



Johnson Elementary

Husky Times

October 2022

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. Raquel Tovar
970-488-5001
rtovar@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:

Welcome to October! It has been so nice to see volunteers coming back into the building. We appreciate all the different areas you all support! Thank you for your patience with our new Raptor system. If you would like to volunteer at Johnson, please take a moment to go to our main PSD website and complete the volunteer screening.

October is a big month packed with many different events. We kicked off our main fundraiser on September 30th, "The Raise Craze." Our goal is 1000 acts of kindness and \$20,000.00 in funds. This past year we raised \$22,426.00 with 851 acts of kindness. We hope to beat this performance this year. Thank you in advance for helping your child to contribute and participate in whatever way your family can. Our Johnson Parent Teacher Organization uses these funds to support all students in positive ways. The fundraiser ends October 18th.

Thank you to Alyssa Kaiser for bringing in Safe Routes to School partnership. At the writing of this newsletter, our bike rodeo is in full swing. Thank you to the volunteers who supported this fun event. The children are loving the rodeo!

October also marks the time of our fall parent-teacher conferences. October conferences across the district mark the first time we report how your child is doing in school. Your child's teacher has sent you an invite to sign up for a conference time. Our goal every year is to connect with each child's family. We typically achieve 97-98% participation rate. We hope to get to 100% participation.

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Principal's Corner

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We have our book fair the last week of October with our family fun night on October 28, and our Fall Festivities on October 31st. Your child's teacher will reach out with plans for the Fall Festivities, and you will hear more about our costume parade. Before you and your child pick a costume, please refer to our costume guidelines included later in this newsletter as well as our class party guidelines. We strive to have an inclusionary environment for all students.

On a different note, we received our school performance framework from the Colorado Department of Education. We are ranked as a Performance School with 81.5% of our targets met based on our state testing results. We are celebrating these results as we recover from the interruption of a global pandemic. Our School Accountability and Advisory Committee discussed the results and our School Unified Improvement Plan (SUIP). Our SUIP has been revised and updated for this school year. As soon as we finalize our major improvement strategies, they will be published to our community. If you are interested in participating on our SAAC, please send me an email with your interest. We do publish our notes to our website.

During our collaboration day with staff on September 16th, we discussed the results of our work last year, and set a new course for this year. We will continue to implement best practices in literacy. We saw amazing growth in all our grades, and we want to continue this trend. We looked at the rigor of writing in response to text, complex text, and alignment of our instruction to state standards. We will continue to study responsive classroom practices. Our specials team has taken on the leadership challenge of supporting the development of executive functioning skills in all children across all grades. We are excited about what children are learning and can do!

In closing, thank you for making Johnson a great place to be! We appreciate your support.

Georgianna Dawson, principal

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Classroom Party Guidelines

As a traditional, comprehensive school, we have three classroom parties per year: Fall Festival (around Halloween), Holiday Celebrations (usually the day before winter break), and Valentine's Day Celebrations. The classroom parties are usually a full ½ hour and occur towards the end of the school day. We will publish the actual times. To support inclusionary celebrations, we expect the following:

1. Each party centers on activity and play promoting interaction among the children.
2. Room parents/party planners adhere to the Healthy School Celebrations guidelines as well as all district policies when planning the menu. We ask that food is kept to a minimum or not provided at all. These are thirty-minute parties, and we have found children prefer the activities over spending this time eating.
3. If food is to be served:
 - a. The menu must consider dietary restrictions.
 - b. In accordance with state regulations, **homemade food items and snacks are not permitted in schools with the intent of sharing these with others.**
 - c. Baked goods of any kind (including store bought) are not permissible. If these items are brought to school, they will either be discarded, or they will need to be given back to the person who brought them to take home.
4. Classroom teacher prior approval is necessary for additional family members (including older and younger siblings). This allows the teacher to insure there is space for all who plan to attend.
5. If younger or older siblings are attending a classroom party, the parent needs to bring entertainment/snack for these siblings as the party activities/menu typically do not include these children (unless arrangements have been made with the party planners).

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Costume Expectations:

We want to keep our celebration age-appropriate, therefore, firm rules and costume criteria have been developed.

NOT to be worn:

- NO weapon accessories
- NO bloody/gory/scary/demon costumes
- NO horror movie characters
- NO excessive make-up

Students will change into their costumes prior to the parade – costumes are NOT to be worn to school. When selecting a costume for your child, keep in mind it needs to be something that they can change into on their own or can slip over their school clothes.

School and district dress code rules will remain in force on this day which means children cannot take this opportunity to wear short shorts, tank tops with spaghetti straps, bare midriffs, inappropriate language/logos on shirts, gang affiliated clothes, etc. Please refer to the Johnson School Handbook on the school website for specific details about the dress code policy.

Supporting our Schools



Joe Mivshek

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AP's Angle



October 2022

September's Husky PRIDE Assembly

We had both a packed program and a packed gymnasium for our September Husky PRIDE assembly. Students received certificates for being PRIDE students-of-the-month, and it was great welcoming these students' families, who came to celebrate with us. Students even got to show off our special Husky Selfie frames for photos after the assembly. We also announced the classes-of-the-month, and congratulations to Ms. Cochran's 1st grade class, who will host the Big Husky award over the next month, and Ms. Matzdorff's 4th grade class, who will display the Golden Husky award through October.

We also had a visit from members of the Johnson PTO, who announced our school fundraiser (Raise Craze). Over the next few weeks, students can practice and record acts of Kindness to raise money for the school. Thank you JPTO, students, staff, and families for your generous support of this meaningful fundraiser.

