

School News

Hospitality Corner

So, we have had a big start to the 2009 school year! We received close to 75 responses for volunteers to help with the Hospitality Committee this year! Thank you so much!

In September, the teachers were welcomed back with a fabulous breakfast provided by the PTA. And, on the first day of school, they each received an apple stress ball and a fresh picked apple!

October is gearing up to be a busy month with the following events:

Custodian Day celebrated on Oct 2 – we will provide our wonderful custodians with a sweet treat along with a gift card.

School Lunch week celebrated the week of Oct 12-16 – we will provide our cafeteria staff with a wonderful breakfast and some sweet treats.

School Bus Safety week celebrated the week of Oct 19-23 – we will provide our bus drivers with a breakfast break and gift card.

All of these events are made possible because of the special talents and donations of our wonderful network of volunteers! We just can't say Thank You enough for all you do!

Upcoming events in November – we will celebrate Mr. Almasian and Mrs. Stallings birthdays! As well, we will host a Thanksgiving feast for the JDES teachers and staff!

If you have questions or would like to volunteer for Hospitality, please contact Joanna Dore/Cynthia Hess at hospitality@jacksondavispta.org or call 804.334.6573/804.270.7980 (respectively).

Thank you!
Hospitality Committee
Joanna Dore and Cynthia Hess

Principal's Message

Dear Parents,
The beginning of the 2009-2010 school year is off to a great start. By working together, I am confident we're going to have another successful school year.

ASK THE PRINCIPAL

Question: Are there more students at Jackson Davis this year?

Answer: Yes, we have more students this year than last. Our enrollment is nearing 580 students.

Question: What's with the trailer on campus?

Answer: That is our new "Learning Condo". Having the additional instructional space was needed and will be helpful.

Question: I don't recognize some of the staff. Who are they?

Answer: Due to retirement, staff relocation, and increased enrollment, we have seven new staff members. They are:

Brandon McFarling and Audra Yerian (K)

Meredith Robins (1st)

Amy Jefferson (2nd)

Nancy Long (4th)

Snezana Grozdonov (ESL)

Allison Parker (Speech)

Question: I like the colors the school was painted. When was that done?

Answer: The school was painted this summer.

Question: How do I go about volunteering at Jackson Davis?

Answer: Please contact Katherine Curl, our school counselor. We would love to have you.

Question: The traffic is ridiculous in the morning. What can be done?

Answer: You're right. In the morning, traffic can be congested. The Henrico County Police monitor the roads, however, we ask that you be cautious especially when dropping students off. I recommend that you pull into the front parking lot and drop off your child at the front entrance. I know there can be a wait, but this is the safest place to drop off your child.

Question: Did Jackson Davis get any new technology this year?

Answer: Yes we did. The school has 5 new "White Boards". You may know them as "Smart Boards" or "Promethean Boards".

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Bryan Almasian, Principal

If you have any questions, please contact me at 527-4620 or email me at balmasian@henrico.k12.va.us

Kindergarten

The beginning of school brought lots of new smiles to each of the kindergarten classes. The children have started to make many new friends and have already settled into classroom routines. The focus for the last few weeks has been helping the children adapt to life at Jackson Davis. Much time has been spent teaching the children classroom and school rules as well as procedures for walking in line, eating in the cafeteria, fire drills, and afternoon dismissal.

Looking forward to the month of October, we will be going to the Ashland Berry Farm to learn about lifecycles and pick pumpkins. In addition, we will begin assessing student reading levels with PALS testing and form our guided reading groups.
Kindergarten Teachers

1st Grade

First graders are exploring the adventures of a new year. They are learning about each other, classroom rules, and what makes a good citizen. Students are learning all about Fall, animals, plants, apples and pumpkins. We will learn about Columbus and his explorations. We would like to welcome all the students who are new to Jackson Davis.

Happy Fall! The First Grade Teachers

2nd Grade

Students have had a wonderful start in second grade! They have worked hard to learn about the different types of sentences and what makes a good second grade sentence.

During our unit on citizenship students learned all about each other, the word diversity, classroom rules, being a good citizen, and voting. In science students enjoyed participating in experiments to learn more about making accurate observations and classifying. One of their favorite activities was working in groups to make observations about an apple. They thought it was a lot fun trying to find their group's apple in a group of apples only using their written observations.

In math students are working hard to memorize the addition and subtraction facts to 20. See how fast your child can answer facts orally. Great places to do quick practices are while riding in the car, during a commercial on television, or while playing on the playground. Many board games also practice addition or subtraction and are great ways to practice while having fun. Learning these facts now will help students to have more success solving 2-digit addition and subtraction problems with and without regrouping and word problems.

