

# Thunderbird Times

September 3, 2009



## Johnson Elementary School

4101 Seneca Street, Fort Collins, CO 80526  
<http://schoolweb.psdsschools.org/johnson/>

Dear Johnson Parents,

Welcome back to a fabulous new school year! We have many new students and several new staff members. We are extremely excited about the many opportunities for fun and learning for your students and we truly appreciate your continued support of our school. Over the summer we implemented some new changes into our building. We have a new computer lab with a SMART board that is state-of-the-art. We have a new television studio and our Thunderbird Television program is second to none. We have new furniture arriving soon that will add even more color to our classrooms. Because of the transition to middle school, we also have some additional space that we have transformed into wonderful spaces for literacy instruction. Our media center is alive with colorful butterflies, sailing ships and Chinese dragons. Johnson Elementary is a marvelous place for students and we are thrilled to have you as part of our learning community.

We are continuing our focus on Positive Behavior Support throughout the building. During the first week of school, all of the students traveled to six different stations to see demonstrations of what positive behaviors we are looking for in the cafeteria, in the hallways, in the restrooms, during assemblies, and outside during recess. We will continue giving students T-Bird tickets when they make positive choices. Each quarter I will select a large group of students from the school to have a personal lunch with me from Chick-Fil-A. It gives us time to sit and talk about what they enjoy at school and I get to learn more about your student.

In regard to academics, we are working together as a staff to finalize the "Essential Learnings" for each grade level. These are the academic skills that all students must master at each grade level before moving on

to the next grade level. We will do whatever it takes to ensure high levels of learning for all students. Most importantly, you as parents will have a very clear understanding of what your student will learn at each grade level and you can help support this learning at home.

We are also working together to implement specific "targeted interventions" for students who are struggling with learning. We are thinking of new and innovative ways to work with students to help them over the difficult bumps on their journey. This includes creative scheduling and involving all of the staff in our building to work with students throughout the course of the week. Over the course of the next quarter, we will implement a daily "Intervention / Enrichment" time at the end of each day to help students with academic struggles but to also give all students opportunities to learn fun and exciting things about science, history, world cultures and math.

Johnson Elementary is a great school! We have awesome students, supportive parents and a dedicated staff. Together, we will continue to make our school even better. The sky is the limit!

Best wishes,  
*Will Allen*  
Principal  
Johnson Elementary



**Scholastic Book Fair**  
Coming to Johnson  
September 28—October 2  
Watch for details soon!

**Main Office**  
970-488-5000

**Office Hours:**  
8:00 am to 4:00 pm

**24 Hour  
Attendance  
Line:**  
970-488-5095

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**Principal**  
Will Allen  
488-5001



# Johnson Elementary Thunderbird Times

## Farewell from Mr. Johnson

Dear Johnson Community,

It is with mixed emotions that I say farewell to Johnson Elementary staff, students, and families. I have accepted a position in the Douglas County School District as the assistant principal of Roxborough Intermediate School. My last day as the Physical Education teacher at Johnson will be Tuesday, August 25<sup>th</sup>. For several years it has been my professional goal to become a public school administrator. Roxborough Intermediate School community will become the beneficiary of the skills that I have honed during my time at Johnson.

My twelve years at Johnson Elementary have been incredible. I believe that the staff members who work here are second to none. I am inspired by the level of expertise teachers demonstrate when working with students and building relationships. Johnson staff members are among the most passionate people I know.

During my tenure at Johnson, I have also had the honor of working with and learning from thousands of students. Being a part of children's school lives has been a joy. I will miss the sweet smiles, enthusiasm for learning, and the tenderness and caring inherent in our students.

I will also miss the interactions and relationships I've had with hundreds of wonderful Johnson families. The many important ways that you support your children and our school are such a tremendous gift, for which I have always been thankful.

I leave you all with the same excitement and curiosity that I brought with me to Johnson over a decade ago. I thank you all for the support and friendship you have shown me.

