

# Thunderbird Update – November 12, 2020



Dear Parents/Guardians,

We hope you and your families are doing well. Please take a couple of minutes to read through today's update.

## **Counselor's Corner**

We hope it will be a joyful and healthy holiday season for our families and staff here at Johnson. We know that the holidays can be a stressful time. Providing gifts for your family can create additional financial stress. Johnson and our community partners are offering support for families in need. If you would like to request support, please fill out the form included in today's newsletter and email it me at [jallen@psdschools.org](mailto:jallen@psdschools.org). All requests will be placed in a lottery and you will be notified if your name is selected. **The deadline to make a request is November 13<sup>th</sup>.**

There are also several holiday programs and resources available through community agencies. If you need additional information, please contact Wrenn Thornton, Johnson's Secretary at [wthornto@psdschools.org](mailto:wthornto@psdschools.org) (970-488-5003) or Jason Allen at [jallen@psdschools.org](mailto:jallen@psdschools.org) (970-488-5038).

We are still planning our traditional Johnson "**Giving Tree**" initiative for this year. Over the years, it has been an honor to serve many Johnson families through this fund. We have been able to purchase much needed items to help get families through some difficult times. This year, especially, a lot of students and families may have a need and we are hoping that by continuing our Giving Tree efforts, we can continue to be a community school that brings supports together for those in need. The school staff and so many of our Johnson families appreciate so very much all of you who have contributed to this over the years!



If you would like to contribute, we are planning to use SchoolPay as a means for people to donate. As you know, we usually use change jars. This isn't possible this year. The intention, though, is still the same. Any amount you feel comfortable with goes directly to providing resources for families at our school (utilities, clothes, winter gear, etc). Click on the SchoolPay link, choose Giving Tree, and donate the amount you would like: [SchoolPay](#)

Thank You So Much and Best Wishes,  
Mr. Allen, School Counselor

### **JPTO General Membership Meeting – November 16<sup>th</sup>**

JPTO General Membership meetings will generally be held on the last Monday of each month from 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Our next meeting will be held virtually on Microsoft Teams on November 16 at 6:30 p.m. All Johnson parents and guardians are welcome.

If you would like a link to the meeting or have any questions and ideas on how to better serve our Johnson community please email [JPTO80526@gmail.com](mailto:JPTO80526@gmail.com). As always, you do not have to be on the Board to attend these meetings and have a say in what goes on. You can attend PTO meetings and be a voting member without having an official role.

### **Turkey Round-up – November 19<sup>th</sup>**

More than 2,500 turkeys are needed for holiday food baskets. Each year the Food bank provides services to over 40,000 residents of Larimer County, many of them are PSD students.

Bring your **FROZEN** turkeys to school on the morning of November 19<sup>th</sup>, and our Turkey Wrangler will meet you out front by the main entrance. Please have your turkey here by 9:00 a.m. We will use a no contact process to accept the turkeys. Please use social distancing as you place your turkey in the truck.



Frozen turkeys and canned goods will also be accepted starting at 8:00 a.m. in the old Kmart parking lot on the corner of College and Drake. Mention Johnson Elementary if you make a donation.



### **Individual Student Pictures are Next Week**

We will have Skillman Photography taking our individual student school pictures again this year. All safety protocols will be followed in the process. Pictures for Group A will be taken on Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup> and Group B on Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. Order forms were sent home with students. You may also order online.

### **Recess – Cold/Wet Weather Policy**

In snowy, cold or wet weather, students should have appropriate clothes and shoes to wear outside. Proper attire for snowy and/or cold weather may include coats, mittens or gloves, boots, snow pants and covering for the head. Proper attire for wet and/or rainy weather may include a raincoat, rain hat, and rain boots or shoes. Students at Johnson will be outside for recess unless the weather is extremely cold or wet. If the outside temperature (including wind chill) is **below 10 degrees F**, then students will remain inside for recess. The final decision as to whether students remain inside or go outside for recess during extreme weather conditions will be made by the building principal or administrative assistant.

## Student Birthday Celebrations



In accordance with our wellness policies, student birthdays are celebrated through activities rather than food treats. We do not allow baked goods or food items for birthday celebrations. Each grade level/teacher has choices for how your child's birthday may be celebrated here at school. Many classrooms celebrate a student's birthday by singing "Happy Birthday" and providing an extra birthday recess in honor of your child. Please connect with your child's teacher on how they celebrate birthdays. **Unless an entire class is receiving an invitation to a party, we ask that you do not distribute party invitations at school. This helps prevent hurt feelings.**

## Important Reminders from previous newsletters

### COVID-19 protocols for students, symptom checks

One of our goals is to remain open and serving families for as long as possible. We need your help in accomplishing this goal.

To do this, we need every family to commit to keeping sick children at home. Please make sure you do not send your sick child to school. If you know your child does not feel well, keep him/her at home. Limiting how much contact we have with people who do not feel well supports us staying open and serving our community.

**Families must check their student(s) for COVID-19 symptoms daily** and not send them to school if they are experiencing any of the following symptoms:

COVID-19 symptoms:

- Feeling feverish, having chills, or temperature 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher
- New or unexplained persistent cough
- Shortness of breath
- Difficulty breathing
- Loss of taste or smell
- Fatigue
- Muscle aches
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Runny nose or congestion



If any of the above symptoms are present, please keep your child at home; call our school and leave a detailed message on the attendance line, **970-488-5095**; and contact your health care provider.

If your child develops symptoms while at school, they will be removed from class, parent/guardians will be notified, and the student will be isolated from others until their parent/guardian is able to pick them up.

