

# JLE News Flash

Notes from the principal # 12

April 1, 2010

## April Fools Day, But No Joke! Vacation Starts Tomorrow

Our long awaited spring break starts tomorrow and continues through April 9<sup>th</sup>. School will resume for everyone on Monday April 12<sup>th</sup>. After nearly a week of rain, we are set for some decent weather. We hope everyone has a nice break, and that you include some family reading time as part of it. I'll be checking out some of the authors that will be at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Children's Book Festival on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Many of these books are available at the Hudson Area Library, or may already be in your collection. You can check them out at [www.hudsonchildrensbookfestival.com](http://www.hudsonchildrensbookfestival.com). Mark Teague, author of the popular *How Do Dinosaurs....* and *Dear Mrs. LaRue* will be there, as will Hudson Talbott, author of *River of Dreams*, written specifically for the quadricentennial. Emily McCully - author and illustrator, is known for her many wordless picture books about a mouse family, as well as *Mirette on the Highwire*. Alyssa Capucilli, famous for *Biscuit* will be reading her works. During the weeks leading up to the festival, children will be introduced to many of the authors. Watch our newsletter for more information.

## Census Day Today!

Today is the official US Census Day. You should have received your census questionnaire by now and hopefully have returned it. Done only every ten years, the Census provides data for future planning and development: locally, statewide, and nationally. It is also very important in determining aide for schools. In these tough financial times, having accurate data is more important than ever. It should take only a few minutes to fill out. If you haven't done it yet, please do it today and mail it back! Stand up and be counted!

## McTeacher Night April 13th

Tuesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m., JLE staff will be trying out their skills at McDonalds, as the capital region celebrates McTeacher Night. On this day, during these hours, all participating schools in the capital region will split 20% of the proceeds taken in by all participating sites. Profit will go towards our Beyond Paper and Pencil Project. For our kids, more exciting than going to "Micky D's" is seeing their teachers scooping up fries, making shakes, or taking orders. Come stop in and see Laurie Drahushuk, Ann Button, Sherry Griffin, Beth Barnes, Elaine Curtis, Anne Curry, MaryBeth Sleezer, Kay Cook, Renee LaPorto, Diana Kipp, Alice Wynkoop, Beckie Weaver, Tracy Muller, Maureen McDonald, Lis Stippa, Stacey Infantino, Robyn Smith,

Tani Quinion, Greg Almstead, Trish Blackwell, Kerri Appelbaum, Lisa Cartwright and others. We'll send you an updated list with times after vacation, so you can be there when your favorite school person is there. It is also a humbling experience for us, as roles are reversed, with many of our former students and parents showing us the right way to do it!

After dinner, take a ride out to Columbia-Greene Community College to check out the district art show. The opening reception is 5:00 to 7:00, but the exhibit will be on display outside the college library, starting tomorrow through the end of April. I am always amazed at the great work done by our students, and admire the depth of the art program K - 12. And of course, at any time, we have our own art gallery in our halls. Thanks to art teacher, Angela Nassimos, for coordinating this for us.

## Kidz Day April 17<sup>th</sup>

Columbia Memorial Hospital helps celebrate Children's Health and Safety at their annual Kidz Day Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 - to 11:30 in the Medical office Building at CMH. Sponsored by Jaeger & Flynn, & Associates, Inc, the event guarantees fun for all, with special events and a grand prize. There will be a lot of free handouts and information about eating well, exercise, safety, etc. The event is free and open to the public.

## Drive Through Will Change

We continue to experience problems with our drive through areas, and parents not using good judgement as they speed through the parking lot, leave their cars running with or without children inside, park in no parking areas, and use staff parking. Starting Monday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, we will close the gates to the bus lane for a period of the day.

We will be aggressive about writing down license plate numbers. Many, many of our children are too little to be seen in front of or behind a car. There is a posted 5 mile an hour speed limit. Parking is available across the street in the lot at 4<sup>th</sup> and State, easily accessed by the alley on North 4<sup>th</sup> St.

Again, we ask that parents not park in the staff lot. Staff members need to be with their class and not driving around looking for a place to park.

## Taking Care of School Books

After many months, our reading book room has been shifted from the locker room to new space in the teacher's work room. Hundreds, if not thousands of sets of books are here for teachers to borrow to use with their students. Students take these little books home to read. Many do not come back. When this happens, the set is incomplete and there may not be enough for a teacher to use with a reading group. These books are

expensive (at least \$5 a piece). We ask that you help your child be responsible for these books. We are fortunate in that we can provide good literature for all levels and interests and want to keep our collection as intact as possible. PLEASE HELP US!