



Johnson Elementary

Husky Times

March 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
gawson@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.psdschools.org>

School Hours for in-person learning:

8:50 a.m.—3:28 p.m.

Principal's Corner

Dear Johnson Families:

Welcome to March! We have had a busy February filled with celebrations. I want to congratulate Ms. Alyssa Kaiser and our students here at Johnson with our Healthy Hearts Challenge! Our goal was to raise \$2,000. Our students well surpassed this goal with raising over \$4,000. We revealed our new mascot, Thunder at our last PRIDE assembly which was a big hit with our students and staff! Thank you to Mr. Hughes for his incredible creativity and "fun" thinking. Thank you to our district for their support with funding all our mascot changes. I also want to recognize our Principal Pride lunch winners, and how they led our Johnson PRIDE cheer. One of our second graders was amazing with leading the entire school in the cheer! I also want to thank everyone who came out for our family movie night. It was well attended!

We have submitted our compensation plan to our district. We are planning on the following configuration:

Two teachers at kindergarten, first grade, second grade, and 5th grade. We will have three teachers at third grade and fourth grade. Our specials staff will remain at 80% (four days a week) as they are now. Our counselor will continue to be funded at 100%. We are planning on a 50% Gifted and Talented teacher/coordinator, 50% media teacher, 50% English Language Development teacher, and a 100% Integrated Services teacher. We have several paraprofessional positions planned as well to support the various systems that serve our students.

I will have more details once we finish the approval process of our compensation plan and begin to allocate the above resources in a schedule.

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Principal's Corner

continued

March brings many important events. March 1st is our opening day of our school wide Art Show. Ms. Felder has worked diligently to curate the show. Each child has at least one piece of artwork on display. Each piece is clearly labeled with the child's name. I do have to say, the school looks beautiful with all the children's creations, and I am a proud principal with the quality of art your children have produced! We hope you can stop by sometime after school to view the show. Please see art news for our closing events.

Next week, we have parent-teacher conferences. These conferences are on an as needed/requested basis. We always look forward to partnering with families in support of a child's success. Teachers have reached out to the families they would like to meet with. If you do not have a conference and would like one, please reach out to your child's teacher.

Finally, our executive function focus for March is Aware Bear. This is the ability to self-monitor, reflect, and self-assess. To promote this skill, students are asked to self-rate how they did with a task. We build in self-reflection tasks in lesson, and we have student graph their results. We build self-questioning for understanding such as: Did I understand this? What part does not make sense? Is this something important to remember? Our restorative practices support the development of Aware Bear as well when students have conflict that needs to be resolved. We ask families to think about how you might incorporate self-awareness building at home.

In closing, thank you for making Johnson a great place to be!

Georgie Dawson, principal

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AP's Angle



March 2023

Do Your Darndest... you powdered-husky, horn-cacklers!

One of our unique community friends is a prospector named, Buzz Silver-Mine Sutton, who likes to remind Johnson students, in his own unique way, to use their far-from-dumfngled noggins and to DO THEIR BEST in class every day. The Prospector helps us understand that mining for gems and producing quality schoolwork are very similar activities, and that both jobs take patience and determination to get that moment of success, or “paydirt/bonanza” in prospector talk. Buzz has created the next class-of-the-month challenge for Johnson, which will involve teachers handing out gems to students when they see **quality** student work. Each grade level will have their own gem color and students will collect them together. Then, at our next Husky PRIDE Assembly on March 31st, Buzz Sutton will be our special guest and will have the honor of picking out two lucky gems from wheelbarrows, or “baby buggies” in prospector talk, to decide which grade-level will win the Big Husky Trophy (K-2) and the Golden Husky Trophy (3-5). Good luck to the grade levels, and this is sure to be a rootin’ tootin’ celebration for everyone.



Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) – Coming Soon!

At the end of March, we will be administering annual state assessments to students in grades 3-5. Starting March 28-30, students will complete one unit of English per day. Then from April 4-6, they will complete one unit of Math per day. Lastly, from April 11-13, our grade 5 students will complete one unit of science per day. For more information about all things CMAS, please visit this [link](#).

continued on next page

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AP's Angle

continued

As a parent, you can choose to opt your child out of state testing. To excuse your student from state assessments, you may complete a Parent Excusal form digitally by logging into [ParentVUE](#) and accessing Services Tracker. Instructions and screenshots on how to do this can be found [here](#). Please note that you will need to fill out a form for each subject area. Please let me know if you have any questions about opting out of state tests. For more information from the Colorado Department of Education, please visit the following link: <https://www.cde.state.co.us/assessment/cmas>

Let's Count Those Sheep

For students to thrive at school with good concentration and focus for academic performance, study after study shows that having the proper amount of sleep is vital. Elementary students should be getting between 9-12 hours of sleep every night. A recent [report](#) revealed that only half of U.S. children get enough sleep. For more information on the importance of sleep, please visit [CDC's webpages](#) on this important, yet often neglected topic. Thank you for ensuring that your child is rested and ready to have a great day at Johnson.