Under current protocols, students experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, not from another diagnosed condition, should isolate at home until **cleared by the school health office**, and when the student has had no fever for 24 hours, and if other symptoms have improved.

### **Teach and remind your children of the 3 W's:**

- **W**ash your hands frequently...especially before and after activities
- **W**ear your mask inside school or outside when in groups
- **W**atch your distance...remain 6 feet apart whenever possible

### **COVID-19 Information and Updates**

#### **PSD illness, COVID-19 case protocols**

Protocols are placed to limit the spread of COVID-19, in accordance with state and county public health department guidance for schools. PSD will update protocols as state and county guidance changes.

**COVID-19 School Status and Information web page:** PSD will post schools' current operating statuses, as well as information when cases trigger a classroom quarantine or school closure, following state and county public health guidance. Please note: Information about individual cases is NOT sent to the entire district or the entire respective school community; instead, there is direct communication with the parents/guardians of students with possible exposure and those identified as close contacts. For parents/guardians who do NOT receive communication about a case, it is because their student is not believed to have had close contact with a positive individual. [Read more >>](#)

**When can my student return to school after being ill?** The state health department recently changed its Return to Learn guidance, and PSD has new information about when students and staff can return to school and work after experiencing critical, major and minor symptoms. [Read more >>](#)

**Health and Safety:** Visit the [Health and Safety web page](#) for more on the 3 W's (wear a mask, watch your distance, wash your hands), cleaning and sanitizing of schools, and more.

**PSD COVID-19 protocols:** [Visit this web page](#) to learn more about state and county guidance for what happens when there is a COVID-19 case or outbreak in PSD and review the district's staff and student protocols.

**Larimer County COVID-19 data:** Get the latest from the Larimer County Department of Health and Environment on its [website](#), including current COVID-19 data.

### **Emergency contact information**

Now, more than ever, it is very important that we have up to date emergency contact information for each student. Please be sure that we have current phone numbers for both parents/guardian, and additional emergency contacts in case we are unable to reach the parent/guardian. Parents can view and update information on file for your child through [ParentVUE](#).

If you are unable to access ParentVUE – please call our office (970-488-5000) to check the information we have on file for your child.

### **Attendance and Absence Reporting**

If your student is ill, they should not come to school.

If your child will be absent or tardy, please call our school attendance line at 970-488-5095. Be prepared to answer the following questions:

1. Give your students **First and Last Name, Grade and Teacher**
2. Reason for Absence



If your child is ill, is he/she experiencing any of these COVID-like symptoms:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell, OR
- Sore throat

Please leave a detailed message about your child's symptoms, information about any possible exposure to a COVID-19 case, and your phone number to receive a call back from our health office staff.

### **Visitors and volunteers – Student pick-up/drop-off during the school day**

No volunteers or visitors are permitted inside the school building during the first semester.

Parents who need to check their child out of school during the school day should ring the doorbell at the main entrance and speak to office staff. We will verify that you are on the child's pick-up list and bring the child out to you. You will be required to sign your student out. If you call (970-488-5000) when you are about 5 minutes away from the school – we will try to have your student ready when you arrive.

## **PSD's new before and after school care provider – AlphaBEST**

To support families during the modified return-to-school plan, AlphaBEST is providing a full-day option with their AlphaAcademy program, as well as before-and-after care for students returning to the classrooms during the hybrid schedule. Before-and after care will be held at Johnson. The full day program for the days children are not onsite will be available at Lopez Elementary.

A secure registration platform is available on the [AlphaBEST website](#).

Please contact AlphaBEST with questions: 972-668-0640 or [customerservice@alphabest.org](mailto:customerservice@alphabest.org)

## **Johnson Calendar of Events**

<b>October</b>		
26 – 11/8		Virtual Scholastic Book Fair
<b>November</b>		
13		<b>DUE Date for “Holiday Help Requests”</b>
16	6:30 – 7:30 pm	JPTO General Membership Meeting *Virtual
18		Individual Student Pictures – Group A
19	9:00 am	Individual Student Pictures – Group B <b>Turkey Round-Up for the Larimer County Food Bank</b>
25 – 27		<b>NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Break</b>
<b>December</b>		
14	4:00 – 5:00 pm	JPTO Executive Board Meeting *Virtual
18		Second Quarter Ends
21 – 31		<b>NO SCHOOL – Winter Break</b>
<b>January 2021</b>		
1		<b>NO SCHOOL – Winter Break</b>
4		<b>NO SCHOOL – Staff Workday</b>
11	4:00 – 5:00 pm	JPTO Executive Board Meeting *Virtual
13	6:00 – 7:30 pm	SAAC Committee Meeting *Virtual
14		Kindergarten Registration for 2021/2022 School Year
15	Noon	School of Choice First Round Deadline: Secondary Schools
15	Noon	School of Choice First Round Deadline: Elementary Schools
18		<b>NO SCHOOL – Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday</b>

## **Quick Links**

- [Johnson Elementary Website](#)
- [PSD Schools Parent Website](#)
- [District News](#)
- [PSD School Calendars & Schedules](#)



*The Poudre School District is committed to the policy that no otherwise qualified person shall be denied access to, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to unlawful discrimination under, any District program or activity on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, veteran status, age or disability. District compliance with this policy shall be the responsibility of, and reports and complaints of discrimination based on these protected classifications should be directed to: For District students and community members: Director of Student Services, 1630 South Stover Street, Fort Collins, Colorado 80525, phone: 970-490-3033; For District employees: Executive Director of Human Resources, 2407 La Porte Avenue, Fort Collins, Colorado 80521, phone: 970-490-3620.*