



## Jacksonville Commons Elementary School News

Happy Weekend Families,

We hope your 2015 New Year is off to a great start!!! This newsletter is just a quick note to keep you informed of upcoming events at JCES. With the end of the second 9 weeks and mid-year benchmarking completed, it is a good time to schedule a conference to discuss how your child is progressing this school year.



### **The Great Kindness Challenge and Bully Buster Week**

This past week and next, January 28- February 6, JCE is a proud participant in the Great Kindness Challenge. The Great Kindness Challenge (developed by Kids for Peace) is a national, proactive and positive bullying prevention campaign dedicated to creating a culture of kindness on school campuses nationwide. It is a weeklong period devoted to performing as many acts of kindness as possible. Last year over 27 million acts of kindness were completed by schools nationwide as they participated in this wonderful activity. This year, JCE is joining the effort and making its own contribution. Our students have been given a checklist with kind deeds listed. They take the challenge by performing as many of these kind acts as possible and thereby proving that bullying is weak and kindness is strength. This coming week, we will have a Bully Buster Spirit Week with the following daily themes:

- Monday: "Bully Buster Unity Day"  
*(Wear as much blue as possible)*
- Tuesday: "Bullying Doesn't "Match" Our 7 habits Day"  
*(Wear mismatched clothes)*
- Wednesday: "We're Bully-Free from Our Heads to Our Toes Day"  
*(Wear hats and mismatched/crazy socks)*
- Thursday: "We're "Turning Out" Against Bullying Day"  
*(Wear clothes turned inside-out and/or turned around backwards)*
- Friday: "Bullying Makes Our Heads Crazy Day"  
*(Crazy Hair Day)*

Please do ask your child about their kindness activities this past week. Please encourage them to perform as many acts of kindness on their Great Kindness Challenge checklist as possible and to participate fully in next week's Bully Buster theme days.



### **Leader in Me Parent Training Date**

Leader in Me Parent Training is March 17<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am or 6:30 pm. Please plan to join us to learn more about this very important part of your child's education here at JCE.



### **Release of Report Cards Will Be Delayed**

Due to a statewide issue with the Powerschool Student Data Management System, **report cards will go home with students on February 13 and not February 3<sup>rd</sup>** as previously scheduled. We are sorry for this delay; however parents are able to logon to Parent Portal to see how their child performed for the 2<sup>nd</sup> nine weeks.



### **Readers are Leaders 1,000,000 Minute Challenge**

We are excited to share that beginning February 9 all students and staff will begin participating in the "JCE Readers are Leaders Reading Challenge." This challenge will help all members of the JCE family apply the 7 Habits we are working so hard to learn. The goal for the school is to read 1,000,000 minutes in 60 days. The entire school will participate in the challenge which means each person must read 24 minutes a day. The challenge will begin February 9<sup>th</sup> and end May 12<sup>th</sup>. If the school meets its goal of 1,000,000 minutes in 60 days then the entire school will celebrate with a reading party. Below are important pieces of information that you need to know in order to help your student contribute to JCE reaching its goal.

- ✓ *Each child will be required to keep a reading log that includes the daily minutes that are read. The child's teacher will send home the log.*
- ✓ *Reading inside and outside of school counts.*
- ✓ *Reading is not required on the weekend, workdays, holidays, or spring break. However, if your child reads during any of those times, it will help JCE meet its goal faster... so please document it.*
- ✓ *Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade students will be allowed to count a teacher led read aloud that occurs during the day. The classroom teacher will keep track of those minutes. If you are a parent of a Kindergarten or 1<sup>st</sup> grade student, reading at least 15 minutes at home each night will help your child meet the goal.*
- ✓ *Each week the total amount of minutes the school has read will be posted on the school website so check back often for updates. Please help us encourage your child to grow as a reader!!!!*



### **Belize Partnership & Book Drive**

We are currently collecting gently used children's books in an effort to build the library at our partner school, San Pedro Roman Catholic in Belize. If you would like to donate to this cause, we are collecting books through February 6<sup>th</sup> in the school office. From February 14<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup>, Ms. Banta, Mrs. Doyle, and Mrs. Ryba will be partner teaching with teachers in Belize: learning the culture, and making connections for our students back home. We are looking forward to making global connections with them and their students.