Students look forward to learning all about weather and United States Geography in October! We encourage everyone to read every night to continue to build fluency, vocabulary, and spark imagination! The Second Grade Teachers

3rd Grade

What a fantastic start to our third grade year! All students have put forth their best efforts! They have learned how to be organized and what is expected of third grade citizens. Thank you to our parents for supporting their children and for attending Back to School Night.

The first grading period will be a busy one as students learn

about numbers to the hundred thousands place, matter, geography, and the ancient civilization of Greece. Important concepts and vocabulary in Science and Social Studies are placed in the interactive notebook. This is a good tool for review, studying for unit and cumulative benchmark tests.

As always, please feel free to contact us by school phone, email, or note in the green folder. We look forward to a fun year filled with learning and friendship. S. Eller, P. Parkinson, K. Tucker, and S. Worfolk

4th Grade

The school year is off to a great start! Thank you to all parents for attending back to school night and for joining the PTA. If you haven't joined the PTA, it's not too late. Ask your child's teacher for another membership envelope if you've misplaced yours.

In Science, students are learning about the scientific method through designing and flying paper airplanes. Students have also learned to use Numbers and created a spreadsheet to graph their results.

Virginia's five regions and its bordering states are the focus of our VA Studies unit. Students have been practicing these concepts by labeling a laminated map of Virginia, creating a database of Virginia's regions, making flash cards and recording notes in their interactive notebooks.

Students are learning place value, rounding, and comparing numbers in Math. They review these skills through base10 blocks, math games and group work. Please encourage your child to review their multiplication facts every night.

In Language Arts, students are reading short stories independently and in small groups. They are also learning important skills, such as narrative elements and spelling patterns. Be on the lookout for novel studies! We look forward to a wonderful year! The Fourth grade team, Ms. White, Miss Nancy, Mr. Cochran, and Ms. Long

5th Grade

The kids are so excited to finally be big fifth graders. We're looking forward to a fun-filled year of learning and opportunity here at Jackson Davis. Being "top dog" brings a lot of new responsibilities to our students. In addition to their academic endeavors they will participate in various service programs, such as AAA Safety, Friendly Helper, ELL Helper, morning announcements, SCA, and Art Helper. Students will also be taking part in the Henrico County D.A.R.E. program with Officer Robertson. The whole fifth grade will be working with Mrs. Spackman (formerly Miss Harris) on a grade-level chorus performance during the first semester. During the second semester, only students who wish to continue in the chorus will do so. We also look forward to many field trip adventures and a fifth grade musical production at year's end. We're beginning our studies with a quick review: place value in math, Virginia studies in history, the scientific method in science, and basic comprehension and word skills in language arts. Thank you to all of our students and parents for a smooth transition. We anticipate an exceptional year with a terrific group of kids. The Fifth Grade Teachers, Mr. Cangelosi, Mrs. Elsea, Mr. Stevens

PTA News and Events

Henrico County Council of PTAs Report

I attended the HCCPTA Meeting on September 15th. Kathy Burcher, President, introduced all the board members and Dr. Gwen Miller, Principal of Tucker High School. Dr. Miller spoke and welcomed us to her school. Did you know that Tucker houses the Welcome Center for all of Henrico Public Schools? Tucker also houses the Center for World Languages where students can have an immersion experience in Spanish and French and they are now also offering Chinese. Tucker is also eager to welcome a new IB program next year and is getting ready for that.

Ms. Burcher spoke about a scholarship offered by HCCPTA and asked that individual schools please fund that scholarship. Ms. Burcher spoke about the Legislative Affairs ballots. The VAPTA is asking for support for dedicated teacher planning days, uniform grading scales and seeking funding for the ICAC. There is a membership drive raffle offered by HCCPTA. For every 10 members over last year your school will receive one entry in a raffle for a \$50 gift card from Walmart. There will be 2 elementary schools winners, 1 middle school and 1 high school.

The first speaker was Michael K. Magner, MPH an Emergency Planner from the VA Department of Health. Mr. Magner spoke about the H1N1 (swine flu). He gave the background of the flu and emphasized that young people under age 24 are the most at risk. Usually fever of 100.4 plus cough is a indication of flu. It is important to remember that the rapid test for flu is not reliable for the H1N1, a rapid test negative is only correct 30% of the time. The greatest prevention is frequent hand washing. Mr. Magner reported the vaccine will be available in mid October and will be at all drugstores, hospitals and private medical practices. This vaccine should be free or given for a small administrative fee. The Health Department is planning a shot clinic to be held in every school where every school age child will be administered the vaccine if they have not already had it. Volunteers will be needed for this endeavor. Mr. Magner also reminded people that it takes 2 weeks for the vaccine to provide protection.

