



Johnson Elementary

Thunderbird Times December 2020

Johnson Elementary
4101 Seneca St
Fort Collins, CO 80526

Main Phone Line
970-488-5000

Attendance Line
970-488-5095

Principal

Ms. Georgianna Dawson
970-488-5002
gdawson@psdschools.org

Assistant Principal

Mr. Matt Hughes
970-488-5015
mhughes@psdschools.org

Office Manager

Ms. Tina Crewdson
970-488-5001
tcrewds@psdschools.org

Secretary/Health Tech

Ms. Wrenn Thornton
970-488-5003
wthornto@psdschools.org

School Counselor

Mr. Jason Allen
970-488-5038
jallen@psdschools.org

School Website

<http://joh.pdschools.org>

School Hours for in-person learning:

8:50 a.m.—3:28 p.m.

Principal's Corner

Dear Johnson Families,

We hope you had a restful fall break. December has come quickly, and I wanted to take a moment to thank you, our community for your support in so many ways! Thank you for supporting our Turkey Round-Up. At last count, we had 99 turkeys donated. Johnson was highlighted on our district website. As we move into the holiday season, thank you for supporting our Giving Tree.

The Giving Tree supports families within Johnson's community.

Our School Advisory and Accountability Committee met on November 4th. We discussed our remote model and our in-person learning model. Our SAAC gave us valuable feedback, and we have adjusted our remote learning schedule to accommodate more afternoon small group instruction for some grade levels. The feedback we are getting from our staff is children are much more engaged in phase 1 round two than we have seen previously. Thank you for your incredible support in this challenge.

January brings our school of choice season. We are open to school of choice families at many grade levels. If you have a friend who is looking for a school like Johnson, please have them go to our website to explore what we offer. Of course, most of the information is about a traditional setting rather than hybrid or completely remote. January also brings our first official report card. Please check your child's progress. If you have questions about your child's report card, please contact his/her teacher.

In closing, have a restful, joyful break with family and friends. We will see you in 2021!

Georgianna Dawson, Principal



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Articles included in today's issue:

- [AP's Angle](#)
- [Johnson Giving Tree](#)
- [Music Notes](#)
- [PE Update](#)
- [Kindergarten Registration](#)
- [School Choice for SY 2021 – 2022](#)
- [Poudre Libraries – Winter Reading Challenge](#)
- [Calendar of Events](#)
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- [Frequently Asked Questions & Quick Links](#)



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AP's Angle

Rock Solid Participation!

When I was a child, I remember being woken up one morning by a thunderous sound coming from our driveway. As I squinted out of my bedroom window to see what it was, it didn't take long to notice that an enormous monster (of rocks) had been sent by the gods onto our property. As I gazed at the mysterious mound with concern and contempt, it stared directly back at me with an evil grin. Somehow, it yelled to me and beckoned me outside to face my fears, or maybe that was my dad, who was waiting with shovels, wheel barrels, and directions for what would turn out to be a long, back-breaking weekend of hauling endless loads from the driveway to the back yard, until my brothers and I completely vanquished the rock beast from sight.

As I miserably focused on the inconvenience and pain I was feeling through this tough task, my older brother seemed excited and pleased that, as result of the challenge before us, his muscles were going to get ripped! He also made games with the shoveling and hauling back and forth, and his positive attitude made the entire ordeal kind of fun. Working with him, my cloud of gloom soon lifted.

On Friday, December 4th, following TTV, students will watch a virtual PRIDE Assembly, where we will recognize PRIDE Students of the Month. Principal Dawson will announce the students who, like my older brother, have been shining examples of what it means to **Participate Positively**, both at school and during remote learning, where heavy (brainpower) lifting has been happening. Students, whose awesome attitudes make learning look easy and fun! We will also be awarding the Big Trophy (K-2) and the Gold Cup (3-5) to the classrooms with the best attendance (both in-person and remote) so far this semester. Plus, we will have a special message from a mystery guest, and much more! The video of the virtual assembly will also be posted on the school's website (Follow the TTV link).



continued on next page

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Auxiliary aids and services are available for persons with disabilities.



