



PTSA President's Message

Welcome to all new and returning JMS families. The upcoming school year promises to be one full of excitement and challenges. I am excited to welcome our new school administrators Principal Mrs. Lee Lee Chou, and Assistant Principal Ms Kimberly Vladovic, who are both committed to high standards of academic achievement. They have set high academic and, behavioral goals for our students and believe in rewarding positive accomplishments. We look forward to working as partners with our administrators and teachers to achieve our common goals.

Our PTSA theme this year is **Jefferson Students Roar with Pride**. We already can see the campus pride increasing when almost 200 students and parents participated in the first campus cleanup. It was an amazing sight to see. The level of commitment and the dedication of our PTSA parents, Jefferson teaching staff, office staff and administrators inspires and impresses me. I am so lucky to be surrounded with such outstanding individuals.

Many thanks are in order to the following people:

Alicia Walker for spearheading the registration process and all those parents, students and school personnel who helped her.

Special thanks to all those parents who were there the first day of school to help guide our kids to their first periods. It was incredible.

Thanks to Michelle Van Lerberghe and her helpers who fed over 200 kids at Camp Jaguar, and also for welcoming our teachers back to school with an old fashioned picnic.

Thanks to Wendy Carlson for setting up a great hospitality table at the Meet and Greet for our new administrators.

Huge thanks to Alesia Giampaoli who has been working countless hours to bring our new Web site up to date. She has done an outstanding job. Please check out our new web site at www.jmsweb.com.

Another great big thank you goes to Alice Rusa, Alicia Walker and Alesia Giampaoli for their beautification organization for our campus. Make sure to attend the faculty/student volleyball fundraiser and the painting work days. More details are in this newsletter

Thanks to Lynne Henry-Dinneen, for doing an outstanding job as the newsletter editor and for getting her first ever issue to you via email

There are several upcoming PTSA events: our fall magazine/cookie dough fundraiser which kicks off on 10/1, our teacher vs. student Volleyball game October 2nd, Reflections, Start the Art Week, and Red Ribbon Week

Due to district budget cuts our school has already had to decrease our teaching staff by 2.2 and so classroom sizes have increased.

Another issue we face this year is the lack of money for school facility repairs. I want to impress upon you the urgency of voting in favor of School Bond Measures Y and Z which will be on the November Ballot.



Jefferson Middle School
21717 Talisman Street
Torrance, California 90503
Lee Lee Chou, Principal
Maral Horton, PTSA President
Lynne Henry-Dinneen, Editor
Jefferson Middle School PTA
Torrance Council
Thirty-Third District PTA
California State PTA

If these bonds do not pass, our schools, which are in dire need of repair, will not have repairs made and there is a very good chance that there will be school closures and consolidations. I urge you to take a look at all the facts in order to make a wise and well

informed decision.. Please visit the website info at YesOnYandZ.com and at tusd.org. Let's work together to accomplish the impossible.

Please never hesitate to contact me regarding any

issue, comments or suggestions.

Maral Horton
Your PTSA President
floydandmaral@aol.com

**JOIN US AND HEAR OUR
ROAR GET LOUDER. !!!!
GO JAGUARS**



Principal's Corner

As your new Principal of Jefferson Middle School, I am pleased to say that we are off to a great start. My Assistant Principal, Kimberly Vladovic, and I have truly enjoyed getting to know the wonderful students, dedicated teaching staff, and supportive parent community here at JMS. We are so happy to be a part of the Jaguar family as well as the greater Torrance Unified School District community.

The instructional leadership team is committed to supporting teaching and learning and providing a quality middle school program at Jefferson Middle School.

I want to thank all my wonderful parents for turning in the "Getting To Know Your Child" questionnaire. Your honest and thoughtful comments not only helped

me get to know your child more personally, but also gave me insights into the strengths and areas for improvement here at Jefferson Middle School.

The top 3 areas of concern from your surveys were:

- High academic standards for student achievement
- Safe campus and a positive learning environment for all students
- School Beautification

I am confident that with your partnership and support, we will accomplish all our goals this year. I look forward to a productive year full of growth and successes for all our super students.

I have an open door policy and am here to serve the Jefferson Middle School community. If you ever have a concern, please don't

hesitate to call or e-mail me. Thank you for your support.

