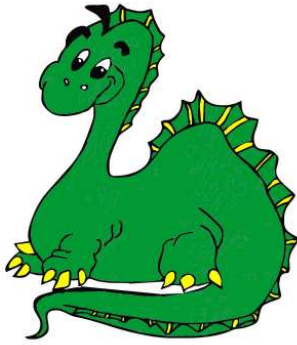




The Jerger Journal



A Newsletter from
Jerger Elementary School
January 2010

Principal's News

From the Desk of
MRS. CHAVAUX



Many thanks to the PTO volunteers for the countless hours they devoted to Jerger over the past several months as they coordinated the decoration of the building during the holiday season, put the plans together for the lighting of the Christmas tree, coordinated and sponsored the Jerger Jingle Bell Walk, and provided breakfast for our faculty and staff on the Friday before we went home for the holidays. We appreciate the time you give to Jerger.

Plans are under way for the Winter Festival which will be on Friday, January 29th from 3:30-6:30. Information regarding the Winter Festival was placed in your child's report card. If you would like to volunteer, please fill out the form on the last page of the Jerger Journal and return it to your child's homeroom teacher.

We are proud to announce that TEMS, our new student information system, is now available to all parents/guardians. The Parent Portal will provide you with a secure login to the TEMS Parent Portal website and will allow you to access information regarding events at Jerger, assignments, and current progress. The Parent Portal is available anywhere that you have an Internet connection. We look forward to increasing communication with parents through access of the TEMS Parent Portal. If you do not have access or have any questions, please contact the school office.

The holidays can be very busy; however, in spite of all of the "busyness," it is always good to slow down and reflect on our many blessings. I am thankful for our awesome faculty and staff, our supportive parents, and the opportunity to hug 750 students each day. Thanks to all of you for what you mean to this school and me personally. May your new year be filled with health and happiness.

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Upcoming Events

- ◆ January 18
MLK, Jr Holiday
- ◆ January 29
Winter Festival
3:30-6:30 pm
- ◆ February 11
Early Release Day

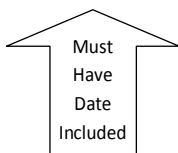
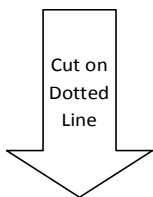


THOMASVILLE CITY SCHOOLS
2010-2011
Registration
Pre-K - 5th Grades
Thursday, January 21, 2010
7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Thomasville City Board of Education
915 East Jackson Street

Box Tops Update by Rhonda Beine

First of all, I'd like to thank every family who contributed to the Box Top initiative. With everyone's help saving a small piece of your "garbage", we have raised over \$1200 in 3 months. We mailed in a bunch of Box Tops on October 31 (collected between September and October) and that generated \$860.00. We mailed in another group that we collected in November and December worth \$420.00.

Shown below are some tips for cutting box tops:



Check cafeteria for a poster of what each of the grades and classes have contributed! The contest schedule for 2010 will be as follows: February 12-Cupcake Party, March 12-Popcorn Party, April 16-Popsicle Party, May 14-Surprise Party.

News from the Guidance Office from Mrs Goode

Our developmental guidance and counseling program at Jerger has continued with individual and small group counseling being the focus. Individual counseling is handled as a responsive service in which we strive to meet the immediate needs and concerns of students. Individual counseling involves meeting with students to give them the support that they need in order to be able to deal with and work through a problem that is bothering them and affecting their learning.

Most problems facing young children begin in one group or another, peer groups or family groups. Problems that originate in groups should be addressed and solved in groups. Small group experiences are designed to improve the child's confidence, to improve their ability to interact with others, and to improve his/her ability to make decisions.

As with most activities during the school day, seeing the counselor has to be scheduled within the regular school hours. So, if students are going to be removed from their classroom, the amount of time has to be minimal. Students are typically seen during their recess or specials period of the day.

We were able to place the names of several students on the "Special Person" board last month. There were a total of 16 students who earned recognition for the following:

1. Improved Behavior and Self - Control (8 students recognized)
2. Improved Responsibility (3 students recognized)
3. Improved Kindness to Others (4 students recognized)
4. Improved Jerger Leader (1 student recognized)

All of the students receiving recognition have been involved in the guidance program since last year, except for one student.

