

# JEFFERSON JOURNAL

MARCH 2026

- **10<sup>th</sup>**- PTO Meeting at 4:15 pm at Jefferson
- **17<sup>th</sup>**- 2<sup>nd</sup> graders are singing at Nursing homes at 2:30 pm
- **18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>**- No School. Spring Break



## MR. DECKER'S NOTES

As we approach the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter (March 17<sup>th</sup>), our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders continue to prepare for the South Dakota Assessment given on April 6-24<sup>th</sup>. This is a time we ask that parents try to not schedule any vacations or doctor appointments during student testing times. Tests can be made up but that requires the student to miss instruction of a lesson or two and then having additional homework. It also means pulling a teacher to proctor the tests. Teachers will be providing a more detailed testing schedule.

The PTO Talent Show will be on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Permission forms will be coming home soon.

Recently, staff spent time analyzing the current social studies standards. Each grade level worked together to create more project-based learning and developing more resources for priority standards. I would encourage you to look at each grade levels' standards at: <https://doe.sd.gov/ContentStandards/documents/SS-Standards-2023.pdf>

Teachers also spent time analyzing the Winter NWEA Maps report. They developed plans of how to group students by skill deficits and strengths and how to better meet their needs in small group instruction.

WE ARE ALL

**W**  
*Arrows*

# MR. DECKER'S NOTES

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

We will continue to monitor and issue letters at five- and ten-day intervals in which parents are excusing the absence (PEA). Otherwise, if you have a doctor's note or dentist's note, your absences will be recorded as AE (absence excused). Please contact me at [john.decker@k12.sd.us](mailto:john.decker@k12.sd.us), if you have any questions regarding the letters.

As we enter the fourth quarter, we hope our students will finish strong and stay focused.

## Attendance Traveling Trophy

We will continue our monthly challenge of rewarding the classroom from each grade level with a traveling trophy filled with their favorite candies. January's winner were:

1st- Dr. Tisher

2nd- Mrs. Stemwedel

3rd- Mrs. Deutsch

4th- Mrs. Wietzema

Sincerely,

John J. Decker

[john.decker@k12.sd.us](mailto:john.decker@k12.sd.us)

605-882-6390

# DR. DANIELSEN'S NOTES

As we get to the time of year when the winter weather is approaching, I am writing this column to remind everyone of how late starts, early dismissals, and no school day decisions are made. It is important that you know, as parents, that your child's safety is my utmost concern. I also want you to know that if you don't agree with my decision, you can keep your child home or come and pick your child up from school early. The best decision possible is made with the weather information that we have – we view several television stations, drive the roads, as well as talk with the National Weather Service.

## **Late Starts**

Late starts are called for two reasons. The main reason is that we need more time to get the busses out on the country roads and we need the daylight for the roads in town and out of town to begin the plowing process. On a normal day, our bus drivers are ready to head out about 6:30-6:45 AM. When we have a 10:30 late start, that delays that time until 8:30 – 8:45 AM. The second reason is to “buy time”, to see if the weather is going to get better and improve to start at 10:30 AM. I know this sometimes causes concern because of day care situations for parents, but I do use the late start time to review the conditions and see if they are going to improve. If they are not improving, then a “no school” decision is made.

## **Early dismissals**

Early dismissals in the winter are primarily called to get students home with inclement weather during daylight hours. We may use a 12:30, 1:30 or 2:30 early dismissal time.

No School – We call no school when either weather is too difficult to get children to school with our busses (typically in town roads are better), and/or the weather is predicted to become worse throughout the day. This decision begins about 4:30-5:00 AM with several of us driving the in-town roads and country roads. It also includes talking with meteorologists in Aberdeen about their predictions for snowfall, winds, etc. We make the best decisions possible, and sometimes the predictions are not 100% accurate.

