



# PELICAN PRESS

Morris Jeff Community School  
December 7, 2012



*Patricia Perkins, Principal*

## **MRS. PERKINS' CORNER:**

It's beginning to feel like the holidays around Morris Jeff! We even had a mysterious visit to a first grade classroom from some holiday elves last night! Thanks to those of you who have offered to share your Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza, Ramadan or other holy and holiday traditions with your child's teacher and/or for offering to assist in a class holiday celebration. Our goal at Morris Jeff is to learn about and celebrate the customs and traditions of each of our classmates during this wonderful time of year so I encourage everyone to participate in any way you can.

I am also happy to announce that our school participated in a joint grant writing effort with three other independent charter schools culminating with each school being awarded \$50,000 from the state "Believe and Include" initiative for including students with disabilities in the typical classroom environment and for finding creative ways to accomplish the mission of inclusion among schools across Louisiana. We were chosen for the work we are already doing in this area and for our goals for the future as well. This is an annual grant that we hope to continue applying for.

Thank you to everyone to came out to the Family Partnership meeting Wednesday evening. One of the items we discussed is our need for "swing space" for the 2013-2014 school year as we await the construction of our brand new school building on South Lopez Street (in 2014). The building we currently occupy is paid for by FEMA until July, 2013. After that date we will need to find funds to pay for it if we determine that we should remain here next year.

As of now we have a few options:

- Remain in this building (squeezed very tightly) and find funds to pay for it
- Find alternative space for our Pre-K classes and leave the remaining classes at our current location and find funds to pay for both spaces
- Move to a different public school site (to be named at a later date by RSD) with no leasing funds involved
- Find other alternatives - if anyone has other ideas that we should pursue please contact me

Finally, I want to thank everyone who came to our tutoring meeting yesterday and for those who volunteered to tutor but couldn't make the meeting! Because of you volunteers, all of our 4th graders will be able to participate in the tutoring program for LEAP. Our Morris Jeff community is an amazing place filled with people giving their time, money, and talents. Your generosity ensures that our students will achieve at high levels.

It is a pleasure to serve as your school leader and want to be available and open for conversation and dialog as our school continues to grow.

I hope everyone has a safe, restful, and fun weekend!

## HOLIDAY PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

Our Holiday Performance is December 20 here at school, beginning at 6:30 pm. If your child has Ms. Rednour this present semester, he/she will be performing. (Note - if your child does not have Ms. Rednour as a teacher this semester, he/she will next semester and will perform in the Spring Performance.) The following classes are being instructed by Ms. Rednour and will participate in the performance:

Ms. Bozelle  
Ms. Bates  
Ms. Nobile  
Ms. Friedmann  
Ms. Square  
Ms. Dresser  
Ms. Wilde  
Ms. Shafer

TA-DA!!



## MORRIS JEFF FUND-RAISING PROJECT TO ASSIST STUDENT VICTIMS OF HURRICANE SANDY

Morris Jeff is conducting a fund-raising effort to collect money to donate to two schools in New Jersey. One is 100 Legacy Academy Charter School in New Jersey where Sherah Leboeuf, our former Director of Finance and Operations, now works. The other is an elementary school in Monmouth County where a Morris Jeff family has connections. We are collecting coins, dollars, and checks to send for families at those schools who are in need and for the students who need winter coats. We will also contribute our Morris Jeff Box Tops for Education collections through the year end to this project. We all remember how schools and communities from across our nation showered New Orleans schools with resources in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and this is our time to help others in need.

This fund raising effort will continue through December 14. Please help us help others.



### So Long 2012...Hello 2013 MJFP Meeting!

Thanks so much for all of the parents who attended our last MJFP meeting of 2012 on Wednesday night. We enjoyed all of the enthusiastic conversations about MJCS Location for 2013-2014 school year, School Performance Scores and FERIA de Primavera 2013. The children enjoyed watching Madagascar 3 upstairs in the commons area. Two snaps to Slice Pizzeria for providing us with pizza and to our childcare workers.

