



The Addams Apple

Vol. 44 #6 • Jane Addams Jr. High School & PTA Newsletter • February 2012

Important Dates

- February 8**
Half Day
- February 10**
Fun Lunch
- February 20**
No School
- February 24**
End of 2nd Trimester
- February 24**
Fun Lunch
- March 23**
Spring Break begins at end
Of school day
- April 2**
School resumes

Principal's Podium

Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe that it is February. As I sit in my office to compose this letter, our 6th and 7th grade students have completed their requests for next year and our 8th grade students are done turning in their various 8th grade graduation forms. It will be June before we know it!

The Addams staff wants to thank all of the families that participated in our student-led conferences. We had almost 100% participation from our community! This is a credit to your commitment to your child and their education.

The ISAT test will take place at Jane Addams during the first two weeks of March. As most of you know, this is the primary assessment that the State of Illinois uses to assess the progress of your child and the effectiveness of our instruction. In order to be compliant with the state, a minimum of 95% of our students must be tested. This means that if your child is absent on any of those days, they will make-up the test upon their return. We are asking that you do the following to ensure our students highest achievement and success:

- ◆ Please make sure that your children get a reasonable amount of sleep in the days leading up to and during the ISAT test dates.
- ◆ Please make sure that your children eat a nutritious breakfast and drink plenty of fluids before they come to school. Brain research supports the fact that students do better when they have eaten and are fully hydrated.
- ◆ Please do your best to make sure that your children attend school during the test days. Although we do have students make up tests, they have a higher chance of doing better when they take it in their regular classroom environment.

Thanks for your support in helping ensure success for all students at Addams. Please contact me at (847) 357-5900 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Steve Pearce

**Jane Addams Junior High
No Excuses – No Limits**

***Hay noticias importantes
del Departamento
Bilingüe en las páginas
que siguen. ¡Hagan el
favor de leerlas!***



The Jane Addams School
And PTA Newsletter
ICPT District 37 — District 54

Jane Addams Junior High
(847) 357-5900
Fax (847) 357-5901
Absentee Reporting (847) 357-5902

Principal Steve Pearce
StevePearce@sd54.org

Asst Principal David Szwed
DavidSzwed@sd54.org

PTA President Jennifer Lichwa
lichwa5@scbglobal.net

Newsletter Editor Jen Minneci
Jennifer@minnecisoftware.com
(847) 422-3432

**Jane Addams Junior High
Home Page**
<http://addams.sd54.org>

Jane Addams PTA Home Page
<http://addams.sd54.org/pta>

Mission Statement

*We are committed to the limitless
achievement of all students.*

No Excuses—No Limits

PTA[®]
everychild.onevoice.[®]

Media Minutes

Mr. Truppa

Trimester students have been mastering their Photoshop skills with some very cool projects. Students have been finishing their Where's You (Waldo). From there they have been creating a jigsaw puzzle out of a photo, a mosaic out of 16 photos, and a "This is it" poster. On tap is a music video and an educational video.

The full year students have finished their stop motion videos. They turned out really well. Now they are learning about shooting film and editing video. They are mastering 11 commonly used camera shots and editing them. Next, they will learn about broadcasting and complete a "Who am I?" project.

Immunization Requirement for 2012-2013 School Year

Beginning with the 2012-2013 school year students entering grades 6th, 7th, 8th and high school who have not already received a Tdap immunization are required to receive 1 Tdap dose regardless of the interval since the last DTaP, DT, or Td dose. If your child has not received a Tdap vaccine or you are unsure, please contact your child's physician.

Proof of at least 1 Tdap vaccine will be required in the fall of 2012. Students will be excluded from school if this Illinois School Code requirement is not met.



Crusader Council

By Natalie Jesenovec

Crusader Council is sponsoring a jean drive! We have decided to participate in the AEROPOSTALE/ DOSOMETHING.ORG TEENS FOR JEANS. Please help support our cause.

