

Thunderbird Times

November 5, 2009



Johnson Elementary School

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

Happy November Johnson Parents,

Before we know it, the holidays will be upon us. Please know that your students are wonderful and we are very happy to have you as part of our Johnson family.

Our work on the common formative assessments in reading as well as the "essential learnings" in writing and math continues. We are working together to examine our teaching practices to best utilize our time daily for quality instruction. We have implemented specific interventions for students who still struggle academically as well as those who excel. We have many highly qualified staff in our building and we continue to think creatively about how to support our students to help them make annual growth in reading, writing and math.

We are moving into the colder months and the weather conditions outside definitely affect our students. I ask that you help us to keep the students warm and dry. Please send them to school with a warm coat, a hat, gloves, scarf and snow pants and boots when we get snow. We send all students outside to play as long as the temperature (including wind chill) is above 15 degrees. If the temperature drops below this limit, then we keep everyone inside during recess times. Only students with the appropriate winter clothing are allowed to play in the snow. If students do not have waterproof apparel, then they are not allowed to play off of the blacktop area. Please take some time periodically to check our lost and found collection for missing coats, hats, gloves, scarves and other clothing items. This collection tends to get quite large and we want to make sure that the clothing items get to the rightful owner.

As we approach the holiday season, we will have different fund raising opportunities in our building for those in need at Johnson Elementary. All donations are gladly accepted and the money collected helps to provide for

our students and families who struggle financially. We also work with area organizations and churches to provide clothing, food and personal items for community students and families.

Unfortunately, our troubled economy impacts all of us and I fully understand that making donations becomes more difficult. Any and all support that you can give is greatly appreciated. Our goal is to make a positive difference in the lives of many people.

Finally, remember to frequently check our school web site for important information and calendar dates. We will continue to send our parent e-mail notifications to keep everyone up to date on what is happening in our school. If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at 488-5000. Stay warm and stay safe.

Best wishes,
Will Allen
Principal



Important Reminder!!!!

Please remember to call the 24 hour Attendance Line (488-5095) if your child will be absent from school. If you do not call the attendance line, office staff are required to contact you. Please help us save time and work more efficiently by calling the attendance line when your child will be absent.

Breakfast available at Johnson
8:30—8:55 am
Only \$1.00



Main Office
970-488-5000

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

24 Hour
Attendance
Line:
970-488-5095

Inside this issue:

Music Notes	2
Turkey Round-Up	
25 Cent Book Sale	
Discontinue AR at Home	3
Kindergarten Open House	
PE News	4
PSD News Briefs	5 - 6
Johnson Calendar	7



Principal
Will Allen
488-5001



Johnson Elementary Thunderbird Times

Johnson Music Programs—Coming Soon!

Mark your calendars for the upcoming Johnson Music Programs.

Thursday, November 12
5th Grade
Fall Program

Tuesday, December 15
3rd/4th
Grades Winter Program

Santa's toyshop is in danger of going bust! No money for materials means no presents, which means no Christmas! What's the gang going to do?

Join the fun as the entire toyshop crew goes on the road to Branson, Missouri to raise the needed funds with a down-home country music jamboree with the reindeer masquerading as horses, the lovely "Dolly Holiday" and even Elves and rock and roll. We hope you will be "yee-hawing" for more.



Tuesday, May 11
1st/2nd
Spring Program

All programs are at Rocky Mountain High School Auditorium at 7:00 p.m.

1st Sem. Student Council Meetings/News

All Student Council Meetings are held in the Media Center at 8:00 am.

Monday, November 9
Monday, November 23
Monday, December 7

Upcoming Projects

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| November | Non-Perishable Food Drive
During the entire month of November Student Council will be collecting non-perishable food items to donate to the Larimer County Food Bank. |
| December | Johnson Giving Tree
During the entire month of December Student Council will be collecting coins and other cash donations. Funds collected will be distributed to needy Johnson families. |

Turkey Round-up!

November is a time to be thankful for our abundance! Once again this year we will be collecting frozen turkeys for the Larimer County Food Bank. Thursday, November 12 will be the day to bring in those turkeys! Mrs. Slocomb and Mrs. Engstrom will be the Turkey Wranglers this year. Bring your turkey to the red truck parked in the front of the school and we will round them up and take them to the food bank for those less fortunate during the holidays. Big turkeys, small turkeys, turkey breasts and even money are welcome.

The class with the most turkeys wins popcorn and a movie. This year we are including the teachers. Classroom teachers count toward their class count. Special teachers, paras and school staff count as a class. See if you can beat the teachers!