Premier Student Planners

One of the most important habits you can help your child develop is that of organization, and you can promote the growth of this habit by supporting students to use their agendas daily. By using their Premier Planners to set goals, plan, prioritize, and check progress, students will be able to stay on top of schedules, feel less stressed, complete assignments on time, and be more reliable. Please check student planners everyday.

Lee Lee Chou
LChou@tusd.org
Principal @ Jefferson M.S.
www.jmsweb.org

Academic Performance Index (API) 2000-2008

2000 - School wide Growth API—769
 2001 - School wide Growth API—805
 2002 - School wide Growth API—794
 2003 - School wide Growth API—796
 2004 - School wide Growth API—796
 2005 - School wide Growth API—799
 2006 - School wide Growth API—803
 2007 - School wide Growth API—819

2008 - School wide Growth API—835

Met ELA Participation Targets : Yes
Met ELA Proficiency Targets : Yes
Met Math Participation Targets : Yes
Met Math Proficiency Targets: No
Met API Target : Yes
Met all AYP Targets : Yes

Torrance Unified School District strives to be a school district with all schools performing in the 900s. Jefferson Middle School believes that we CAN do it. We have excellent teachers, smart students, and the parent/community support. Let's set the bar high, knowing that our students CAN achieve what we set out to dream. High Expectations with extravagant support = Student Success ! **Are you ready Jaguars to ROARRR ?**

To achieve Success later on, you need to apply hard work now. Are you planting the seeds of things you want to harvest?



Assistant Principal's Corner

As a resident of San Pedro, I have always been impressed with the city of Torrance. I am excited to be a part of TUSD and the new Assistant Principal at Jefferson Middle School.

This is my 12th year in education and I have enjoyed every minute of it. I look forward to meeting all of you and please feel free to stop by my office anytime.

I completed my undergraduate studies at UCLA (go Bruins!) and received my administrative credentials at CSUDH. I am currently finishing up my doctoral program at USC.

Kimberly Vladovic
 Assistant Principal
KVladovic@tsud.org



Dear JMS families,

Thanks to those who submitted grocery card enrollment forms. We received over one hundred responses and I look forward to a great year for our school.

If you have not already enrolled your cards for JMS, please hurry. Please be sure to fill in your actual card number, not phone number. You can pick up a form in the school office.

Below is a report of JMS earnings from last school year. I can't wait to see our progress in the next quarter.

JMS Grocery Club Card Earnings			
From July 2007 through August 2008			
Albertson's	Von's/Pavilions	Ralphs	Total
\$481.61	\$1,695.15	\$925.00	\$3,101.76

IMPORTANT RALPHS REWARDS CARD AND ESCRIPT SIGN-UP INFORMATION

- You must have a Ralphs Rewards Card to enroll in E-script for the new term.
- If you have a Ralphs Club Card, upgrade it to the new Ralphs Rewards Card.
- You can apply for the Ralphs Rewards Card at all local Ralphs stores.
- After you complete the Ralphs Rewards application you can register on line for E-Script at www.ralphs.com. By clicking on Community Contribution.

- All currently enrolled in the Ralphs Community Contribution Program must reactivate their enrollment since current enrollments expired on September 1, 2008.

Please take a moment to register your new rewards card. It's FREE to you but it sure benefits the kids at JMS

May Wong
E-Script Chairman



ASB President Comments

Hello! I'm Alyssa Clark, the ASB President of Jefferson. I'm really looking forward to the 2008-2009 school year. Some upcoming events Student Council is working on are: new Spirit Gear for JMS, helping with Back-to-School Night, and the 6th/7th grade Student Council Elections. Thank you!



Faculty/Student Volleyball Game

Join us for the Faculty/Student Volleyball Game Thursday, October 2, 2008 at the West High Main Gym. Doors open at 6:30 pm- Game starts at 7:00 pm
Pre-Sale Tickers are \$5.00 per person, \$15 for a family of 4. Tickets at the door are \$6.00 per person, \$20.00 for a family of 4. Entertainment will be provided by the JMS Band.

Come out, have fun, root for the players, see the JMS band and support the school

Alice Rusa
Beautification Chairperson

ADVENTURES IN ART

Are you looking for a way to be involved in the classrooms? Would you like to leave a lasting impression on the students? If you are, why not volunteer for our Jefferson Middle School Adventures in Art Program!!

