

Principal's Letter

Dear Parents, Guardians, Teachers, and Students;

The beginning of a new school year is always exciting and especially one at TJ during the year that we will celebrate the **Twentieth anniversary of TJHSST'S Opening!** The achievements are staggering given the youth of this grand experiment in public school education. I invite every student, parent, graduate and interested citizen to join in this year of celebrations which we will write more about in future newsletters.

This year we welcome an all time record high number of students, 1745. We are very excited to welcome back all of our returning students and extend a hearty welcome to our new students. Our campus has expanded to accommodate our rising numbers; so many changes will greet you when you begin classes on **Tuesday, September 6, 2005**. We have 13 new classrooms housed in "Learning Cottages" behind the school. In addition we have lost 10 inside classrooms to make space for 5 new laboratories for Geosystems, Chemistry, and Technology. We have several new offices to accommodate new administrators and special services. And our gymnasium has had a major, much needed facelift with new bleachers and paint. Most air handlers on the roof have been replaced to provide better air flow year round. Even some of our student lockers will have new doors. So our old building will reflect some noticeable improvements.

Just as our student body is expanding so too are the adult professionals who make this school so special. We are welcoming many new Teachers, new Administrators, new Counselors, and new Administrative Assistants to our staff. These outstanding new people will be introduced to you in more detail in subsequent newsletters. They bring a variety of strengths to our already outstanding faculty and staff. You will get to meet all of them at **Back to School Night on Wednesday, September 21, 2005**.

At Back-To-School-Night on **September 21** you may purchase the new **TJ Student Directory** which is provided as a service for all of us by our fine PTSA. In it you will be able to find the dates of many parent meetings held by our Student Services Department and others. I encourage you to become involved in one or more of our parent organizations from PTSA to various booster groups. This is the single best way to learn about our school, make important friendships, and provide meaningful services to our school. The opportunity for students to attend TJ is a great privilege; yet, we are still dependent on the active involvement of parents and students to help it achieve its potential.

Annually I host a series of parent coffees to provide an opportunity for us to get to know each other better in an informal setting with no predetermined agenda. This will be a time to meet other parents and to ask those questions that you have about the school. The first of these parent coffees will be held Thursday, November 10, 2005 at 9:30 a.m. Please mark your calendars. .

Our goals for 2005-2006 will focus on a continuation of many areas of emphasis from our 2004 Accreditation Study. They are to encourage:

- More Intellectual Risk-taking by both students and faculty,
- More Creative Problem Solving by both students and faculty,
- Improved Communication among all members of the school community, and
- Better Use of Time.

In order to address the issues involving time and communication, we will continue our Thursday morning professional collaboration time which we began last year and called it the **Jefferson Learning Community (JLC)**. It provides almost an hour (55 minutes) weekly for our faculty to work together on curriculum projects. TJ has no time within the daily schedule for teachers to collaborate as a total faculty, since our teacher contracts are from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and classes are from 8:30 a.m. to 3:50 p.m. Historically our faculty has one faculty meeting

a month from 8:00 a.m. to 8:25 a.m. for conducting total school business and communication. Last year we found that by expanding our interaction time on a weekly basis we greatly enhanced our communication with one another. This was reflected in **positive results for student learning** which is the underlying reason for all that we do.

Students begin their **first period class at 9:00 a.m. on JLC Thursdays** in order to allow our faculty to have a weekly professional development time. The **bus schedule will not change on Thursdays**. Students who arrive early will all go either to the cafeteria which will serve cold cereals and yogurt or a hot meal for \$1.00, to the library for quiet study, or to other spaces set aside for tutoring and group work. Breakfast will only be served on Thursday mornings. Students who are permitted to drive and have paid for a parking place may arrive anytime prior to the beginning of class at 9:00 a.m. on Thursdays. We need many parent volunteers to assist us on this JLC Thursday program from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Another area of school-wide focus this year will be the enhancement of our **Character Education** program and the continued improvement of our **Teacher Advisory Program (TA)**. We have a team of teachers who will be working during the JLC time and providing guidance to all advisors on how to better serve our students. We will use this weekly TA time for getting to know our students better and for working with them on our Character Education program. In this way we hope to nurture their moral and ethical development. We will also continue our student technology portfolio and research initiatives. Each of these areas of focus will be reported on in this PTSA newsletter on a regular basis.

Jefferson from its beginning has been devoted to helping our students understand and appreciate the interconnectedness of learning in many different areas. As a laboratory school focused on Math, Science and Technology we have integrated the Humanities into all that we do. In this way we continue John Dewey's unique vision for the American public school as a comprehensive program for learning about all major academic disciplines. So it is with pride and humility that we begin another year in the pursuit of the best possible education for all of our young scholars at TJ. It is a joy to work with our wonderful students. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may ever be of personal assistance to you. May you have many happy school days at TJ during our 20th Anniversary Year!

Elizabeth V. Lodal
Principal

President's Message

Dear TJ Community,

Those long, lazy days of summer are now gone and we hope your summer was relaxing and memorable. The **PTSA Board** would like to welcome you to the 2005-2006 school year and to the beginning of an exciting new journey for our students as they enter the next phase of their TJ experience. We would especially like to welcome the Class of 2009 and all new students to TJ. Hopefully, you are receiving this newsletter prior to school opening and will be better prepared for the first day of school. We hope that everyone received the summer packets and has had the opportunity to review the information and to complete the necessary forms. If not, please take a moment to complete the forms and submit them. All of these organizations support our students, but they need your support to be successful.

We are also looking forward to celebrating the 20th Anniversary of TJ being established as a Governor's School for Science and Technology thanks to the partnership between the business community and the educational leadership in 1985. Their visionary plan of offering an advanced mathematics, science and technological curriculum along with the required secondary curriculum has exceeded their expectations as shown with numerous student achievement awards and faculty recognitions. Plans are underway for celebrations to commemorate this distinguished milestone and the PTSA will partner with the TJ Partnership Fund and the school administration to make this year a memorable one for our current students and for the alumni. Recently, the PTSA was given copies of newsletters dating back over twenty years and we will be reviewing these to see how life at TJ has changed over the years.