**Mark your calendar the next MJFP Member Meeting will be Thursday, January 24th 6pm-8pm in the MJCS Cafe!**

### MJFP Presents: Morning Coffee & Conversations

MJFP invites all MJCS family members, but especially those new to MJCS this year, to join us in the Office Lobby on Friday, 12/14 immediately following Morning Meeting, 8:15-9:30 am. Enjoy a cup of coffee, meet someone new, and celebrate the school community that we are creating.

### Holiday Revue Bake Sale

The MJFP Bake Sale is scheduled for Thursday, December 20th, pm during the Holiday Revue! Please sign up to bring some Holiday inspired goodie, sale the treats, set up and break down the Bake Sale station. Check out the HelpCounter to sign up for shifts and donate to our sale.

### Feria De Primavera (Spring Fair) Planning Meeting

The next FERIA De Primavera Planning Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, January 19, 2013 at 10:00am in the conference room located on the 1st floor at First Grace Methodist Church located at 3401 Canal Street NOLA 70119. Come join in on the fun of planning the FERIA!

### LEAP Tutoring Program

Do you have a love for Math or English and would like to share with our 4th grade class? If you are interested in tutoring 1-2 fourth grade students to help prepare them for the LEAP Exam in the Spring please contact Mrs. Perkins and/or Ms. Shafer ASAP. Tutoring will be held immediately after school 1-2x/week or arranged at convenient times for tutor & student(s).

### Holiday Celebrations

Room Parents will be contacting parents soon about upcoming holiday celebrations. Remember to please check your child's folders or e-mails for more information about what is going on in his/her class.

## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER



| Date                                | Event   | Information |
|-------------------------------------|---|-------------|
| December 20                         | Holiday performance (more details to come). This performance will include all of Ms. Rednour's classes for this semester. See details in this newsletter on page two. |             |
| December 24-January 6 <sup>th</sup> | Winter Holidays   |             |
| January 7 <sup>th</sup>             | School resumes  |             |
| January 10 <sup>th</sup>            | Report Cards go home  |             |
| January 21                          | Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday commemorated – SCHOOL CLOSED  |             |
| January 22                          | Re-registration for 2013-2014 school year   | 9 am – 3 pm |

### STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Here are the Inquirers Students of the Week from 12/3-7:

**PreK:**

*Ethan Clark  
El Shaun Stokes  
Mason Sousa*

**Kindergarten:**

*Bryce Vaccaro  
Dylan Poole  
Karma Zussman*

**First Grade:**

*Magnus Schmidt  
Marley Mosca  
Lola Labostrie*

**Second Grade:**

*August Oliver  
George Birney-DeBlanc*

**Third Grade:**

*Andrew Thompson  
Felix Shafer*

**Fourth Grade:**

*Byroneshia Speed*

### STAFF MEMBER OF THE WEEK

**Ms. Rowan Shafer** is our Inquiring Staff Member of the Week. She knows that by asking questions she will find answers! Ms. Shafer teaches her 4<sup>th</sup> graders to be inquirers and models the necessary skills and processes for them to research and develop independence in their learning. Ms. Shafer has a determination to find her answers and often stops by Ms. Perkins' office looking for them. She also spends time in the school library and on the Internet seeking answers for her own questions and those of her students. Because Ms. Shafer is an inquirer herself, she understands her students' hunger for more knowledge as well and assists them each day in their quest. We are happy to have Ms. Shafer here at Morris Jeff leading and guiding our 4<sup>th</sup> graders in their inquiry each day.

### BUS OF THE WEEK

The bus of the week is Bus 272

270 – Kevin Pepp

Kevin stays in his seat until it is time for him to get off of the bus.

271 - Jade Porche

Jade listens to the bus driver and is always kind to her friends on the bus.

272 - Noah Hamilton

Noah always follows directions and is polite to everyone on the bus.



To submit an article for PELICAN NEWS, please email MJCS Parent: Ecoee Rooney at [ecoee\\_rooney@hotmail.com](mailto:ecoee_rooney@hotmail.com). Information received by Thursday's night can be printed in Friday's newsletter.