



Johnson Elementary

Husky Times

February 2023

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
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Secretary/Health Tech

Ms. Wrenn Thornton
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School Counselor

Mr. Jason Allen
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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:

I hope this newsletter finds you well! January has been a busy month, and I want to thank you for your involvement and support. Our 4th and 5th graders have had a busy month. They had the opportunity to attend the YES! Concert and the women's CSU basketball game. Our students participated in our annual spelling bee with a 4th grader taking the win. A significant celebration is our growth in literacy at our mid-year testing. We are certainly celebrating our kindergarten through third grade students with their hard work in literacy. February has many special events as well, so please read through our newsletter for all that we have happening.

Our executive function skill focus for the month of February is planning and organization or "PLAN MAN". Plan Man illustrates the ability to create a roadmap, make decisions, and prioritize for task completion. Planning and organization also includes the ability to design and maintain systems for tracking information and materials. To support students at home with planning strategies, play games that require strategy or help your child to make a list of what they might need to get done. For organization, it is always helpful for parents to support their children with keeping school materials in one place, support with keeping their space (room) tidy, and giving them sorting and categorizing tasks such as sorting the laundry, the silverware drawer, etc. There are many more strategies, and these are just a few you could try at home.

Our School Accountability and Advisory Committee met this past month. We discussed our current enrollment and what next year will bring. We are

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Principal's Corner

continued

projected to have approximately 300 students in our K-5 programming. Historically, we have more students who choice into Johnson than out. This past year over 90 of our 325 students choice into our school, while 60 students choice out. I would like to thank all of you for spreading the word about Johnson. Our staff are truly dedicated to our students, and you all are amazing at supporting our school.

Our decision-making process is the Interest Based Solutions Model to solve complex problems. Our School Accountability and Advisory Committee put forward the following interests as we determine how to best use our allocated resources:

1. Keep as much of our staff as we can for consistent programming.
2. Utilize staff already in place for a variety of supports.
3. Staff for appropriate and adequate support for mental health and academics.
4. Use creative thinking.
5. Stay focused on providing for the "whole child".
6. Specials/enrichment opportunities are valued.
7. Academics are prioritized and quality remains.
8. School safety is a priority.

We also gather interests from our staff through our shared leadership team. As soon as our compensation plan is approved (mid to end of March), I will publish our plan to our community.

Finally, thank you for all you do in support of Johnson. I appreciate all the volunteers we see throughout the building every day and those of you working behind the scenes. I also appreciate the way you each support your children's success in school. Thank you for making Johnson a great place to be.

Best,
Georgie Dawson, principal

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Newsletter



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these great companies!

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**Fall Youth Club
Registration is
OPEN!**

*Whether you are just dipping your toes
in the climbing world, or looking to
move into competitive climbing,
there is a place for you at Ascent!*



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AP's Angle



February 2023

Reasons to Attend School

Last week I spent some time checking our attendance rates at Johnson. I was a little surprised to see that over the past six years our attendance rates have gradually dipped. In the 2016/2017 school year our rate was at 96.3%, and for this year, we currently sit at 93.4%. A 3%-point difference may not seem like much, but it is especially important for us to watch these rates carefully. Our attendance rates did drop to 92.6% between 2019 - 2021, but I am sure you can figure out why that happened!

As I went through the data, I was reminded of the story about a mother who could not get her son out of bed on a school day. The son said to the mother, "give me three good reasons why I should go to school today," and the mother replied as follows:

You will get to see your friends.

You will learn something new.

YOU ARE THE TEACHER AND YOUR STUDENTS NEED YOU!

Yes, making the choice to attend school every day is a challenge for everyone (even staff!), so an occasional reminder of why it is so important for us to be at school every day can help to build healthy motivation.

I found an [engaging article](#) on this topic that highlights not just three, but five of the top reasons to go to school. Please share them with your child. I also learned a catchy phrase from some educational leaders on this topic that

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We are here for your child's health!
¡Estamos aquí para la salud de su hijo!

Schedule your school or sport physical today!
¡Programe hoy su examen físico para la escuela o deporte!



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AP's Angle

continued

matches our Husky PRIDE behavior expectations. It goes, "Nine days or less to DO YOUR BEST!" The nine days in this phrase refer to the max number of days that a student can miss before school gets harder and more stressful to manage.

Thank you for your commitment to prioritize school attendance at Johnson and please contact us if you need further resources or support regarding this important topic.

Go Huskies!

Included in this Month's issue:

- [School Registration](#)
- [COVID-19](#)
- [PE NEWS](#)
- [Valentine's Parties](#)
- [News from JPTO](#)
- [Johnson Calendar of Events](#)

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School Registration

Kindergarten students must be five and first-grade students must be six on or before October 1st. ([Superintendent's Policy JEB](#)). [Learn more about kindergarten registration.](#)

Students wishing to attend a school outside their attendance area must submit a [School Choice application](#).