AP's Angle

continued

For our next Virtual PRIDE Assembly, we will be acknowledging students who go the extra mile with what it means to practice the “R” in PRIDE, which is to: RESPECT EVERYONE

Great work, Thunderbirds! We have so much to cheer about at Johnson.

Matthew Hughes, Assistant Principal

Holiday Support through the Johnson Giving Tree

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](#)

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 (970-488-5003) or Jason Allen at jallen@psdschools.org (970-488-5038).

Jason Allen, School Counselor

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Updates from the Music Classroom!



Hi musical Johnson Thunderbirds! Below are some updates from the music classroom.

- **Make sure your child(ren) are attending all specials classes. It is a part of their daily required schedule. Most of my assessments are performance based and students need to be there in order for me to assess their musical abilities.**



- **4th and 5th graders** were learning the ukulele during our hybrid learning model. It was wonderful to see their excitement and hard work toward our beginning lessons! Due to the virtual schedule, we cannot do ukulele.. but we will resume our ukulele unit when learning goes back to our hybrid learning model. For now, we will be learning the notes of the treble clef with some favorite holiday and winter tunes.
 - ◇ **If you still want to purchase a ukulele for home practice see the links below. Instruments are great birthday and holiday gifts!**
 - ◇ **Ukulele Suggestion:** Here is a link to purchasing a Kala Waterman ukulele through Amazon or West Music. They are available in a variety of colors and even glow in the dark!
 - ◆ https://www.amazon.com/Kala-KA-SWB-Waterman-Soprano-Ukulele/dp/B01LW7K0H4/ref=sr_1_10?dchild=1&keywords=waterman+kala+ukulele&qid=1603476446&sr=8-10
 - ◆ <https://www.westmusic.com/guitars-folk/ukuleles/305033>
- Here are some concepts other grade levels are learning:
 - ◇ **Kindergarten** – reading and performing steady beat, singing in tune, and melodic direction
 - ◇ **1st grade** – performing and creating long and short-short rhythms (quarter and eighth notes), steady beat movement
 - ◇ **2nd grade** – longer rhythms (half note), reviewing solfege from last year and a new mystery solfege syllable
 - ◇ **3rd grade** – performing and creating rhythms, learning do solfege along with reviewing mi, sol, and la, and creating their own movements/dances to music



Updates from the Music Classroom!



- Since we cannot have traditional live performances, I will be recording videos in November and December of classes performing songs, instrumental pieces, and/or dances. **Please look out for videos of mini-performances in mid-December!**

Breanne Mathias, Johnson Music Teacher – Contact: bmathias@psdschools.org

News from PE Land

Hi Thunderbirds,

Well, we are back remotely again, and I am so grateful we had 6 weeks of school with the children before the Fall Break. Being outside (when it wasn't smokey or cold) was a great change of pace and now we are pivoting back to remote, as experienced learners.

We will be limited in PE class but NON- remote activity and the great outdoors where most of us get our exercise and recreation will always be there if you can stay warm. Here are just a few; sledding hills, biking/walking trails and parks for your enjoyment. There are many "YouTube coaches" out there (The Body Project, Emily, HIIT for beginners, Hip Hop Tabata with Keara, Cosmic Kids, Class FitSugar). I know you will find some you like. I will also have some on the Johnson PE Learning Page.

Lastly, *participation in specials* is a real thing. Specials teachers will be taking attendance as part of student grades.

Jim Rumbold, PE Teacher – Contact: jrumbold@psdschools.org

Kindergarten Registration 2021 – 2022

Kindergarten is an exciting and important first step on your student's educational journey. Kindergarten Registration for the 2021 – 2022 school year is just around the corner. Registration will be online only. Registration information has not been updated for the 2021 – 2022 school year yet – but we expect it will be soon! Please visit the PSD Website for the most up to date information: [Kindergarten Registration](#).