Adventures in Art is a district wide volunteer fine art program that provides the opportunity, materials and the methods with which students can create their own unique art solutions. We are dedicated to furthering the creative spirit in students, through art, in a non-judgmental atmosphere. Our goal is to foster self-esteem and build a foundation of exploration and fun that will interest and inspire students to further create. We promote a non-threatening environment with no implication of right, wrong, or the "real" way to create. AND, you need NO PREVIOUS ART EXPERIENCE to be involved! We are looking for both docents to teach the projects which are taught to you in a step by step fashion and assistants to help in the classrooms. If you are interested please call Michelle VanLerberghe (310-316-2327) or Kim Leacock (310-316-7311) ,
COME JOIN THE ADVENTURE!!

Kim Leacock,
AIA Chairperson

Don't Forget to Vote on Tuesday November 4th Election Day!!

If you haven't given your e-mail address to JMS and want to receive the Newsletter via e-mail please send your e-mail address to the Newsletter Editor, Lynne Henry-Dinneen at tjdllh@earthlink.com. If you want to receive a paper copy please write your name and address on a piece of paper and put it in the box in the school office.

Lynne Henry-Dinneen
News Letter Editor



Jaguar Junction Our Student Store

Come and buy your school supplies and Jaguar paraphernalia at the school store. The student store is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday 12:10 – 1:10. If you have an hour or two to spare once or twice a month please contact Kristine Sato at 310 792-1985

Kristine Sato
Student store Coordinator



Measures Y & Z will Repair and Upgrade our Local Schools

Torrance USD has two critical measures on the November ballot - Measures Y & Z. Measures Y & Z will repair and upgrade our local schools. Measure Y will fund core academic school facility renovations and Measure Z will renovate facilities that support learning, extra-curricular activities and ensure student safety. We need your help!

REFLECTIONS

CONTEST 2008-2009 THEME: "WOW"

Get ready to WOW us with your Reflections project NOW!!! Entries will be due November 14th. You can submit an entry in any or all of the following six categories:

- PHOTOGRAPHY
- LITERATURE
- DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY
- MUSIC COMPOSITION
- FILM/VIDEO PRODUCTION
- VISUAL ARTS

You could be the next winner! Just put your best creative talents to work to let us know what WOW means to you. Entries will be judged on interpretation of the theme as well as artistic talent. Look for applications in October 2008. Call or email Rita at 310 316 2849 ritatmundy@msn.com with any questions.

Rita Mundy
Reflections Chairperson

In order to pass, Measures Y & Z must receive at least 55% support on Election Day. We need to get our messages out and persuade voters to get out and VOTE.

Thanks to all the volunteers who have worked at the Phone bank to date – They are Rosie Wider, Laura Ellenberger, Alesia Giampaoli, Leslie Kanenari, Irene Gonzales,

Sandi Schmitt, Nancy Wright, Dennell Jangaard, Alma Warrick, Ed Gordon, Sue O'Brien, Patrice Watanabe, Lynne Henry Dinneen, Susie Chan, and Emely Vazquez.

Jefferson Middle School is responsible for recruiting parents and teachers for 4 more nights of phone banking throughout the campaign. Volunteers will receive training, scripts, emails, and information prior to making phone calls. Phone banking will take place at the Torrance 4 Kids -Yes on Y & Z campaign headquarters in the Del Amo mall across from the post office. Volunteers will need to arrive 15 minutes early for training.

The remaining dates and times are as follows:

- Sunday, October 5th, 2:30pm-5:30pm
- Monday, October 13th, 6:00pm-9:00pm
- Tuesday, October 21st, 6:00pm-9:00pm

- Wednesday, October 29th, 6:00pm-9:00pm

If you are able to volunteer for the phone bank or would like to help out, please contact me: Shely Bray at aveglass@aol.com or (310) 540-3420

In reply to: aveglass@aol.com, in subject write: JMS Phone bank and include Name, Phone, Email: and indicate if you would like to volunteer for the phone banking. And the date and time you are available or that you would like to help but are not able to do the phone banking.

Thanks.