Even though the summer is traditionally a time to relax, our PTSA Board and Committee Chairs have been working to ensure the school year begins smoothly for all PTSA activities. Our Volunteer Coordinators, Dorry Emmer and Cindy Carter, filled many volunteer leadership positions and organized an army of student and parent volunteers to

help stuff and distribute the summer packets. Thank you, Dorry and Cindy, for making it all look so easy! There are still many opportunities to serve, so please complete the Volunteer Form and return it as soon as possible. A special note to **Senior Parents**: we still need a chair for the **All Night Graduation** Party. This position must be held by a parent of a senior and we know there is a senior parent out there who enjoys organizing events and would like to serve in this very important position. Most of the committee positions have been filled, so please contact the Volunteer Coordinators to discuss.

We would like to also thank Susanne Pelham-Webb and Sandra Anderson for assembling volunteers to mail this month's newsletter during August in order for you to receive it before school begins. Our Newsletter Distribution Committee is dedicated to ongoing communications. Volunteers are also responsible for the landscaping improvements. Hopefully, you will notice them when you arrive at school. All of this is all thanks to the hard work of Kate Rossier and her team of volunteers who have been working tirelessly (in all types of weather!) during this past year and over the summer. We must also mention the great job that our Cluster and County Reps have done before school ended and over the summer hosting gatherings for new students to welcome them to TJ and to introduce them to students from their surrounding areas. Having a sense of belonging is so important to our new students and the service that our PTSA Reps do is immeasurable and we thank them so much. A few other people must be thanked. They have been working for the PTSA over the summer helping to keep our communications up to date and operational, and so we would like to thank our Communications Chairs Linda Maxfield and Qi Wang, with a special thanks to TJ's Richard Washer, who has been so helpful in assisting the PTSA Board. Of course, we must also thank our Newsletter Editor, Teresa Román, for her editorial support in putting together this newsletter. As you can see, it takes a dedicated team to run a PTSA organization and we are so thankful to have such wonderful volunteers working to make a difference in our school.

Our Membership Chair, Ann Besson, is organizing the membership drive and we are looking forward to increasing PTSA membership. By becoming a member this year, you will have the option of receiving our PTSA newsletter, *Tech cetera*, via postal mail or continuing to read it online. Everyone will receive the newsletter through October, but only PTSA members will receive it by mail beginning in November. The cost of a membership has been increased this year to \$15.00, with Faculty and Staff being reduced to \$10.00. There has not been an fee increase for several years, and with the general cost of living increases over the years, the PTSA board voted to increase membership by three dollars to cover those costs. The board also voted to reduce the cost of faculty/staff fees as a courtesy in recognition of their dedication to our students.

Last year, because of the generous donations of TJ PTSA members, our organization was able to fund many worthwhile programs which benefited TJ faculty and staff, students, and our school. Our Faculty Allocation Committee disbursed over \$15,000 for staff development enabling TJ Faculty and Staff to attend various educational conferences and academic enhancement programs. Funding for substitute teachers while the faculty members were at conferences was also covered. This year, the new proposed budget will reflect an increase so that more TJ faculty will have the opportunity for staff development. We will continue providing a Student Allocation Fund which provides assistance to students. Last year, the PTSA provided funding for technology/school support in the amount of \$20,000 and this year, the proposed budget will be increased so we will be able to purchase more computers. Of course, in order to accomplish these additional funding goals, we need your support by becoming PTSA members and making monetary donations. Please consider your tax deductible donation to the PTSA as a "no fuss fundraiser" and know that you are supporting many worthwhile activities. One additional way to support the school without having to write a check is by registering your grocery discount cards designating TJ as your school choice. The information is available on our web site.

By now, we hope that each one of you has received a notice about submitting information for use in the Student Directory, either by email or by paper. We cannot stress enough how important it is that your information be submitted by **September 7**. The directory is a PTSA publication for use by the PTSA only and is a great tool for keeping in touch with the students, the teachers, and the administration. The directory contains information about class schedules, the school calendar, as well as all other necessary information vital to communications about school activities. The cost of the directory will be \$10 and it will be sold during Back To School night on September 21, and thereafter in the main office. We would like to thank Nancy Sharma and Linda Maxfield for setting up the online and paper information submission program. Andrea Field has been working hard on putting together the directory and preparing it for the printers so we would like to thank her for providing the PTSA with such excellent service.

You are invited to attend our PTSA Board Meeting on Monday, September 12, at 7:30 p.m. in the Library. A copy of the agenda will be available online. Our PTSA General Meeting will be held on Back to School Night, September

21, beginning at 6:15 p.m. in the auditorium. Information will be presented about the proposed 2005-2006 budget and an overview of our PTSA supported activities. The PTSA will host a Forum on Wednesday, October 26. More information will be announced online and in the October newsletter.

In closing, I would like to thank our elected team for volunteering to serve as officers this year. Our PTSA officers are highly principled, professional, experienced with business and academic organizations, and most importantly, dedicated and supportive parents. I am pleased to have the privilege of serving with them this school year. We look forward to a great year for all of our TJ Community as we embark on TJHSST's 20th year! Again, welcome to the new school year and please know that we are here to assist you in any way we can. If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact the PTSA Officers by e-mail at: ptsa@tjhsst.edu.

Thank you for your support!

Debbie Kilpatrick
PTSA President

PTSA Update

PTSA Officers

Congratulations to the new PTSA Executive Committee at TJHSST. The new officers were elected at the May PTSA General Meeting and assumed their new positions after the June Board Meeting. TJHSST will be celebrating its 20th Anniversary this year, as the school was established as a Science and Technology High School in 1985. The TJ PTSA will assist the school administration and the TJ Partnership Fund with planning commemorative activities throughout the year.



[Pictured L to R: Recording Secretary Annu Sharma (Avni, Class of 08, McLean), First Vice President Bernadette Saperstein (Hannah, Class of 08, Great Falls), President Debbie Kilpatrick (Wil, Class of 06, Clifton), Eileen Swoboda (Matt, Class of 07, Oakton), Corresponding Secretary Nassmah Brooks (Raillan, Class of 07, Rani, Class of 08, Ranya, Class of 09, Manassas), and Second Vice President Ellen Ranard (Ben, Class of 07, Great Falls).]

PTSA Meetings

PTSA meetings are held on the second Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. The first meeting of the year will be held on **Monday, September 12, 2005 at 7:30 p.m.** in the **TJ library**. The PTSA Board will discuss and approve the budget for the 2005-2006 school year. All are welcome to attend the meeting. PTSA members will vote on the budget at the **General Meeting of Members** on Back to School night, on September 21.