The Johnson team is in the planning stages of offering a virtual open house. Stay tuned!

School Options and Choice for School Year 2021 - 2022

Applications are being accepted for the 2021 – 2022 school year.

PSD's School Choice program allows families to select the school that best meets their child's educational needs based on space availability and eligibility requirements. A school choice application is required to attend a school that is not a student's neighborhood school or to attend only by choice.

The first-round application deadline is Friday, January 15th for all grade levels. Application forms must be submitted online for the desired choice school or program. The order in which applications are received during this period does not affect a student's chances or acceptance. Parents must complete and submit a separate application for each child.

For complete details and application visit this website: [School Options and Choice](#)

Poudre Library Winter Reading Challenge

Poudre Libraries is offering a **Winter Reading Challenge** for all ages including adults! We hope this offers some incentive to keep reading over the winter months.

The reading challenge runs from **Nov. 16, 2020 - Feb. 7, 2021** but you can sign up any time after the challenge begins!

1. A Winter Tale **reading logs** are available at the libraries and online – these can be accessed by using the Curbside Pickup Service or by visiting www.poudrelibraries.org/winter
2. Starting Monday 11/23, there will be an **online Grand Prize Entry form available** on the Winter Reading Challenge webpage so people can enter the drawing that way.
3. **Completion prizes** are set to be available for pick up beginning 12/1 and run through 2/7/21

Johnson Calendar of Events

December		
4		Live Virtual P.R.I.D.E Assembly *Teachers to share details
14	4:00 – 5:00 pm	JPTO Executive Board Meeting
18		Second Quarter Ends
21 – 31		NO SCHOOL – Winter Break
January 2021		
1		NO SCHOOL – Winter Break
4		NO SCHOOL – Staff Workday
11	4:00 - 5:00 pm	JPTO Executive Board Meeting
13	6:00 - 7:30 pm	SAAC Committee Meeting
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		NO SCHOOL – Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
25	6:30- 7:30 pm	JPTO General Membership Meeting

Review the PSD Calendar for dates beyond this date:

[2020 – 2021 Revised K-12 Student/Teacher Calendar](#)

In Case you Missed It

Important Information from Previous News Updates

PSD Continues Distributing Meals

When PSD is in Phase 1 remote learning, meals will be available for students to pick up at designated school and mobile sites. The USDA extended its school district reimbursement program, so meals will be free for all children 18 or younger through the end of the 2020-21 school year, instead of through December as previously communicated. The Food Bank of Larimer County meal sites are also open to all children 18 or younger. See the full list of locations on the [PSD Meals During 2020-21 web page](#). >>

How COVID-19 Case Protocols Shift in Phase 1

Although PSD has shifted to remote education, staff and some identified at-risk students will still be in our buildings. Our COVID-19 Response Teams will continue contact tracing assessments during this time, in accordance with LCDHE.

Poudre School District COVID-19 Case Dashboard

PSD launched the [COVID-19 Case Dashboard](#) on Nov. 13, 2020. The dashboard is designed to give our community a transparent look at the prevalence of COVID-19 in PSD. Staff will consistently vet PSD's dashboard data to ensure they are as current and accurate as possible.

[PSD COVID-19 School Status](#): This page features PSD's data dashboard and information about COVID-19 case assessments. [Read more >>](#)

[Return to Learn](#): Information about when students and staff can return to school and work after experiencing symptoms. [Read more >>](#)

[Health and Safety](#): More on the 3 W's (wear a mask, watch your distance, wash your hands), cleaning and sanitizing of schools, and more. [Read more >>](#)

[PSD COVID-19 protocols](#): 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. [Read more >>](#)

[Larimer County COVID-19 data](#): Larimer County Department of Health and Environment current COVID-19 data. [Read more >>](#)

Tech Support

[PSD Community Tech Portal](#): Technical support information, how-to guides, documentation and more.

[Technical Support and Resources](#): General overview of tech support, teacher learning pages and links to Poudre River Library videos.

