

The

# JACKSON TIMES



December 2006 | Volume 14, Number 4

Tis' the Season

## Happy Holidays to everyone in the Jackson Community!



I am looking forward to the annual fourth grade performance of *The Nutcracker* on Wednesday, December 19th.

Enjoy your Winter Break and time with family and friends. Also remember to mark your calendars for January 23rd for our school **Math Fair**. Happy Holidays!

**Our Snow Days** will be made up on **February 16th** and **May 25th**. February 16th was originally a professional day and now it will be a regular school day. The original last day of school was going to be Thursday, May 24th. Now it is going to be Friday, May 25th.

Thank you,

**Craig Stevens, Principal**  
366-5884 School 329-2670 Home  
cstevens@norman.k12.ok.us



## 5th grade Explorers' Breakfast

The 5th grade students and teachers had a great time at the 5th grade Explorer s' Breakfast that was held on Thursday, November 9, 2006.

All fifth graders studied European explorers. Each student chose one explorer in particular to do an in-depth study of their life and accomplishments.

They learned note taking strategies using multiple sources and then used this information to create a "Wanted Poster", a map and a timeline. They chose one of the explorers to present, speaking in first person to peers and guests. All this concluded with a feast of foods they'd prepared indigenous of the country of their explorer.



## Music Programs

### 2nd grade—It's a Small World

The 2nd grade put on a great production of "It's a Small World" on October 17th.

The students dressed in costumes and sang songs that represented places from all of the world.



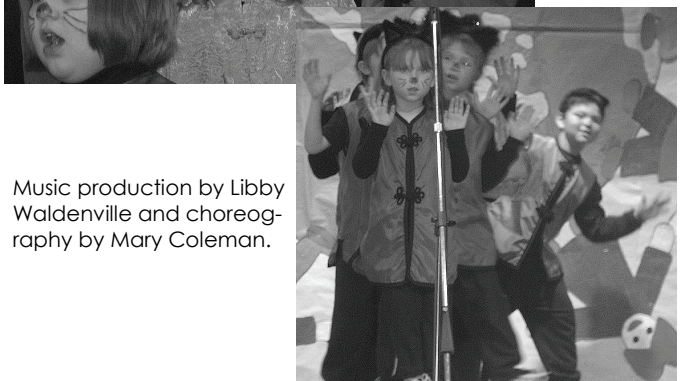
The audience journeyed through a jungle safari,



danced at a Mexican fiesta,



and trekked across Europe, to name just a few.



Music production by Libby Waldenville and choreography by Mary Coleman.

### 3rd Grade—A Tribute to Disney

The 3rd grade performed a spectacular production of "A Tribute to Disney on November 20th.

Many of Disney's characters danced and sang around the stage.



The audience was dazzled by such characters as, Minnie and Mickey, Mary Poppins, Pinocchio, Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty, and Aladdin.



Every song sang on was from many of Disney's favorites movies.



Music production by Libby Waldenville and choreography by Mary Coleman.

### Cocoa, Cookies, and Cuddles

Everyone had a great time at Jackson's annual Cookies, Cocoa and Cuddles for the kindergarten and pre-k students on December 12th. Our Jackson families and our kindergarten and pre-k teachers got together for a warm winter night of hot cocoa, cookies and cuddling with family and a good book.

There were all kinds of cookies to eat and hot cocoa to drink. After refreshments everyone moved into the Jackson library to snuggle up with their favorite children's book and their family.



A BIG thank to all of our kindergarten and pre-k teachers for organizing a wonderful hour of refreshments and fun.

### Meet Our New Teacher's Assistants

**Kellie Dawn Waddle (3rd Grade Assistant)**—Hello: My name is Kellie Dawn Waddle. I was raised with 2 older sisters in Pawhuska, Ok. I will be celebrating my 16th wedding anniversary on December the 8th. Brian and I have 4 outstanding children. Kadie being the oldest at 14, 8th grader at Alcott, Austin age 12 a 6th grader at Alcott, Morgan age 11, 5th grader at Jackson, and then our litter trailer, JT age 5, Kindergarten at Jackson. I have 13 neices and nephews, some of which attend NPS. My birthday is April the 21st. I love to read, and be outside (weather permitting,) I love to cook and be with my family.