## **Cold Temperatures**

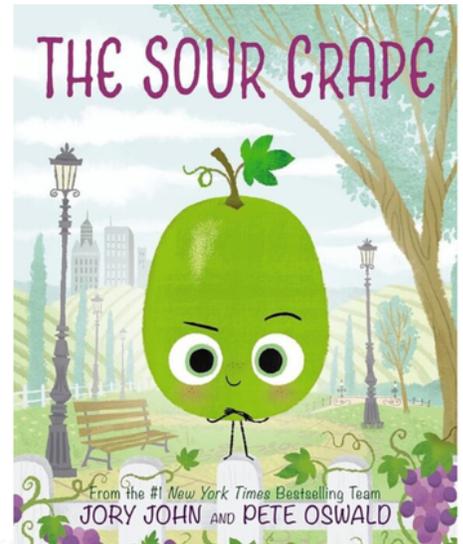
Regarding cold temperatures: We will not call school off for cold temperatures unless the air temperature gets to the 25 to 30 below mark. Our busses are well heated and will run fine unless it is in that range of air temperature (busses don't feel wind chill). We do keep our buildings open for students when it is cold. Students won't wait outside in the bus lines, playground, etc. on those days. Unfortunately, the television media sometimes plays into the hype of calling off school around the state. You can be assured that we will not bring students to school if we believe they are in danger. If they have to walk to school on those cold days, I would ask that you find neighbors and friends and ask if they can help give your child a ride (please plan ahead). If you believe it is too cold, you can keep your child home. Northeastern SD is one of the coldest parts of the state during the winter and if we called off for the two-three weeks of cold weather we wouldn't be in session any of those days – that is why we use the 25-30 air temperature mark decision. Remember to help your child(ren) dress appropriately for cold weather – hats, boots, mittens, coats.

Dr. Jeff Danielsen

# SCHOLASTIC BOOK OF THE MONTH

**The Sour Grape** by Jory Johns and Pete Oswald

This grape never forgets a grudge and has no problem handing them out until it gets a taste of its own medicine. "A comical read-aloud."-SLJ, starred review



**March 2<sup>nd</sup>** - Dr. Seus' birthday! Hat Day

**March 3<sup>rd</sup>** - Sock Day

**March 3<sup>rd</sup>** will be PTO Movie Night

Where: Jefferson's Gym

Time: 6:30 pm to 8:00 PM

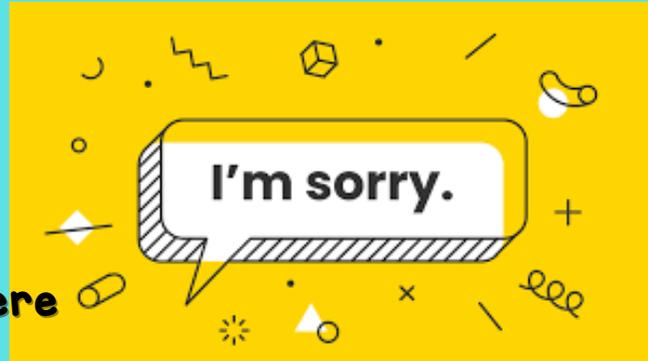




**March 2<sup>nd</sup>- March 13<sup>th</sup>**

### **Making an Apology**

- 1. Look at the person**
  - a. Use a serious or sincere voice**
- 2. Say, "I am sorry for" or " I want to apologize for"**
- 3. Explain how to do better in the future**
- 4. Say, "Thanks for listening"**



**March 16<sup>th</sup>- March 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Accepting Criticism  
or a Consequence**

- 1. Look at the person. (This shows that you are paying attention.)**
- 2. Say "Okay." (This shows that you understand.)**
- 3. Don't argue. (This shows that you are mature.)**

**TOWN**

The graphic features a dark grey background with the title and list in white, bold, sans-serif font. At the top and bottom, there are rows of colorful, vertical rectangular bars in shades of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple. The logo "TOWN" is at the bottom center.

## Report to PARENTS

# So Many Activities, So Little Time

**S**tudents who are involved in extracurricular activities—from chess club to cheerleading to chorus—tend to have higher self-esteem and stronger connections to school. But an overloaded schedule with too many activities can have the opposite effect, leaving your child—and you!—stressed. Keep these tips in mind for managing your child's activity load.

### Aim for 3 activities.

Though every child is different, psychologists often suggest involving a child in no more than three activities at a time: one social activity (like Boys' Club or a church group); one physical activity (like gymnastics, swimming, or basketball); and one artistic activity, such as an art class or music lessons.