Shely Bray
Legislative chair



Fire Inspection Checklist

Become an official Safety Inspector! Make sure your home is safe and inspect for risks. Ask a grown-up for help.

If the item on your list is **SAFE**, put a **GREEN** checkmark after it.

If the item on your list is **UNSAFE**, put a **RED** checkmark after it.

If you are **NOT SURE** if an item on the list is safe, put a **RED** checkmark after it.

- Electrical cords are in good condition (not damaged).
- The clothes dryer has a clean vent and filter (no lint build-up).
- Appliances and lights are plugged into separate electrical outlets.
- A grown-up always stays in the kitchen whenever food is cooking on the stovetop.
- All smoke alarms work when tested by a grown-up.
- All extension cords are used safely (not under carpets or across walking areas).
- Portable space heaters are 3 feet away from anything that can burn.
- All escape routes are clear of clutter and easily accessible.
- Curtains and other things that can burn are away from the stovetop.
- The furnace has been inspected in the past year.
- Portable space heaters are off whenever a grown-up leaves the room and goes to sleep.
- The chimney has been inspected and cleaned in the past year.

If any of your circles are **YELLOW** or **RED**, ask a grown-up to make it safe.

®



**National Fire
Protection Association**

The authority on fire, electrical, and building safety



TIPS FOR COMMUNICATING WITH TEACHERS EFFECTIVELY (The PTA Parent)

Parent involvement enhances student success. A good first step for getting involved is communicating with your child's teacher. Effective communication includes meeting with the teacher, being a positive partner in the learning experience, and keeping the lines of communication open.



Registration Thank You!!!

Registration could not have happened successfully at Jefferson if it were not for all the parents, students, teachers and staff who generously donated their time to help. Many helped at all four of the registration processes. I would like to thank Emi Anthony, Maral Horton, Laura Ellenberger, Shelly Fischer, May Wong, Carolyn Finkenbeiner, Donna Yamashiro, Shely Bray, Joann Carriger, Sandi Schmitt, Goli Balouch, Dena VanDevender, Jenna Solberg, Diana Smith, Bianca Pittera, Chandler Johnson, Geoffrey Wong,

Lauren Finkenbeiner, Dixon Walker, Rebecca Horton, Cheri Morimoto, Nico Anthony, Alena Durler, Joann Kato, Alice Rusa, Alesai Giampoali, Karen Jager, Bill Mons, Kim Leacock, Mary Ann Yano, Becky Kirby, Michelle Van Lerberghe, Youjin Jeung, Emile Lim, Kimie Taketa, Lauren Kim, Alissa Clark, Anthony Xiam, Lauren Ernst, Megan Bustios, Paul Romano, Brenda Golanoski, Michael Kneepkens, Darci Silverlake, Brad Cheney, Cathy Meza, Rekha, Ravi and Kote Chintalacharuvu. These individuals gave up

some of their summer and collated packets, handed out registration packets, collected registration paperwork, sold book covers, handed out schedules and help direct parents and students on the first day of school.

Finally, a Big thank you to our new administrators, who worked many and long hours to get the class schedules ready before the start of school.

THANK YOU and my apologies if I missed anyone.

Alicia Walker
Registration Chair



Flue Season is Here

Beginning with the 2008--09 influenza season, annual vaccination of all children aged 5--18 years is recommended. Annual vaccination of all children aged 5--18 years should begin in September or as soon as vaccine is available for the 2008--09 influenza season, if feasible, but annual vaccination of all children aged 5--18 years should begin no later than during the 2009--10 influenza season.



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



Beautification at Jefferson

Jaguar Students Roar with Pride

Over 175 students and 10 adults participated in our school-wide volunteer efforts to clean up and improve Jefferson Middle School on our first Campus cleanup morning September 9. These wonderful students recycled plastic bottles and cans, swept up leaves, weeded the Egyptian Garden, sowed grass seed and taped off those areas with signs indicating to let the grass grow, prepped the lunch area for painting, and scraped gum off walkways and picked up trash around campus. What a great way to start off the year – with a clean campus!! Thanks.

Like Immediate Gratification?