TJHSST PTSA Board 2005-2006

Position	Name	Class	Phone	E-mail [To thwart automated e-mail harvesters, the word "at" is used instead of the symbol "@"]
<u>Executive Committee:</u>				
PTSA Officers:				
President	Debbie Kilpatrick	2006	703/968-0304	Ptsa.president at tjhsst.edu
1 st Vice President	Bernadette Saperstein	2008	703/757-9010	Ptsa.firstvp at tjhsst.edu
2 nd Vice President	Ellen Ranard	2007	703/759-4266	Ptsa.secondvp at tjhsst.edu
Treasurer	Eileen Swoboda	2007	703/758-9159	Ptsa.treasurer at tjhsst.edu
Recording Secretary	Annu Sharma	2008	703/917-8115	Ptsa.recordingsecretary at tjhsst.edu
Corresponding Secretary	Nassmah Brooks	2007	571-437-9573 cell	Ptsa.correspondingsecretary at tjhsst.edu
Principal	Elizabeth Lodal	TJ	703/750-8300	Elizabeth.Lodal at fcps.edu
<u>Executive Board:</u>				
Alumni Parents	Alan Krishnan	Alum	703/758-8572	Alan.Krishnan at ionidea.com
Class Liaisons				
2006	Karen Osborn	2006	703/922-8907	Keo1000 at cox.net
2007	Susan Cameron	2007	703/799-5373	Soozc at cox.net
2008	Robin Wilson	2008	703-560-7104	robinwilson at cavtel.net
2009	OPEN	2009		
Cluster Reps				
Cluster I Rep	Louise Epstein	2007	703/917-7960	Lepstein at cox.net
Cluster II Rep	Padma Kannan	2007	703/573-5606	padmakannan at hotmail.com
Cluster III Rep	Rita Yaroch	2007	703/323-6949	yaroch at cox.net
Cluster IV Rep	Catherine Stebbins	2008	703-360-5337	Stebbins5 at cox.net
Cluster V Rep	Lynn Dudley	2008	703/313-9744	Ldudley3 at cox.net
Cluster VI Rep	Judith Stocks	2006	703/455-7073	Judith.Stocks at verizon.net
Cluster VII Rep	Tricia Cruz	2008	703/266-6748	Va_Cruz at cox.net
Cluster VIII Rep	Cindy Wagner	2008	703/709-0348	cindywagner2 at gmail.com
Arl/Falls Ch Rep	Margaret Clark	2007	703/979-6941	mclark at shrm.org
Loudoun Rep	Nancy Stoepker	2007	703/444-0444	nstoepker at aol.com
P.William/Fauquier Reps	Nassmah Brooks	2007	571-437-9573 cell	Nassmah.Brooks at verizon.net
Communications	Linda Maxfield	2007	703/536-9217	ptsa.webmaster at tjhsst.edu
County Council Rep	Esther Yook	2008	703/642- 0233 [C:571/214- 5797]	eyook at umw.edu
Curriculum Advisory	Sam Gilbert	2008	703/442-7851	swgilbert at aol.com
Directory Production	Andrea Field	2006	703/734-0814	ptsa.directory at tjhsst.edu
	Nancy Sharma	2008	703/378-4296	ptsa.directory at tjhsst.edu
Directory Sales	Kevin and Kathy Green	2007	703/765-7405	itskdg at yahoo.com
Diversity	Veronica Kinney	2006	703/824-5100	vskinney at aol.com
Faculty Allocations	Andrea Field	2006	703/734-0814	afield at hunton.com
Hospitality	Susan Cameron	2007	703/799-5373	Soozc at cox.net
	Ronny Hobart	2007	703/249-9435	vanative11 at msn.com
Jacket Sales	Marilyn Mutchler	2007	703/690-3429	Vamutchler at aol.com
Landscaping	Kate Rossier	2006	703/893-6232	kazrossier at hotmail.com
Legislation	Anne Dewey-	2008	703/578-3998	TJLegislative at cox.net

	Balzhiser			
Membership	Ann Besson	2009	703/591-1705	ptsa.membership at tjhsst.edu
Newsletter Distribution	Susanne Pelham-Webb	2008	703/406-4683	JustinDPW at aol.com
Newsletter Editor	Teresa Román	2007	703/534-6307	ptsa.newsletter at tjhsst.edu
Parliamentarian	Sharon Sneed	TJ	703/750-8336	Sharon.Sneed at fcps.edu
Publicity/Historian	OPEN			
Reflections	Smita Trivedi	2008	703/425-7216	DivyangT2 at aol.com
Senior Party [ANGP]	OPEN	2006		ptsa.angp06 at tjhsst.edu
Volunteer Coordinators	Dorry Emmer	2006	703/757-0388	Ptsa.volunteers at tjhsst.edu
	Cindy Carter	2007	703/455-4067	tjvolunteers at hotmail.com
Web Site	Linda Maxfield	2007	703/536-9217	ptsa.webmaster at tjhsst.edu
	Qi Wang	2008	703/356-0489	qiwang at verizon.net
Faculty Reps	Jim Rose	TJ	703/750-8300	Jim.Rose at fcps.edu
Student Rep				
	Open	2006		
	Ian Carter Condon	2007		ian.cartercondon at gmail.com
	Open	2008		
	Open	2009		

Fairfax County Council PTA

FCCPTA will hold a conference "Addressing the Minority Achievement Gap" in October. That and other information can be obtained in the FCCPTA website [<http://www.fccpta.org/>].

Virginia PTA: State Convention "Putting it all Together" (from the Fairfax County Council of PTAs Newsletter) November 11-13, 2005 [Sheraton Premiere, Tysons Corner, Virginia]

Whether you're a PTA president, teacher, parent, anyone looking to get more information about education or children's issues, Virginia PTA is committed to supporting your efforts. This year, the delegates will consider bylaws amendments, elect state officers, adopt resolutions that establish the positions of Virginia PTA and attend workshops on current issues. More information can be found at the following FCCPTA website: http://www.fccpta.org/newsletters/newsletter_2005_06.pdf (page 13). If you are interested in attending on behalf of the TJ PTSA, and would like to request convention expenditures (\$99/night hotel; \$85+ convention registration; meals and mileage reimbursements) to be covered by the annual budget, please contact the TJ PTSA president.