The second speaker was Rodney Gore from the "Too Smart to Start" Coalition. This program is geared towards high school students and its mission is to reduce and prevent drug and alcohol abuse. There will be several events throughout the year to pursue this goal. Their website is www.toosmart2start.com.

The next speakers were Dr. Timothy Mertz, Director and Roni Wiedmann, Marketing Manager from the HCPS Nutrition Services. They spoke about programs that are available from Nutrition Services. There are newsletters called "Nutrition Nuggets" sent to principals and food service managers which give valuable information. There are Food Explorers Curriculum available for elementary schools, particularly geared towards first graders which introduces the students to different foods. There is information available on their website. One of the major goals of Mr. Mertz, Director of HCPS Nutrition Services is to have a comprehensive ingredient list for all foods served in each cafeteria. This will be available shortly and will be added to their website.

The final speaker was our new HCPS Superintendent, Dr. Pat Russo. He spoke about the pursuit of a Strategic Plan for HCPS which was developed for a framework of 5 to 7 years. The budget shortfall of the state will affect HCPS in the future. This year there was growth but that will probably not continue. Next year there is a possible loss of state and local revenues which will cause the next couple of years to be very difficult. But Dr. Russo stated that he is proud to send his kids (10 year old twins) to HCPS and it is still the greatest school district around!

PTA FALL BOOK FAIR

The Scholastic Fall Book Fair is coming in November! It will be open Thursday, November 5th through Friday, November 13th. It is always a great success, mostly due to our wonderful volunteers who donate their time. If you are interested in volunteering some of your time to help with the Fall book fair (i.e. setting up, assisting children with wish lists, working a shift, or packing up), please contact Celia King at 965-9930 or celiaeking@msn.com.

PTA Reflection Entries

Due October 15.

PTA Meeting

Tuesday, October 20
7:00 pm

SMILE for
Fall Picture Day
Wednesday, October 21

PTA Blood Drive
Wednesday, October 14
1:30—6:30 pm



Kindergarten Social

Friday, October 9th
5:30 - 7:00 pm

**The Original Artworks
PTA fundraiser is back!**

This program allows you to have your child's very own artwork reproduced onto a selection of over 20 quality products. These products range from magnets, mugs and mouse pads to t-shirts, tote bags and tiles. Please watch out for this order form, to be returned no later than October 26th to ensure delivery before Winter Break.

If you have any questions, please contact Margaret Walker 217-7089, mdwalker173@aol.com or Becky Hansell 270-1395, bhansell@verizon.net.

International Night

November 13th, 6-8pm
Advanced tickets \$4
Tickets at the Door \$5
Kids 3 and under FREE!
Food, Fun, Friends and Family!
Watch your child's green folder

**Box Tops for Education
Labels for Education**

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Summer Collection Contest! Submissions are still being counted. Winners will be announced mid-October. Keep collecting for our Fall Classroom Contest. Details will be sent home in October. Thank you for your support!

PTA Student Directory

If you are interested in advertising in the PTA Student Directory, please call
Laura Manning 360-1502
or Catherine Potter 740-4288

PTA Membership

Support your PTA and join today!!!
We are hoping to reach 100% this year.
Cost is only \$5.00!
Questions? Call Laura Manning 360-1502.

2009-2010 Yearbook

Now's the time to order your Jackson Davis Yearbook for \$15 (add \$5 if you'd like your child's name imprinted on the cover)! Please make checks payable to Jackson Davis PTA and include your student's name, teacher, and grade on the check or order online at www.myyear.com (\$1.85 convenience fee). If you have questions, please e-mail Michele Wilhelm, Yearbook Coordinator wilhelm.michele@yahoo.com.

Dolphin Night Out

FIVE GUYS BURGERS AND FRIES
Tuesday, October 13th from 4-10 pm

PENN STATION
Tuesday, November 10th from 4-8 pm. Bring your flyer.

MOE'S
Tuesday, November 24th from 5-9 pm

And Don't Forget... Every Monday order from
PIZZA EXPRESS (carry out or delivery). Just mention
Jackson Davis Elementary when you order.

*Jackson Davis Elementary School
8801 Nettlewood Drive
Richmond, VA 23229
Phone: 527-4620
Fax: 527-4658*

**Visit Jackson Davis at
www.henrico.k12.va.us/ES/Davis**

*Newsletter Editor:
Stacy Foster
Phone: 967-0512
Email: tom313stacy@verizon.net*