Schools all over PSD compete for the coveted Traveling Trophy. Let's show the district just how Fabulous we Thunderbirds really are! Watch for your flier coming home in the Thursday notes.

25 cent Book Sale

Over the course of the year, the Media Center receives donations that we cannot shelve and we delete old books that are old and worn out. We could throw these books away or we could use them for a good cause. Each year the media center holds the **25 Cent Book Sale**. For a mere quarter you can purchase a book. Some are great, some are creepy, but they all are for a good cause. The money from the sale goes to the Johnson Giving Tree to help buy presents for underprivileged families.



The 25 Cent book sale will be the week of November 16th to the 20th. It will be in the hall in front of the cafeteria during all lunch hours. Bring your quarters. Buy a book for a good cause!

Rotary Read

Rotary read week is a week-long reading event for the PSD elementary schools to promote good reading habits. A form was sent home October 29th to each student. For the week of November 2nd through 6th, students need to read or listen to someone read to them at least 15 minutes each day. Complete and return the forms to the media center and win a pencil. Forms will then be sent to the Rotary Club of Fort Collins to be entered into a drawing for gift certificates to Reader's Cove or Barnes and Noble. There are usually several winner per grade, so read, read, read!



Johnson Elementary Thunderbird Times

AR Tests at Home—Discontinued

If you have your student doing AR from home, please discontinue the process.

We have recently been notified that AR is for school use ONLY. If your student needs to do AR more than once a week, please contact your teacher and have him or her organize time with the Media Center. Following are reasons that were given for this policy:



- The student may be getting help from others when taking the AR quiz.
- Taking AR quizzes at home does not support the best practices that Renaissance Learning has found to be the most beneficial.
- AR Quizzing should be carried out in "...secured, monitored environment."
- Taking an AR quiz at home opens up the opportunity for copying of questions/answers. This is within itself, a copyright violation. Since there is only one quiz per book, the integrity of the quiz can come into question, should this happen.
- The overall goal for AR is that students perform the reading at home and the quiz should be completed at school. The test should only be a few minutes long, leaving precious time for other in-class activities.

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.

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. If you have not been getting our email notices please sign-up again.



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

Attendance Up-Date

Attendance at Johnson is very important! We had a 95.0% attendance rate for first quarter. We have met the Poudre School District goal of a 95% attendance rate for quarterly attendance. This is actually a nice surprise with all the illness we have seen during the last few weeks. Normally our attendance rate is higher and we look forward to that when everyone is healthy again.

Johnson has 479 students enrolled. We are excited to report that 136 students had perfect attendance during the first quarter of school (August 19, 2009—October 14, 2009). These students will bring home Perfect Attendance Certificates. Won't it be exciting to see which students have perfect attendance for the whole year?

Kindergarten Open House

Parents of incoming 2010-2011 Kindergarten students are invited to an Open House on Wednesday, January 27, 2010, 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the Johnson Media Center. This will be a time for parents to meet our Kindergarten Teachers, hear about the Kindergarten Program and ask questions. **Parents only please.**



JPTO (Johnson Parent Teacher Org.)

Below are the names of this year's JPO Officers. Don't forget to attend our monthly JPO Meeting on the 2nd Monday of each month, 7:00 pm in the Media Center.

President

Jill Mollenhauer
(970)226-0915
the_kittycat@comcast.net

Co-President

Chirstie McDonald
(970)206-9791
xmcd@frii.com

Treasurer

Melissa Unter
(970)267-6569
melissa.unter@fortcollins.commerce.com

Partners (Volunteer) Coordinator

Shannon Smith
(970)226-4989
smithsh@ci.loveland.co.us



Johnson Elementary Thunderbird Times

Box Tops News

Our first big contest is over and the results are in! An ENORMOUS thank you goes out to each and every one of you who collected and turned in Box Tops! Because of your efforts, over 13,000 Box Tops were turned in, which means Johnson made over \$1,300.00 to help go toward needed items in the school. First place went to Mrs. Matzdorf's fourth grade class. Second place went to Mrs. Touslee's fourth grade class. Third place went to Mrs. Kvidera's first grade class. Congratulations!

The Box Tops "Snowball Fight" contest starts on Monday, November 2. Information on this contest went home in last week's Thursday folder. The top class will be rewarded!

Thanks again to everyone who participates in this great, fun and easy fundraiser!

Sincerely, Jennifer Howell, Box Tops Coordinator

** Keep sending in your Tyson chicken labels, too! Each one is worth 24 cents!*

Get your family to vote for their favorite books

Even if your community doesn't have an election this year, you can make the month of November "Vote for Books" month at your house. You'll encourage everyone in the family to read--and write--about books they enjoy.