Math Olympiads – Season 2!

We are excited to announce that Math Olympiads is returning for another season at Johnson. Math Olympiads is an after-school enrichment program for students in grade 5 and runs weekly from November to March. More information and a permission slip will be sent home with students in the next couple of weeks.

Staff Training – Trauma Essentials

According to research, an estimated two in three children are exposed to traumatic experiences that have the potential to impact brain development, social functioning, and ability to learn and engage in school. We want our school culture to be sensitive and responsive to the effects of trauma, and so over the next few months, Johnson staff will engage in strategic training sessions to help learn about and practice trauma-informed approaches for educators. Please see this [excellent resource](#) for parents, and we will undoubtedly have more to share with you on this important topic.

Here is to a fantastic Fall season together.

Matt Hughes

Included in this Month's issue:

- [Parent/Teacher Conferences](#)
- [Raise Craze Fundraiser](#)
- [Cans Around the Oval](#)
- [Johnsons Calendar of Events](#)

Parent Teacher Conference

Parent Teacher Conferences are Thursday, October 6th from 4-6 pm. Monday, October 10th from 4-8 pm, and Tuesday, October 11th from 4-8 pm.

If you are interested in meeting Ms. Kaiser, our P.E. teacher, during conference times, please attend during these times: Thursday, October 6th from 4-6, Monday, October 10th, and Tuesday, October 11th from 4-6 and 6:45-8.

If you are interested in meeting Ms. Mathias, our music teacher, during conference times, please attend during these times: Monday, October 10th and Tuesday, October 11th from 4-8.

If you are interested in meeting Ms. Felder, our art teacher, during conference times, please attend during these times: Thursday, October 6th from 4-5:30, Monday, October 10th from 4-5:30, and Tuesday, October 11th from 4-6.

You should have received an email from your student's teacher, with a link for conference sign ups. There will be no school Thursday, October 13th and Friday, October 14th for conference exchange days.

Raise Craze Fundraiser

During our PRIDE Assembly on Friday, September 30th, we announced the start of our annual fundraiser, THE RAISE CRAZE! We love this fundraiser because it is based on ACTS of KINDNESS. Below is some essential information. The dates of our fundraising is September 30th through October 18th, 2022.

School-Wide Goals

Raise Craze is about more than just raising money so we've set an Acts of Kindness goal in addition to a financial goal. No Act of Kindness is too small and every one counts so please encourage your students to log Acts of Kindness on their website every day. If we meet these goals, we'll have a special surprise at our Closing Celebration.

- AOK Goal 1,000
- Financial Goal \$20,000

Raise Craze Fundraiser

continued

Why are we raising money? There are many good reasons to raise money for our school, but here are a few we've highlighted for this year's fundraising campaign:

- Cause #1 Funding field trips, technology resources, classroom aids, educational assemblies, outdoor equipment, and Johnson community events
- Cause #2 Providing a yearly stipend for discretionary classroom spending, plus funding for approved special requests for specific classroom needs
- Cause #3 Providing an equitable education experience for all students as well as additional health and wellness measures (including but not limited to wobble stools, slant boards, lap desk, standing tables, air filters, etc)

How Raise Craze is Different

So why did we pick Raise Craze and how is it different from other fundraisers? There are many reasons but here are a few highlights:

- Reinforces kindness in the classroom and improves the culture of our school.
- Everyone can participate by completing Acts of Kindness. No one is left out!
- Classroom goals promote team building and cooperation.

How to Register:

Register Link: <https://my.raisecraze.com/app2/join/AM5VPSM/>

Enter your student's name

Select at least 3 Acts of Kindness

Enter 5 – 10 email addresses of potential supporters. Raise Craze will send all emails, reminders and thank you notes. Emails will never be shared with third parties or used for marketing.

Again, we are so thankful for your support. We look forward to spreading kindness together as a school!

Cans Around the Oval

C.A.N.S Around the Oval is a 36-year-old CSU tradition, occurring mid-September to mid-October, and is geared toward raising awareness about food insecurity and collecting donations for the Food Bank for Larimer County. The food bank not only serves the county at-large but out local campus community via the Rams Against Hunger program. To enhance the quality and quantity of food and better meet community needs, C.A.N.S. or “cash and nutritious staples” (including online monetary donations and healthy, non-perishable food items) are now asked from donors rather than only canned food. There are multiple ways to creatively, collaboratively, and consciously “CANtribute” to help relieve food insecurity for fellow Rams and our local Northern Colorado neighbors.

Johnson Calendar of Events

October		
7	1225 – 220	1st Grade Field Trip to Vine Farm
10-11	4-8	Parent/Teacher Conferences
13-14		No School – Conference Exchange Days
18		Vision and Hearing screening Raise Craze Fundraiser Ends
24-28		Book Fair
24	6:30-7:30	JPTO General Meeting
28	9 am 7:00-9:00	Johnson P.R.I.D.E Assembly Family Fun Night!
31	TBD	Classroom Parties & Parade
November		
9	6-8	SAAC Committee Meeting
11		No School – Building Workday
15	6:30	Willy Wonka Musical
17		Fire Drill
21-25		No School – Thanksgiving Break
28	6:30 – 7:30	JPTO General Meeting

- PSD Calendar dates beyond this point - [PSD 2022-23 K-12 Student/Teacher Calendar](#)

* Visit the [Johnson Website](#) for events and activities specific to Johnson.

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