Respectfully,  
Jeff Johnson



## School website and calendar

We encourage Johnson parents to access the school website for regular updates on information concerning events, activities, and opportunities. Please access our online calendar for the latest information on event days and times. We want to keep parents informed electronically as much as possible to reduce the cost of copies and paper. The *Thunderbird Times* is published monthly on the first Thursday of each month. We do print a small number of hard copies of the newsletter for those families who are unable to access our website.

## Parent handbooks

**Parent Handbooks are posted on the Johnson web site.** Please take the time to read this document which includes important information and school policies. If you are unable to access the Johnson website you may pickup a copy of the Parent Handbook in the School Office.

[www.psdschools.org/johnson/](http://www.psdschools.org/johnson/)

## Daily schedule

**Students should not arrive at school before 8:45 a.m.** unless attending BASE Camp or a special program. Safety is a major priority and we want to be sure that staff members are present for supervision. **Please make sure children are not on campus prior to 8:45 a.m. and leave promptly by 3:45 p.m.**

- 8:45 Playground supervision begins
- 8:55 Entrance bell rings
- 9:00 All classes begin
- 11:49 AM Kindergarten Dismissal
- 3:38 School dismisses
- Recess times vary by grade level
- 3:45 Students should be off campus

## Lunch—recess schedule

2nd Grade	11:05—11:30	Lunchroom
	11:30—11:50	Recess
3rd Grade	11:05—11:25	Recess
	11:25—11:50	Lunchroom
Full Day Kinder	11:35—12:05	Lunchroom
	12:05—12:25	Recess
1st Grade	11:55—12:20	Lunchroom
	12:20—12:40	Recess
5th Grade	12:10—12:35	Lunchroom
	12:35—12:55	Recess
4th Grade	12:10—12:30	Recess
	12:30—12:55	Lunchroom



## Update parent contact information

Parents are encouraged to keep phone numbers, addresses, and emergency contact information updated throughout the school year. Student Data Verification forms were given out at Back-to-School Night. Please make any needed corrections and return this form to your child's teacher by Friday, September 11.

PROVIDE YOUR EMAIL FOR EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS AND COMMUNICATION VIA EMAIL, sign up at [www.psdschools.org](http://www.psdschools.org).



## Johnson Elementary Thunderbird Times

### PSD now accepting school choice applications for the 2010-2011 school year

For additional information or to apply for a School of Choice (a school outside of your designated attendance area), visit the Poudre Schools website at [www.psdschools.org](http://www.psdschools.org).

Families who currently attend Johnson as School of Choice, need not re-apply.

### Picture Day Monday, September 14

By *Lifetouch* School Portraits



Picture Day is coming Monday, September 14, 2009! School portraits by Lifetouch offer casual, studio-style photography that gives students more freedom to create a look that's truly their own. Visit [www.lifetouch.com](http://www.lifetouch.com) for clothing suggestions, grooming tips, program details and more.

Picture Order Forms were sent home on Monday, August 31, 2009 with all students. You may order with the form, or place your order online.

Preschool age/siblings (2 years and older) welcome for portraits at 8:45 am.

### Register online to volunteer

PSD's online volunteer registration is available on the PSD website at [www.psdschools.org](http://www.psdschools.org). The system is easy to use for parents who want to volunteer at their child's school and for community members who want to be involved in education. Help shape the future—volunteer! Information: (970)490-3208.

If you have already registered, you do not need to re-register. But, please update your profile with your child's current grade and teacher. Also, check to make sure your phone numbers and e-mail are correct. Remember to log in your hours once you start volunteering! **Don't forget –always wear your volunteer badge.**

### Go to the source

Parents are encouraged to visit directly with teachers before calling the principal, other teachers, or other parents to discuss a concern. Most issues can be successfully resolved in a friendly respectful conversation. Schedule conferences in advance so that quality time can be devoted to your concerns.



### Music notes

Thunderbird Choir will be open to all 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders this year at Johnson. We will rehearse Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8:00 – 8:45 a.m.

