

**FROM THE DESK OF PHYLLIS ALPAUGH**

# **SUPERINTENDENT'S NEWSLETTER**



## **INTRODUCING OUR NEW MEDIA LAB**

*After much anticipation, the new Media Lab at Thomas Jefferson is now open for business. Formerly known as the Middle School library, the space was reconfigured by downsizing the traditional library space and allocating a portion of the room for STEAM related instruction and activities. While used by various staff members, the new learning space is the home base of our Creativity Innovation and Design (CID) classes which focus on problem solving and technology based topics such as engineering and coding.*

*To accomplish the task, many content area books were reallocated to targeted classrooms while materials designated for 4th and 5th grade library classes remained in the room. Design wise, the room got a face-lift as walls and cabinets were painted, new LED lighting along with carpet and tiles were installed and the electric was upgraded to support the tech needs. In regards to furniture, couches and flexible seating were ordered, casters were put on existing tables and chairs and existing pieces found new uses to create collaborative and fluid spaces, but also to keep costs minimal.*

*Through the generosity of local groups (RBHSA and RBEF) as well as other philanthropic foundations, the school was also able to purchase several 3-D printers and film making equipment to enhance instruction, but more importantly to foster creativity. The school plans to hold a contest to have students come up with a name for the new learning space as well as design an applicable logo to be displayed proudly in the room.*

*We hope next time you are in Thomas Jefferson, you will stop by for a visit.*