Hello. I trust everyone is well. One of the best ways to help students realize their leadership potential is to give them opportunities to lead. Student leadership roles teach responsibility, leadership, and contribution. When I see students engaged in leadership roles, it is obvious how important they feel. They stand a little taller, talk a little louder, and walk with confidence in their step. Even the students who may struggle in the classroom will rise to the occasion and shine in their leadership role. Leadership roles can give all of your students the opportunity to feel like an important leader in the school.

**Getting Started**

1. Determine the student-leadership roles you want to offer.
2. Post the roles with a brief description of the responsibilities.
3. Ask students to fill out an application for the role(s) they are interested in. Examples can be found at [www.TheLeaderinMeOnline.org](http://www.TheLeaderinMeOnline.org).
4. Formally interview each student to be sure he or she understands the role and is willing to keep up with classroom work and homework.
5. Require students to sign a contract listing the leadership expectations and behaviors of the role.

**Examples of student leadership roles:**

- **Physical Education Posse:** Set up for morning Physical Education classes
- **Library Assistant:** Check books in and out, organize books to be re-shelved, assist students
- **Star Corps (Fifth -Grade Leaders):** First person students, teachers, and parents see in the morning Open building and car doors, monitor hallways, monitor and dismiss from the cafeteria
- **Green Team:** Pick up paper from classrooms, help with aluminum recycling, discuss ways to improve recycling in school
- **Critter Keepers:** Share the duty of caring for the animals in the science lab
- **Meteorologist:** Read daily weather on science-lab computer, make morning announcement
- **Announcement Team:** Lead the pledge and other announcements
- **Lost and Found Patrol:** Check playgrounds and return items, organize lost and found
- **Music Maestros:** Help Kindergartners, aid students needing extra assistance
- **Technical Assistant:** Make sure 10 computers are ready for student access
- **Mail Carrier:** Deliver mail to classrooms
- **Science Curator:** Help set up labs
- **Backstage Hand:** Assist with events
- **Special-Event Planner:** Assist with events
- **Grounds Crew:** Help to keep school grounds clean and looking good
- **Usher:** Helps to seat classes during assemblies
- **Photographer:** Documents important events in the school

*"Few things can help an individual more than to place responsibility on him, and to let him know that you trust him."*

— Booker T. Washington

Additional examples can be found at the [www.TheLeaderinMeOnline.org](http://www.TheLeaderinMeOnline.org).

*All My Best, Sean Covey*



**Upcoming Dates**

1/28-2/6 Great Kindness Challenge/  
Bully Buster Week

1/30 PTO Parent Night Out

1/31 Science Olympiad

2/4 Staff Meeting 2:30-3:30pm

2/6 Learning Bus starts

2/9- 5/12 Readers are Leaders,  
*1 million minute reading challenge*

2/10 4<sup>th</sup> Grade to Symphony (WOHS)

2/11 ERPD – ½ day students

2/12 & 2/13 Awards Luncheon

2/13 Report Cards Sent Home

2/13 Relay for Life Dance

2/16 No School – Teacher Workday

2/17-2/23 Jump Rope for Heart

2/19 School Spelling Bee,

12:30 Media Center, Ms. Cornacchio

2/20 Story Telling Assembly

2/24 5<sup>th</sup> grade trip to UNC Chapel Hill

2/25 SPT Meeting

2/25 Multiplication Bee

2/27 PTO Parent Night Out

3/2 Interim Reports

3/2–3/6 Book Fair

3/5 Book Fair Parent Night,  
Family Game Night, Music Performance

3/2-3/6 Read Across America

3/10 Oration Contest 8:30 am in Media

3/11 ERPD – ½ day students

3/10 Art Show

3/12 County Spelling Bee

3/12-3/13 Battle of the Books

3/17 LiM Parent/Family Workshop,  
8:30 am & 6:30 pm

3/20 PTO Run-A-Thon

3/25 SPT Meeting

3/26 NEHS Induction Ceremony,  
6:30 pm in Media Center

3/27 Career Day

3/30-4/3 No School – Spring Break

4/6 No School – Teacher Workday