

## A MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

Hello Jenkins Families,

It is hard to believe we are halfway through the school year with only two grading periods left until the end of the school year! February is often when the winter cold gets to the students, and they have an early case of "Spring Fever." This is also an important time of year for us to continue encouraging, motivating, and stressing the importance of working hard. That grit to continue through challenges will undoubtedly be one of our students' most important life skills. We have two full semesters of learning, and we are excited to keep that positive growth going up to the final day of this school year. We also appreciate your help in ensuring that our students continue their learning when they get home, so please continue to ask them about their day and encourage them to read for at least 15 to 20 minutes every evening. Report cards will be available in ParentVue on February 7, so please make a point to talk to your student regarding their grades. Chronic absenteeism continues to be a major concern at Jenkins, and we need your support to ensure that our students come to school regularly. Chronic absenteeism is defined as missing ten percent of the academic year for any reason, including excused absences, unexcused absences, and suspensions. Based on a 180-day school year, that means approximately 18 days (about 2 and a half weeks) per year or 2 to 3 days per month. Children who do not show up for school regularly miss out on fundamental reading and math skills and the chance to build good attendance habits that will carry them through college and careers. We must maximize our students' time in the classroom. Therefore, they must come to school consistently. Please partner with us to make attendance a priority. We cannot do it without your support. Your attitude toward school attendance and the importance of education sets the tone for your student's attitude. Let your student know that you value education, and together, we can make a difference in their academic, social, and emotional well-being.

Please look at the list of February and March events taking place at Jenkins. We look forward to seeing you there, and we also look forward to an amazing third grading period.

Your Admin Team,

Mrs. Marlene Coleman, Principal

Dr. Andria Watkins, Assistant Principal

Mrs. Catherine Trenkelbach, Admin Intern

### February and March Events

- ***Progress Reports in ParentVue*** 2/7
- ***PTO/Advisory Meeting*** 2/13 - 6:00 p.m.
- ***President's Day*** 2/19 - NO SCHOOL
- ***Book Fair*** 3/4 - 1:00-3:30 p.m.
  - 3/6 & 3/7 - 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (*Open during Learners Around the World*)
- ***Learners Around the World*** 3/6 - 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- ***Field Day*** 3/19
- ***Spring Break*** 3/25- 3/29

## SCHOOL COUNSELORS' CORNER

KGN-2nd Beverly McNairy  
3<sup>rd</sup>- 5<sup>th</sup> Jacquelyn Scott-Bell

Dear Parents,

February is an exciting month. We invite you to be an active participant in your child's career exploration journey. Encourage open conversations about their interests, share insights about your own career path, and help them connect with professionals in fields of interest.

Additionally, we encourage you to ask your child to demonstrate how they navigate Virginia Wizard's resources. Understanding the tools and platforms available will empower you to support them more effectively. This hands-on approach fosters a collaborative learning environment where both parents and students actively engage in the exploration process.

In February, we will be digging deep into career exploration using the resources available at Virginia Wizard's Website, [<https://www.vawizard.org%20%0d>]<https://www.vawizard.org>

### **Wizard K12 Overview**

[https://youtu.be/x5t3MZoRhIM?si=tR1EOUx27s9Sd\\_XI](https://youtu.be/x5t3MZoRhIM?si=tR1EOUx27s9Sd_XI)

**Please spend at least 10 minutes with your child to explore and discuss their favorite clusters related to their career choices. This interactive session provides an opportunity for meaningful conversations about their aspirations, helping us tailor our support to their individual goals.**

To ensure a seamless experience during these activities, please remind your child to bring their charged tablet to school in February. They will need their tablet to enable them to fully participate in the exploration sessions and make the most out of this valuable opportunity. Stay tuned for upcoming career exploration events, workshops, and parent-teacher discussions facilitated by Virginia Wizard. We are dedicated to ensuring that both you and your child feel supported throughout this process. They will use Virginia Wizard through completion of 12<sup>th</sup> Grade.

