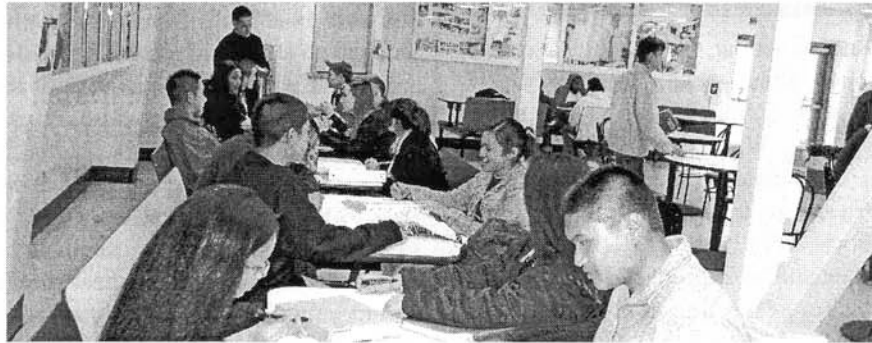


Jefferson High School Newsletter

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HOMEWORK CENTER FINDS NEW LOCATION AND NEW TUTORS



Twelve.....23.....37.....41.....52.....64? What is the significance of the previous numbers? The winning ticket numbers for the latest California Lottery? The classroom numbers for your son or daughter? Good guesses, but not correct ones. In fact, the figures indicate the increasing numbers of Jefferson boys and girls attending tutoring in the relocated Homework Center. Quickly outgrowing the confines of a classroom, the Homework Center is now housed in the school cafeteria.

Kids tutoring kids!

Jefferson Advanced Placement students now are tutors to Jefferson students in need of assistance in subjects such as science, mathematics, English, and social science. Underwritten by Children's Empowerment, Inc., a non-profit organization that pays AP youngsters \$10 an hour, honor students tutor their "mentees" between the hours of 3 P.M. and 6 P.M. Monday through Thursday. Slinging their book bags on cafeteria tables in a room that looks more like a Food Court in a shopping mall than a high school cafeteria, students wolf down pizza bread and juice provided by Children's Empowerment. Between bites and gulps they hammer out algebra problems or insure that subjects agree with verbs on narrative essays.

"A good tutor puts math in a way I can understand. J.R., he's like the best tutor," student Doray Atkins enthuses about J.R. Ramiro, a senior AP student/tutor. Surrounded by school memorabilia housed in bright cafeteria cabinets, students can take breaks from their studies and peruse cabinet shelves. Here they gain inspiration from photographs of some of Jeff's most illustrious alums. John Madden smiles back at curious youngsters. So does Floyd Gonella. Both graduated Jefferson in the Fifties, embarking upon careers that would leave lasting marks upon Bay Area sports and education respectively.

As he did last spring, Vice Principal Keith Irish will again mine ore from the rich mother lode of Ms. Messina's junior AP English class, extracting a fresh vein of tutors for 2004-05. Each will continue having a healthy impact upon students requiring help as well as helping themselves. Anyone who has ever taught knows, "To teach is to learn twice." These college-bound students, by practicing their skills and by imparting their knowledge are closing in on professional career targets.

And best yet, by becoming practitioners of the educational maxim "that only the lesson enjoyed is learned well," tutors and tutees make Jefferson a more memorable experience. Oscar Hammerstein, the author of "The King and I" voiced it best. "If you become a teacher, by your pupils you will be taught."

IMPORTANT DATES

Thanksgiving Recess:

Nov. 27-28

Winter Concert:

Dec. 11 - 7:30 PM

Winter Recess:

Dec. 22 - Jan. 2

First Annual Crab Feed:

Jan. 10 - 7:30-10 P.M.

Pacelli Event Center

BOOKNOTES

Check it out at the
Jefferson Library

Orwell, George, Animal Farm, (1945) is a satirical fable. Some farm animals get tired of their servitude and start a revolution to run the farm as they want. They are betrayed, however, into a worse servitude by the leaders, the pigs. The pigs' slogan is "All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than other." The novel is a satire on the development of the Russian Revolution under Stalin.....**Orwell, George 1984 (1949)** another satirical novel. Set in the society of the future, toward which Orwell believed both right - and left-wing totalitarianism were heading, it is the story of a middle-aged man and a young woman who rebel. In this terrifying society; there is no place for truth, for historical records are destroyed and propaganda replaces information. Thought and love are punished, while privacy is impossible. Placards everywhere say: "Big Brother is watching you." Big Brother represents Stalin, and the satire is chiefly directed against the former Soviet Union. (Thanks to Benet's Encyclopedia) Both novels appear on the Jefferson English Department's core reading list. Mr. Beshirs teaches both, assisting him to teach what political philosopher, Sidney Hook opined, "Idealism, alas, does not protect one from ignorance, dogmatism, and foolishness." Mr. Beshirs' theme during the sophomore year is equality and democracy. Parents are encouraged to read these novels.