Tryouts are scheduled for the end of September. We have already been invited to sing at the Senior Center on November 17<sup>th</sup>. We will schedule an evening performance for parents in December and travel to the mall for our annual field trip. Watch for more plans!

Johnson students are encouraged to buy their own recorder for use in the music room. Our curriculum calls for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> graders to learn how to play this instrument because it uses the same fingerings as many of the woodwind instruments that our students may choose to play in middle school. If your student bought one last year, please remind them to put it in their backpack and bring it to school for use in the near future. If your student would like to purchase one, please send \$5. There is a class set of recorders for students to use if they do not buy one. The instruments are always disinfected after each use.

**Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup>,  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Fall Program**

**Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>,  
3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>  
Grades Winter Program**

**Tuesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>,  
1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>  
Spring Program**

All programs are at Rocky Mountain High School Auditorium at 7:00 p.m. **Please get these on your calendars NOW!**





## Johnson Elementary Thunderbird Times

### Attendance matters

Make sure your child attends school daily! As the school year begins, help your child get into the habit of going to school every day. Research shows that missing school regularly can hurt both the students who miss class--and their classmates.

When students miss school, they miss out on learning. When they return, they have to work harder to catch up. After a while, it gets more difficult to catch up, and then kids are even more likely to miss school.

As a result, kids who miss school have lower levels of achievement throughout their school careers. By sixth grade, research shows that students who miss an average of just one day a week are more likely to drop out of high school.

The students who do come to class also miss out. When teachers have to repeat material or pay extra attention to kids who have been absent, everyone suffers.

Reprinted with permission from the September 2009 issue of *Parents make the difference!*®

### Important information about PSD's attendance policy

The State of Colorado and PSD's goal for attendance is 95%. In order to attain this goal, a student cannot miss more than 9 days during the entire school year. Making up work cannot fully replace the instructional programs provided at school. We believe that by working together, we can help your child be a successful student.

#### **PSD follows this timeline and process when dealing with "habitually truant" students:**

- **Approximately 5-7 absences**, questionable or unexcused 1<sup>st</sup> attendance letter sent to parents/guardians by school
- **Approximately 10-12 absences**, questionable or unexcused Medical letter sent to parents/guardians by school (if absences seem to be related to a medical condition – or – 2<sup>nd</sup> attendance letter sent to parents/guardians by school; district outreach worker assigned
- **15 or more absences**, questionable or unexcused Certified attendance letter sent to parents/guardians by district attendance officer
- **Continued absences**, questionable or unexcused Truancy filed in district court; documents completed prior to filing will be submitted to the court; specific recommendations can be submitted to court at this time

### Johnson P.R.I.D.E.

We truly believe that school should be a positive place for learning and we are working hard to make Johnson Elementary even better. This year, and for years to come, we are implementing our PBS (positive behavior support) system to help students make good choices throughout the course of the day. We have five easy to understand expectations for our staff and students that we want everyone to abide by:

**P**articipate Positively

**R**espect Everyone

**I**nsist on Safety

**D**o Your Best

**E**njoy Learning



Staff will teach and re-teach these PRIDE expectations to all of our students. You will see these expectations posted throughout the building and all students will be able to communicate what we believe and expect at Johnson Elementary. Staff will give students positive rewards for making good choices and for living up to the PRIDE expectations. We will continue to hand out Fabulous Thunderbird cards to students who go above and beyond and who demonstrate outstanding character, who help others and who give that extra effort. Staff will give T-Bird Tickets to students in the cafeteria who are following the PRIDE rules and practicing excellent "restaurant-like" behavior. We will also continue to honor our PRIDE award winners each month for their outstanding demonstration of character in the classroom. Johnson Elementary is a great place to learn and we are very happy that you and your student are a part of our community



### Fabulous Thunderbird Cards

Everyday the staff has an opportunity to "catch" students demonstrating the Thunderbird P.R.I.D.E. characteristics. When this happens, students may receive a Fabulous Thunderbird Card and a certificate from a local business for a healthy treat.



