



S.Y. Jackson
Elementary School

Jaguar Times

March 2022

I want to welcome you all to the month of March. It is really hard to believe that we are already heading into spring. It has been an unusual year in many ways, but we have been figuring it out as we have gone along and I think it has been a very good year overall.

Covid has been hard on the schools and the students, but there have been some good things that have come out of it. One of the things I have been really happy about is the fact that every student now has a computer or iPad that they can use. I am in the classrooms on a regular basis and get to see all of the great teaching that is taking place. It has been so nice to see the students able to work on their computers during the day. They have been incorporated into the classroom activities to practice skills and also to do research. I never thought that I would see the time when all of the students would have their own technology. The Covid pandemic pushed us into providing it and I think it has been great. There are many great practice and learning sites that are available to the students and they are benefitting from the technology.

I also want to remind you that we will be doing Parent/Teacher conferences again on the 17th and 18th. This is a very important time to come and meet with the teacher and to find out how you can help your child to finish the year on a strong note. We have an excellent group of teachers and an outstanding community of parents. Together, we make a strong team and the students are the ones the benefit when we work together.

Have a great spring and enjoy the Spring Break. The students will actually be off from the 17th through the 27th. They will have 10 days off due to the Parent/Teacher Conferences.

Jack



SYJ PTA SPOTLIGHT

A timeline of Excellence in our school:

1887

125 years ago

The National Parent Teacher Association was founded, and is the oldest and largest child advocacy association in America. For the 125th anniversary, the New Mexico PTA is participating in a Day of Service, March 12th, when SYJ will be having Campus Cleanup: <https://syjackson.aps.edu/dayofservice>

1972

50 years ago

S.Y. Jackson Elementary school was established and our PTA began its service, helping students and families achieve the best in education. We will be celebrating this milestone with a '50's 50th anniversary Sock Hop Friday, May 13th 5-8pm.

**2002 -
2007**

15-20 years ago

Mr. Vermillion began his time as Principal, earning the New Mexico PTA Principal of the year award soon afterward. Mrs. Sleeter, featured as our longest-serving teacher at SYJ in our newsletter this month, was awarded Teacher of the Year by the NMPTA, and the SYJ PTA was recognized as a School of Excellence for Parent Involvement.

**2014 -
2019**

5-10 years ago

SYJ was honored by Albuquerque Business First as a Top Public School for multiple years, and as a grade A school by the New Mexico Public Education Department. The PTA contributed to programs with ongoing support today: Character Counts, the Food Pantry, Clothing Bank, Blood Drives, Wampler Math, the Lexia literacy program, which is fully funded for a three-year contract thanks to your generosity this year, and One School One Book, in which the PTA purchases books for every family to take home and prizes for each student--coming soon!

**2020 -
2022**

Today and the future!

SYJ earned Blue Ribbon status in 2020 for Educational Excellence, and the PTA continues to provide our school with resources and support as we join in *One Team. One Goal: Student Success*. We look forward to many years of students and teachers utilizing new Promethean boards and document cameras purchased this year by the PTA; library books, student literacy programs and teacher professional development in the Science of Reading; new tablets for the STEAM Lab; P.E. equipment and campus beautification projects, and much more that the PTA is fortunate to aid. Thanks to all of your contributions, we have a very bright future! We appreciate all our amazing staff does for our students every day at SYJ!

SYJ PRS SPOTLIGHT

The following article originally appeared in the Albuquerque Journal, February 16, 1971, prior to S. Y. Jackson Elementary's opening.

"Tribute to EXCELLENCE"

Sherwood Y. Jackson stands out as one of the great leaders and benefactors of Albuquerque over the past 50 years! For his enduring contributions to our community, in 1983 he was named to the Senior Citizens Hall of Fame.