Email: covidtechhelp@psdschools.org

Phone: Family and Student Support Line at 970-490-3339

How is PSD Supporting Students with Disabilities During Phase 1?

During remote learning, a student's Integrated Services teacher and/or team will communicate with families about how services will be provided for their child. The services will address goals and objectives included in each child's Individual Education Plan (IEP).

The Integrated Services Department is planning to bring eligible students with disabilities, identified using rigorous criteria, into schools for "boost sessions" to problem solve any access challenges a student might be experiencing or to receive a boost with instruction. As an example, a boost session could be used as time to connect, work on a specific skill, learn to access the computer, or receive a boost with instruction. More information about PSD's support of students with disabilities is available on this [web page](#).

How is PSD Supporting At-Risk Students During Phase 1?

PSD staff have been working with community partners to provide our neediest students (academically and financially) with safe places to participate in their remote learning. Like they did in August and September, remote learning support centers (RLSCs) will be open at PSD schools.

- Identified students lack the resources at home to participate in remote learning; English Language Learners; and those identified as needing significant intervention for English or mathematics.
- At RLSCs, students will access meals, internet services and mental health support.
- Staff will supervise students in-person while they engage in remote learning with their grade-level or content area teachers.
- Supervisory staff do NOT provide in-person instruction or academic support.
- Expect to see buses at PSD schools as our students are transported to the RLSCs.

Student Council and Morning Fresh

Johnson's Student Council is still collecting Morning Fresh milk caps. There is a tote located near the front door at Johnson. Please use the hand sanitizer provided before opening the box. See flyer included in today's newsletter for more information.

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.

AlphaBEST Education

Did you know **AlphaBEST Education** offers a program that facilitates the student's distance learning and adds enrichment, fitness, fun and quiet time in a safe and supervised environment? They offer programs at several Poudre School District locations. The program starts on Monday, November 30th. Hours: 7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Monday - Friday.

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

Please contact AlphaBEST with questions: 972-668-0640 or customerservice@alphabest.org

School Donations help with Learning Materials

These donation items are visible in SchoolPay: [Pay Fees/Charges Online](#)

Our budget has seen significant cuts due to the decrease in enrollment, caused by COVID-19. We are very thankful for the donations that we have already received from the Johnson Community.

- **Johnson Supplies: Kindergarten - 5th Grade 2020-21**

\$20 to cover all or a portion of the cost of purchasing expendable supplies to be used by all students for literacy, math, social studies, science, and craft activities. Waivers are not applicable; students will have access to the supplies regardless of whether payment is made. **For families with more than one child enrolled at Johnson – we would only ask for one donation of \$20.**

- **Johnson Student Planner: 4th & 5th Grade 2020-21**

\$4 To cover all or a portion of the cost of the planners. Waivers are not applicable; all students will receive a planner regardless of whether payment is made.

Join us for the next JPTO General Membership Meeting

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 January 25 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. 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.

Meet our JPTO Officers:

- President Andrea Evans
- Vice-President Wednesday Melssen-Vogel
- Treasurers Amelia Olschner
- Secretary Melissa Bolovitz
- Events and Fundraising Kelly Steinway and Shalese Payton

What exactly does JPTO do?

JPTO has previously sponsored events such as the Fund Run, Family Movie Night, Fall and Spring Book Fairs, Family Fun Nights, and Original Works just to name a few! This year we are looking at other creative ways we can safely provide school spirit events for our Johnson community. We would love your input!

Through fundraising JPTO has been able to purchase items for our school, support our amazing staff and community by providing appreciation weeks, spirit gear, and funding staff request for various needs. This year we will strive to continue this tradition to provide learning tools and experiences that teachers and students can benefit from to meet the moment, whether we are learning virtually or in the building at any point throughout the school year.

This year's needs may look different than previous years. We will continue to support our staff in ways that will keep your students safe and learning throughout the year.