## Johnson Elementary Thunderbird Times

### We need your help to control the spread of H1N1 (Swine) flu

Because flu can be easily spread from person to person, Poudre School District is taking steps to reduce the spread of flu in schools. We want to keep schools open and functioning in a normal manner during flu season.

#### We need your help to do this.

**Prevention is the best strategy, and here's how you can help:**

**Teach children to wash their hands** often with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub. You can set a good example by doing this yourself.

**Teach children to cover coughs/sneezes and not share personal items** like drinks, food or unwashed utensils, and to cover their coughs and sneezes with tissues. Students should cover their coughs or sneezes using the elbow, arm or sleeve instead of the hand when a tissue is unavailable.

**Clean surfaces and objects that your child touches frequently** with appropriate cleaning agents.

**Know the signs and symptoms of the flu.** Symptoms of the flu include fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit, 37.8 degrees Celsius or greater), cough, sore throat, a runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, and feeling very tired. Some people may also vomit or have diarrhea.

**Do not send children to school if they are sick.** Any children who are sick while at school *will be sent home*.

**Keep sick children at home** for at least 24 hours *after* they no longer have fever or do not have signs of fever, without using fever-reducing drugs. Keeping children with a fever at home will reduce the number of people infected.

**Get your family vaccinated** for seasonal flu and H1N1 flu when vaccines are available. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), a vaccine specific to H1N1 may not be available until mid-October. They are recommending the vaccine be made available to individuals in priority groups, including school-aged children.

We are working closely with the Larimer County Department of Health and Environment and other city, county and state agencies to monitor flu conditions and make decisions about the best steps to take concerning schools. **Please make sure you are on the PSD Parent E-mail Alert list, so we can provide you with new information as it becomes**

**available** (sign up at: [www.psdschools.org](http://www.psdschools.org) by clicking on the *E-Mail Alert Sign Up* star). This also assures you receive email updates from your child's school.

#### Helpful Websites and Phone Numbers:

H1N1 Flu Information and Resources: [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov), or call 1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)

Steps if Children are Sick or School is Dismissed: [www.flu.gov/plan/school/parentfactsheet.html](http://www.flu.gov/plan/school/parentfactsheet.html)

Steps to Protect Your Family from Flu: [www.flu.gov/plan/school/parentfactsheet2.html](http://www.flu.gov/plan/school/parentfactsheet2.html)

Steps for Children at High Risk for Flu Complications: [www.flu.gov/plan/school/parentfactsheet3.html](http://www.flu.gov/plan/school/parentfactsheet3.html)

Q&A from the Center for Disease Control (CDC): [www.flu.gov/plan/school/questions.html](http://www.flu.gov/plan/school/questions.html)

Larimer County Department of Health and Environment: [www.co.larimer.co.us/health](http://www.co.larimer.co.us/health) or call 498-6700

#### Health department offers immunization clinics

The health department's three immunization clinics are ready for to provide required immunizations for children. Larimer County Health Department's immunization clinics offer low-cost immunizations under the Federal Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program. Through the program, families without health insurance, who are low-income or otherwise can't afford full-priced immunizations can have their children under 19 years old vaccinated for \$14.50 per shot. However, no one will be turned away for inability to pay.

Larimer County offers child, adult and travel immunizations at its three locations: Fort Collins, Loveland and Estes Park. Walk-in hours for Fort Collins and Loveland are listed below. No appointments are necessary, except for travel immunizations.

#### Loveland Clinic, 205 E 6<sup>th</sup> Street, 679-4580

Mondays 12:30 - 3:30 pm; Fridays 9 am - 12 noon; and 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month 3-6 pm. **Travel immunizations:** Mondays only, call for appointment.

#### Fort Collins Clinic, 1525 Blue Spruce Drive, 498-6700

Third Saturday of August, September, October and November, 9 am -12 noon; Mondays 9 am -12 noon and 1 - 3:30 pm; Tuesdays 3 – 6pm; and Fridays 9 am - 12 noon. **Travel immunizations:** Monday mornings and Friday afternoons: call for appointment.