Drop off your gently used jeans to Miss Jesenovec's room 320, starting now until February 10th. A grand prize of \$5000.00 will be awarded to the school that donates the highest number of jeans during the Contest Period.

If everyone brings in at least one pair of jeans, we can really make a difference in others' lives. Ask your mom, dad, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, neighbor, stepmom, stepdad, grandma, grandpa, best friend or acquaintance for jeans that they no longer wear!!

"1 in 3 homeless people in the U.S. is under the age of 18, and one of the first items they ask for when reaching a shelter is jeans. You can do something about teen homelessness. From January 20 to February 10, Jane Addams can join the 5th annual Teens for Jeans campaign; the largest jeans donation drive in the nation!" DoSomething.Org

PTA President's Message

Jennifer Lichwa

February is an exciting time in the PTA year! In addition to our ongoing work, there are some events this month worth noting. The first is the **Blood Drive**. It will be held on **February 14th** at the District Office at 524 East Schaumburg Rd. Please send me an email (jelichwa@comcast.net) if you are able to donate blood that day.

Another upcoming event is our PTA **Election**. We are still looking for nominees for 2012-2013 PTA Executive Committee positions! Nominate a friend, neighbor, someone coming to Addams next year with their 6th grader, or even nominate yourself! If you are interested in serving on the Addams PTA executive committee (President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer), please send me an email or fill out the nominating form and send it in to school labeled for the PTA mailbox. Don't be shy! If you want to know more about the responsibilities of the executive committee at the junior high level, just email me and I'll tell you *honestly* what's involved. Throughout this newsletter you'll see information about other things that the Addams PTA does. Please consider joining us as an officer to help continue these great programs. Also, for the **Nominating Committee**, we are in need of two people from the general membership and one alternative. If you have any questions regarding the committee, please feel free to contact me.

On March 16th, we have the Schaumburg Township Council of PTAs' **Annual Dinner and Auction**. The theme this year is **Beach Party**. This event raises money for the STC High School scholarships, which are given to District 211 seniors who attended District 54 schools. Proceeds from this event also fund the STC Elementary Summer Scholarship, which helps pay for summer programs for current District 54 students. If you are a PTA member and would like to attend this fun event, send me an email and we'll get you a ticket! For this auction, Addams donates several baskets each year. If you are able to make a donation of a basket or contribute a donation to go into one of the baskets, please email me about that, too!

The **Illinois PTA Convention** is also in March, from the 9th to the 11th. The convention will be held in Schaumburg this year, and it is a great time to brush up on your PTA information, get training if you haven't had it yet, and network with the leaders of the Illinois PTA. There is a hospitality room available and lots of PTA members from Addams and other District 54 schools will be there. More information can be found in the Bulletin posted on the Illinois PTA website: illinoispta.org

PTA members who have children in 4th through 7th grade should be on the lookout for **Elementary Summer Scholarship** applications. They will be available in the office at Addams or on the School District web site. These scholarships are offered for non-religious summer programs and activities and pay for half of the program fee, up to \$200.00. Be sure to fill out the application completely and turn it into the school office in a sealed envelope by April 1st.

Help wanted: Over the next month or so, we will need volunteers to help prepare snacks for the students before they take their ISAT tests; to help with the 8th grade dance and activities; and perhaps a couple of other one-time events. If you are available, even for an hour, please send an email to Cynthia Dressler (cmcynthia2001@yahoo.com). We'll contact you to see if you can help out with one of these fun opportunities! Thanks to all of you who have volunteered for the Fun Lunch, Nacho or Treat Day, and all of our various events. These programs could not exist without your help!

One final note...I would like to thank Jen Minneci for her hard work on the Addams Apple each month! Without her exceptional skills both with computers and information management, our community would not be as well-informed! Thanks, Jen!

