



Johnson Elementary

Thunderbird Times

April 2021

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 are in our last stretch of the 2020-2021 school year. This is the season of planning for end of year events and next school year.

We have a Virtual Talent Show planned for this year. Please see information from Ms. Mathias about what and how your child can submit a video for our talent show. The talent show submissions will be judged by a panel for the final production. We all enjoy the talent show and look forward to seeing the final product.

During the week of April 12th, we will conduct parent-teacher conferences. Unlike our Fall conferences, we meet with families on an as needed basis. If you are a family that would like to attend a conference regarding your child's spring progress, please reach out to your child's teacher.

April is also a month we begin to plan for the following school year. For the 2021-22 school year, we anticipate having the following at each grade level:

- Kindergarten – Two classrooms
- First Grade – Three Classrooms
- 2nd Grade – Two classrooms
- 3rd Grade – Two classrooms
- 4th Grade – Three classrooms
- 5th Grade – Three classrooms



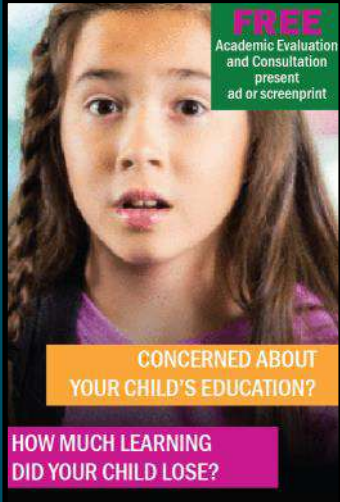
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Principal's Corner

continued

One of the most critical and time-consuming tasks for teachers, and for me, during the spring is class placement for the following school year. The procedures we follow to ensure the best classroom environment possible for each child takes several steps and takes several meetings. This is a complex process that teachers engage in to form classrooms that are balanced, diverse, and support all learners. The factors that are considered are academic abilities, learning styles, social and behavioral needs, peer relationships, age, gender, personality, and special needs. Every year, I get a **few** requests for class placement. If you are a family that would like to make a request, you will need to submit your request in writing. Please outline the reasons for your request. You will need to include academic ability, learning style, social and behavioral needs, peer relationships, age, gender, personality, and/or special needs for your request. **The deadline for submitting requests is Friday, April 23, 2021.** You will need to submit them to me via email with an email titled **Class Placement Request**. We truly value parent/guardian input and will make the best effort to honor requests; however, if we have too many requests, we will not be able to meet them all. Finally, we post class lists in August. **Once these lists are posted, we do not make changes to the classrooms as these changes unravel all the work that goes into forming the class in the spring.**

As always, thank you for making Johnson a great place to be!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Dawson, Principal

Contact: gdawson@psdschools.org

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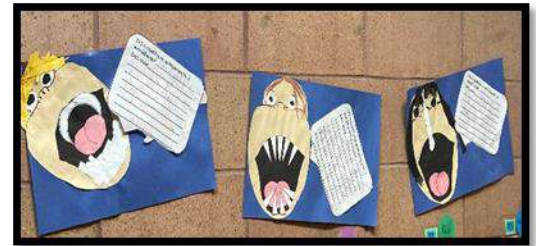

AP's Angle



April 2021

Sink your teeth into it!

On the hallway walls outside our first-grade classrooms hang some fantastic artwork pieces of what students might look like with a set of animal's teeth. Students mainly chose the teeth of sharks, alligators, tigers, bats, and snakes to play with, but we also had some hippo teeth, and even a few students imagined what it would be like having the long tooth of a narwhal (oh my!).



Looking at these wild and whacky pictures reminded me of that phrase, "sink your teeth into it", which is a unique expression that helps explain the importance of becoming completely involved in whatever one is doing. Quarter 4 is a very easy time for students to start going through the motions of learning instead of pressing on with energy, which is why it is so good to remind them to **sink their teeth** into their academics, as it will help them get so much more out of what they are learning about or working on. Let us all be inspired by our creative first-grade students and add enthusiasm, determination, and open-mouthed wonder to each subject or challenge that is on our plates.

Thunderbird PRIDE Assembly Video

On Friday, April 2nd, we celebrated school spirit and student success with our latest Thunderbird PRIDE Assembly Video. Principal Dawson announced the Thunderbird PRIDE students of the month, specials teachers presented their golden awards, Mr. D and Mrs. Rice (our long-term substitute teachers) decided which classes were worthy of the golden cup and big trophy, JPTO

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AP's Angle

continued

announced winners for Raise Craze, Mr. Davis (Principal at Webber) gave a special message to the students, and I announced the winners of the Wall of Stars Leadership challenge. What a blast! You can find the video by visiting the Johnson website and clicking on the TTV link. We will have one more Thunderbird PRIDE Assembly video for this school year (in May) – with the focus of celebrating the E in PRIDE, which is: Enjoy Learning!

