



**December 2022**

# THE PRIMARY SOURCE

(For all the Primary News)

Tracy Allred- Principal

Renee Layton – Secretary, Sundee Swyers – Office Aide - 348-7242



## A Note from the Principal...

The Christmas Season is upon us. On behalf of the staff here at JDPS we hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving and we want to wish each of you a joyful, fun filled Christmas Season. Now that winter is upon us, I would like to ask parents to help us in making sure your children are dressed in warm clothing. **Please make sure your child's name is written somewhere on their jackets.** Your child may also wear a beanie, hoody, or cap to school so their head and ears will stay warm. All I ask is that the beanies, caps, and hoods not be worn in the classroom.

As I have said many times, we are certainly blessed to have such dedicated teachers that love our children and work hard to make education a priority in their lives. I also want to thank you parents for your help and support in this exciting time going on in your child's life.

We will start our next round of DIBELS testing on Nov. 28 and will continue to test students until all students have had an opportunity to be tested. Every student will be tested. The tests will be taken in the Title One classrooms. This test is to help us check your student's progress and to let us know if there are any areas of concern in reading and math. This test will allow us to pick up on students that might need extra help in their reading, vocabulary skills, and math.

Please mark December 13, on your calendars as this will be the JDPS Christmas program at EAC Fine Arts Auditorium found on EAC's South Campus. A HUGE Thanks to Mrs. Valerie Wasson our music teacher for preparing our students for this special event. Looking forward to watching our students perform on the Big Stage.

I would like to remind you to look at the calendared events so you won't miss the activities your child/children may be involved in. My staff and I would once again like to say thanks to the greatest parents in the world. You truly do make a difference in the lives of your children. If you do have concerns please visit with your child's teacher or come in and see me.

Please continue to read with your children and I promise you, it will pay dividends for them. Thanks again for the support each of you give to the teachers and staff here at JDPS. Please have a very safe and enjoyable Christmas Season. On behalf of the teachers and staff at JDPS, **We Wish You a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**

Tracy Allred  
Principal JDPS  
Jack Daley Primary School

## December Events

Thurs. 1<sup>st</sup>. **1<sup>st</sup> Grade Field trip to Discovery Park**  
(Mrs. Twitchell, Mrs. Angle & Mrs. Palmer)  
Thurs. 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> **DIBELS testing**  
Tues. 13<sup>th</sup> **JDPS School Christmas Concert**  
@ EAC Fine Arts Auditorium-  
8:30-Kindergarten, 9:00-1st, 9:30-2nd  
**Mon. 19<sup>th</sup> – Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup> WINTER BREAK - NO SCHOOL**

## January Events

Weds. – 4<sup>th</sup> **School Resumes**  
6<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> **Mandatory Fridays/**  
Early Release at 1:00  
**Mon. – 16<sup>th</sup> Martin Luther King Day-NO SCHOOL**

## Office Notes:

The end of the school day is a very busy time in the office. Please remember that ***any changes to student transportation must be made before 12:00 noon.*** Also, please remember to put your child's name on his/her jacket; this helps us identify lost jacket owners.

**PTO** - Thank you so much for all of your support this year! We would not be able to accomplish anything without the awesome parents and businesses in our amazing community!

## Music...

Happy Holidays! It is the time of year for our school wide Christmas Program! All grades will be performing on Tuesday, December 13th beginning at 8:30 am in the Fine Arts Auditorium at Eastern Arizona College.

Please have your children dress up in holiday colors on the day of the program. Red, green, white, holiday shirts, holiday dresses would be great! Please keep headwear (hats, antlers) home so all students will be able to be seen. We hope you can join us to feel the joy of the Christmas season through music!

~Valerie (Guy) Wasson

Breakfast/Lunch Menu can be found on our website at:  
[thatcherud.org](http://thatcherud.org)

## **KINDERGARTEN...**

Kindergarteners are dashing their way to the end of the 1st semester. Jolly old St. Nick wants us to remind you that the next few weeks will be full of lots of events. DIBELS testing will be jingling in on November 28th and go until all the little elves have been tested on letter naming, letter sounds, nonsense word fluency, sight word fluency and phonemic segmentation. The classroom workshop will be busy with testing for our second grading period also. We have introduced the first 30 words. We are excited to see their progress. Hark, the angels will be performing our Annual Christmas music program Tuesday, December 13th at 8:30 a.m. at the EAC Fine Arts Center. We will have a rehearsal on December 12th. Our third annual Festival of the Trees will be Dec. 12-15. Joy will be brought on Thursday, December 15th as each class celebrates with a pancake breakfast, then it will be home for the holidays. More details will come from your teachers on this.