Upcoming Issues: The 2006 Preliminary Proposed Legislative Program (PPLP) includes two items addressing violence. With your support, the Virginia PTA plans to take these issues in support of legislation and education on restrictions of the sale to minors of pre-recorded music, computer, and video products that contain or promote sex, violence, or illicit drug or alcohol use. Additionally, the state PTA will encourage policy addressing gang violence and recruitment and seek law enforcement, education, community, and social agency collaboration with the PTA in further educating parents and teachers on these important issues. More information can be found at the Virginia PTA website: http://www.vapta.org/Information/presidents_message.htm

Questions regarding the above information can be addressed to Esther Yook, TJ Fairfax County Rep at 703 642 0233.

Serving the TJ Community

Volunteers

Thanks for the Dedication: Truly, TJHSST people never really leave Jefferson! Over the summer we saw amazing dedication to TJ when students and parents returned first to assist in stuffing the Back to School

envelopes on August 10 and again on August 17 and 18 for the packet handouts. Despite the strong odor from the curing wrestling mats, a very keen group gathered in the cafeteria and made fast work of getting 1750 envelopes stuffed with an amazing array of flyers detailing the many ways to support our school. The following week all those envelopes were distributed, again by willing volunteers, to the eager students who wanted to have early knowledge of what the school year has in store for them. A big thank you to **all** the students and parents who helped with stuffing and handout!



Wanted: Senior Parent. Reward Offered!!!: It's true! There will be a reward for the Senior Parent (or two) who steps forward and says "Yes, I'll take charge of the All Night Grad Party for the Class of 06". Since the very first ANGP, TJ parents have succeeded in making graduation from TJ not only a fun-filled memory making evening for the graduating class but also, and just as important to a parent, an accident-free evening. Already we have parents who have stepped forward to accept heading some of the subcommittees that plan the ANGP, but we still need someone to over see it all and be willing to be the person who makes the final decisions...and therefore gets all the thanks! This is your chance to really earn your stripes as a mega party planner. The records and experiences from past parties are available. We would be very pleased to speak with you more about what this position might entail so please don't be shy. Contact us now to talk about being the ANGPO6 Chairperson. Oh, and about that reward? You will see it on the happy smiling faces of the students as they leave their party in the early hours of June 18, 2006 stuffed full of memories. For more details please contact class of 06 parents Debbie Kilpatrick [ptsa.president at tjhsst.edu](mailto:ptsa.president@tjhsst.edu) or Dorry Emmer [ptsa.volunteers at tjhsst.edu](mailto:ptsa.volunteers@tjhsst.edu)



Professional Expertise Needed: This year the Volunteer Registration form has a new category: Professional Expertise. It would be incredibly helpful to have a list of the professional backgrounds of our TJ families. Very often the faculty would like to enhance the experiences they give our students by calling on the professional expertise of a particular specialty – perhaps your background is in translating foreign documents, you have connections on Wall Street...or in Richmond, maybe you are a scientist with a particular focus, an attorney, a sportsman with connections, work in the publishing field, a medical professional...whatever!

Each and every TJ parent has a special skill that might be just what is needed this year to give an extra dimension to the studies of our students. But if we don't know about you how can we make the connections and the introductions? Even if you feel you have nothing else to offer on the volunteer signup sheet please do take a moment to register your Professional Expertise background. It will be very much appreciated and offer you the chance to have an active participation in the education of TJ students – the leaders of the future.



Publicity – Historian – Public Relations: Do any of these job descriptions sound like you? We hope that everyone is aware that this is the twentieth birthday year for TJHSST. Plans are being developed and committees are being formed. We invite **you** to be on the PTSA committee to work on plans for the celebrations. You might be asked to hunt the archives, to make a photographic record of this exciting year, to reach out to past student families, to contact local newspapers, magazines, radio and television stations, or what can you add to this? Please be in touch with your questions or offers to help! Contact us at [ptsa at tjhsst.edu](mailto:ptsa@tjhsst.edu) or at the school at 703-750-8300 and leave a message to the attention of the PTSA..



Red Hot Job Openings: We are particularly looking for volunteers who can come to school during lunchtime (check the directory for exact times) to supervise open gym as well as bright and early volunteers who can join the dedicated team of JLC morning supervisors on Thursday mornings for the hour from 8 a.m. through 9 a.m. Could you commit to a regular time? More details are on our website at www.tjhsst.edu/ptsa/volunteers.htm We would love to hear from you!

Cindy Carter and Dorry Emmer [ptsa.volunteers at tjhsst.edu](mailto:ptsa.volunteers@tjhsst.edu)

TJ Alumni Parents

TJ needs Alumni Parent involvement and I hope many will volunteer. The occasions when we alumni parents serve best are days like Back to School Night, ANGP (1st shift) etc. The opportunities are many, so please sign up. For information, please contact Alan Krishnan at [alan.krishnan at ionidea.com](mailto:alan.krishnan@ionidea.com) or (703-758-8572).

Landscaping Committee

One rainy weekend last June, an intrepid band of scouts, organized and led by **Peter Lee** (now a sophomore), effected a major transformation to the entrance to our school. Peter took on a landscaping endeavor in the main office courtyard as his Eagle Scout project – much to the benefit of us all. An amazing amount of weeding, mulching, edging was done as well as the laying of the new flagstone path through the big garden bed in front of the main office. For all of you who have labored in your own gardens, you will know that this was a huge project.

Special thanks are owed to several people in addition to Peter. First of all to TJ parent and professional landscaper, **Ellen Peterson** (mother of senior Joel), who designed a master plan for the main office garden bed (including the flagstone pathway) and for the bed underneath the school name at the back end of the library. We will be implementing her plan gradually throughout this year. Also a great big thank you to Peter's parents, **Min and Yong Lee**, who gave a tremendous amount of their own time to this effort, as well as to the several scout fathers who came and worked hard.

Finally, as always, the Landscaping Committee welcomes more hands in this effort. If you'd like to participate – either on weekend group weeding sessions or during the week as it fits best in your own schedule – please contact me! If you are a student in need of community service hours, we can give you all the hours you could possibly want or need!