If you have any ideas or suggestions that you would like to contribute towards the enhancement of our program, please feel free to do so. Please send all comments or suggestions to me, addressed to the school. You may contact me here at school at 225-2625 if you have further questions.

I would like to wish everyone a safe and Happy New Year.

Pre-K News - Classroom Visits & Spelling

The Humane Society came and visited classrooms and talked to the children about touching dogs they don't know. He brought along a dog named Georgia, and we were glad to find out that she had been adopted. Fun Fact: Did you know that the Humane Society takes care of 1500 dogs and cats a year in Thomas County!! WOW!!

Also, we have learned how different things make certain sounds. We call this onomatopoeia. Ask your child to name some of these sounds. We learned that certain senses help us recognize certain things. For example, our ears help us to determine certain sounds, our nose helps with smell, our hands with touch, and our eyes with seeing.

We have started having the children learn to spell and write their first name as well as last name and other words that they may see around the room. The children are learning that when writing, you write from left to right. We have continued to learn about shapes, colors, and letters.

Coach's Corner by Coach Murray

Our physical education department had a great fall. Our 4th and 5th graders completed a floor hockey unit and a frisbee unit. In our hockey unit, we first worked on and learned good stick control. Once we mastered that, we were able to play the game of floor hockey where we learned about offensive and defensive positioning, positioning off the ball, and successful movement of the ball around the gym.

Our Frisbee unit began with learning different throws and catches. We progressed to throwing accurately by throwing at different objects. That was preceded by Frisbee golf, and the unit finished with ultimate Frisbee. Our 3rd graders were introduced to both floor hockey and Frisbee and began working on those basic skills.

Our 3rd, 4th and 5th graders will return from the holidays to a volleyball/newcombe unit and basketball.

Pre-k, kindergarten, first and second graders are continuing to work on striking, throwing, catching, games of low organization, jump rope activities, and good social behavior skills.

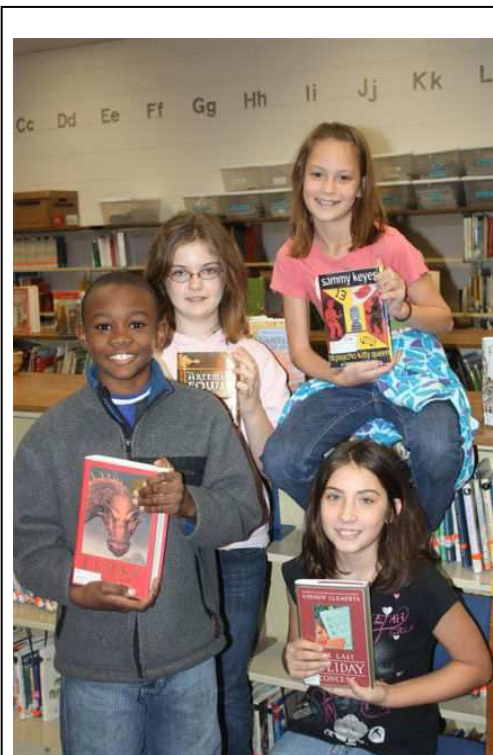
Thank you for your continued support.

Kindergarten News - Learning & Performing

October introduced many fun hands-on learning activities for us throughout the curriculum. After fall break, we went on a field trip to Mark's Melon Patch. We saw pumpkins of all sizes, shapes, and colors as well as sunflowers, zinnias, cotton, and peanuts. We read books and illustrated stories about pumpkins, bats, cats, and spiders. We sequenced the step of how a pumpkin grows. We also gathered leaves and observed their different shapes (hand, feather, and skinny oval). We noticed some leaves have tiny teeth, while others have big teeth. We learned how to sort by deciding, "What's my sorting rule?" We have been filling in the missing numbers on the number line. We also read books to find out why we celebrate Columbus Day.

In November, we explored, "Where in the world are we?" We began by observing maps of the USA and world. We noticed that they are flat and on paper. Then, we observed the globe, which shows the USA and world, but in a different shape. We learned our address and a song about our country and continent. Though we had a very busy month, we made time to visit Camellia Gardens and Golden Center to sing Thanksgiving songs.

December made us very busy elves. Besides practicing and performing our Christmas Play, we continue to read, write, and illustrate on a daily basis. Counting, sorting, and patterning came in very handy while we were making Christmas ornaments. We have learned so much that we needed Christmas Break.