NOMINATIONS FOR 2009-2010 PTA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

I would like to nominate _____

for the position of _____

Nominee's phone number / email is _____

This person would be great for the position because:

**The nominee must give their consent to be considered for any executive committee position.

Please return this form to the main office — PTA mailbox. **

Prodigies News

In language arts the emphasis is on ISAT practice and reinforcing literary skills. Students will get a chance to practice what they have learned while they read poems by Langston Hughes and "Flying," a memoir by the daughter of Charles Lindbergh as we further explore the world of literature. Students will use what they have read and their own thoughts to develop extended response essays. Take a moment to ask your child what he/she is reading. Students should always have a library book for independent reading.

Students in the 820 math classes are learning about factoring polynomials. Our vocabulary has definitely increased as we talked about monomials, binomials and trinomials. In a few weeks we will be learning the Quadratic Equation and learning a song to help us remember what to do. Make sure you ask your child to share the Quadratic Equation song with you later this month. In 810 classes we are learning about exponents. ISAT review problems will be covered this month to prepare them for the upcoming ISAT tests. Looking at your child's MAP goals can be a good indicator of what they can be working on outside of school. Please check with your child to make sure that they have class supplies – pencil, paper and their calculator.

In Social Studies class, we are studying the Cold War, Korean War, and the social life during the 1950's. We will be taking our test on the Cold War and the Korean War on Thursday, February 2nd. The students are excited to celebrate 1950's day on Thursday, February 9th, 2012. Students are encouraged to dress up in 1950's attire. We will be celebrating by participating in karaoke contests, hula-hoop contests, and watching clips from episodes of "Leave it to Beaver". This is always a fun and exciting day for both the students and staff here at Addams! The students will be writing an essay on life during the 1950's on Friday February 10th. We are encouraging all students to be working on and reviewing their study guides throughout the duration of the unit.

Students were energetic in science! We've just completed the study of energy in relation to potential and kinetic energy. Now we move onto the world of energy sources and find out where our electricity comes from and how that affects our environment. We will look into issues of where we get our electricity from, how it is produced, what are the side effects, and how we can help save our planet.

Pegasus News

Students with Mr. Belluomini have just completed their second rotation of Health Education. Students are back in P.E. for floor hockey action! They will be focusing on basic skills that include: puck handling, passing, and shooting. Students will also have practice with offensive and defensive strategies using teamwork.

In Mrs. Cipolla's 710 math class students are beginning to focus on preparing for the I.S.A.T test while 715 students are working with percents and proportions. Algebra students are going to begin chapter 9 which deals with polynomials.

Mr. Pfeifer's class will be learning about genetic engineering, probability and heredity.

Mr. Clevenger's classes have welcomed a student teacher who will be with us until early May. His name is Mr. Morris. You may be receiving communications from him instead of me while he is here. I will of course still be the one responsible for my classroom. While Mr. Morris is here, we will be learning all about the War Between the States.

In language arts, Pegasus students are practicing making inferences as they read. Another focus is learning parts of words and their meanings. Additionally, we are practicing the format for an extended reading response. Please continue to encourage your child to read at home every day.



Wizard News

In science we are working hard on our Genetics unit, finding probability and completing Punnett squares.



When we finish we will be in full swing preparing for March's ISATs. Science is tested in 7th grade, and we want our students to be as prepared as possible, so we will be running an ISAT Olympics throughout the 7th grade science classes. We will be competing in various activities and games while reviewing science content throughout their years at school.

Language Arts classes are steadily preparing for the ISATs. Students are reviewing key concepts and strengthening their writing skills. Areas of focus include: main idea, making inferences, extended response, and word analysis. We will be ready to ROCK the ISATs in March!

Orchestra News

Karen Banaszewski

BRAVO TO A FINE ORCHESTRA CONCERT!

On Thursday, January 26, the **Addams Orchestras** participated in a festival performance with the Eisenhower Junior High, Lincoln Prairie, and Hoffman Estates High School Orchestras and did a fabulous job! Pieces performed were classical (*Finale* from Beethoven's 5th Symphony), medieval (*King's Court*), fiddle (*Bayou Self*), and pop (Katy Perry's *Firework*).

