

Jefferson Middle School PTA

# Final Report

School Year: 2016–2017

**Committee/Activity:** Veteran's Day

**Chairperson:** Kate Witte and Tyler Bluemling

**Job Description:** We organized a breakfast for veteran parents and their families in the library and attended a flag raising ceremony with Jefferson Elementary School.

We provided paper for all of the homerooms to make Thanksgiving cards for veterans currently at the VA Hospital of Pittsburgh. Students made cards in their Tuesday Talk class.

We collected crossword puzzle books, word search books, sudoku books, playing cards, mints and gum and delivered them to patients at the VA Hospital of Pittsburgh.

**What we did/ accomplished:** Mr. Bluemling obtained the names of JMS students who had veteran parents serving in the military either in the past or presently and e-mailed invitations. Faculty members that served in the armed forces were also invited as well as the Principal, Dean of Students, and Counselors.

Families RSVP'ed to Mr. Bluemling's email address.

We served breakfast in the JMS library. Approximately 20 people (students and their families) + Mrs. Szesterniak, Mr. Zeiders, Mr. Bluemling and 3 veteran faculty members attended. We served 1.5 dozen bagels, 1.5 dozen donuts and a box of coffee (all from Dunkin Donuts), homemade muffins, fruit salad, homemade bread, mini chocolate chip muffins, mini water bottles, and 2 gallons of

orange juice. All of the food and drinks were donated by parents. (The PTA president asked for volunteers to donate food in an October email and 7 parents responded.)

We used plastic red, white and blue tablecloths that I had and set things up the day before the breakfast. We decorated with flag centerpieces and a large flag banner.

Each veteran received a gift bag containing a thank you note and a Wounded Warrior t-shirt that I purchased at Dicks Sporting Goods. The shirts were approximately \$20. Our budget covered \$125 of the shirts, and I donated the rest. Each student received a bag of candy that I donated.

Guests arrived in the library starting at 8:00 AM. At 8:40, we walked through the buildings and out the JES office door to the flagpole for the flag raising ceremony. The elementary band students performed some patriotic songs, the elementary students sang "You're a Grand Old Flag," and several elementary students read poems. We took a picture of the JMS group of veterans and students.

We collected donations for the VA Hospital throughout November.

**When the job started:** First day of school – reserve the library

October – coordinate with Mr. Bluemling regarding invitation and details, ask Mrs. Szesterniak in advance to have students make cards during team time.

**When the job finished:** After the donations were delivered to the VA hospital of Pittsburgh

Contact at the VA: Keith Lazon II, Voluntary Service Specialist:  
keith.lazon@va.gov

**Monies used:** \$125

**Suggestions for next year:** This year we added the collection for the VA Hospital of Pittsburgh. I thought it was a nice addition to the

Veteran's Day celebration, and the students seemed to enjoy making cards for the veterans in Team Time. It would be nice to see if we could have the students deliver the donations next year and possibly visit with the veterans.

**Other comments (committees, number of people needed, etc.):** 7 families donated food. Mr. Bluemling and I handled the rest. We had students help load the car with the VA donations.

**Signed:** Kate Witte, Tyler Bluemling **Date:** 11/1/2016