### Limit involvement.

To avoid burnout, keep involvement in any one activity to just a day or two a week, unless your child absolutely begs for more. Check with them periodically to make sure they are still eager to attend; if not, scale back.

### Broaden their horizons.

Although following your child's interests is important, introduce your child to something new, whether it's a new sport, a musical instrument, or a group like Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts.

The secret to keeping enthusiasm high is to start slowly and gauge your child's interest before committing beyond the first few sessions.

### Be supportive, not critical.

No matter what your child is interested in, remember that your job as a parent is to be supportive. The point of activities is to expand your child's interests and abilities, not to transform him or her into a child prodigy or the next sports superstar.

### Schedule downtime.

Children need time to ponder, explore, and play—but an overloaded schedule prevents that. Make sure that when the day is over and the homework is done, there's still time for your child to be a kid.

### Change it up.

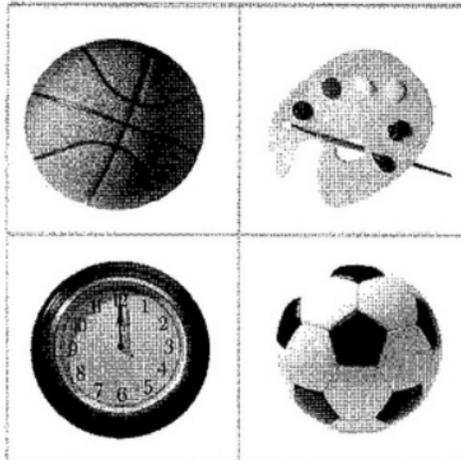
Specializing in one activity—especially a sport—at a very young age can be harmful. Pediatricians discourage the kind of repetitive movements that come from concentrated effort in one sport. Plus, kids who dedicate themselves to a single sport early can burn out later and may regret not trying other sports.

### Watch for signs of stress.

The stress of trying to keep up with too many planned activities can take a physical toll on your child. Watch for signs of stress, including stomachaches and headaches, difficulty paying attention, a drop-off in interest in activities he or she used to enjoy, and increased "clinginess" with a parent or other close adult (e.g., teacher, babysitter). If you notice any of these signs, chances are your child needs to cut back on activities and de-stress.

### Decompress at home.

Make sure there's room in your schedule for family time. Children need to have meals with their parents, hear bedtime stories, share chores, and play games. Extra-curricular activities can help children learn and grow, but remember that what your child needs first and foremost is to feel special and loved.



# PARENT RESOURCES



[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/  
PROFILE.PHP?ID=61556781784403](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61556781784403)



[HTTPS://SDSFEC.ORG/](https://sdsfec.org/)



[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/  
GROUPS/781453261913514](https://www.facebook.com/groups/781453261913514)



[PARENTGUIDANCE.ORG](https://parentguidance.org)



[HTTPS://WWW.PBS.ORG/  
PARENTS](https://www.pbs.org/parents)



[HTTPS://  
CODINGTONCONNECTS.COM/](https://codingtonconnects.com/)



[HTTPS://SAFE2SAY.SD.GOV](https://safe2say.sd.gov)

# MARCH 2026

MENU IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

FRUIT AND MILK IS OFFERED AT ALL BREAKFAST MEALS

VEGGIE BAR, FRUIT SELECTION AND MILK SELECTION ARE OFFERED AT ALL LUNCH MEALS.