Fifth grade students (l to r) Azende Austin, Mia Oliver, (back row) Kaylyn Durwin, and Sydney Siddell are shown enjoying some of the recent additions to the Jerger Media Center. A generous donation from the Jerger PTO provided 35 new chapter books of interest to older readers. Media Specialist Mrs. Millere and Media Paraprofessional Mrs. Brue are as thrilled as the students about the addition of these new books.



Spanish teacher Mrs Brown helps student Spear Celaya make Mexican hot chocolate. Students from Mrs Smith's second grade class recently completed a unit on Mexico. Students learned about Mexican celebrations, ate traditional Mexican food, and dressed in traditional Mexican clothing.



First graders had a great time selecting Jerger's Christmas tree. It was enjoyed by everyone at the Jingle Bell Fun Run tree lighting.

Thank you to the following parents for volunteering to be PTO Grade Level Representatives:

*Christa Carter
Brenda Tucker
Lisa Jones
Jennifer Delarber
Heather Croley
Rhonda Beine
Stephanie Eason
Keshia Baker
Cynthia Drayton
Rachel Kerensky
Kelly Shiner
Jill Gaupp
Raven Edwards
Peggy Rutherford
Michelle Kimbler*

They will attend PTO meetings and communicate important information from these meetings to room moms and dads.

First Grade News - Writing & Measuring

First graders had a wonderful trip to Hubbard's Christmas tree farm. The Christmas tree we selected was displayed in the cafeteria during the holiday season.

With the excitement of the holidays ending, we will continue to work hard on meeting the standards in all of our subjects. The next nine weeks in reading we will be working on fact and opinion, main idea, comparing and contrasting, and making inferences. In English, we will be working on inflected ending, -ed, to show past tense, compound words, contractions, complete sentences, and identifying nouns, pronouns, verbs, and adjectives. We will also be working on persuasive writing. The math standards we will focus on include, measurement, place value, identifying coins and bills, and counting money. In science we will focus on learning about the different groups of animals and their needs.

The children have been busy accumulating AR points while working on maintaining at least an 85% average. They are also showing improvement in memorizing their addition facts. Thank you for continuing to work with them in these areas.

Second Grade News - Energy, Motion, and Math

In the next nine weeks, we will be exploring fractions and addition and subtraction with two and three digit numbers. Be sure to think of creative ways to practice fractions at home using food or craft projects. Here is a great math website: www.coolmath4kids.com. Continue to add basic addition and subtraction facts to every homework assignment. Five minutes a night makes a world of difference.

In physical science, we will study the properties of matter and how it can change, sources of energy and how it is used, and how pushing and pulling affects an object in motion. We are sure to do some wonderful experiments and projects to go along with the unit.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns you may have. Messages can be left at the front office, or you can reach us via email.

Third Grade News

Happy New Year! Third graders are buckling down after our Christmas Break. We are measuring everything in sight using metric and customary units. We have studied how triangles are classified and we reviewed other polygons as well. Keep working on multiplication facts in the car and at ballgames!

In reading, we are enjoying chapter books while analyzing the literary elements. We have begun a third AR goal period and are practicing using comprehension strategies we have learned. Students are discovering where and when to use possessive pronouns and commas in English.

In Social Studies, we are studying Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt's contributions to our country. Please read over study guides when they come home to prep for assessments.

We appreciate your participation with the collection of canned goods during the months of November and December. Continue to look for your child's AR book as we encourage our third graders to increase their ability to read independently.

Shop for Jerger

◆ TARGET

Jerger's ID: 43973
TARGET donates 1% cash to Jerger when you use your TARGET VISA or TARGET Red Card at TARGET stores. Visit www.TARGET.com and click on the RedCards link for more information.

◆ PAPA JOHN'S

Order lunch or dinner pizza the 1st Thursday and 3rd Monday of each month. Jerger receives 20% of the sales on these days. Classes with the highest number participating receive a pizza party.

◆ THANKS Card

This \$5 card entitles you to discounts from local businesses. Jerger keeps \$3.00 from each card purchased to use toward school projects. Visit the school office to purchase a card.

◆ GreenSchool Project

Jerger's ID: 2GSP9188
Send empty cartridges & old cell phones to school. Jerger earns money for each item. Register your work place to receive free paid UPS labels to send in their empty cartridges and cell phones. Visit www.greenschoolproject.com for more information.