**Jennifer Jenkins (1st Grade Assistant)**—I grew up in Norman. I graduated from Norman High in 1991. I attended the University of Oklahoma, and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education. I have been married for 9 years. My husband, Earl and I have two children. Abigail is in the 2nd grade in Mrs. Donahue's class and my son Tyler is in kindergarten, in Mrs. Magee's class. I am so excited to be working at the school. All of the students and staff are wonderful.

### The Jackson Sweatshirts are Here!

Get you NEW 2006-2007 Jackson Sweatshirt.



There are two new logos; one for children and the other for adults. The children's sweatshirt has a light gold logo printed on a light blue hooded sweatshirt. The adult's sweatshirt has a blue and red logo printed on a gray sweatshirt.

Each sweatshirt is just **\$20.00** payable to the Jackson Elementary PTA. Forms were included in your child's Thursday folders or are available on request.

#### Available Sizes:

Children's: XS, S, M, and L

Adult's: AS, AM, AL, and AXL

Contact Holly Jack, PTA President at 405-321-4479 or holly\_a\_jack@yahoo.com for more information.

# Come Join the Fun with the Jackson Clubs

## Jackson Tiger Knights

The Jackson Tiger Knights Chess Club began during the 1991-92 school year with a handful of 4th and 5th grade students in one of the classrooms. These kids took a special interest in the game of Chess and began bringing their lunch to the classroom and playing every Monday. Soon more children became interested. They purchased a few cheap sets and set-up all over the room to play. When they became too crowded for the classroom, they moved to the library and became officially known as the Jackson Chess Club. The following year, some children in 1st-3rd grade expressed interest. That same year, Chess Club developed a logo and became known as the Jackson Tiger Knights. These two groups of student Chess enthusiasts continue to meet on Mondays and Fridays to this very day. Eventually, the club outgrew the Library and moved into the hall outside the library. Since then, the club has unofficially dubbed that area, "Tiger Knight Hall".

Membership in the Jackson Tiger Knights Chess Club has always been and continues to be free. Any student in grades 2-5 is welcome to visit and try it out. If the student needs to learn the game, other members will teach them. When a student believes they have learned the basic rules well enough to play the game, they can sign-up on the club "ladder" and begin being matched-up by computer to play other students each week. Students in 1st grade and under may join if they already know the rules of the game and would like to participate. Since 1st grade and under participants come with the 3rd grade and under group on Fridays, they need permission from both their teachers and parents to participate because they will miss some class time after their recess.

This year, Jackson will hold three tournaments; the **Jackson Scholastic Chess Tournament** during meetings in January and February, the **Tiger Knight Closed Tournament** during meetings in March and April, and the **Jackson Outdoor Open Tournament for Friends** which is scheduled to be played outdoors from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM on Saturday, March 10.

*Jackson Tiger Knights Chess Club meets in "Tiger Knight Hall" ; hall front of the library. 5th grade and Under Section meets Mon. at lunch and recess. 3rd Grade and Under Section meets Fri. at lunch and recess. Contact David Wilson at [dwilson@norman.k12.ok.us](mailto:dwilson@norman.k12.ok.us) for more information.*

## Honor Choir

The Honor Choir was started by Libby Waldenville, our music teacher, in 1987 (20 years ago) during her first year of teaching at Jackson. She offers it to 4th and 5th grade students to give them an opportunity to experience some more challenging "choral music". They learn music that they don't normally learn in the classroom. For the students who really love to sing, it provides that extra outlet and hopefully will give them a life long love of music.

*Honor Choir (4th & 5th Grade) meets in the music room. Tues. and Thurs. after school until 3:45 pm. Contact Libby Waldenville at [efw@norman.k12.ok.us](mailto:efw@norman.k12.ok.us) for more information.*

## Computer Club

The Computer Club is now underway. Brad Talley, one of our 5th grade teachers, organized everything for this year. The club is designed for all 4th and 5th grade students who want to learn more about computer technology and challenge their current computer skills.