Spring Assessments

We have a variety of assessments coming up in April and May for students, such as: Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) for students in grades 3-5, Measures of Academic Progress (MAPs) for students in grades 2-5, and Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) for students mainly in K-2. Keep an eye out for emails with specific information about each assessment. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. Thank you and go Thunderbirds!

Mr. Matthew Hughes, Assistant Principal
Contact at: mhughes@psdschools.org or 970-488-5015

Articles included in today's issue:

- [Federal government approves Colorado waiver to reduce CMAS tests in spring 2021](#)
- [Group Class Pictures by Skillman Photography](#)
- [Keep Schools Open](#)
- [News from PE Land](#)
- [JPTO General Membership Meeting – Get involved!](#)
- [Calendar of Events](#)
- [In Case you Missed It](#)
 - ◇ [Second School of Choice consideration period now open](#)
 - ◇ [Kindergarten registration is available online](#)
 - ◇ [Family Resources available for hardships during COVID-19](#)
 - ◇ COVID-19 Protocols and Safety Guidelines
 - ◇ [Ongoing Fundraising for Johnson](#)
 - ◇ And much more....

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Federal government approves Colorado waiver to reduce CMAS tests in spring 2021

On March 26, the Colorado Department of Education announced that the state legislature and U.S. Department of Education reduced the Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) tests that students will take in spring 2021 due to the unique circumstances Colorado schools and districts are facing as a result of the pandemic. Parents have the options to opt their students out of the testing outlined below (deadline by April 9). If a family would like to have their child take an optional test, we will also need to know that by April 9. They may do so by completing the necessary forms digitally by logging into [ParentVUE](#) and accessing Services Tracker. Instructions [are available here](#).

Please see Johnson's revised testing schedule:

Grade	Dates	Times	Subject Area
3	Apr. 20, 21, 22	9:10 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	ELA, 3 units / 90 minutes
4	Apr. 20, 21, 22	9:25 a.m. – 10:35 a.m.	Math, 3 units / 65 minutes
5	Apr. 20, 21, 22	9:10 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	ELA, 3 units / 90 minutes
3, 4, 5	Apr. 26, 27, 28	9:05 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	2 nd test Opt-ins, Make-ups

For more information about state assessments, visit the Colorado Department of Education [website here](#) or visit the [PSD District and State Assessments web page](#).

Keep Schools Open

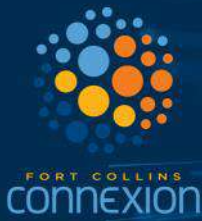
Now that all students are in Phase 4 in-person learning, we need help from every member of the PSD community to [Keep Schools Open](#) for the rest of the 2020-21 school year. Wear a mask, wash your hands and follow PSD's [health and safety](#) and [COVID-19 protocols](#). Practicing the 3W's is critical to keep experiential learning like woodworking in a school's workshop. Demonstrations are critical – students and teachers limit areas of contact and maximize social distancing. We can make more and Keep Building Open.

[#Keep Schools Open >>](#)

News from PE Land

Due to Covid 19, we are unable to hold the Johnson track and field meet for 4th and 5th grades this spring. We hope to resume normal activities next school year. We are planning on a bike or walk to school day in April.

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



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Group Class Pictures – Message from Skillman Photography

With schools dealing with protocols for COVID-19, class group photos will not be taken this year. Johnson Elementary will be offering an 8x10 class composite with those photographed last fall and this spring at Johnson in lieu of the spring class group for only \$11.50.

They can be ordered by returning order envelope (sent home with students) or order online. Online orders will have a \$1.00 convenience fee added.

Must be ordered by **April 16, 2021**.

SECURE PRE-ORDER ONLINE:

Go to www.skillmanphotography.com

Click on “order prepaid school portraits” and have credit/debit card ready.

ACCESS CODE: JOHN2020CG

The composites will be delivered to school in May. Sample from another school pictured below.



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 April 26 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 Melszen-Vogel
- Treasurers Amelia Olschner
- Secretary Melissa Bokovitz
- 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

Johnson Calendar of Events

April		
12	4:00 – 5:00 pm	JPTO Executive Board Meeting
12 – 16		Parent/Teacher Conferences (Before/After School)
16		NO SCHOOL – Conference Exchange Day
19		NO SCHOOL – Elementary Teacher Workday
20 – 22	9:10 – 10:45 am	3 rd & 5 th Grades State Testing
	9:25 – 10:35 am	4 th Grade State Testing
22	4:00 pm	Earth Day Clean-up
26	6:30 – 7:30 pm	JPTO General Membership Meeting
26 – 28	9:05 – 10:30 am	State Testing – Opt-ins & Make-up – Grades 3, 4, 5
30		Talent Show Video Auditions are DUE
May		
3 – 7		Teacher Appreciation Week
7	3:15 pm	Virtual PRIDE Assembly
10	4:00 – 5:00 pm	JPTO Executive Board Meeting
17		NO SCHOOL – Staff Workday
17	6:30 – 7:30 pm	JPTO General Membership Meeting
26	Time TBD	5 th Grade Promotion
		Last Day of School – Half Day