Kate Rossier, PTSA Landscaping Chairperson [(703) 893-6232 or [kazrossier at hotmail.com](mailto:kazrossier@hotmail.com)]

Reflections

- Want to find a way to show others your talent as a short story writer?
- Want to showcase your visual art talents?
- Is photography a medium you use to express yourself?
- Do you love to create and write music?
- Then Reflections program is just for you.

Reflections is an arts recognition and achievement program run by National PTA since 1969. It provides a venue for students to be recognized for their creativity outside the school based on a preselected theme. This year the theme is "**I Wonder Why**". Students can enter in four categories (pick one or enter them all) **Literature, Musical Composition, Photography, Visual Arts**. Think about the theme -"I Wonder Why"- and then write a short story, or a song, create a piece of artwork, or take a picture. Please check the TJ website and newsletter in September for details. The Reflections Committee, Smita Trivedi and Thelma Jefferson-George.

Student Services Corner

The Student Services Advisory Board is having a Networking Evening for Freshmen and New Sophomore parents on September 13 at 7:30 in the school Cafeteria. It is an opportunity for parents to talk with veteran parents, upper class students, and each other. Our first SSAB meeting will be held on Sept. 29, 2005 in the Library. Students and parents are invited to join us to discuss issues pertinent to TJ. Nina Pitkin, the Guidance Director, attends all of the meetings. People wishing to be on my email list to receive agendas before the meetings should email Karen O'Connor at: [karen.oconnor at fcps.edu](mailto:karen.oconnor@fcps.edu).

Items from Other TJ Offices

Jefferson welcomes the following new teachers and staff members to the TJ family:

- **Jennifer Bain**, History & Social Studies, Brown University and Int'l. Center of Pedagogical Studies, Lycee Gustave Jaume, Pierrelatte, France

- **Judy Bello**, English, Legal counsel to Pharmaceutical Research & Manufacturers of America (PHARMA); Yale University Law School
- **Marion Billington**, Math, Annandale HS
- **Isabelle Brazell**, French, Hayfield Secondary
- **Mary Ann Donohue**, Math, Herndon HS
- **Dr. Christopher Glover**, Latin, Yale University, Lecturer
- **Alexa Greenblatt**, Counselor, Woodson HS
- **Linda Guglielmo**, Transcript Secretary, Louise Archer ES
- **Larry Helm**, History & Social Studies, Hayfield Secondary
- **Rusty Hodges**, Health & PE, Chantilly HS
- **Aimee Israel**, Social Worker, Student Services
- **Adam Kemp**, Lab Tech, First Lego League, Virginia Tech
- **Linda Koepnick**, AP Psychology, Long-term sub for TJHSST
- **Kendal Orenstein**, Chemistry, Teachers Preparatory School, Brooklyn, NY
- **Alexandra Pou**, Spanish, Hayfield Secondary
- **Gina Rhee**, Geosystems, Westfield HS, TJ Grad '96
- **Chiaki Rochkind**, Japanese, Hayfield Secondary
- **Emmet Rosenfeld**, English, English Teacher and Director of Summer Programs, Alexandria Country Day School, Alexandria, VA
- **Heather Sondel**, Assistant Principal, District of Columbia Public School System
- **Alice Spencer**, Counselor, Morristown HS, Morristown, NJ
- **Suzanne Taber**, Finance, Technician Office of Design and Construction, Admin. Svs.
- **Ithalda Uston**, Biology, Oakton HS
- **Gregory Williams**, Math, ICF Consulting, Fairfax, VA
- **Maggie Xu**, Chinese, George Mason Univ., Lecturer

Residency Reminder

The Admissions Office is tasked with tracking the residency of students enrolled throughout their four years at TJHSST. According to FCPS regulation, "A student who is admitted to TJHSST must at all times continue to reside with a parent and/or legal guardian who is a full-time resident of, and meets the residency requirements of, a cooperating school division while the student is enrolled at TJHSST." (Regulation 3355.8) Current cooperating school divisions are Fairfax, Arlington, Fauquier, Loudoun, and Prince William counties and Falls Church City. All of these divisions except Fairfax County have a cap on the number of students who may attend TJHSST each year. At the time of student registration at TJHSST, both student and parent signed an affidavit of residency and continuing residency in a cooperating school division. All changes of address from the time of application through graduation must be reported to the Admissions Office; once a student is enrolled at TJHSST all changes of address must also be reported to Student Services.

Parents contemplating a move must consider the following:

- **Prior to a move from one school division to another**, parents **must** contact the Admissions Office to verify that the cooperating school division's cap has not been exceeded for the student's class at TJHSST. A student who changes his or her domicile to a cooperating school division that has exceeded its cap for the student's class at TJHSST may not continue to attend TJHSST.
- **If the move is within the county or city of current residency, even Fairfax County**, contact the Admissions Office and TJHSST Student Services to report the change of domicile.
- **If a student and his/her parent move to a non-participating school division**, the student may not continue to attend TJHSST. You **must** call the Admissions Office to determine if a possible move is within a participating school division.

Contact Information: Admissions Office: 703-658-5823, 703-658-5806, 703-658-5824; Student Services: 703-750-8341

Academic News

Japanese News

My name is Chiaki Rochkind and I am the new Japanese teacher. There will be many opportunities for students to host Japanese high school students; apply for Japan-related summer program scholarships, interview Japanese visitors, participate in a MAATJ Haiku contest and a nation-wide New Year's Card contest; apply for induction into the Japanese National Honor Society (JNHS), compete in Japan Bowl (It's Academic in Japanese), take part in Jefferson Day (J-Day) activities, and travel to Japan next summer. Your assistance is required with our exchange program with Chiben Gakuen HS. Each year for the past 12 years, 10-14 Chiben students have spent a fun-filled, three and a half-week visit to the United States. The students first spend three days in New York City sightseeing, and then, they will come to Virginia for the remainder of their visit--March 4 through 26, 2006 (tentative dates). We need host families and chaperones/guides for the sight-seeing visits during the school week. To plan these activities, there will be a meeting at 7:00 p.m. on October 5, 2005 and on October 13, 2005 for families interested in participating. I look forward to meeting you at Back-to-School Night. If you have any questions or comments, please call me at (703) 750-8300 or e-mail me at [chiaki.rochkind at fcps.edu](mailto:chiaki.rochkind@fcps.edu).