For more information on childhood immunizations, adult immunizations, travel immunizations or Larimer County Health Department clinic hours, call 498-6700 or visit <http://www.larimer.org/health/chs/immunizations.asp>



## Johnson Elementary Thunderbird Times

### Personal property

**Bicycles:** Bicycles are to be parked in the bike racks provided. It is strongly recommended that primary-age children not ride their bicycles to school alone or for long distances. It is recommended that all bicycles be licensed with the police and locked in the racks. Upon arrival at school, bicycles are to be placed in the bike racks and are off limits until school is dismissed. The school does not accept responsibility for the loss or damage to bicycles brought to school. All riders are requested to wear helmets!

**Valuables and Toys from home:** Students are strongly discouraged from bringing valuables, toys, sports equipment, trading cards, jewelry, CD players, iPods, PSP players, electronic games and other personal play items to school. The school does not accept responsibility for the loss or damage of such items. If these items are out in the classroom, they will be confiscated and delivered to Mr. Allen in the main office. He will call the parents to arrange a time for them to come and pick up these items. Special precautions or arrangements can be made with the classroom teacher if brought for "show and tell."

### Update student health information

If your child has special health concerns, diagnoses, medications, or dietary or toileting needs, please keep school health care staff informed so they can develop a school health care plan for your child. Complete physical exams by a family physician are recommended for students entering kindergarten and 4th grade.

### Checking out or arriving late

If it is necessary for a student to leave school during the day, written permission needs to be sent from the parent to the teacher and/or to the office. **Before a student leaves school, an adult must sign the student out in the office.** We will then call the student to come to the office from the classroom.

**When arriving late to school (after 9:00), the student must sign in at the office.** All students are marked absent if they are not in the classroom at 9:00. Teachers record attendance by computer immediately following the 9:00 a.m. bell. Checking in with the office is the only way to be sure your child's attendance record is maintained accurately.



### Food service provides many meal choices

Breakfast now available at Johnson! Johnson will offer breakfast this year. Breakfast is served from 8:30 to 8:55 daily. The cost is \$1.00 (Breakfast is free to those families who qualify). The menu will consist of quick and easy items students can eat in a short amount of time and still get to class by 9:00.

Breakfast and lunch menus are posted under the Quick Links pull-down menu on the PSD web site at [www.psdschools.org](http://www.psdschools.org), in school newsletters, and printed weekly in the Fort Collins Coloradoan.

### Pay for Meals online!

Signing up at the web address below allows parents/guardian to make lunch account prepayments with credit cards or checks. They can also use the site to check their student's account activity and balance. Account alerts can also be set up and customized by student. There is no charge to PSD families for any of these exciting new services. We strongly encourage every parent/guardian at Poudre School District to sign up for this service.

<https://www.schoolpaymentsolutions.com>

### Lunch program available to qualifying families

Applications for the federal free and reduced-price school lunch program were mailed home to all heads of households in late July/early August. Students participating in the program during the previous school year may be automatically enrolled in the program for the first 30 days of school. **Parents must submit a new family application each school year** and are required to complete only one application per household. The application may be returned to a school or to the Food Service Office. Identity of students participating is kept strictly confidential.

Eligible families should complete and return the form even if they do not plan to participate in the lunch program. Students who qualify for the federal free and reduced-price school lunch program are also exempt from other fees and charges. A letter of eligibility for free and reduced-price meals will be sent to the parents/guardians of qualifying students. An information release form will be included with the eligibility letter. Complete the information release form and return it to the school office.

Information: (970)490-3557.