Go Huskies!
Matt Hughes



Included in this Month's issue:

- [Principals Corner](#)
- [AP's Angle](#)
- [Art NEWS](#)
- [Community Engagement Night](#)
- [PSD Test Drinking Fixtures](#)
- [Husky Student Council](#)
- [Johnson PTO](#)
- [News from JPTO](#)
- [Johnson Calendar of Events](#)

Art NEWS:

Youth Art Month is the month of March! To celebrate, Johnson will have out annual art show the entire month of March. Every student will have at least one work of art on display. Closing night is from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM on Friday, March 31st. Please plan to come see your child's art and take it home with you on closing night. If you are unable to attend closing night, your child will receive their artwork during art class on a later date.

Community Engagement Night

The Poudre School District Board of Education and Superintendent Brian Kingsley will host a series of three community engagement events this semester. Each event will focus on a specific topic and give those attending an opportunity to have conversations and share thoughts.

Sessions will include a short presentation followed by a discussion, The PSD Principals of Community will also be reviewed and discussed as a backdrop. Community members are invited to sign up to attend sessions they are interested in. Please know that space is limited to 30 seats at each event.

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Community Engagement Night

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These engagement sessions follow six community events held during the 2021-22 school year, which gave PSD a chance to learn from stakeholders about issues important in the community. However, there was still a desire to have more time for discussion. Moving forward, PSD would like to provide community engagement opportunities on targeted topics where more learning and dialogue take place.

Upcoming sessions and topics include:

- **Graduate with Options session on Wednesday, Feb. 1: This session has already passed. Thank you to everyone who attended!**
- **Mental Health and Belonging session on Thursday, March 2:** 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Boltz Middle School, 720 Boltz Drive, Fort Collins.
 - ◇ Many stories on student mental health journeys were shared in our listening sessions in the spring and summer. This session is designed to share our current mental health and counseling support in the PSD system, as well as detail climate-and culture-building efforts that support belonging. It is also an opportunity to provide feedback on the types of student support that our community would like to see provided.
 - ◇ [Sign up for the March 2 Mental Health and Belonging session \(space limited to 30 seats\)](#)
- **School Safety session on Thursday, April 13:** 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Fort Collins High School, 3400 Lambkin Way, Fort Collins
 - ◇ Everyone wants kids to be safe and successful in school and this session will focus on current safety practices and drills designed to improve safety. It is also an opportunity to provide feedback on safety measures in place in schools.
 - ◇ [Sign up for the April 13 School Safety session \(space limited to 30 seats\)](#)

For more information about these events, please contact Brett Larsen, PSD director of special projects and initiatives, at blarsen@psdschools.org

Supporting our Schools



Joe Mivshek
Joe.Mivshek@KW.com



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PSD Tests Drinking Fixtures to Ensure Health and Safety

All public elementary schools in Colorado must have their drinking water fixtures tested for lead before the end of May 2023. This state-required testing is underway, and PSD will go above and beyond the law by testing high schools and offices, in addition to elementary and middle schools. The district will also test drinking water for copper, in addition to lead. [Visit the PSD website to learn more about this testing.](#)

Husky Student Council

This organization is to provide leadership opportunities for 4th and 5th grade students. These students meet once a month to plan and organize activities that will foster the social growth and civic development of the students at Johnson Elementary through fun events that promote empathy. Johnson Student Council supports JPTO events, office activities, Storybook Pumpkin Patch, Pasta for Patients (helping kids with leukemia), and fund raisers as needed for Johnson Elementary.

Johnson PTO

What exactly does JPTO do?

JPTO sponsors events such as the Ice Cream Social, Fund Run, Family Movie Nights, Fall and Spring Book Fairs, Family Fun Nights, and Original Works just to name a few!

Through fundraising, JPTO has been able to purchase items for our school such as chilled water bottle filling stations, a book room for teachers to use, slant boards, lap desks and wobble chairs for classrooms, playground balls and buddy benches for the playgrounds, new books for the library, assemblies, and many more!

JPTO also helps support our amazing staff and community here at Johnson by providing appreciation weeks, spirit gear, volunteer coordinating, and funding staff request for various needs around the school.

JPTO General Membership meetings will generally be held on the last Monday of each month from 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. All Johnson parents and guardians are welcome!

If you have any questions or have ideas on how to better 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.

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!

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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