



# Newsletter

Jefferson  
November 2024

Dear Jefferson Elementary Families,

As we embrace the month of November, we turn our thoughts to gratitude and thankfulness. This season serves as a wonderful reminder to reflect on the many blessings we have in our lives—our supportive community, dedicated staff, and, most importantly, our incredible students. Each day, I am thankful for the enthusiasm and creativity our children bring to school.

I am excited to invite you to our upcoming Family Night on November 7th! This event will be a great opportunity for families to come together, engage in fun activities, and strengthen our community bonds. We hope to see everyone there for an evening filled with laughter and connection.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in your child's education. Let's make this month a special time of appreciation and joy!

Principal Raddatz

*"In the halls of Jefferson, bright and fun,  
We're thankful for friends and each day's run.  
For teachers who care and stories we share,  
With laughter and kindness, we show we care.  
So let's spread some joy in all that we do,  
At Jefferson School, we're thankful and true!"*

[District Facebook Page](#)

<https://www.manisteemariners.org/>



# Fun Activities for Thankfulness

## Thankfulness Tree

Parents can help their children create a thankfulness tree at home. Using construction paper, children can cut out leaves and write or draw things they are thankful for. The leaves can be attached to a branch or drawn on a poster.

## Gratitude Jar

Each week, family members can write down something they are thankful for on a slip of paper and place it in the jar. At the end of the month, they can read through the notes together.

## Mindful Moments

Introduce simple mindfulness exercises, such as taking a moment to reflect on things they are grateful for while taking deep breaths. This can help children cultivate a habit of appreciation.



In this month's newsletter, we're excited to feature Amanda Feyen, a passionate music teacher at MAPS.

Amanda's journey into teaching began with her love for helping others and sharing her enthusiasm for music. Initially aspiring to be a veterinarian, a suggestion from her sister during high school led her to the classroom, where she has now dedicated 14 years—9 of those at MAPS.

Her favorite subject to teach is, of course, music, and she finds immense joy in working with her students, whom she considers her own children, as she is not married and has no kids of her own. Outside of the classroom, Amanda enjoys reading, sewing, playing the piano, and baking. Fun fact: she could sing before she could talk! We're grateful to have Amanda in our community, inspiring the next generation through her love of music.

“Are you a Michigan parent or guardian? Interested in winning a \$25 gift card? Simply fill out this short survey about literacy skills and programs! You must be a parent/guardian of a child ages 0-10 to participate.

The survey is being administered as part of a statewide early literacy media campaign funded by 35i funds through the Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement and Potential.

[Link Here](#)

Sunday, November 3 is Daylight Savings—remember to set your clocks back one hour!

