

The Hornet's Buzz

Jackson Township Elementary

April 2021

A Note From the Principal

Dear Parents,

April 30, 2021

It seems like our year is flying by – before you know, it will be May 24th and our students will be exiting the halls of Jackson to begin their summer vacation! The end of the school year also means that we are finishing up standardized testing. All of our students have completed the IREADY Spring Diagnostic Assessment. Preliminary results reveal that a lot of growth has taken place this school year, which is exactly what we want to see in our students. Third, fourth, and fifth grade students are finishing up ILEARN. As you know, the data we receive from standardized assessments provides us with valuable information that helps us target specific deficiencies in instruction and student achievement. Our students generally do well. I am looking forward to seeing how well our students perform this year!

Although the end of the year is drawing near, teachers still have many skills to introduce and reinforce before the last day of school. Regular attendance is extremely important. As of now, we are making plans for some of our normal end of year activities. We will be sending information home soon.

As always, your support and involvement in your child's education are greatly appreciated!

Sincerely,
Brad Ennen
Principal, JTE



Proud to be a Hornet!!!

Schedule of Events

May 13 Papa John's JTE Night
May 24 Last Student Day
Aug. 9 First Student Day for 21/22 School Year

April Birthdays

Remy Compton	Isabelle Romas
Ethan Cooksey	Ethan Schopmeyer
Kolton James	Isabella Shepherd
Brantley Knust	Makayla Skaggs
Skylynn Lane	Gannon Stearley
Kayli Lucas	Karsyn Terril
William Matthews	Gage Terstegge
Emme McCoy	Ethan Thompson
Morgan McCullough	Cadel Westfall
Sydni McNeely	Logan Wheeler
Chance Nickless	



CHARACTER CORNER

Each week, your child will be introduced to a **Character Quality**, which is part of the **JTE Character Education Program**. *Parents are encouraged to discuss these qualities at home and suggest ways your child can model these qualities.* The qualities for **May** are:

Sportsmanship. Sportsmanship means the ability to take winning or losing without gloating or complaining.

Pride. Pride means proper delight or satisfaction in your own accomplishments.

Loyalty. Loyalty means faithful to a person, a team, or your country.



The **Parenting Practicalities** section is designed to provide you with common-sense tips on your most important role, that of being a **PARENT**.

BENEFITS OF OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

Robyn Bjornson, executive assistant at the Children and Nature Network, says in general, children spend a lot less time outdoors than they used to.

She says this lack of time spent playing outside in the fresh air can be harmful to a child's wellbeing.

"It damages physical and mental health, contributing to nature-deficit disorder, which is the term used to describe the human costs of alienation from nature."

Spending time in natural surroundings stimulates children's creativity.

Bjornson says there are many positive health benefits associated with outdoor activities for children.

"Children who regularly experience nature play are healthier, happier, and test better in school," Bjornson says. "Studies indicate that direct exposure to nature can relieve the symptoms of attention-deficit disorders, improve resistance to stress and depression, increase self-esteem, stimulate cognitive development and creativity, as well as reduce myopia and lower child obesity."

Preston agrees that outdoor activities for children offer countless benefits for kids' overall wellbeing.

"Spending time in natural surroundings stimulates children's creativity," Preston says. "Spending time outdoors also encourages children to actively play, which is good for them, rather than spend time focused on electronic media, television, and video games."

Exploring nature is a great way for a family to spend time together and enjoy some healthy activities, Bjornson says.

"Hiking, walking, beach play, camping, birding, tree climbing, fishing, gardening, sailing, are just a few of the endless ways to enjoy nature," Bjornson says. "And there are more ways in your own backyard or neighborhood."

Though it can be challenging for parents to convince their children that spending time outdoors can be just as much fun as playing video games and watching television, Bjornson says it is important to make outdoor time a priority.

For parents looking for other families interested in outdoor activities for children, Bjornson suggests looking for a local **Family Nature Club** or downloading a **toolkit** from the Children and Nature Network to get started.

Author: Laura Jerpi