Got a Phone?** The PTA needs help calling local businesses to follow up on silent auction donation requests. Contact Valerie ([vkratzer@yahoo.com](mailto:vkratzer@yahoo.com)) or Andrea ([felony@waste.org](mailto:felony@waste.org)).

**Want to Feed A Crowd?** Mayfair, Jefferson's school carnival, will be on Sunday, May 4th. We need help organizing the food booth, requesting donations from local businesses, managing volunteers, etc. Contact Patricia Mok at [patriciamok@gmail.com](mailto:patriciamok@gmail.com).

**Do You Walk the Walk?** We need to line up a co-chair for next year's Walk-a-thon so s/he can be trained to help with this important fundraiser. Contact Anne Cockle at [cockle@comcast.net](mailto:cockle@comcast.net).

campaign with an end of year goal upwards of \$30,000. The class with the highest level of participation in this fundraiser may win an end of year class party-be on the lookout for more info and keep up the giving!

Finally, a huge thank you to Laura Atkins for compiling our school directory! It went home in communication folders this past month. Also, many thanks to Christina Hernandez, Carmen Borg and Valerie Kratzer for coordinating the Jefferson Holiday Gift Drive and to everyone who donated! All gifts were received with tremendous gratitude. Jefferson families, you truly rock!