Keeping Jerger "Green"



Thank you to all of the Jerger Leaders, like Andrew Rayburn (left) and Sebastian James, who remember to keep Jerger green by recycling! Our students help keep the recycling efforts going at school in many ways. White paper recycling boxes are located in each classroom. This year we also have co-mingled boxes in each classroom, which are used to collect bottles, cans, newspaper, magazines, and any other recyclable items. We are continuing with the Green School Project, which is our ink cartridge and cell phone recycling collection. Our school makes money from the company who recycles the ink cartridges and cell phones. If you have used ink cartridges or cell phones, please drop them off at the office.

Fourth Grade News

Science by Ms Fiveash

This nine weeks we have studied force and motion, simple machines, and light. While studying force and motion, we did experiments that helped us understand more about the concepts. We also talked about Sir Isaac Newton and how he helped us by discovering gravity. When we studied simple machines, we did a group project that helped us get to know all six simple machines better. This activity helped us when we had to write a persuasive paper on which simple machine we thought was the most important and why. Finally, we started studying light. Did you know light travels in straight lines? We do because of our Science class!

Social Studies by Mrs Fullington

In Social Studies this nine weeks, we have been talking about Explorers and the lands they colonized. We did a fun project where we picked the Explorer we thought was the most important and then we created a power point slideshow on this person. Christopher Columbus was probably the most well known, but there are tons of other explorers as well.

Math by Mrs Harbour

We have been working hard on Geometry. This includes lines, angles, and shapes such as quadrilaterals. The students are having fun while still learning math!

Language Arts by Mrs Lumpkin

We focused a great deal on persuasive writing during the second nine weeks. We also studied plural, possessive and irregular nouns. Thank you for EVERYTHING you do for these students. We appreciate all of you.

Shop for Jerger

◆ Office Depot

Jerger's ID:
70026852

Jerger receives 5% of purchases to use for merchandise credit.

◆ QSP

Renew your magazine subscriptions during Jerger's magazine fundraiser held each fall. Jerger receives a percentage of all magazines sold.

◆ Box Tops

Submit Box Tops from participating companies and earn money for Jerger.

Visit www.btfe.com or www.jergermom.blogspot.com for more information.

◆ Community Coffee

Does your employer buy coffee from Community Coffee? Submit the cardboard labels from the coffee boxes to earn money for Jerger. Just submit your labels to the school to participate.

◆ Harvey's Hometown Rewards

Visit a Harvey's grocery store and sign-up for a Rewards Key. Then, visit www.harveyseducationalrewards.com to make Jerger your Rewards School. Present your Rewards Key anytime you make purchases at Harvey's, and Jerger will receive a percentage of your purchases.

Fifth Grade News

Social Studies with Mrs Tabb

Ask yourself what life would be like without all of our modern conveniences! This is the theme of many of 5th grade's essential questions in Social Studies, as we study BIG business and changes that occurred around the turn of the century. Students have enjoyed making holiday "bulbs" about 2 famous inventors of this time; Lewis Latimer and Thomas Edison. Thanks to them, we enjoy the wonder of holiday lights. We reflected on the many inventions we are thankful for during the holiday season that save us time and make our lives easier. After the New Year, students will continue on their quest to find out more about inventors of this time and how they impacted our lives.

Math with Mrs Burton

Multiplying and dividing with decimals have been our focus. We ended up this nine weeks with word problems and order of operations. What goes first: adding or multiplying? Ask your child about the acronym we learned to help remember the order of operations.

Science with Mrs Dubose

Our second nine weeks was electrifying! In addition to learning about physical and chemical changes, our fifth graders discovered how electricity and magnetism are related. Students worked with static electricity, series and parallel circuits, and electromagnets. Be sure to visit our hallway to see some fabulous extra-credit projects on display.

Reading & ELA with Ms Dewell

Students are working great with AR. We have several students that are exceeding their goal. We have begun our novel studies. Our novel studies are set up to help with the transition to middle school. We are reading some great stories. We will finish our novel studies with a "movie" celebration. Our 5th grade standard states that students should be able to identify and analyze the similarities and differences between a narrative text and its film or play version.

Fifth grade students have completed their persuasive writing piece. The students worked very hard to persuade their teacher on specific places to go on a field trip. We will be working on narratives in January. Remember our writing assessment is in March. We have also completed parts of speech in grammar. In January, we will be working on sentence structure.