## Johnson Elementary Thunderbird Times

### Media Matters

News and information from your Media Center

#### Preschool Story Time Continues

The Media Center will be providing a preschool story time each Thursday morning from 9:05-9:30 beginning September 10th. A short story will be read to the preschoolers and then the children will be allowed to check out books. Parents must fill out a short registration form prior to the first checkout. If you participated last year, you will not need to fill out the form again. These forms are currently available in the Media Center and may be filled out ahead of time to expedite the first checkout. Parents do not have to have other students enrolled at Johnson to participate. Parents must accompany their children for the entire time they are using the Media Center. Since school will be in session during the preschool time, young children need to learn and follow these rules.

- No running.
- Stay with your parent.
- Use a quiet, inside voice at all times.
- Listen to the Media Center teachers and follow their directions.

Tell your friends and neighbors to join us each Thursday morning at the Media Center.



#### Community E-Mail List

Help save money for your school by reading your e-mail. Johnson Elementary School has a Community E-mail List. Parents, like you, sign up for the list. In turn, we will send you an e-mail message each time we post newsletters or other important information to our web site.

So help us go green and keep the "green". Sign up today:

<http://schoolweb.psdschools.org/johnson/list2.html>

### Media Center Checkout Procedures

Please check with your child's homeroom teacher to find out what day your child goes to the Media Center. For children in grades K-3, books may be checked out for one week. They are due on your child's Media day each week. For students in grades 4 – 6, books may be checked out for two weeks. Students may always come to the Media Center on times other than their scheduled classroom time if they want to return books and get more. Please have your children check with their classroom teacher about the best time to do this. The Media Center is open for walk-in checkout at 9:10 AM Monday- Wednesday and Friday.

Please help your children find a safe place to keep their library books and help them to establish a routine for remembering to return them on their Media Checkout day. Lost or damaged books must be replaced, and you will be responsible for that cost. Should you ever find a lost book after you paid for it, return the book and we will refund you money up to one year from the time the fine was paid.

Overdue notices are sent out approximately once a week. Sometimes classroom teachers put these notes in their weekly folders and it is possible to receive a note for a book you have returned. If that happens, have your child come to the Media Center and let us know. We will gladly check the shelf to confirm its return.

If you ever have any questions about the Media Center or your child's book, feel free to contact us.

### Check out the *new* computer lab!

While the students were away this summer, district electricians and data communications workers were busy transforming a classroom into a new lab. The new lab is equipped with 30 student computers, printers and a SMARTboard. Johnson now has two computer labs. The old lab is now called the Flex lab and teachers can sign up to take their students into the lab for projects and assignments.

A special thank you goes to the JPO for purchasing the tables for the new lab. The students have enjoyed knowing that the money they helped raise last year was used for something that will enjoy every day.

Stop by and check out the lab next time you are in the building.





## Johnson Elementary Thunderbird Times

### PSD parent notification procedures

The PSD communications office coordinates several efforts to notify parents and staff when **ALL** schools are closed for conditions such as bad weather or for emergency situations.

PSD will communicate information and instructions directly to parents and staff through the following:

- E-mails to parents who have signed up for PSD email alerts (sign up at [www.psdschools.org](http://www.psdschools.org) – “Email Alert Sign-Up”) or provided their email on the student information form parents receive the first week of school.
- Text messages to parents and staff who have that capability on their phone.
- Phone messages through the School Messenger automated phone notification system.
- PSD website ([www.psdschools.org](http://www.psdschools.org)) information postings
- PSD Channel 10 (Comcast and US Cable)
- Local and Denver media including newspapers, radio and television stations

### Sex offender registry information available

State law (C.R.S. § 22-1-124) requires that all schools notify parents about how to access records on registered sex offenders. Following are ways to obtain information about registered offenders:

**List of Offenders living inside city limits is available at City of Fort Collins Police Services:** Information about sex offenders via Colorado Bureau of Investigations statewide sex offender list is available at <http://sor.state.co.us/> which will take you to the State of Colorado registry. Simply follow the steps and select the city or county of interest for the information which is maintained by CBI. The local Fort Collins sex offender registration list can also be accessed by going to the police station at 2221 Timberline Road and filling out a request form (no charge to view list; \$7.50 to purchase copy).