In the words of Virginia Wizard, "Career exploration is a lifelong journey, and the sooner we start, the more fulfilling and purpose-driven our paths become." Thank you for partnering with us as we embark on this exciting venture to unlock the potential within each student. Encourage your child to use their imagination, visioning their future. If they can see it, they can achieve it. **Help them to give their "Full Selves" daily as they vision their future.** As always, we are here for questions and support for all. Feel free to reach out whenever you need guidance or have inquiries. Your partnership is crucial in making this career exploration initiative a success.

## LITERACY

We love to read and write at Jenkins ES! February and March are some of the best months for literacy!

In February, our Grades 3-5 students will read and write poetry! Poetry is a great opportunity to use our imagination and get creative! Poems come in all shapes and sizes with and without rhyme! We will have our upper grade students share their original poems on the Morning Announcements!

Our students in grades K-2 will work on reading nonfiction and diving deeper into the text features we find when reading it. They will also continue to read a variety of genres and write about many things, especially their opinion!

We will start March with our Read Across America celebration. It is an exciting week where we celebrate the diverse readers and writers in the world and in our school/community. The week will include a visit from a published author, spirit days, guest readers, and a few more surprises. We also hope you enjoy listening to nightly stories read to you by the teachers at JJES.

Over the next few months, take time each night to read with your child. Talk about what you've read. Read poetry, fairytales, stories about science, or anything that interests your student and family. Keep a family journal or write lists together. Reading and Writing is better with family!

Check out some tips below to encourage the love of literacy at home.

\*Take a nature walk. Walk around the neighborhood or find a local park. Notice the plants and animals that surround you by using your five senses: sight, smell, touch, taste, and smell. Have your child draw a picture of what they saw and label the picture. Write a sentence to describe how they used each sense. Older students can draw too, but this time they can either write a narrative story telling about their day or they can research a plant/animal they saw and write about it.

\*Go to the public library and check out a book recommended by the librarian. Tell them your favorite things as a family and see what books they suggest!

\*Ask your child about the poetry they've read in school. Attempt to write a poem as a family.

Remember the best readers make the best leaders!

Your literacy leaders,

Ms. VanZetta and Ms. Wilson

## **MATH**

We are excited to enter the third **quarter**, and the second **half** of our school year. If you are mathematically minded, this may have you thinking about FRACTIONS! All grade levels have done some work with fractions in the classroom at this point. Fractions are an important part of our math curriculum as students are developing number sense and learning how to count parts of a whole. In the primary grades, students consider fair shares and learn to identify and compare simple fractions. As students move into the upper grades, they build on this knowledge of equal parts of a whole to understand larger fractions and solve more complex practical problems. Here at school, we encourage exploration with different physical and visual models to support learning. You can also support your child's learning at home by using fractions in many ways. Here are some ideas to engage your child with some fraction fun!

- Practice making fair shares with toys or other items at home. Can you share with two people? What if there were four people?
- Look for fractions around the house. Are your windows divided into equal parts? Where else can you find fractions?
- Use food to show examples of fractions. Think about how we can cut pizza or sandwiches into equal parts. Cut fruit into equal parts for a healthy snack!
- Are you trying a new recipe? Find some fractions in the kitchen. How much is  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup or  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup? Which is more?

It is important for all our students to be engaged in meaningful learning while also making connections to the real world. Please join us on Thursday, April 4, for another super S.T.E.A.M. night here at Jenkins Elementary! We will be hosting an exciting evening with a focus on **S**cience, **T**echnology, **E**ngineering, **A**rt and **M**ath. There will be a variety of activities to provide a fun-filled learning experience for the whole family. Mark your calendars and be on the lookout for more information.

