



Jeffreys Grove
Spanish Language Immersion Magnet Elementary
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Principal's Message

February 2, 2020

Dear Jeffreys Grove Families,

We are very excited to share that Magnet Schools of America (MSA) has announced Merit Award winners for 2020. Congratulations to Jeffreys Grove Magnet Elementary for being one of 21 Schools of Distinction in our school district! MSA's National Merit Awards program honors the top magnet schools in the United States. The award recognizes magnet schools that demonstrate commitment to high academic standards, curriculum innovation, successful diversity efforts and consistent delivery of high quality educational services to all stakeholders.

I am very proud of all of the hard work that goes into this application but more importantly the hard work that goes into making our school as magnetic and diverse as it is. Please take a moment to recognize our staff and students for making this possible. Parents and guardians, accept our gratitude because your support and partnership are also a reason to celebrate!

Counselor's Corner

This month, with the Positivity Project (P2), we will be focusing on forgiveness, love, and enthusiasm. There will also be a wildcard/make up week. Teachers can choose any strength to review. Please click on the link to learn more about our P2 focus for this month.

[February P2 Newsletter](#)

Our Esteemed Eagles (5th Grade Ambassadors) will also be supporting a school wide service project called "Warm Fuzzy Kindness Grams." Students have the opportunity to purchase kindness grams for \$.50 to send to anyone in the school. The ambassadors voted on donating all proceeds to Saving Grace (non-profit that helps homeless animals find loving homes). Warm Fuzzies will be sold from 8:45-9:15 am during 2/3-2/7 and will be delivered on 2/14.

We will also celebrate RAK (Random Acts of Kindness) Week during the week of 2/10-2/14. We will have theme dress up days. Students and staff will also be challenged to do kind acts all week.

Information was sent home about this but you can also find it on the school website.

Happy February!

Academic Updates

Spotlight on our Kindergarten Team

Literacy- In February, our kindergarten students will explore the big ideas that all living things in the natural world have needs in order to survive and grow and that, through observation, we can discern patterns in the ways that living things meet their needs. Through a close study of trees and the living things that depend on them, kindergarteners take on the roles of researcher and scientist to make observations of the natural world. From those observations, they determine patterns that explain how living things live and grow.

Math- Students will work to identify, describe, classify and compose different shapes. By the end of the unit, students will be able to describe similarities, differences, and attributes of two- and three-dimensional shapes and use matching strategies or direct comparisons of totals to compare groups of objects.

Science- February is a fun month to learn science in Kindergarten! Students learn that their senses are used to make observations and learn about their environment that the position of an object can be described by locating the object relative to another object, fixed point, or background. Students learn the difference between words used to describe the location of an object or organism such as: *in front of, behind, between, on top of, under, above, below, beside* and can communicate using oral language so that all observers can agree on the position of an object or organism in relation to another object or organism.

100 Day is February 20! Kindergarteners celebrate the 100th day of school by participating in fun and engaging activities centered on the number 100! Keep an eye out for their interesting outfits that day!



Academic Parent-Teacher Team (APTT) Nights – Spring Dates:

We are happy to announce the spring dates for our second round of APTT nights. If you did not have a chance to attend in the fall, I highly encourage you to take advantage of the second round. The purpose of these nights is to offer our parents the chance to get linked-to-learning tools to assist our students from home in their academic efforts. The teachers have designed these nights around learning targets that are foundational for grade level success and will model strategies to help parents understand how to support our learners. Our own staff will be providing childcare for school-aged children to make it easy for parents to attend. The dates are as follows:

- Kinder – March 11 5:30-6:30 pm
- 1st grade – April 15 5:30-6:30 pm
- 3rd grade – March 12 5:30-6:30 pm
- 4th grade – February 20 5:30-6:30 pm
- 5th grade – March 18 5:00-6:30 pm

Lunch Accounts

Occasionally a student forgets their lunch at home, or they don't have enough money on their lunch account to cover their meal. When this happens the cafeteria provides them with a lunch of veggies and fruit, but students often won't eat it. To ensure students don't leave lunch hungry, the cafeteria has an account that can be used to provide students with a balanced meal. I was made aware that funds are running low on this account. If you would like to make a donation, next time you visit your child for lunch, let the cafeteria cashier know you would like to put money on the "JG Cafeteria" account. When a student is unable to purchase lunch for any reason, that account will be used. Please note that students can only use the account 3 times in a given period of time. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Daily 20 Minutes of Reading

We sometimes hear from parents who are looking for strategies to help their children with our school goal of 20 minutes of daily reading. Having stamina for something means being able to stick with something for periods of time. Stamina can apply to lots of different areas, such as exercise or painting. It can also apply to reading. Teachers often think about a student's reading stamina. Reading stamina is a child's ability to focus and read independently for long-ish periods of time without being distracted or without distracting others. Reading stamina is something that parents can help students develop and here's how:

1. Vary the way the reading is done. Parents can think about this in terms of having their child "read to himself, read to someone, and listen to reading." Some combination of the three should make up the reading time, especially for new or struggling readers.
2. Choose "just right" books. If your child is at a stage of being able to read alone, help him/her choose books that they are able to read independently. This means they should be able to decode almost every word in the book correctly. In this situation, avoid using books that are too difficult to read alone. If your child will be reading with you, choose books that are lively and engaging.
3. Set reasonable goals. Most toddlers and preschoolers find it difficult to sit for long periods of time, even with the most engaging book! When starting out, limit book time to just a few minutes and work up from there. For elementary aged readers, consider starting with 10-15 minutes of reading time, and work up from there. Add a few minutes to your reading time every week or so.
4. Celebrate progress. Without getting too caught up on the number of minutes spent reading, celebrate the time that is spent reading. Share your favorite parts of books read, plan the next visit to the library, and share progress with other family members.

As your child moves into higher grades, having reading stamina will help them navigate the longer texts and assignments. We hope that using these tips helps our parents develop more stamina in our Eagle readers!

Important Dates – Mark your Calendar!

1/27-2/10	Number Knowledge Test (NKT) window	2/10	Report cards go home
2/3-2/21	Case 21 testing window	2/10-14	Staff Appreciation Week
2/3-7	Counselor Appreciation Week	2/17-18	Holiday/Teacher Workday
2/7	3 rd grade field trip to the Art Museum	2/25	Skate Night

Thank you for your attention to the February highlights! Have a great day!

Yours in education,

Juli Ventura

Proud Principal of Jeffreys Grove Magnet Elementary