**List of offenders living outside city limits in Larimer County is available from Larimer County Sheriff:** Residents can go to the Sheriff’s Office administration building, 2501 Midpoint Drive, and view books with information and pictures of sex offenders at no charge. Residents can purchase a list for a fee of \$7.50 through the records department. A database is online at: <http://www.larimer.org/sheriff/sexoffenders/index.htm>

**Colorado sex offenders registry from the Colorado Bureau of Investigation:** available online at <http://sor.state.co.us>

### Bus passes and alternative release

A note signed by the parent/guardian must be sent to the office if your student is to ride a different bus or to get off at a different stop. A special bus pass will be written for your child to give to the bus driver. A note should be sent to your child’s teacher if your child will be riding or walking home with another student or adult. Please request passes before 1 p.m. so that we have time to process the request. Please refer to district policy “Student Conduct on School Buses” (EEAEC & EEAEC-R) for further clarification.

### Morning Fresh fund-raiser

Thank you to everyone who is turning in the Morning Fresh bottle caps. This is a very easy for our school to raise money. Keep saving those caps!



### Johnson Parent Teacher Organization **JPTO**

The **Johnson Parent Teacher Organization (JPTO)** meets on the second Monday of each month at **7:00 pm** in the **Johnson Media Center**. All Johnson parents are invited to attend - newcomers are welcome! Our next meeting will be **Monday, September 14**, at 7:00 p.m. in the Media Center. Plan on attending!

#### **Get Involved...**

- If you are involved with school, your children become more involved and successful in school.
- You can provide input to help make decisions that affect the school and your child’s education.

It’s a great way for parents to become involved and meet each other.

### JPTO Officers 2009-1010

President:	Jill Mollenhauer	970-226-0915
Co-President:	Christie McDonald	970-206-9791
Treasurer:	Melissa Unter	970-282-1606
Secretary:	<b>Need Volunteer</b>	
Partners		
Coordinator :	Shannon Smith	970-226-4989
Partners		
Co-Coordinator:	<b>Need Volunteer</b>	

If you are willing to help as the JPTO Secretary or Co-Partners Coordinator, please call Jill Mollenhauer at 970-226-0915.



## Johnson Elementary Thunderbird Times

### Tuition-based preschool program accepting registrations

Registrations are now being accepted for the Poudre School District tuition-based preschool program, which will pilot at four locations for the 2009-2010 school year. The preschool program will pilot at Cache La Poudre Elementary, Rice Elementary, and Moore Elementary, and the Fullana Learning Center. Half day sessions will be available in the morning and afternoon at participating schools.

The new preschool program will have:

- Teachers licensed by Colorado Dept. of Education.
- High quality, standards-based preschool environment.
- 16 students per session. Adult to child ratio 1-8.
- Tuition cost \$3150/year or \$315 for 10 months.

To apply go to [www.psdschools.org](http://www.psdschools.org); click on "School Registration;" then click on the upper left-hand link, "Preschool Registration."

For more information, call Early Childhood Education at 490-3204.

### Nominate your Coach of Character today

Applications are now being accepted for the 2010 Sonny Lubick Coach of Character Award. The Sonny Lubick Coach of Character Award is presented annually to one outstanding coach in the Fort Collins community who focuses on character development while teaching life lessons through sports. This coach has rejected the "win-at-all-cost" model and is centered on helping players develop positive character traits that will enable them to be successful in life. Furthermore, this coach has helped to build a legacy of sportsmanship and character in athletics in the Fort Collins community. In order for an individual to be eligible for this award, they must have coached school, club or recreational sports for athletes 18 and under for a minimum of ten years in Northern Colorado.

The Sonny Lubick Coach of Character Award is presented by CHaracter in Athletics – Make it a Priority at the annual CHAMP Celebration Breakfast in early 2010. Nominations must be received no later than by September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009 to be considered for the 2010 Sonny Lubick Coach of Character Award. Please visit [www.champfc.com](http://www.champfc.com) to download the nomination form and for more details on the award or call 970-266-2671.