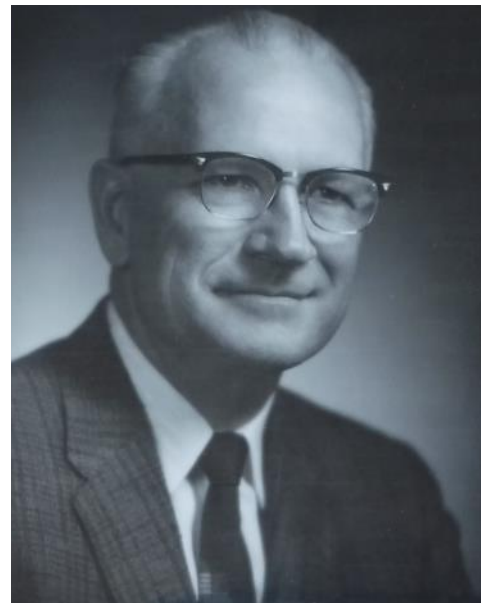
S.Y. (the name friends call him) was born in the Territory of New Mexico at the turn of the century. He was educated in Colorado as the son of a preacher. He returned to Albuquerque as a young man. During most of his professional life he was General Manager and President of Excelsior Laundry for 52 years. During that time he served a term as President of the American Laundry Owners Association.

In our city he served on the Albuquerque City Planning Commission, one year as its chairman. He was also active in the organization of the University of New Mexico Booster Club, and presided as club President for 13 years.

S. Y. is a Past Master of Temple Lodge #6, and Past Potentate of Ballot Shrine Temple. He believes strongly in the importance of education of all children in the community. After becoming active in school affairs he served as President of the Albuquerque School Board for 35 years. Throughout his tenure, S. Y. was acclaimed for his diplomacy, fairness and leadership.

In spite of a very busy schedule, he assumed added civic responsibility as President of the former Community Chest (now operated as The United Fund). Because of his drive, energy and leadership he also gave of his time and talents to many other community organizations in the Duke City.

Through all his years of Service and Accomplishments he was loyally supported by his best friend -- his wife, Jane. We proudly pay tribute today to S. Y. Jackson for his long-term efforts -- and successes -- in making our city a place of EXCELLENCE.



Sherwood Young Jackson (1903-1993)

SYJ PTA SPOTLIGHT

Sarah Krzyzanowski syj.president@gmail.com

Pauline Baca SYJackson.vp@gmail.com

Sara Robbins syj.vp.programs@gmail.com

Lauren Moore syj.treasurer@gmail.com

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SAVE THE DATE

PTA Meetings 2021-2022
Once a Month,
Thursday at 7:30 pm, Virtual

MARCH 10
APRIL 21
MAY 12

PTA membership:

<https://my.cheddarup.com/c/sy-jackson-elementary-school>



Sock Hop



It's a Date!

FRIDAY, MAY 13

5:00 - 8:00 pm

**SYJ will be celebrating its big 50th
anniversary with a '50's Sock Hop!**

**If you are interested in planning this fun event
or looking into SYJ through the decades,
contact syj.president@gmail.com**



Who's Who?



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8

**Who's Who at
SYJ?**

**Can you name
these staff
who have
served over 15
years?**



Who's Who?



9



10



11



12



13



14



15



16



17

**These staff have served over 10 years at SYJ!
(answers will appear in the April newsletter)**



Yearbook

Yearbook Deadline: This year all custom pages must be “print ready” by April 1st. There isn’t a deadline to buy yearbooks, however, in order to receive free shipping in the bulk school order you should order prior to this date. Website to order a yearbook:

<https://www.treering.com/validate?PassCode=101533675805141>



Photos Needed: The yearbook staff is looking for photos from school spirit days (crazy hair, pajama day, jersey day, favorite hat/holiday hat, ugly sweater day, etc). Also, any classroom activities or kids having fun with their classmates. Please send any pictures of yearbook questions to: SYJacksonYearbook@gmail.com

Additionally, we are expanding the deadline for responses on the yearbook grade level questionnaires. If you would like to participate, please help your child to complete a form for their appreciate grade level.

Kindergarten

<https://forms.gle/E5taM2r8g8iQ9MVi8>

1st grade

<https://forms.gle/nyUugtoa3eGFqfQL7>

2nd grade

<https://forms.gle/QjNSsWtz1Pi982B16>

3rd grade

<https://forms.gle/XQTytAdDMpXyKr438>

4th grade

<https://forms.gle/Fx4F1DqvDCiivfJ49>

5th grade

<https://forms.gle/2Dzovjvy38A3WDSda7>





Character Counts

Below are the Character Counts names for the pillar of CARING.

