



Jennings
Elementary School

February 24th Jennings Journal

Hello Jennings,

This week there are several important topics to discuss. I ask that you read the entire Journal to gain insight on important school matters. While the district continues to evaluate the safety and security of all the schools, they are working with the recommendations of the Fairfield Police Department in order to ensure our staff and students are as safe as possible. Last week there was a letter sent out to all Fairfield parents reviewing some procedural changes that will have a direct impact at Jennings and all schools in Fairfield. I review some of the key changes in entries below and also have attached a link to the letter in case you did not have a chance to read it.

Jennings School is proud of our welcoming atmosphere. While the changes in limiting access to the building are certainly important, we do not want our community to feel less welcomed in our school. Mrs. DeIConte, Mrs. Pagliari and Mrs. Goven had specific training on proper protocol when receiving visitors. We ask patience as we work through some of the recommended changes. We continue to believe that parents are a vital part of our school culture and will maintain a focus on this positive partnership as we implement these recommendations.

Thank you in advance for your support and understanding. As always, please contact me if you have questions or comments.

Have a Wonderful Week!

Mr. Vuolo :)

Other important information...

Valentine's Thank You

The main office would like to thank everyone for their kind thoughts during the latest holiday.

The cute cards and creative gifts are sincerely appreciated. It always puts a smile on our faces when the students and families spend time to think about us during the holidays. Your generosity warms our hearts!

Lunch Visitors

Beginning this week Jennings School will adopt the district policy of only allowing lunch visitors on a student's birthday. We ask that you send in a note to your classroom teacher and/or call the main office to let us know you are coming in. We will be creating an appointment calendar for all of our visitors. If you fail to send in a note, we respectfully request a call by 9:30 AM in order to allow the secretaries to update the calendar. We will continue to have a separate table for you to enjoy the special lunch with your child(ren) only. Click the [district letter](#) link for more details. This change is described in #2 of the letter.

Other Visitors

We ask that anytime you are planning to visit Jennings you send in a note to the main office through your classroom teacher. If it is an unscheduled visit or you forget to send in a note, please call the main office at 203-255-8316 to let us know you are coming in. This will greatly assist us with the new district protocols.

Oops Cart

A second procedure change under the new safety and security recommendation involves each school having an "oops" cart. This cart will be placed outside of our front doors and should be used for those items you might have forgotten and need to pass along to your child. The cart will have a sign in sheet where you can list the time, item being dropped off and child's name and class. Before leaving you can press the buzzer and let the office know you have left something on the cart. The staff will retrieve items throughout the day. It is important to note that medications SHOULD NOT be left on the cart. Click on the [district letter](#) link for more details. This change is highlighted in #4 of the letter.

Band and Orchestra

Our procedure for before school rehearsals remains the same. Please be sure to be on time as practice begins promptly at 8:00 AM. There is limited staff available in the main office at that time and late arrivals should use Child Link entrance (in rear of building) if front door is not answered in a timely manner.

Dismissal in the back of Jennings

This is a friendly reminder that parking in the back of Jennings for dismissal is not an approved procedure. As mentioned in our Opening Day Guide and at Open House, picking up in back is prohibited. This is in place for several reasons, most of all for the safety of our students. We strategically have several students load their bus in the back for their safety. It is for this reason we ask that you find other ways to arrange dismissal plans. There are usually plenty of spots in our front parking lot and our carloop progresses very quickly from start to finish. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

SBAC Presentations

As March creeps up on us, we continue to work towards preparing for the new Smarter Balance Assessment Consortium field test. The recent letter sent out from the Curriculum Office is linked to our school website. Click on [Other Important Notes](#) section for more details. There will be two presentations that will be held to review this assessment for parents. One will be held by FPS staff, including Mr. Vuolo, on Friday, February 28th at 10:30 AM at Stratfield Elementary School. The other presentation is sponsored by the PTAC and is scheduled for Monday, March 3rd at 8:00 PM at Tomlinson Middle School. Please see the [PTAC Flyer](#) for more details. If you are unable to make these presentations we will post information on both the district and school websites.

Family Skating

Our community came together for a wonderful evening of fun this past weekend. Thanks to Jen Carolan and Maria Feay for their hard work in organizing this event. The smiling faces, even when falling to the ice, demonstrate how this is a fan favorite event.

Character Assembly Reschedule

As mentioned in last week's Jennings Journal, our Character Assembly with the Harlem Globetrotters was cancelled. We rescheduled our typical Character Assembly to this Friday at 2:30 PM. Although missing the Globetrotters was disappointing, I am sure the SLT will put together a good assembly for everyone to enjoy!

This Week's School Reminders:

Thursday 8:00 AM Jennings Times
Grade 5 STEP program

Friday 10:30 AM SBAC Presentation at Stratfield School
2:30 PM Character Assembly (Families Welcomed)