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI
<b>BREAKFAST:</b> <sup>2</sup> <small>WEEK 1</small> CEREAL 23G YOGURT CUP 15G M.S/H.S. VARIETY ITEMS <b>LUNCH:</b> BURGER FRIES 16G	<b>BREAKFAST:</b> <sup>3</sup> FRENCH TOAST MINIS 36G/37G M.S/H.S. VARIETY ITEMS <b>LUNCH:</b> SOFTSHELL TACO 12G/23G CILANTRO LIME RICE 19G FIESTA BEANS 17G	<b>BREAKFAST:</b> <sup>4</sup> BENEFIT BARS 47G M.S/H.S. VARIETY ITEMS <b>LUNCH:</b> CHICKEN TENDERS 12G/18G CARROTS 5G	<b>BREAKFAST:</b> <sup>5</sup> CINNAMON ROLL 17G M.S/H.S. VARIETY ITEMS <b>LUNCH:</b> GOULASH 52G CORN 17G DINNER ROLL 23G	<b>BREAKFAST:</b> <sup>6</sup> MUFFIN 29G-31G M.S/H.S. VARIETY ITEMS <b>LUNCH:</b> PIZZA 26G GREEN BEANS 4G
<b>BREAKFAST:</b> <sup>9</sup> <small>WEEK 2</small> CERAL BAR 29G STRING CHEESE M.S/H.S. VARIETY ITEMS <b>LUNCH:</b> PULLED PORK 28G BAKED BEANS 30G	<b>BREAKFAST:</b> <sup>10</sup> MINI DONUTS 20G-41G YOGURT CUP 15G M.S/H.S. VARIETY ITEMS <b>LUNCH:</b> WALKING TACO 22G/30G FR. FR. CUP 21G	<b>BREAKFAST:</b> <sup>11</sup> BREAK. BITES 20G M.S/H.S. VARIETY ITEMS <b>LUNCH:</b> CHICKEN NUGGETS 13G/16G CURLY FRIES 23G SNACK 15-32G	<b>BREAKFAST:</b> <sup>12</sup> WAFFLE STIX 28-37G M.S/H.S. VARIETY ITEMS <b>LUNCH:</b> CHILI 10G CIN. ROLL 33G APPLESAUCE CUP 14G STRING CHEESE 1G	<b>BREAKFAST:</b> <sup>13</sup> BREAD SLICE 45G M.S/H.S. VARIETY ITEMS <b>LUNCH:</b> ALFREDO 16G/26G BROCCOLI 5G BREADSTICK 14G
<b>BREAKFAST:</b> <sup>16</sup> COOKS CHOICE H.S./M.S. VARIETY BREAKFAST <b>LUNCH:</b> COOKS CHOICE	<b>BREAKFAST:</b> <sup>17</sup> COOKS CHOICE H.S./M.S. VARIETY BREAKFAST <b>LUNCH:</b> SHAMROCK NUGGETS	<b>NO SCHOOL</b> 	<b>NO SCHOOL</b>	<b>NO SCHOOL</b>
<b>BREAKFAST:</b> <sup>23</sup> <small>WEEK 3</small> CARAMEL/CINI MINI 41G M.S/H.S. VARIETY ITEMS <b>LUNCH:</b> CHEESEBURGER 28G FRIES 13G	<b>BREAKFAST:</b> <sup>24</sup> MINI JOHN 13G GOGURT 8G M.S/H.S. VARIETY ITEMS <b>LUNCH:</b> SUPER NACHOS 19G/30G REFRIED BEANS 36G	<b>BREAKFAST:</b> <sup>25</sup> BREAKFAST PIZZA 27G M.S/H.S. VARIETY ITEMS <b>LUNCH:</b> POPCORN CHICKEN 14G MASHED POT. 20G GRAVY 4G DINNER ROLL 23G	<b>BREAKFAST:</b> <sup>26</sup> GRAPE/CHOC. CRESENT 38G M.S/H.S. VARIETY ITEMS <b>LUNCH:</b> TATOR TOT HOTDISH 22G BISCUIT 24G	<b>BREAKFAST:</b> <sup>27</sup> STUFFED H.B. 24G YOGURT CUP 15G M.S/H.S. VARIETY ITEMS <b>LUNCH:</b> GRILLED CHEESE TOMATO SOUP
<b>BREAKFAST:</b> <sup>30</sup> <small>WEEK 4</small> MUFFINS 21G-31G STRING CHEESE M.S/H.S. VARIETY ITEMS <b>LUNCH:</b> HOT DOG 21G SMILE FRIES 20G TOTS 16G	<b>BREAKFAST:</b> <sup>31</sup> APPLE FILLED DONUT 33G M.S/H.S. VARIETY ITEMS <b>LUNCH:</b> PANCAKE 13G/26G OMELET FRUIT JUICE 15G			