Class News

2006 – Seniors

The class of 2006 has contracted Balfour for Senior Announcements and caps and gowns. These items can be ordered in mid-December. However, please mark your calendars for "Senior Night" on Dec. 7 at 7pm. This meeting is designed for students and parents to view the graduation items and receive ordering information. We will also plan to share the night with the All-Night Grad party so you will not want to miss this information either. We look forward to seeing you on Dec. 7 in the Auditorium. **Anne Little & Krista Parnell**, Class sponsors.

News Round-Up and Awards

STUDENTS

- Congratulations to the Oceanography ROV team for successfully completing all 3 missions in the National Remotely operated Vehicle competition in Houston Texas in June 2005. The team members were 2005 graduated seniors **Lucas Brown, Meghana Sharafudeen, Mike Plasker, Yen Trinh, and Ruixin Yang**.
- Congratulations to 2006 senior student **Men Young Lee** who was awarded a gold medal at the 2005 International Physics Olympiad that was held in Salamanca Spain July 3-12. He was a member of the 5 student team representing the United States.
- Congratulations to two graduated 2005 seniors: **Eric Price** and **Thomas Mildorf**. Both were chosen to represent the United States 6 member student team to compete in the 2005 International Mathematical Olympiad that was held in Mérida, Mexico July 4 – 18, 2005. The U.S.A. team finished second overall with 213 points. Eric Price and Thomas Mildorf both won gold medals for there individual performance.
- Senior student **Eleni Orphanides** was recently selected to serve on the Fairfax County's Environmental Quality Advisory Council.
- Six current TJ students participated in the US Rowing National Championship Regatta, held in Indianapolis from July 20-24, as part of the Thompson Boat Center's team which won the overall point's trophy. Five students won a gold medal in the Junior Eight championship race, defeating teams from all across the U.S. The five gold medalists are TJ students **Nolan Maher, Joel Peterson, Marcos Carzolio, Lee Rumpf, and Bryan Ward**. Student Jordan Hurley was also on the Thompson Boat Center team.
- Student **Justin Solomon** was recognized by the Davidson Institute for Talent Development and awarded a \$25,000 Davidson Fellowship for his Technology Computer Programming project entitled: Identification of Differential Surface Properties on a Triangle Mesh for Facial & Object Recognition. Justin also presented his paper entitled, "Programming as a Second Language" for the 2005 Computer Science and Information Technology Symposium recently held in Philadelphia. Two days later, Justin conducted a workshop entitled, "Algorithmic Gymnastics," at ISTE's National Educational Computing Conference (NECC) also held in Philadelphia. Targeted to computer science, math, and technology educators, the workshop introduced methods for integrating algorithms into math and computer science curricula beginning as early as elementary school and extending though post-AP high school courses.

- Six Virginia students, five from TJHSST, won First Place in the 18th Annual Panasonic Academic Challenge held at Walt Disney World. Our team members were: **Alexandra Levy, Samuel Lederer, Jacob Oppenheim, Will Sullivan, and Daniel Wright**. Sponsors were former TJ teacher Nancy Kreloff and Eric Tippler.
- The following 8 graduated 2005 TJ seniors were recognized as National Merit Scholarship winners on July 12, 2005 by FCPS: **Genevieve Aoki, Monica Gupta, Lisa Heller, Curtis Kobelski, Albert Lee, Sarah Saperstein, Keith Diggs, and Stephanie Tritchler**.
- TJ senior **Karen Shiells** has been selected as one of ACTR's (American Councils for International Education) Russian Scholar Laureates for 2005. Miss Shiells is a member of a highly select group of 44 Russian students – all of whom were selected by their teachers and principals as the most outstanding Russian student of 2005 at their schools.
- TJ senior **Lisa Marrone** was one of 89 students chosen for the Summer Institute in Boston, she is studying Biology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, which co-sponsors the research program with the center. In all, 53 U.S. students and 36 students from other countries were chosen to participate from a pool of more than 1,200 applicants.
- The following students have been named to the National Honor Roll, an national organization that recognizes students for academic success: **Aparna Baheti 05', Adrienne Fama 05', Chase Semrdzinski 05, Crystal Zheng 06'**.

TJHSST Partnership Fund

Back to School Campaign is Going on Now – The Jefferson Partnership Fund's annual Back to School Campaign has begun. Your donations are needed! Please look for our *TJ Partners* Newsletter and donation form in the information packets distributed to all families in late August. Or, you can donate by going to the new and expanded Partnership website at www.tjpartnershipfund.org.

In the 2004-2005 school year, TJ Parents and alumni parents donated over \$135,000 to the Partnership Fund – a record! Your generosity has been wonderful. Total funds raised by the Partnership Fund this year – including parent contributions, Board member donations, and corporate gifts, pledges, and in-kind donations – totaled \$386,435, an increase of \$236,635 over last year!

Of the total **\$386,435** amount, **\$318,435** was received this year, with the remaining \$68,000 pledged over the next several years. Through June 30, **\$139,635** of the total raised has already been delivered to the school in the form of laboratory equipment and faculty development support. An additional \$14,900 was used to purchase a 3-D printer in early July, and other uses of the funds raised are being evaluated now. (The *TJ Partners* Newsletter provides additional FY 05 gift information.)

Total expenses for the Partnership Fund this year were on plan. Expenses have been higher than in previous years because we hired an Executive Director, began incurring accounting and audit expenses for the first time (as required by United Way and the Combined Federal Campaign), and increased our level of investment in fund-raising commensurate with our more aggressive goals. Our FY06 fund-raising revenue goal is **\$756,000**, and we hope to increase it again for FY07.

The Partnership Fund's Executive Director, along with volunteers from the parent, alumni, and corporate advisory committees, continue to pursue a wide variety of initiatives to secure the major individual and corporate support needed to re-tool Jefferson's labs for student research. Ongoing financial support from TJ parents is an essential component of these efforts.

So please contribute as generously as you can. Your support will help advance academic and research excellence at TJ.