### Study finds three ways to help your child succeed in school

Parents want their children to do their best in school. But what works? A study by researchers at Indiana University found that children do better in the classroom when parents:

1. **Are positive.** You know that your child is sensitive to your emotions. Not surprisingly, the study found that to also be true for parents' attitudes about schoolwork. Parents who thought their child could do an assignment successfully had a child who believed that, too. In addition, the study found that encouragement from a parent led a child to be more motivated. Model positive attitudes, and your child will copy them.
2. **Break it down.** A long assignment can overwhelm your child. One of the easiest things you can do to help is to break that big task into smaller pieces. The study found that when children worked at a task they thought they could handle, they did better at it.
3. **Teach the importance of a final check.** One of the best habits to instill in your child is to look over his work before handing it in. Oops--he added when he should have subtracted. He wrote their instead of there. Correcting these minor mistakes can lead to a much better overall grade. In addition, the study found that children who were in the habit of checking over their work were more likely to volunteer to answer questions in class.

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## Johnson Elementary - Calendar of Events

<b>September</b>			
4	9:10 am	All School Fire Drill Practice	
7	<b>NO SCHOOL</b>	<b>Labor Day</b>	
10	9:10 am	All School Lock Down—Emergency Drill Practice	
13		Grandparent's Day!	
14	7:30—8:30 am 7:00 pm	Site Leadership Team Meeting Individual Student Portraits Johnson Parent Teacher Org. (JPTO) Meeting	Staff Lounge—Parent's Welcome! Johnson Gym Media Center
17	6:30am—8:30pm	Johnson "Skate Party" at Rollerland Skate Center	324 S. Link Lane
18	9:15—9:45 am	Fun Services Fund-Raiser Kick-Off	Johnson Gym
21	<b>NO SCHOOL</b>	<b>Staff Collaboration Day</b>	
24	9:10 am	All School Evacuation Drill Practice	
25	3:00—3:30 pm	Johnson P.R.I.D.E. Assembly	Johnson Gym
29	9:00—Noon	3rd Grade Field Trip to CSU	CSU Ag Adventures
<b>October</b>			
2		Vision and Hearing Screenings	
5	9:10 am	All School Tornado Drill Practice	
9	9:45am—12:20pm	1st Grade Field Trip	The Gardens at Spring Creek
12	7:00 pm	Johnson Parent Teacher Org. (JPTO) Meeting	Media Center
13	4:00—7:00 pm	Evening Parent Teacher Conferences	Johnson Elementary
14	4:00—7:00 pm	Evening Parent Teacher Conferences	Johnson Elementary
15	<b>NO SCHOOL</b>	<b>Parent Teacher Conferences</b>	Johnson Elementary
16	<b>NO SCHOOL</b>	<b>District Parent Teacher Conference Day</b>	*Evening Conferences 13th & 14th at Johnson
26		Picture Re-Take Day by Lifetouch Photos	
<b>November</b>			
1		Daylight Savings Time Ends	"Fall Back" one hour
9	7:30—8:30 am 7:00 pm	Shared Leadership Team Meeting Johnson Parent Teacher Org. (JPTO) Meeting	Staff Lounge—Parents Welcome! Media Center
12	7:00 pm	5th Grade Fall Music Program	Rocky Mountain High School
17	TBA 6:30—8:30 pm	Johnson Choir Field Trip Johnson Skate Party at Rollerland Skate Center	Fort Collins Senior Center 324 S. Link Lane
20	3:00—3:30 pm	Johnson P.R.I.D.E. Assembly	Johnson Gym
25—27	<b>NO SCHOOL</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Recess</b>	
30	<b>NO SCHOOL</b>	<b>Staff Collaboration Day</b>	



**Poudre School District website**

Do you want to know the latest news in PSD? Check the PSD Website at [www.psdschools.org](http://www.psdschools.org).