Check out our new website <http://johnsonpto.weebly.com> and our Community Events page on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/JohnsonElementaryCommunityPage/>

Please "like" our page to get notifications of upcoming Johnson events for the community and invite your Thunderbird friends!

Andrea Evans, JPTO President

Ongoing Fundraisers for Johnson Elementary

These passive fundraisers directly benefit Johnson Elementary discretionary fund/classroom budgets:

American Furniture Warehouse Fundraiser

Shop at any AFW location, online or by phone and mention Johnson Elementary at checkout. Our school will receive 2% donation on any purchase, 4% on Beauty Rest mattresses. Invite others to participate. Friends and Family can help too!

Caps4Cash – Morning Fresh Dairy Fundraiser

Caps4Cash is a Morning Fresh Dairy program where schools earn cash by collecting caps from Morning Fresh Dairy glass bottles. Each cap will be redeemed for 5 cents. We use this fundraiser to help support our Student Council Program.

Advertising Fundraising for Johnson

Organizations can purchase advertising in individual school newsletters through the [School Communications Agency](#). 60% of revenue from advertising goes back to the school to be used at the principal's discretion. Contact: (970) 239-1641

Fundraisers that Directly Benefit JPTO

Box Tops Fundraiser

Looking for a quick and easy way to help support our amazing school? Download the free Box Tops App. And register Johnson Elementary as your school and when you go shopping just go into the app and take a picture of your receipt and it will give our school .10 per participating items, just make sure you submit them within 14 days of your purchase.

King Soopers Community Rewards Fundraiser

Johnson has been added to the list of nonprofits eligible for funding through their community rewards program. We encourage our families to register your **King SooperCard** and choose Johnson as the designated nonprofit.

- Go to www.KingSoopers.com
- Scroll all the way down near the bottom of the page where you will see “**Community**” click on it.
- You will then see “**KingSoopers Community Rewards**” click on it.
- In the middle of the page you will see “**enroll now**” click on it.
- Next you will need to add your **email and password**.

Ongoing Fundraisers for Johnson Elementary

If you've never logged in before, but still have a card, you can attach an email and password to your existing number by creating an account.

If you don't have a card, choose "create an account".

A search box will open to select your charity – type "Johnson PSD" on the left of the screen. On the right, you can select "education" as type. Click on the magnifying glass for the search to work and select your organization.

There are two Johnson schools listed. The address is with it, so finding ours is easy and at the top. (4101 Seneca Street) Click "enroll"

Adding this card will not affect your gas points or other discount benefits you receive through King Soopers.

Amazon – Smile.amazon.com Fundraiser

Amazon has a wonderful giving program called [Smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) that gives 0.5% of your qualified purchases to a charity of your choice. Here is how you can give to Johnson Elementary. All you have to do is register!

How to enroll:

Go to smile.amazon.com, scroll to the bottom of the page .

- At the bottom of the page click on "get started"
- It will take you to a login page. Log in with your **amazon account**
- On the task bar you will see **Your Charity**. You can then **select the charity**. Our registered name is **Johnson Parent Teacher Organization**. (It is not listed as Johnson Elementary.)

Know that all funds go to support our school, Johnson Elementary.

Remember you must log in from the smile page at smile.amazon.com **each time you make a purchase for the charitable donation to count.**

Thank you so much for supporting our school!

Early Childhood Education

PSD's preschool program still has open spaces for the 2020-21 school year. More families may qualify now than ever before. To learn more and begin your application online, visit the [Early Childhood Education web page](#) or call 970-490-3204.

Parents wanted for the District Accountability Committee

The Poudre School District's District Accountability Committee is looking to fill several important representative seats for the 2021-2021 school year. We would love to have a representative from Johnson. Interested? [Here is information](#) about the committee and how to apply!

Frequently Asked Questions and resources

Answers to other common questions are available on the PSD website. [Read more >>](#)

Technical Support	Health & Safety	2020-21 School Year	ParentVUE	PSD Virtual
Calendar	Transportation	School Meals	District Policies	Departments

Quick Links

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