Kindergarten

Ayan Chee
Scarlette Finley
Sophyah Fiaseu
Harrison Sinclair
Camden KonKolics
Kora Hedges
Annabelle Ayers
Julian Pegues

2nd Grade

Will Richey
Sebastian Sherlock
Alex Nunez
Addison Schmitz
Aiden Chacon
Laurel Little
Austin Roberson
Madison Lewis

4th Grade

Kaitlyn Brown
Jimmy Rodriguez
Beckett Beggs
Russell Beckett
Lorelei Rodrigues
Walsh
Steinar Kelly
Sammy Simonds
Wade Anderson

1st Grade

Kendall Karspeck
William Orr
Lucy Hargis
Kameron Martinez
Hazelyn Lewis
Andrew Laughrin
Jordan Pegues
Finley Mostaghni

3rd Grade

James Lewis
Khloe Malherbe
Hava Ward
Quentin Lutes
Luca Maia
Ara Jones
Ellyana Garcia
Robert Ezell

5th Grade

Zoe Jordan
William Mauras
Emma Altamirano
Ian Howe
Olivia (Stella)
Banning
Coral Orton
Dawson Anderson



Trustworthiness



Respect



Responsibility



Fairness



Caring



Citizenship



Greetings From The Health Office

We appreciate your patience while the Health Office adapts to the frequently changing guidelines from the NMPED in regards to the COVID Protocols APS schools must follow ([NMPED COVID-19 Toolkit 2/8/22](#)). Here are some things to keep in mind:

- Masks are now optional at school.
- Please keep your student home if they are sick. Have them tested for COVID if they have possible symptoms of COVID (Temperature 100.4 or greater, chills, cough, sore throat, runny nose, congestion, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, headache, fatigue, muscle or body aches, loss of taste or smell).
- If your student reports two or more symptoms of COVID while at school (coughing is the one symptom exception), they will still need to be picked up and taken for testing prior to returning to school. If their test is negative, they can return to school as long as their symptoms are improving and they are fever free without medication for 24 hours. If their test is positive, they will need to isolate at home for 5 days after symptoms begin. If symptoms are improving and they are fever free without medication for 24 hours, they can return on day 6 and will need to wear a face mask at school on days 6-10.
- Due to fluctuating COVID testing material shortages, the Health Office can currently accept PCR tests or Rapid tests from a Healthcare Facility. We can not accept negative at home rapid test results.
- If your child is fully vaccinated (two COVID vaccines 3 weeks apart and 2 weeks after the second dose) and symptom free, they do not need to quarantine if they are a close contact of a COVID positive individual at school. Testing is recommended 5 days after the exposure.



they have 2 options: Quarantine at home for 5 days or participate in the [Test to Stay](#) program. Students that participate in Test to Stay can continue coming to school like usual as long as they are asymptomatic and a PMG employee will come to school and test the student for COVID during the school day. The Test to Stay program is only available for close contacts that occurred at school, not at home or in the community. You can pre-register for test to stay at the link above or by using the QR code.



Greetings From The Health Office

- Don't forget – FREE Kinsa digital thermometers are available to all SY Jackson families. Text JOIN to 24020 to get your FREE thermometer!



Back to School with
Kinsa's **FLUency** program!

We've been selected for Kinsa's FLUency™ school health program!

Sign up now to get a FREE smart thermometer!

1. Download the Kinsa app: Text **JOIN** to **24020** OR search for Kinsa in your app store.*
2. Create an account and join our school.
3. Fill in the order form for a **FREE** thermometer! Thermometers will be shipped to our school.

*Messages and data rates may apply. You can always text STOP to end messages.



By signing up, our school also has a chance to win free Lysol® Wipes for our classrooms!



WHAT IS KINSA'S FLUENCY PROGRAM?

FLUency has been helping schools stop the spread of illness for over 7 years! Families and school staff get free smart thermometers and health tools to stay healthy. You'll know what illness symptoms are going around school to help keep you and your kiddos informed and prepared.



Know what's going
around your school



Get alerts & messages
from your school nurse

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- Although two COVID vaccination clinics were held at SY Jackson, the Health Office did not receive any information about who was vaccinated at those clinics. If you would like to provide the Health Office with your student's updated vaccination status you can email a copy of their COVID vaccination card to lynne.thomas@aps.edu or vittitow@aps.edu
- All households in the U.S. can order 4 FREE rapid COVID tests at COVIDtests.gov

Thank you for helping us keep our students healthy!