Volunteers Needed —Parent volunteers are needed for all of the **Partnership Fund's board committees**. To join the Parent Committee, please call Ernie Isenstadt (Parent '06) at 703-847-4711, [ejiloch at aol.com](mailto:ejiloch@aol.com) or Ellen Ranard (Parent '07) at 703-759-4266, [esranard at aol.com](mailto:esranard@aol.com). WE ESPECIALLY NEED PARENTS OF '08 AND '09 STUDENTS. The Parent Committee works to raise parent contributions through parent outreach and education. Other current-parent members of the committee are Robin Thurman and Debbie Kilpatrick ('06); Nancy

Carter and Bonnie Perman ('07), Cora Yamamoto & Nancy Welch ('08), and Kathleen McLean ('09). All would be delighted to discuss with you the committee's work. Other volunteer opportunities include the **Corporate Advisory and Communications committees**, and the **TJ@20 Birthday Celebration Planning Committee**. For more information contact the Partnership Fund Office at 703-750-8316.

TJHSST Boosters

Athletic Boosters

It is hard to believe that summer is almost over and our athletes are already back at practice. Did you know that our athletes have won **"48" Concorde District Championships** at last count! They could not do it without your support. The County only pays for lights, officials, buses and coaches' salaries. The Athletic Director's (AD) only sources of revenue are ticket sales and vending machine monies to fund 48 teams in 18 different sports. That revenue is not enough to provide uniforms, warm-ups, entry fees, equipment, supplies, maintenance, facilities, awards, coaches' clinics, tournament travel, and much more. The Boosters supplement the AD's bare-bones budget by providing funds to cover necessary day-to-day operations. Just as important, boosters provide vital funding for repairing, replacing, and acquiring essential equipment and facilities. **The Jefferson athletic program needs your monetary support.** We need you to **join the Boosters** and help us continue funding our athletic programs. Many of the membership levels come with game passes that are good all year so the actual cost of membership can be quite low – it's a WIN-WIN situation. The membership form is at the end of the newsletter. Please fill it out and send it in with your check as soon as possible so you can attend all the home games for free!

We are always looking for volunteers. No experience necessary. We train. We absolutely need your help, your ideas, your enthusiasm, and energy! Please consider joining us at our next meeting on Wednesday, September 7 at 7:00 p.m. in the Library. If you have any questions, please contact Lori Markowitz at [lorirmar at aol.com](mailto:lorirmar@aol.com).

Crew Boosters

Jefferson's rowing program has developed into one of the finest high school programs in the country, gaining first place finishes at regional, state and national competitions. The success of this program is a tribute to our wonderful coaches, the dedication of the rowers and the support of their parents. Most freshmen that join the TJ Crew have never rowed before. They just have a desire to be a part of TJ Crew's "Winning Tradition". Through daily practice sessions with the top rowing coaches in the area, they get into top physical condition, develop an outstanding work ethic and refine their teamwork skills. The rowing season runs from late March through May but TJ Crew sponsors a winter training program that begins in mid-November until the first practice sessions on the water in late February. Crew is open to both boys and girls and last year had the largest number of participating student athletes of any sport at TJ.

Crew is a school sport at TJ that is not funded by Fairfax County. The TJ Crew Boosters is an organization of parents and other enthusiasts responsible for raising money for and managing the crew program. Coach salaries, equipment purchases, regatta entry fees and all other costs associated with running this sport are funded through individual membership fees, booster sponsored fundraising efforts and private donations. If you or your student is interested in finding out more about TJ Crew, check out the Crew website <http://sports.tjhsst.edu/crew/> or contact Head Coach Matt Shoop at [shoop2 at cox.net](mailto:shoop2@cox.net). For Booster questions, contact Mark Peterson, President, at [markpusafb at aol.com](mailto:markpusafb@aol.com). Students interested in rowing this spring should contact the Crew Captains at [tjcrew at gmail.com](mailto:tjcrew@gmail.com) to inquire about winter training and service requirements. Also, the boosters will hold a Crew Interest Night at TJ on October 18. Watch for more details on the Crew website and in the October PTSA newsletter.

Theater Boosters

We warmly welcome our new Theater Director, Vinny Pollet, who is not new to TJ. He is a highly regarded English teacher and has many exciting plans for this year's theater program. We also welcome Judy Bello, who will serve as the sponsor for Shakespeare Troupe. Please join us in thanking and supporting them both!!

There are many opportunities for parents to support our talented young actors and techs. We are always looking for assistance with concessions, costuming, chaperoning, meals, technical support and publicity. And of course, donations! You can learn more about our plans and ways you can help at the first Boosters Meeting scheduled for Monday, September 26 at 6:30 in the drama wing. If you can't make the meeting, please stop by our information display at the Back-to-School night on September 21. **We hope you will join us for this year's theater productions.**

To our students and teacher sponsors, break a leg! We are looking forward to another year of great performances and outstanding technical work!

Performances

Shakespeare Troupe

Frosh Fest: A Midsummer Night's Dream, Friday, October 21, 8th period and 7:30 p.m.

Winter Show: Much Ado About Nothing, January 19, 20 and 21 at 7:30 p.m.

Spring Show: Antony and Cleopatra, May 18, 19 and 20 at 7:30 p.m.

Drama Club

Knight of One Axe: November 17, 18 and 19 at 7:30 p.m.

Winter Show: February 24, 25, March 2 and 4 at 7:30 p.m.

Spring Show: April 21, 22, 28 and 29 at 7:30 p.m.

Announcements and Information

Directory

Each fall the PTSA prints a directory for students and their families using the information provided by you. The directory will be sold for \$10 at Back to School Night and during the year at the main office. You must submit your information to the PTSA if you wish your student to be included in the directory. Most families should have received an email with a link providing them a form to update last year's directory information. If you didn't, you may go online to: <http://s95132875.onlinehome.us/TJHSST/enterinformation.php> to add your information, or send an email to Nancy Sharma (ptsadirectory@tjhsst.edu) requesting a link to last year's information and you can update it. **All directory information must be submitted by September 7 for your information to be included in the Directory.** The online form facilitates updating the information and avoids misinterpreting everyone's handwriting. However, if you prefer paper forms, please use the form in the summer packets or request one to ptsadirectory@tjhsst.edu. Remember, all directory information is for the sole use of TJHSST students, families, faculty, and PTSA for TJHSST business. No other uses are authorized.



Directory Sales Volunteers needed: Directories will be on sale before Back to School Night activities in the AudLob. If you can come early and help out with the sales, please contact Kathy Green at itskdg@yahoo.com or 703-765-7405.