Best wishes to the following musicians who are preparing to enter the Solo and Ensemble Contest hosted by Conant High School on the first Saturday in March: Violin soloists **Ayda A** and **Jordan N**, cello soloist **Alyse L**, 7th grade quartet members violinists **Tenshin H/Jordan N**, violist **Alexandra C**, cellist **Anna Y**; violinists **Quinlan S/ Hayden S**, Violist **Nina L**, Cellist **Priyal G**; and an 8th grade quartet consisting of violinists **Ayda A/ Clarinda W**, violist **Paul A**, and cellist **Christina K**. May Addams return with many 1st place medals!



Addams Chorus/ General Music

Mrs. Denise Caliendo

On Thursday, February 9th, the Addams Chorus will be participating in the Hoffman Estates High School Choral Festival. We will rehearse at Hoffman High School that same morning with the other participating schools. The concert is that evening in the Hoffman High gym starting at 7:30 p.m. It will be a great evening of music!



Band News

Mr. Caliendo

Congratulations to the 7th & 8th Grade Bands for a wonderful concert at the Hoffman High School Band Festival. Both grades combined with their counterparts from Eisenhower Jr. High and Lincoln Prairie. The 8th Grade also got the opportunity to perform with the high school band as well, playing a wonderful rendition of *Battle Hymn of the Republic* to close out the evening. Hopefully all of our junior high students will continue on and keep playing in high school.

Also, congratulations to the District 54 Jazz Band Students. They performed at the Northshore Jazz Festival on January 21st and received a Superior rating from all three of the judges. Way to go Jazzers!

Join the PTA!

Joining the PTA shows that you support the programs and activities the PTA offers the students at Addams Junior High. Membership costs \$5.00.

PTA Membership Form

Membership is only \$5 per person. Please make checks payable to Jane Addams PTA.

Your Name(s): _____

Your Student's Name: _____

1st Period Teacher's Name and Room No.: _____

Please circle one: Parent Community (Family/Friend) Business

Research has shown that the most important indication of how well a child will do in school is the level of parental involvement in that child's education. Please consider joining PTA today!

Japanese Class

Miho Nakagawa

In the unit titled "All about Kanji", students explore the origin, history, and structure of Kanji (Chinese Letters). Approximately fifty thousand kanjis exist in both China and Japan. Fortunately, only two thousand kanjis would be essential to spend daily life comfortably in Japan.

High school graduates are required to master two thousand kanjis while junior high students must be proficient at one thousand. Still, one thousand is a huge number for Japanese language learners as a second language! But there is a way for those who have a will.

Each kanji has its origin that helps in understanding its meaning. Even the ones that look really complicated and hard to learn can be broken down to their parts, and they reveal meaning through each component. Assemble each component, and you can imagine the meaning as a whole. In this process, Japanese culture and spirit works as a glue to help the kanjis become complete and live long in the heart of learners. I hope students will find it interesting to learn all about Kanji.



French Class

French I students recently completed a common assessment on ER Verb conjugation. Most students reached the 80% benchmark their first try. Any students who did not were given the opportunity for reteaching the concepts and retaking this important quiz. We are currently working to finish Chapitre 2 so that we can spend some time learning about the French traditional holiday of Mardi Gras coming up later this month.

French II students are working in Chapitre 5 and have a common assessment coming up in the immediate future on recent past verb tenses. Please remind your student to



come in before or seek help during FLEX prior to the test date. The goal is for all students to score 80% or higher on formative common assessments! We will also learn about the history and traditions related to Mardi Gras later in February.

¿Qué Pasa en La Clase de Español?

Señora Maddock, Señora Larsen, Señora Ritzel

Our 8th grade classes will be introduced to vocabulary focusing on the household. We will begin identifying the rooms in a house and the furniture specific to each room. Later in the month, students will be able to talk about chores and responsibilities they have in their home. We will compare students' homes and their responsibilities to those of students living in Ecuador.

Our 7th grade students will be learning about what it is like to go to school in Mexico. We will discuss the similarities and differences between the school day in Mexico and in the United States. Some of our topics will include: school subjects, schedule and sports. We will have a class discussion regarding the pros and cons of wearing uniforms to school.