*Computer Club (4th & 5th Grade) meets on Mondays, once or twice per month. Contact Brad Talley at [btalley@norman.k12.ok.us](mailto:btalley@norman.k12.ok.us) for more information.*

## Walking Club

The Walking Club began last year to help alleviate a couple problems...chronic tardies and improve physical fitness. Faculty volunteer to walk with the students. One of the side benefits, is the faculty can interact with students outside of the classroom in a more relaxed setting. The students have also benefited from making new friends.

The course they walk is a 1/2 mile loop. Most students can do 1-2 miles each session, depending on whether they walk or run. Recognition is given to students who reach various goals (3 mile mark, 5, 10, etc.) One of the "rewards" of walking club is to be able to participate in the OKC Memorial Kids Marathon, which is held in the spring. Kids keep track of the number of miles they cover up to race day; then they go to the marathon and actually run the last mile of the 26.2 mile course. It's really great for the students. They get to go through the starting and finishing gates, have people cheer for them, receive medals and t-shirts, and be able to go to the refreshment tent—all for \$5!

The Walking Club is sponsored by the Jackson Safe School/Healthy Youth committee which is chaired by 2nd grade teacher Jane Dmytryk.

*The Walking Club meets on the black top. Mon. and Tues. at 7:30am and Monday at 2:50pm. Contact Jane Dmytryk at [jdmytryk@norman.k12.ok.us](mailto:jdmytryk@norman.k12.ok.us) for more information.*

## Jump Rope Club

The Jump Rope Club was started 15 years ago by Mary Coleman who is one of Jackson's physical education teacher's. The club began to give students an opportunity for a more intense workout and improve their physical fitness. It also is a good way for students to improve coordination and increase their cardiovascular endurance. Many parents of members have noticed a big change in their child's fitness and endurance.

It is for the 3rd through 5th grade students who would like that extra physical challenge. Each students jumps for approximately 30 minutes after they warm-up during most of their meeting times.

The students also perform. Twice a year, fall and spring, the members perform for Jackson in the Choir Jump Rope Programs. They also perform other places when asked ,such as, other elementary schools, the OAHPERD Convention, and on Physical Fitness Day. It is a great chance for students to make new friends and improve their physical fitness.

*Jump Rope Club meets in the gym. Mon., Wed., and Fri. from 7:15 until 8:00 am. Contact Mary Coleman at [mcoleman@norman.k12.ok.us](mailto:mcoleman@norman.k12.ok.us) for more information.*

## SeeS Science Club

The SeeS Science Club is in its 5th year here at Jackson. The Engineering College at the University of Oklahoma (OU), in conjunction with the National Science Foundation, coordinates the program, plans the activities, and provides the college students to actually conduct the experiments. The Jackson PTA funds the program by paying for science supplies. The goal of SeeS Science Club is to foster an appreciation and curiosity for engineering and science. Susan Allgood, our gifted resource teacher, is the Jackson coordinator.

*SeeS Science Club (1st - 5th Grade) meets in the cafeteria. Nov. 9, Feb 9, Mar 8, and April 12 from 3:00-4:00pm. Contact Susan Allgood at [sallgood@norman.k12.ok.us](mailto:sallgood@norman.k12.ok.us) for more information.*

## Responsibility

### What is it and where did it go?

I have noticed an epidemic lately, and I don't mean the bird flu or the latest computer virus. More and more students are either not doing their assignments or not turning them in for a grade. This lack of responsibility results in lower grades at Jackson. In the real world, as adults, this pattern of behavior will result in no job and no paycheck.

As parents and teachers, here are some things to think about if the "irresponsibility bug" strikes your house:

- Be punctual. You wouldn't be late to work, so don't let your child be late to school.
- Monitor grades, check homework folders and agendas. There is no telling what could be growing in that backpack! If assignments are not turned in, then don't let them turn on the TV or the computer until they are caught up with their work.
- Parenting is hard work! We are all in this together. Remember, talk to teachers and counselors about frustrations and concerns.
- This is definitely not a problem for all of our students. But if you notice symptoms of this virus attacking your child, let's get it under control before it begins to control your child!