Then come join us on October 4 and 11 from 8-noon and roll a fresh coat of paint on the exterior walls. We need to complete this effort that began in the spring so the students can enjoy the fresh look. We need drop cloths, ladders, roller handles, and rollers for rough surfaces (labeled items will be returned). Please email Alesia Giampaoli at alesiag@verizon.net or phone 310-543-9074 to loan supplies and sign up to help. If you don't like to paint, there is some weeding to be done in the Egyptian Garden. The school is shaping up thanks to

all of our wonderful volunteers.

Lockers

We continue to make progress on planning for the improvement of our student lockers. The locker committee, consisting of Mrs. Chou; 2 teachers who represent 6th – 8th grade, Mrs. Marlette and Mrs. Choi; and 3 parents, Alesia Giampaoli, Maral Horton, and Alicia Walker, has been working. A suggested plan is being brought before the teachers and the association. When all is approved, we will move forward with detailing the costs.



PTSA Membership

Be a part of the PTSA! Our membership drive is nearly at an end. Don't miss your chance to be a part of it. Your membership helps:

- Beautification – Clean Up Days, Fresh Paint etc.
- Enrichment – Out Teacher and Class Room Needs
- Transportation – Field Trips
- Adventures in Art – We off set the cost of materials.
- 8th Grade Promotion – We help pay the way.

- Band – Competitions and Performances
- And so much more

Please help and be a part of your child's school life, by participating with the PTSA. Memberships are only \$6.00. Buy yours today.

JoAnn Carriger
Membership Chairman





Jefferson Middle School PTSA Volunteer Sign- UPS

Please mark all area you are interested in volunteering for and turn into the school office:

- Administrator Recognition Day (March)
- Administration Assistants Day
- Adventures in Art, **Docent**
- Adventures in Art, **Helper**
- Beautification
- Blue Ribbon Week (Police Recognition) (May)
- Business Outreach
- Career Day Coordination (Spring)
- Dental Health (Spring)
- Friday Fund Raiser
- Health Clerk Recognition Day
- Holiday Dinner (December)
- Honorary Service (Winter)
- Hospitality
- Ink Cartridge Recycling Program
- Installation Dinner (Spring)
- Legislation
- Lunch Time volunteer
- Magazine Drive Helpers (October)
- Marquee Coordinator
- Nurse's Day (January)
- Pinch Hitter (Help with anything)
- PTSA Membership Drive (Helper)
- Red Ribbon (Fall)
- Registration Packets Assembly (July)
- Registration Packets Distribution (August)
- Registration Days (2 weeks before school starts)
- Reflections (November)
- Student Store Volunteer
- Teacher Appreciation (May)
- Technology, Web Master
- Wellness Committee
- 8th Grade Promotion (open to parents of all grades)

Name _____

Phone Number(s): _____

Email address(es): _____

Student Name(s)/Grade(s): _____

RED RIBBON WEEK IS COMING...

October 27 - 10/31

"Vote to Be Drug Free"

If you would like to help students celebrate this very important week of creating awareness about the problems and consequences related to the use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco please contact chairperson Eileen Hanners at (310) 316 3307 or eye.hann@verison.net

Eileen Hanners
Red Ribbon Week Chair

**SAVE THE DATE!
WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 1
2008 MAGAZINE
FUNDRAISING DRIVE
KICK-OFF**

Darci Silverlake
Magazine Drive Chair

PTSA Board Meetings

October 7, 2008	March, 10, 2009
November 18, 2008	April, 14, 2009
December 9, 2008	May 12, 2009
January 13, 2009	June 2, 2009
February 10, 2009	

School Event Calendar

October

1 School Site Council Meeting
 1 – 16 PTSA Magazine / Cookie Dough Drive
 2 Student/Faculty Volleyball Game - West
 4 JMS Beautification –from 8-noon
 6 Student-Free Day Staff Development
 7 – 10 Fire Prevention Week
 11 JMS Beautification –from 8-noon
 16 Magazine/ Cookie Dough Money Due
 20 – 24 Start the Art Week

21 Reflections Start
 27 – 31 Red Ribbon Week
 28 Math Night

November

5 School Site Council Meeting
 7 End of First Quarter
 10 – 11 Veterans' Holiday – No school
 14 Reflection Entries Due
 26 – 28 Thanksgiving Holiday – No school

Jefferson Middle School



everychild.one voice.®

We would like to hear from you.
Tell us what is of interest to you and your student.