Frequently Asked Questions and Resources

[PSD Community and District News](#)

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](#)
- [2020-21 FAQ web page](#): Answers to common questions are available here.
- [PSD COVID-19 protocols](#): Want to know what happens when there is a COVID-19 case in school? Need to know what other health and safety protocols are in place this school year?
- [PSD COVID-19 Data and School Information](#): View COVID-19 cases by school and department, trends across age groups, school outbreak statuses, total students and staff in remote learning and more.
- [CDPHE Return to Learn](#): When students and staff can return to school and work after experiencing illness symptoms.
- [Health and Safety web page](#): PSD's health-centered practices, the 3 W's, cleaning, sanitization of schools, and more.
- [Larimer County Department of Health and Environment](#): Current LCDHE COVID-19 data and county pandemic response information.



In Case you Missed It

Important Information from Previous News Updates

Encouragement matters

During these difficult times, hearing positive feedback about how we are doing means so much to our staff. If you have something you would like to share to encourage them, please send an email to Tina Crewdson (tcrewdso@psdschools.org). I will share your comments in our school newsletters and the PSD Communications office.

Second School of Choice consideration period now open

If you missed the first period of consideration to apply for School of Choice, the second application period is now open. Families have a wide array of wonderful PSD schools to choose from. [More information >>](#)

Kindergarten registration is available online

Register online at olr.pdschools.org. Even if you opt to send your child to a school outside your neighborhood through School Choice, you must still register your child at your neighborhood school. [Read more about Kindergarten options >>](#)

Family Resources available for hardships during COVID-19

PSD staff and community partners recently compiled updated support resources for staff and families. If you know someone who needs help, check out the [Family Resources web page >>](#)

Help us to celebrate Mission Moments in PSD

At PSD, your mission moments of how you support "Educate ... Every Child ... Every Day" is important to us. Telling positive stories about what is happening in the district during this challenging time is valuable not only for our staff but also for the community. We want to be able to display the good work that you are doing and know that it is appreciated! You're what makes us #PSDproud! [Submit a Mission Moment today. >>](#)

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!

School arrival and dismissal process

School hours for In-person learning: 8:50 a.m. – 3:28 p.m.

Students can arrive to campus beginning at 8:35 a.m. Students should report directly to their outer classroom doors. No early arrivals and no playing or gathering before school. **No students or family members should come through our front doors.** We have socially distanced dots/markers painted outside each door. Each child should wait (using social distancing dots) to be checked in with the teacher. Once students are checked in, they will wash hands and get settled at their learning space.

At dismissal, we will use a staggered dismissal process that supports social distancing. If you normally pick your child up, please allow for extra time for this staggered process. All students need to be picked up promptly.

What does mealtime look like?

School meals are free to all children for the remainder of this school year.

Sack breakfast are available for pick-up at the cafeteria door on the south east corner of the school near our pre-school classrooms. **Breakfast is served from 8:35 – 8:50 a.m. If your student arrives after 8:50 am, make sure he/she has had breakfast.** Students will pick up their breakfast and go to their classroom outer door where they will wait to be checked in. They will then follow the handwashing procedures, then eat breakfast at their space. Once done eating, they will clean up their area and get it ready for sanitizing. Staff will help each student sanitize spaces.

Students eat lunch and snack in their classrooms, except for kindergarten and 2nd grade students who will eat with social distancing and plexiglass dividers, in the school cafeteria. Two sack lunch choices will be offered each day. Sack lunches will be delivered to classrooms and the students eating in the cafeteria. We will follow a sanitizing routine before and after eating times. Students will wash their hands before and after eating. Each child's space will be sanitized before and after eating times. We also plan to eat outdoors when the weather permits. During eating times, students will be socially distanced and have a mask break.

If you send your child with a lunch or snack, make sure your child can independently open what you have provided.

What does mealtime look like?

continued

Lunch schedule by grade

- Kindergarten 11:25 – 11:50 a.m.
- 1st Grade 11:40 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- 2nd Grade 11:55 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
- 3rd Grade 12:05 – 12:25 p.m.
- 4th Grade 12:25 – 12:45 p.m.
- 5th Grade 12:40 – 1:00 p.m.

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.

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.

Early Childhood Education

PSD's preschool program still has open spaces for the 2020-21 school year, and ECE's compassionate and professional teachers can't wait to work with the children in your lives. More families may qualify now than ever before. To learn more and begin an application online, visit [the Early Childhood Education web page](#) or call 970-490-3204.

AlphaBEST Education

Did you know **AlphaBEST Education** offers before and after school care at Johnson Elementary. The program adds enrichment, fitness, fun and quiet time in a safe and supervised environment? Johnson AlphaBEST Hours: 6:30 a.m. – 6:00 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 supplies

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.

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**.

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 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!

Fundraisers that Directly Benefit JPTO

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!

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.