Health & Safety: Walking in a Winter Wonderland

By KidSource.com

Submitted by Sandy Kitlinski

Walking in icy, snowy weather can be dangerous, but these tips from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration can help make your trek safer.

- ◆ Dress in layers and wear boots with non-skid soles. Wear a bright scarf or hat or reflective gear so drivers can see you.
- ◆ Walk on sidewalks if possible. If sidewalks are covered in snow and ice and you must walk in the street, walk against the flow of traffic and as close to the curb as you can.
- ◆ Don't wear a hat or scarf that blocks your vision or makes it hard for you to hear traffic.
- ◆ When traveling with babies or small children, dress them in bright or reflective clothing. Always keep children--whether in a stroller or on foot--in front of you and as close to the curb as possible.
- ◆ Before you step off the curb, make sure oncoming cars and trucks have come to a complete stop.



News from Bilingual

- ◆ ISAT Testing will be from March 5th to March 16th. Remember to eat a good breakfast at get a lot of sleep the night before a test.
- ◆ There is no school on Monday, February 20th in celebration of President's Day.
- ◆ Please encourage your child to try his or her best, complete homework, organize materials, and read, read, read.

NOTICIAS DEL DEPARTAMENTO BILINGÜE

- ◆ Del 5 de marzo hasta el 16 de marzo son los exámenes de ISAT. Recuerde comer un buen desayuno y dormir suficiente la noche antes de un examen.
- ◆ No hay escuela el 20 de febrero para celebrar el día de los presidentes.
- ◆ Los padres pueden discutir con sus hijos la importancia de trabajar con esfuerzo, completar las tareas, organizar los materiales, y leer, leer, leer.

What Are Standardized Tests?

Rynette R. Kjesbo, M.S., CCC-SLP

Submitted by Margaret Meyer, Speech Language Pathologist

Standardized tests are formal tests that measure students' performances and abilities in different subjects or areas. These tests use uniform procedures for both giving and scoring the test. All of the students taking the test answer the same questions written in the same format. As well, standardized tests use a specific way to score in order to maintain accurate scoring among all students. This set-up reduces bias when testing large groups of students and makes the test "standard" for all students.

There are two main types of standardized tests: norm-referenced and criterion-referenced. *Norm-referenced tests* measure a student's performance against the performance of his/her peers. Norm-referenced tests help rank students by ability level in order to place them in appropriate educational programs (for example, gifted or remedial classes). *Criterion-referenced tests* help determine whether or not students have mastered specific skills. Criterion-referenced tests help to measure how much a student knows before teaching begins, as well as how much a student has learned as a result of teaching.

Using Standardized Tests to Evaluate Students' Learning

Using Standardized Tests to Evaluate Students' Learning

Educators use standardized tests to assess how much students are learning as well as how much progress they are making in school. While standardized tests can provide important information about what students are learning, they should not be the only assessment tool used to evaluate the skills and knowledge of students. There are many other factors that are important to consider—classroom observations, classroom performance, and classwork and homework can be assessed along with standardized testing in order to get a complete picture of a student's abilities.

Box Tops



Sandy Kitlinski

Enjoy one of many recipes from Box Tops for Education and don't forget to clip & save your Box Tops to help support Ad-dams. Looking for a low-fat treat? Here's a keeper.

Blueberry-Banana-Oat Bread

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| 2-3/4 cups Bisquick Heart Smart® mix | 2/3 cup sugar |
| 1/3 cup quick-cooking oats | 1/4 cup milk |
| 1 cup mashed very ripe bananas (2 medium) | 2 eggs |
| 1 cup fresh/frozen (thawed & drained) blueberries | |

1. Heat oven to 375°F. Grease the bottom only of 9x5-inch loaf pan with shortening or cooking spray.
2. In a large bowl, stir Bisquick mix, sugar, oats, bananas, milk and eggs until moistened; beat vigorously 30 seconds. Gently stir in blueberries. Pour into pan.
3. Bake 45 to 60 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool 10 minutes. Loosen loaf from sides of pan; remove from pan and place top side up on cooling rack. Cool completely, about 2 hours, before slicing.