For more information about Jackson's Enrichment and Gifted opportunities, contact Susan Allgood, 366-5884 or [sallgood@norman.k12.ok.us](mailto:sallgood@norman.k12.ok.us).

## The Jackson School Directories Are Here!

If you didn't get a chance to purchase a school directory, there is still time. You can use the form that you received in your Thursday folder or there are forms in the PTA box in the main office. Just fill it out along with your payment and your directory will be delivered to your child's classroom in the next couple of days.

Each directory is **\$2.00**. If you need more than one, make sure you mark it on the form and include the correct payment amount.

## Where's Your Coat?

As temperatures drop outside students are encouraged to wear weather-appropriate clothing to school. Long pants, long-sleeved shirts, warm shoes, and outerwear (jacket, hat, gloves, etc.) make recess time more enjoyable for the students. Please check the weather forecast for the day and encourage your student to dress accordingly. This can be a great teaching time for your student as they learn to plan for their day.

This is also the time of year when the **Lost and Found** here at Jackson grows rapidly! You might want to have your student check the Lost and Found before or after school to see if any of the items look familiar. There are some nice coats in there!

The Lost and Found bin is located usually in the main hall near the gymnasium.



## Jackson Upcoming Events December 2006/January 2007



- Dec 1.....SONIC Drive-In Night (5:00-7:00pm)  
 Dec 5.....Choir Jump Rope Program (7:00pm)  
 Dec 15.....TERRIFIC Kids Assembly (8:00am)  
 Dec 19.....4th Grade Music Program  
 ("The Nutcracker" at 7:00pm)  
 Dec 20.....Winter Classroom Parties  
 Dec 21 – Jan 2.....NO SCHOOL – Christmas Break  
 Jan 3.....Return to School  
 Jan 5.....SONIC Drive-In Night (5:00-7:00pm)  
 Jan 15.....NO SCHOOL – Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
 Jan 16.....PTA Meeting (6:15-6:45pm in the cafeteria)  
 Jan 16.....Boomerang Grill Night (5:00-10:00pm)  
 (2nd Grade Competition Night)  
 Jan 26.....TERRIFIC Kids Assembly (8:00am)

## Winter Classroom Parties

Wednesday, December 20th

9:45 for AM Pre-K and 2:00 pm for all other classrooms

Help is always needed. Check with your child's teacher as what to bring or volunteer to help the day of the party. Families are encouraged to come, take pictures, and join in on the fun with your child.



## Our Next PTA Meeting January 16 at 6:15pm

We are not having a PTA meeting for the month of December. This is a busy time of the year for everyone. We want all of our Jackson families to be able to spend as much time as possible at home and with their family members.



Have a great holiday and see you next year!

## Volunteer of the Month

The Volunteer of the month for December is **Mary Beth Smith**. Mary Beth is the current Secretary of the Jackson PTA. Last year she served as the PTA Treasurer at Jackson. She keeps Jackson families informed of upcoming events by e-mail and is responsible for creating both last year's and this year's student directories.

Thank you **Mary Beth** for all of your hard work over the last two years!

## 2006-2007 JACKSON P.T.A.

President ..... Holly Jack..... 321-4479 ..... [holly\\_a\\_jack@yahoo.com](mailto:holly_a_jack@yahoo.com)  
 Vice President ..... Jennifer Jenkins..... 364-0358 ..... [jejenkin4@netzero.com](mailto:jejenkin4@netzero.com)  
 Secretary..... Mary Beth Smith ..... 447-8677 ..... [mbsmith007@aol.com](mailto:mbsmith007@aol.com)  
 Treasurer..... Nova McIlhane ..... 701-0251 ..... [nhendricks@coxinet.net](mailto:nhendricks@coxinet.net)

For information about The Jackson Times, please contact the editor, Darla Baca, at 321-6461 or [d.baca@cox.net](mailto:d.baca@cox.net).