



# JEFFERSON Elementary School

KATE WYMAN  
Principal

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Dear Patriot Families,

As you know, our school community has been grieving the loss of one of our own, Mrs. Margaret Shafer. Mrs. Shafer taught at Jefferson School for nearly 30 years, from 1991-2020, and was a teacher in Morton CUSD 709 for over 38 years. She taught countless students as a special education, first grade, and most recently, third grade teacher. Mrs. Shafer retired from her extensive teaching career in December 2020 after being diagnosed with ALS.

ALS is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord. ALS - Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis - affects everyone differently. Our brain tells our muscles how and when to move. Individuals diagnosed with ALS do not receive these messages from the brain, which affects the individuals' ability to speak and eat. Every 90 minutes, someone is diagnosed with ALS and unfortunately, there is no cure for ALS.

In lieu of flowers, Mrs. Shafer's family has requested donations to the ALS Foundation. We are organizing a schoolwide collection for the ALS Foundation if your family would like to contribute. You are welcome to send cash or a check made payable to The ALS Association by **Friday, April 23**. If you prefer, you are welcome to make an online donation by visiting <https://www.als.org/> and click "Donate". All donations will be sent to the ALS Foundation on behalf of Jefferson School, in honor of Margaret Shafer.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [kate.wyman@mcusd709.org](mailto:kate.wyman@mcusd709.org) or 309-263-2650. We appreciate your continued support and prayers!

#onceapatriotalwaysapatriot

Kate Wyman

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