Fourth and fifth grade students competed in a school Spelling Bee recently. Pictured (l to r) are fourth grade teacher Mrs Marie Lumpkin, second place winner Tyler Knuckles, first place winner Asa Harbin, and fifth grade teacher Mrs Rebecca Tabb. Winners will advance to a city-wide competition later this month.

Winter Festival Plans Underway

Jerger's annual Winter Festival will take place Friday, January 29 from 3:30 - 6:30 pm. Face painters, bounce houses, stilt walkers, a ride-on train, classroom booths, a cake walk, and other exciting activities will transform the campus into a wonderful family event. Hot dogs & chips, nachos, popcorn, soft drinks, and cinnamon rolls will be available, so plan on eating dinner and having fun while you enjoy all of the activities.

Activity tickets will be pre-sold and order forms will be sent home with your child with more detailed information (note to parents: It helps to purchase an activity ticket in advance, as the ticket line during the event can be long).

There will also be a raffle for various prizes like a child's bike, a \$50 credit on your Thomasville Utilities bill, gift certificates to local businesses, and Wild Adventure tickets. If you own a business and are willing to donate a gift certificate or merchandise for our raffle, please drop it off to the school office by January 15 or email festival coordinator Kim Hayes at kimhayes72@gmail.com.

This event takes a lot of volunteers to run smoothly and successfully. Festival coordinator Kim Hayes does an excellent job each year of pulling everything together, but we need your help to make this event a success. Volunteer forms will be sent home with your child, as each classroom is responsible for a classroom booth. If you can work a shift for your child's classroom, please complete the form and return it to your child's homeroom teacher. There is also a volunteer form on the last page of this newsletter that can be submitted as well. You will be contacted by your child's room mom/dad with more detailed information after submitting your volunteer form.

We look forward to seeing you on January 29!

Health News: Dealing with Depression from Mrs Pearson

It is a normal part of life for your child to feel sad; however, if it goes on too long, it may be a sign of depression. Many things can cause depression:

- **Genetics:** If you have a family history of depression, your child may be at more risk to become depressed.
- **Life Events:** Examples include loss of a loved one, stressful school situations, or any event that seems difficult for your child to deal with.
- **Family and Social Conditions:** Negative relationships with family and peers can reduce self-esteem. High stress living conditions, such as poverty and violence can reduce sense of security.
- **Medical Conditions:** Certain medical conditions may affect hormone balance in the brain. This can alter your child's mood. Your doctor may be able to manage hormone imbalances with proper treatment. Sometimes, just feeling powerless against the illness can cause low self-esteem.

What does depression look like? Children will experience many ups and downs. Depression sets in when a person feels strong sadness that lasts for weeks or months. Depression will show in your child's behavior. You may notice your child becoming less active, feeling tired and irritable, and eating more or less than usual. These feelings may cause your child to pull away from family and friends, lose interest in favorite hobbies, get poor grades in school, and dress and look different. Other symptoms you might notice include stomachache, weight gain or loss, headache, unusual sleep pattern, loss of concentration, aches and pains, anxiety, and lack of personal care.

When should I call my doctor? If you notice your child has been feeling depressed for longer than a few weeks, you should call your doctor. Your child may benefit from several treatments such as talk therapy, medication, or both.

How can my child avoid depression? When your child feels sad, he may try to cope with his problems in a good way, or in a bad way, which can be harmful. Be sure to encourage good coping skills. Good coping skills include supporting an active social environment - make new friends, join a team or group or play an instrument. Fun activities can help a child focus on things they like and avoid negative feelings. Encourage your child to volunteer to help others or develop new skills. These activities can improve a child's feeling of self-worth and ability. Also, talk about it. Children must feel comfortable asking questions to a parent, friend, counselor or someone he trusts.

Identifying warning signs and taking action are the best steps to deal with potential depression early on.

Jerger's Lego League Wins First Place

This is Jerger's first year participating in the FIRST LEGO League (FLL) competition. The mission of the First Lego League is to inspire young people to be science and technology leaders by engaging them in exciting mentor-based programs. These programs build science, engineering, and technology skills to inspire innovation and foster well-rounded life capabilities, including self-confidence, communication, and leadership.