Nutritional information (1 Serving): Calories: 140 (Calories from Fat: 20); Total Fat: 2g (Saturated Fat: 0g, Trans Fat: 0g); Total Carbohydrate: 28g (Dietary Fiber: 0g, Sugars: 13g); Cholesterol : 25mg; Sodium : 180mg; Protein : 3g.



American Sign Language Classes

Ms. Lamey and Mrs. Vera

The ASL 1 and ASL 2 classes attended their first field trip to a deaf event hosted by Blackwell Elementary School. Peter Cook, an internationally known Deaf Performing Artist, held three shows at Blackwell on January 31st. Peter currently teaches ASL at Columbia College in Chicago. Peter founded a non-profit organization, "Flying Words Project", which showcases the talents of deaf storytellers, poets, playwrights and other artists from around the world. Peter has appeared on PBS and at numerous festivals throughout the U.S. and Europe; and he has even performed at the White House. This was truly an amazing experience, particularly for students just beginning to learn ASL.

At the Midyear Mark, Here's How District 54 is Faring

By Ed Rafferty, Superintendent of Schools

Published in the Daily Herald on Thursday, January 12, 2012

Annually, the District 54 Board of Education approves a variety of projects aligned with our mission of Ensuring Student Success. These projects guide our work and support our staff in meeting the district's student achievement goals. A complete list of this year's projects can be found at <http://sd54.org/board/mission>.

Progress is monitored on a regular basis at both the individual school and district levels. The midyear status report on several of the key projects is highlighted below.

Early elementary students continue to experience significant gains in reading with the second year of successful implementation of the K-2 Literacy Plan and Assessment Package.

Our English Language Learners have been making substantial progress with the instructional program improvements that were instituted last year. Due to the progress that our students are making, District 54 was selected as one of only 10 districts across the country to participate in a best practice research study conducted by the United States Department of Education. The findings will be made available for other districts to replicate.

A new interactive social studies curriculum is being taught in kindergarten through sixth grade. Students are excited, more engaged with the content, and better able to understand and apply their new learning in real-life situations.

New opportunities for students to participate in art, music and physical education enrichment activities are taking place in all 21 of our elementary schools. Students are being provided with supplemental classes which allow them to explore, learn about and further develop specific areas that may be of interest. Feedback from students, parents and staff has been extremely positive.

To keep pace with the ever-changing world of instructional technology, hardware and software upgrades have been initiated in all 27 schools. The final roll-out will be completed by early spring.

The online communication tool which will enable parents to view their children's grades will be fully operational in all six of our junior high schools by the end of February. Parents and students will be able to monitor assignments and class grades in real time.

To continue to strengthen the district's commitment to being transparent, a web-based system for creating, posting and storing Board of Education meeting information and supporting documents is now available on our website.

An additional school boundary change recommendation will be part of the annual staffing plan, which will be presented at the first school board meeting in March. Impacted families have already been notified. The changes to school boundaries that have occurred over the past two years have helped to balance and stabilize student enrollment across the district.

The PTA, YMCA, other local community agencies and District 54 have been working together to support and promote the Healthier Communities Initiative. Healthier hot lunch alternatives and planning for increasing the number of schools that plant vegetable gardens are only two of the many changes that are beginning to occur.

To augment the internal monitoring process of the district's progress, we participate in an annual independent benchmarking study. This helps us evaluate our progress in comparison to other school districts across the state. Results from this year's benchmarking study indicate that District 54 continues to make strong and steady gains in every area. Over the past several years, our district has moved to being in the top 9% when ranked against all other school districts in Illinois.

The results indicate that our students continue to make remarkable progress. The positive outcomes we are seeing each year can be directly attributed to the leadership of our Board of Education; the outstanding teachers, support staff and administrators who work in our district; and the ongoing support that we receive from our parents and community.