Lynne Thomas, School Nurse & Margaret Vittitow, Health Assistant



Volunteer Opportunity



DAY OF SERVICE
SATURDAY MARCH 12, 2022
8 AM - 2PM

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE PREPARE TO CELEBRATE THE
50TH ANNIVERSARY OF S.Y. JACKSON ELEMENTARY!

SIGN UP HERE!

ALL SYJ STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATE WILL EARN A PAW CHARM AND THE 3 CLASSES
WITH HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF PARTICIPATION WILL EARN A PIZZA PARTY!!!

LEAF
PICKUP

WEEDING

PAINTING
RAKING

Come help and learn what you can do to make YOUR
yard more drought-tolerant and wildlife friendly!



PTA

505 Outside





Teacher Feature

Meet Debbie Sleeter



Hello to our wonderful S.Y. Jackson Community. My name is Debbie Sleeter. I joined the teaching staff in 1987, giving me the honor of being the employee at S.Y. Jackson with the longest tenure. My husband teaches at Eldorado. My own two sons (Kyle a teacher at Ecademy and Gavin a runner for UNM), nieces and nephews have attended S.Y. Jackson over the years. In fact, some of my former students currently have kids here. I have taught Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grades here at S.Y.J. and I used to teach the Jammin Jaguars and a Scrabble Club after school. Believe it or not, when we had a band at S.Y.J. I played the clarinet right alongside the students.

Many years ago my first graders performed at one of the local retirement homes and met S.Y. Jackson himself. When I first started teaching here PE was always outside because we had no gym! On bad weather days the coach would teach in our classrooms. We didn't have a computer lab and kindergarten was still ½ day.

I became the Instructional Coach in 2010 and the Interventionist in 2020. I am also the test coordinator for our school and serve on our Student Assistance Team. (aka SAT) I love my job because I get a chance to interact with all the teachers and so many students on a weekly basis.

My area of expertise as an elementary school teacher has always been math. For the past 2 years, I have dedicated myself to a study of "The Science of Reading" so that I will become a better reading instructor. I have taken classes and joined book studies along with other staff members to continue my learning.

As the Instructional Coach, I coined the phrase "SYJ, The grass is greener here". We are a community! Our students, parents and staff make it so! I truly believe that this is the best elementary school in the city and have never wanted to be anywhere else.

**We appreciate all of your many
years of service at SYJ!**



One School, One Book

Craft Supplies Needed

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle! The following items are needed for the One School One Book event!

- OLD T-SHIRTS
- SCRAP FELT
- WINE CORKS
- OLD TENNIS BALLS
- OLD SOCKS (ALL LENGTHS, LONGER THE BETTER-HOLES ARE OK! BABY SOCKS WILL WORK TOO)
- TOILET PAPER ROLLS
- EMPTY SINGLE WATER BOTTLES PLASTIC (SOFT SIDED LIKE KROGER WATER AND HARD SIDED LIKE ICE TEA BOTTLE)
- DISPOSABLE CHOP STICKS
- FEATHERS (COLORFUL ONES)
- FLEECE AND MORE FLEECE! IF YOU HAVE THE UNUSED FABRIC OR OLD FLEECE BLANKETS OR OLD FLEECE PJ'S (FOR BEDS AND TOYS)
- CARPET PIECES (AT LEAST 18" ON ONE SIDE)
- CORRUGATED CARDBOARD (AT LEAST 18" ON ONE SIDE)



Please help us collect them! A Collection Box is located inside front doors of school.

Questions: Contact Victorialobo39@yahoo.com



Thank You!



Literacy Skills

The Who, What, When, Where and Why of improving literacy skills at SYJ How? Because of YOU!!

All parents want their child to learn to read. How do human brains learn to read? Turns out, it really is rocket science! Dr. David Kilpatrick stated, "We teach reading in different ways; they [students] learn to read proficiently in only one way." The Science of Reading has demystified any wonder of how we learn to read and offers evidence backed by science to confirm that there is one right way to teach reading.



We now know, 95% of all students, regardless of background, can learn to read proficiently if taught with explicit, systematic, and sequential instruction in foundational skills. This body of research has prompted a shift from balanced literacy to structured literacy. If you are curious to see the difference between them, check out The Purple Challenge (click on video). It is an excellent example of the results of balanced literacy and shows why we need to make the switch.