This is the time of year when we really start to focus on children who are struggling with concepts that need to be met for Kindergarten standards. Teachers will begin to think about alternative options for these students, whether it be retention in Kindergarten or T-1. Thank you so much for your help and cooperation with your child's academic learning experience. Your help at home helps us here at school. The Kindergarten Team wishes you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year!

~Mrs. Barney, Ms. Claridge, Mrs. Hatch, Mrs. Mleynek, Mrs. Taylor & Mrs. Vining

## **FIRST GRADE...**

Happy Holidays from 1st Grade! Our first graders are well on their way to becoming great readers. Their stories are becoming more complex and interesting to read. This season is busy and many things are going on. Please try to make sure your student is in school as much as possible and they come to school prepared every day. Christmas break will be December 19th - January 3rd. Keep them reading and practicing their sight words over break. We want to see all of the kids back healthy and happy after break, ready to jump back into learning. Again, we want to thank parents for the help and support you give your children with their math and reading homework. Have a wonderful holiday season!

-Mrs. Nelson, Mrs. Rubalcava, Mrs. Angle, Miss Roderick, Mrs. Palmer, Mrs. Twitchell and Ms. Larrabee

## **SECOND GRADE...**

December is going to be a busy month for Second Graders. The students will take their Dibels Reading Test starting on November 28th. We will also be taking the District "Blue" assessment in Reading and Math. It

will be very helpful to have the students come to school well rested and ready to do their best on these assessments. We hope to see a lot of progress in our students, as we reach the halfway point in our school year. In math, we will continue working with two- and three-digit subtraction and addition. Our writing benchmark this quarter is explanatory/how to. We also have some fun holiday activities planned. Be sure to look for notes and messages about the specific activities in your child's class. We will be having our third annual Festival of Trees December 12th-15th. Students will decorate their class trees, view the trees, and enjoy a story read by Santa!

~Mrs. Scoggin, Ms. Astrain, Mrs. Cooper, Ms. John and Mrs. Tadlock

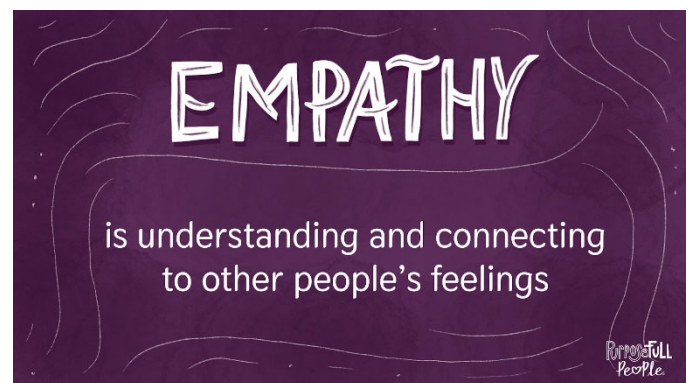
## **Counselor's Corner...**

This time of year, reminds us of the importance of giving. It can also be a great time to encourage your child to be a caring and compassionate child. Empathy is understanding and connecting to other people's feelings. We sometimes state this as walking in someone else's shoes. It is sometimes difficult for young children to demonstrate this trait. Some ways to develop empathy in your child: 1) Let your child know often that how they treat others matters to you greatly. 2) Believe that your child is capable of being kind. 3) Acknowledge kindness. 4) Don't let rudeness pass. 5) Explain that calling someone names or excluding them from play can be as hurtful as hitting. 6) Model positive action. Holidays ARE a special time of year. While this time of year is fun and exciting, I realize that it also can be a stressful and hard time of year for students and families. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any support for you and your child(ren). ***I wish all of you a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year!***

### ***Character Trait of the Month:***

For **December**, our character trait is EMPATHY.

**Is understanding and connecting to other people's feelings**



~Sarah Skemp, School Counselor, JDPS