Yours Mathematically,  
Angela Savage & Karen Lanzetta

## ART

Our cold weather has inspired fun proportion snowmen and winter village collages in kindergarten. We are learning about the Japanese fish printing technique called *Gyotaku* and creating our own fish prints complete with cool color oceans. First grade and second grade created different styles of Faux stained-glass art, designing and drawing in 4 panels of winter scenes. First grade is learning about Japanese artist Hokusai and the Great Wave prints and will begin clay next. Second graders are inspired by Nigerian *Adire* fabric designs and are designing batik papers in art class. 3<sup>rd</sup> graders are finishing a Double Op artwork to create a 3D feel on 2D papers and are ready to start paper mâché sculptures. Fourth graders are working with metal sheets creating bas relief embossing complete with radial designs. Fifth graders are working on the famous foil etching project (thank you all for the cereal box donations!).

As always, please wear old clothes on art days as we will be messy always in art class!

**ART CLUB MEMBERS-** *please remember if there is a delay or no school on Mondays, then there is no art club that day as well. Safety first!*

Many thanks,  
Mrs. Weldner

## LIBRARY

I hope your child is bringing home books to read from the library. This is a great way to listen to your child read and discuss what they like or dislike about the books they are choosing from the library. When students are finished with their library books, remind them to bring the books back and check out more. We have had over 12,000 books checked out this school year! In the library students in grades Kindergarten and first grade are learning how to locate books they like on the library shelves. In second grade we are learning about pebblego.com and in grades 3-5 students have been learning about online resources and how to use these resources with research.

Mark your calendars! Our spring book fair is March 4, 5-8th. You can find more information about the book fair on your child's library canvas page in announcements.

If you need any support with resources or library book suggestions, please let me know.

Jackie Youngblood

## STRINGS

### March Strings Concert

Our strings students are performing their next concert on Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:45. **This concert will be at Woodbridge Middle School**, as we get to perform alongside the 6<sup>th</sup> grade strings students. Performers, please arrive no later than 7:15 with your instrument from school and dressed nicely. There will be no loaner instruments at this concert, so be sure to check your instrument out from the school if you haven't already.

We can't wait for the performance!

**Dr. Zac Saunders, DMA**

## P.E (PHYSICAL EDUCATION)

We are thrilled to announce that Field Day will be held on Tuesday, March 19. In order to make this day a success, please consider signing up to help run a station. K-2 students will be participating in the afternoon from 1:00-2:45 and 3-

5 students in the morning from 9:40-11:25. Please use the link or QR code below to sign up. Thank you in advance for helping to make this a fun day for the kids! \*Rain Date March 20

¡Estamos muy emocionados de anunciar que el Día de Campo (Field Day) se llevará acabo el Martes 19 de Marzo! Para que este día sea un éxito, considere registrarse para ayudar a administrar una estación. Los estudiantes de K-2do participarán de 1:00 a 2:45pm y los estudiantes de 3ro a 5to de 9:40 a 11:25am. ¡Gracias de antemano por ayudar a que este sea un día divertido para los niños! \*Fecha de lluvia miércoles 20 de marzo

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4AA9AE2BA2F49-47449574-field>

## **SEL (SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL LEARNING)**

### **A Message From your SEL Coaches**

**Beverly McNairy, School Counselor**

**Katie Rubach, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher**



### **Better Together: Nurturing the Home-School Connection for Student Success and Well-Being**

The home-school connection is a win-win for both parents and children, fostering a supportive learning environment and strengthening family relationships. By considering parents as extended family, we create an intentional and ongoing relationship designed to enhance children's learning and address any obstacles that may impede this learning. This approach ensures that parents feel valued and involved, serving as an ear to listen and providing the support children need.

As Stephen Covey said, 'Think win-win.' By nurturing this partnership, we create a positive and empowering environment for both parents and children. Socially and emotionally, students thrive when we work together, emphasizing the importance of Social-Emotional Learning (SEL). This focus on SEL contributes to the overall well-being of students, helping them develop crucial skills such as self-awareness, interpersonal relationships, and responsible decision-making.

You are welcome to lean in, and together we will work magic. We are Better Together. Let's embark on this educational journey hand in hand, celebrating successes, learning from challenges, and building a foundation for a lifetime of curiosity and growth. Please do not hesitate to contact us. We want the best for our students, and your collaboration is key to their success.