July 2020, knowing we would be teaching virtually, was daunting, to say the very least. The idea of teaching Kindergartners (whom we'd never met!) through a camera sounded impossible. But then...we realized it was an opportunity. It had never been done before, so we were able to create it from scratch; no more "but we've always done it this way." A totally fresh start! A chance to experiment! So liberating!

So we began researching and stumbled on the Science of Reading. The Kindergarten team attended multiple training sessions and learned so much and also how much more we needed to learn. We discovered we really needed to beef up our phonological and phonemic awareness instruction. We decided Heggerty was the curriculum we lacked. Kindergarten piloted it the 2020-2021 school year. The growth our students displayed (during distance learning!) convinced us phonological and phonemic awareness was a piece missing from our literacy instruction and SY Jackson needed Heggerty in all classrooms. Kindergarten consulted with staff and provided Heggerty training and support for the upcoming, in-person school year, 2021-2022. Staff response was unanimously positive and we then advocated to the PTA for funding. SY Jackson is so fortunate to have such a well-funded and generous PTA! Without hesitation, they approved the funding and provided Heggerty to every GenEd classroom.



Literacy Skills

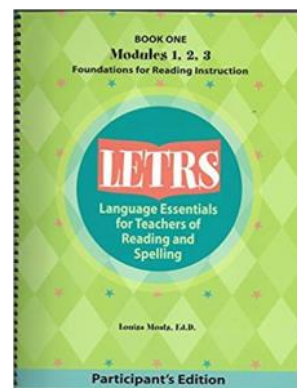


Kindergarten also investigated Sound Walls. A sound wall supports students by focusing on the articulation of sounds and the various letter/letter patterns used to spell the sounds in words. PTA funded training and materials for Kindergarten. We've been using the Sound Walls this entire school year and it has been amazing! We taught each sound (how it is made, what it looks/feels like) and the spellings for each sound. At this point in the year, we have taught all the sounds and students now use it as a spelling reference. Just last week, a student was trying

to spell "scratch" and I watched as he went to the sound wall, found the /ch/ sound, and then used the spelling in his writing.

New Mexico Public Education Department mandated the LETRS (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling) course for all K-2 teachers and reading specialists; it is the gold standard of professional development.

As we worked through LETRS (essentially multiple graduate courses), we wanted to learn even more. PTA provided copies of *Shifting the Balance* for a summer book study for 5 teachers, which led to a Teaching Reading Sourcebook book study with nine teachers from a variety of grade levels currently participating. PTA generously funded that book study as well. A 3rd grade teacher noticed some gaps in her students' skills and asked for advice. I suggested *Equipped for Reading Success* by Dr. David Kilpatrick. She requested two copies from PTA, which they granted. I am in yet another book study and am thrilled about it!



I estimate the PTA has provided roughly \$30,000 in professional development and student literacy programs this year at SY. That includes the various professional book studies, Heggerty, Sound Wall materials, trainings, One School One Book, library materials, and a 3-year contract for Lexia, ensuring the literacy success of SYJ students for years to come! PTA has funded Lexia Core 5 for years. It is a spendy program, but worth every penny. It is aligned to the Science of Reading. Lexia recently partnered with Voyager Sopris, the LETRS platform. Since that merger, the already solid Lexia has been improved and expanded even more. It is and has been an invaluable resource available to all SY students since 2008.





Literacy Skills

We are revolutionizing our literacy instruction and we have the data to show it is working. Using my historical data only: In December 2018-19, 41% of my students were Proficient in reading, with only 9% of those at the Advanced level. In 2019-20, 42% were Proficient with 11% of those students in the Advanced range. 2021-22 December scores show 76% of my students are Proficient, with 58% of them scoring in the Advanced range. That's just one class and others have similar or even better results!

We are remarkably fortunate at SY Jackson and the family support shown via the PTA is one huge reason why. What I love the very most is the academic collaboration I am witnessing across grade levels. We have always had a common goal (Student Success), but now we have a common path to that goal and discussing which routes to take is absolutely invaluable. I have never felt such a cohesive bond with colleagues as I have the last few years; studying the Science of Reading together has normalized vulnerability and asking for guidance. The PTA is 100% responsible for facilitating this massive cultural change. Thank you, SY families and SY's PTA!

**Thank you to Kindergarten teacher,
Bella Chandler, for sharing this
comprehensive and impressive data!**

**We appreciate all of our amazing
teachers who go above and beyond to
give our students the best in education!**

~SYJ PTA