Spaghetti Dinner before Back-to-School Night

Mark Your Calendars! This year's spaghetti dinner will be held on **Wednesday, September 21 from 5 to 7 p.m.** in the TJHSST cafeteria before Back-to-School Night begins. The Spaghetti Dinner is a fundraiser for the band and a service for the whole school. The menu will be:

Spaghetti with Marinara Sauce (Meat or Meatless)

Garlic Bread

Tossed Green Salad

Beverage & Dessert

The cost is \$9 per person (\$10 at the door **if space is available**). Advanced reservations preferred. Please include name, total number of tickets, number requesting either meat sauce or meatless sauce. [Make checks payable to TJHSST Band Boosters and mail to: Nancy Donohue, 5305 Dunleigh Ct., Burke, VA 22015] For questions, please contact Nancy Donohue at m.dono@verizon.net . We hope to see you there!

TJ Jackets on sale

Most Fairfax County schools reserve the right to wear a "letter jacket" just for the kids who earn a letter. As usual, TJ is a little different. Our students are allowed to purchase "letter jackets" to wear with or without letters because just attending TJ is something to celebrate. The PTSA buys these high-quality jackets directly from the manufacturer and sells the jackets for less than retail price, earns the profit rather than a retailer, and saves you some time and hassle. The funds raised by the PTSA support programs that benefit all TJ students and teachers. Each of the 3 jacket styles is lined, wool, personalized, has "Science and Tech" on the front, and "JEFFERSON" on the back. They can be worn with or without a letter – parents and teachers even wear them! About 25% of all students buy one during their years at TJ. Why not buy one early and wear it all 4 years?

The two sales for the 2005/2006 school year are: **Sept. 21-23** for late November delivery *or* **Nov. 29- Dec. 1** for February '06 delivery. We'll have sample jackets for you to try on. Sizes seem to vary each year so STUDENTS MUST TRY A JACKET ON BEFORE ORDERING!. And, for the first time, the PTSA is offering the jackets to Faculty and Staff at our cost. The order form and more information are available on the PTSA web site. If you have questions about the jackets or would like to help out, please contact Marilyn Mutchler at (703) 690-3429 or at <mailto:vamutchler@aol.com>.

Noteworthy Dates



<p>September 2 Freshman and Parent Orientation 6 School Begins 7 CAC Coordinating Group (7:30 - Career Center) 12 PTSA Executive Board Meeting (7:30 - Library) 13 Diversity Committee Meeting (7:30 - Career Center) 13 Student Services Advisory Board Networking Evening for Freshmen and New Sophomore (7:30 - Cafeteria) 20 ANGP Committee Meeting (7:00 - Career Center) 21 Spaghetti Dinner (5:00-7:00 - Cafeteria) 21 Back to School Night (6:00 - Auditorium) 21 Newsletter submissions due for next issue 26 Theater Boosters Meeting (6:30 Drama Wing) 26 to 30 PSAT Registration</p> <p>October 5 CAC Coordinating Group (7:30 - Career Center) 8 SAT I and II Testing 10 Columbus Day Holiday 12 PSAT Testing (Wednesday a.m.) 17 PTSA Meeting (7:30 – TJ Library) 18 ANGP Committee Meeting (7:00 - Career Center) 21 A Midsummer Night's Dream (8th period & 7:30) 26 PTSA FORUM (7:00 - Auditorium) 28 Homecoming</p>	<p>November 7 to 8 Student Holidays 10 Principal's Coffee (9:30 - Cafeteria) 14 PTSA Meeting (7:30 – TJ Library) 24 to 25 Thanksgiving Holidays</p> <p>December 23 to 31 Winter Vacation</p> <p>January 16 King's Birthday Holiday 27 Student Holidays 30 Student Holidays</p> <p>February 20 Washington's Birthday Holiday</p> <p>April 7 Student Holiday 10 to 14 Spring Vacation</p> <p>May 19-21 Birthday Celebration Super Weekend 29 Memorial Day Holiday</p> <p>June 17 Graduation 20 Last Day of School</p>
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THOMAS JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

COLONIAL ATHLETIC BOOSTERS

2005- 2006 MEMBERSHIP FORM

PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Home telephone: _____ E-mail _____

STUDENT INFORMATION

Name(s): _____ Sport(s): _____ Class of: _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Check one category:

- | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|---|
| _____ CORPORATE | \$500 | SIX Passes to ALL regular season HOME games and reserved parking for home football games |
| _____ DIAMOND | \$250 | FOUR Passes to ALL regular season HOME games and reserved parking for home football games |
| _____ GOLD | \$150 | TWO Passes to ALL Regular Season HOME games |
| _____ SILVER | \$100 | ONE Pass to ALL Regular Season HOME games |
| _____ BASIC | \$75 _____ \$50 _____ \$30 _____ | |
| _____ ALUMNI | \$25 x _____ | LIFETIME passes, charge <i>per person</i> , Alumni and/or parent(s)
<u>Not available to PARENTS with a child still at TJ</u> |

Remember, our passes are good for Regular Season HOME Games for sports all year. - **Join now and enjoy free admission fall-winter and spring!**

*Please make your check payable to **Colonial Athletic Boosters** and return with this form to:
TJHSST Colonial Athletic Boosters, 6560 Braddock Road, Alexandria VA 22312*

Tech cetera
PTSA Newsletter
TJHSST
6560 Braddock Road
Alexandria, VA 22312

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This PTSA publication is available online to all TJ families on the first of the month at:
<http://www.tjhsst.edu/ptsa/Newsletter.htm>

TJ families will be receiving the September and October issue of ***Tech cetera*** in their mailboxes.
Issues after those will be mailed only to the PTSA membership.

For inquiries and comments and to opt-out of mailing, please contact: ptsa.newsletter@tjhsst.edu

Check List

- Update information for the Directory before **September 7**:
<http://s95132875.onlinehome.us/TJHSST/enterinformation.php> or ask ptsa.directory@tjhsst.edu
for a link to your record.
- Sign up for Keep in Touch specifying TJHSST in the Personal Profile: www.tjhsst.edu/ptsa
- Join the PTSA: http://leadership.tjhsst.edu/ptsa/Doc/PTSAmembershipform2005_06_Aug05.pdf or
contact: ptsa.membership@tjhsst.edu or fill in the form in the back of this page.