Because of a contribution from the Thomasville Junior Service League, Jerger was able to form a team of students and purchase the lego supplies, robot, and kit necessary to compete this year. Lego League not only involves working with legos, but the competition is judged in four areas: project presentation; robot performance; technical design & programming of the robot; and teamwork. The team of Kaela Bellamy, Durant Fullington, Ryan Owens, and Jackson Singletary recently won first place overall and second place in robotics at the Columbus State Regional competition in December.

The team travels to Warner Robins on January 9 to compete in the Super Regional Competition against over 30 teams from across the state.



Pictured (l to r) are Ryan Owens, Durant Fullington, Kaela Bellamy, and Jackson Singletary with their trophies from Lego League competition in Columbus. Assisting the team were (back row l to r) Mike Owens, Coach Corey Fullington, and Brian Bellamy.



Junior Service League representative Kelly Shiner, along with students Maura Shiner and Jackson Singletary, presents a check to EXPLO teacher Faith Shiver for Jerger's Lego League team.

Mark Your Calendars

January 18:	MLK, Jr Holiday
January 20:	Pre-K Breakfast w/Mom
January 25:	Kindergarten Registration
January 29:	Winter Festival, 3:30-6:30 pm
February 9:	School Council Meeting, 4 pm
February 11:	Early Release Day, 1 pm
February 16:	PTO Meeting, 7 pm
February 18:	Pre-K Breakfast w/Dad
March 12 & March 15:	Student/Teacher Holidays
April 2-11:	Spring Break

Explo News by Mrs Shiver

During the second nine weeks in the EXPLO resource room, we focused on developing advanced research skills and methods. Curriculum for gifted students should allow for the in-depth learning of self-selected topics within the area of study.

Second grade students worked to complete the **Culture Quilt Research Packet**. The research and paper quilt project were completed during our EXPLO class time with emphasis on teaching research skills. The research squares were placed together to form the Culture Quilt of the Creek and Cherokee Native Americans.

Third grade students were given an **Ancient Greece Research Packet**. The majority of the research was completed during our Explo class time with emphasis on teaching research skills. The students have completed and presented the first of two projects for this unit.

The fourth grade students received an **Explorer's Tic-Tac-Toe Menu Research Packet**. Students researched specific explorers and completed projects during our EXPLO class time learning research skills and product development. Students viewed and answered questions about The Sleeping Gypsy by Henri Rousseau (1897). Questions guided students as they wrote a story about what they saw in the artwork. Their stories included what they thought happened before, during, and after the scene. The students then drew their version of the artwork.

Fifth grade students researched life in America at

the turn of the century and compared it to modern times. They each created a brochure describing a trip via a time machine traveling back in time to an important event or location in American History, using persuasive writing techniques. The Art History and Creativity Integration lesson invited a close reading of Hopper's painting House by the Railroad (1925) and Hirsch's poem of the same name to explore the types of emotions generated by each work in the viewer or reader, and how the painter and poet each achieved these responses. Students painted their version of the house and wrote a poem to describe their painting.

All students received an **independent study packet, located in the purple folder**. This packet provides challenging tasks that can be completed during class or at home. Three weeks are given for the completion of each packet. Ms Shiver and Mrs Haythorn check folders each week to see the progress on the challenges and answer questions. Dates are posted on the website for each grade level listing the specific delivery and due dates for this packet. In addition, students are completing service projects each nine weeks in an effort to instill a sense of pride in our community and lending a hand. One service project for this time period included creating Christmas cards and holiday greetings for soldiers stationed overseas. The students wrote and drew beautiful messages for the cards. Students used the origami art form of folding paper to create Christmas ornaments for Mayor Lewis's Christmas tree located in City Hall.



Pictured are second graders Matthew Sherrod, Oliver Yant, Makayla Weeks, and Riley Pollock with the Culture Quilt they helped create.



Pictured (l to r) are students Luke Wallace, Heather Alderman, and Anna Moore with their Ancient Greece projects.

Winter Festival Volunteer Form

Name:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

Child's Homeroom Teacher:

Child's Name:

I can work the following time period(s):

____ 3:30-4:30 pm

____ 4:30-5:30 pm

____ 5:30-6:30 pm

Please return this to your child's homeroom teacher.



**Jerger Elementary
School**
1006 South Broad St
Thomasville, GA 31792
(229) 225-2625

We're on the Web!
Visit
<http://www.tcitys.org/jerger>
for information about school
events.