PSD Students Moving to a New School

- Current PSD students who are moving to a new school should contact their current school to withdraw and their new school to register. Students moving from elementary to middle school and middle school to high school do not have to contact their schools.
- Fifth grade students are pre-registered at their neighborhood feeder middle school in February. Contact each middle school for registration details.
- Eight grade students are registered at their neighborhood feeder high school. Contact each high school for registration details.
- Fifth grade and eight students wishing to attend a middle or high school outside their attendance area (or for a program continuation), must submit a [School Choice application](#).

Supporting our Schools



Joe Mivshek
Joe.Mivshek@KW.com



970.420.7163

COVID-19

Important updates:

- On Monday, January 30th PSD will have a new **optional** online COVID-19 reporting portal for families to report positive COVID-19 test results. **Families were sent instructions to access this reporting portal on Monday, January 30th.** This is part of an effort to provide families and staff with easily accessible return to school information.
- **COVID-19 positive results reporting for staff and students is highly recommended, but not required.** This is due to a change in LCDHE K-12 COVID-19 reporting requirements. We are no longer required to report COVID-19 clusters or outbreaks in K-12 settings. 5 or more COVID-19 cases in a Pre-K classroom is still reportable.
 - * Parents/guardians of students may log in [here](#) to report positive COVID-19 cases.
- **New:** Larimer County Department of Health and Environment currently supports student and staff use of at-home testing to end mask wear after Day 6 of isolation. Please note that while we are still sending COVID Response Teams student/staff mask dates for Days 6-10, it is possible that individuals may test out of mask wear as early as Day 8, if they choose to use this alternative testing to end mask wear timeline. More information can be found [here](#).

For Staff & Students:

- The PSD COVID Health & Safety webpage has been updated and can be found [here](#). Flowcharts have been removed and students and staff are being asked to stay home when sick, recommend they take a COVID-19 test if experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, and should follow CDPHE's "[How Sick Is Too Sick](#)" on when they may return to school or work following illness.

Current Larimer County COVID Metrics (as of January 27, 2023)

- Community Level is at "Low"
- 7-day case rate is at 60.2 cases per 100K
- 7-day positivity rate is at 9.0%

PE NEWS:

It is the time of year where students are learning about fitness, heart rate, and exercises that work with different muscle groups. This means there is going to be a lot more running and focused exercises, creating an important need to have the correct shoes on for class. With the recent snowstorms we have had, many students have arrived at PE in snow boots. I do understand the importance of them for when students are outside, but **if it is possible**, please help remind students to have a pair of good PE shoes that are easier to run in (tennis shoes), in their backpack to change into. If they do not have time to change into their shoes before coming, students can carry them to the gym and I will give them time to change before class! Having these shoes will help prevent injury and unnecessary muscle soreness that exercising/running in snow boots can bring! Thanks for your help!



Valentine's Parties

Valentine's parties Will be held on Tuesday, February 14th in classrooms. Your child's teacher will communicate the details of these events. **If your child brings Valentine's to hand out, please plan on a traditional paper Valentine with no candy attached.** The Valentine's should be school and age appropriate. The classroom parties are planned and hosted by your child's teacher and the classroom JPTO parent representative. If you have questions about what is planned, reach out to your child's teacher.

News from JPTO

Spirit Nights

Grab a bite and support our school! Flyers with specific event details are sent home with students before each Spirit Night. Mark your calendars and bring your neighbors!

February 7th, 8pm – 9pm: Cafe Mexicali

March 2nd, 4pm – 8pm: Panera

April 10th, 5pm – 8pm: D.C. Oakes

Johnson Calendar of Events

January		
27	255 – 325	PRIDE Assembly
February		
2	10 – 130 530 – 700	5 th & 4 th Grade Field Trip to CSU Basketball Family Math Night
7	8pm – 9pm	Spirit Night: Café Mexicali
14	TBD	Classroom Parties
20		NO SCHOOL – Conference Exchange Day
24	9 – 935 6 – 730	PRIDE Assembly Family Movie Night
27	630 – 730	JPTO General Meeting
March		
2	4-6 4pm – 8pm	Parent/Teacher Conferences Spirit Night: Panera
6	4-6	Parent/Teacher Conferences
8	4-6	Parent/Teacher Conferences
13-17		NO SCHOOL – Spring Break
22	6-8	SAAC Meeting
27	630 – 730	JPTO General Meeting
31	255 – 325	PRIDE Assembly
April		
3 – 21		CMAS Testing
10	5pm – 8pm	Spirit Night: D.C. Oakes
21		NO SCHOOL – Teacher Workday
24 – 28		Bookfair
27	6	1 st and 2 nd Grade Spring Musical

* 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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