Create a "Book Ballot." Include the title of the book and the author. Then have family members vote--is it one of the best books ever? Only so-so? Not so good? Or a book that should be avoided?

Leave room for a short written description. Why did the book earn that rating? What was the best part of the book? Were there things the reader would have liked to change?

Place a "ballot box" (a shoe box with a hole in the lid) where everyone can see it. At the end of the month, open the box and read the ballots.



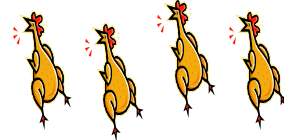
Which books are the big winners in your family?

Reprinted with permission from the November 2009 issue of *Parents make the difference!*® (Elementary School Edition) newsletter. Copyright © 2009 The Parent Institute®, a division of NIS, Inc. Source: Erika Swarts Gray, "The Importance of Visibility: Students' and Teachers' Criteria for Selecting African American Literature," *The Reading Teacher*, March 2009 (International Reading Association, www.reading.org).

News from the P.E. Department

Hi Thunderbirds,

As always, thanks to both parents and kids for helping the PE teacher with names. I am learning the oldest grades first and I confess I won't know everyone by Nov. 1—maybe by Dec. 1! Thank you for the financial support made for some recent purchases and a few more on the way.



I'm happy to report that students are thinking about wearing their PE shoes more. The October winner of the "Which Class Wears Their PE Shoes the Most Contest" is: Mrs. Clark's 5th grade! Mrs. Clark's class had a PERFECT score of ZERO, which means every student wore PE shoes for every PE class. Thank you for supporting this. PE shoes make sports and games SAFE and they allow our energetic, young athletes to run, catch, dodge and play their best. If your child prefers a "fashionable shoe", put the PE shoes in the backpack to wear during PE class. Kids also know that RECESS is an important time for ACTIVE PLAY and they get more recess time than PE time during the week, making PE shoes important everyday.

UPCOMING UNITS:

All grades have just finished the PICNIC skills unit which includes: rope jumping, disc/Frisbee, paddle skills and hula hooping. The next units for grades 3—5 will be lacrosse and youth rugby. Next units for grades K—2 will emphasize individual sport skills like throwing and catching and other skills that use the concept of *sending and receiving*. The primary grades are also learning different ways to exercise (or make their muscles tired) that use cardio or strength. ALL GRADES know the word *technique* and what it means both in and out of PE.

WELLNESS— It's great to see so many walkers and bike/scooter riders at school. The fact is, the district is looking into adding another BIKE RACK so more people can ride. The extra rack will be most appreciated on those super-warm days as winter draws near and in the spring. If the racks are a little crowded, there is usually space on the south racks that face Webber MS.

Don't be a couch potato, Jim Rumbold



Johnson Elementary Thunderbird Times

NOVEMBER PSD SCHOOL NEWS BRIEFS

For more information, contact:

Jody Margheim, communications specialist, (970) 490-3543, jmarghei@psdschools.org

Talk with the Superintendent

Listening sessions are an opportunity to talk with Dr. Wilson about issues and concerns, ways to enhance student achievement, and ask questions about Poudre School District.

November listening sessions include:

- 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, **November 11**, Media Center at Webber Middle School, 4201 Seneca Street
- 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., Friday, **November 13**, Flex Room at Putnam Elementary School of Science, 1400 Maple Street

Everyone is encouraged to attend. No registration is necessary. For more information, call 490-3607 or e-mail info@psdschools.org.

Stay connected! Online e-mail sign-up now available

We want your current e-mail address! Sign up to receive PSD emergency information and the quarterly PSD community e-newsletter containing important information on district initiatives (grade configuration, boundary changes, etc.), and current news and events. You may also receive important school updates, calendar changes, and critical information from your child's teacher.

Poudre School District now has an online e-mail subscription system. If you provided an e-mail address on your child's information form, your address is already in the system. If you have not yet provided one or your e-mail has changed, please go to the **E-mail Alert Sign-up** link on the www.pdschools.org and input your address. Stay connected. Sign up today!

Online School Choice application available for 2010-11, policy changes implemented

The online School Choice application is now available at www.pdschools.org under "School Registration," which may be accessed from a home computer or any computer with Internet access; a public use computer is available at the PSD Support Services Center, 2407 LaPorte Ave., or any of the district's schools. The first consideration deadlines for 2010-11 are:

January 29, 2010, for secondary (grades 6-12)
February 12, 2010, for elementary (grades K-5)

School Choice applications may be submitted after the first-consideration deadline until the first day of class at the beginning of the school year of requested enrollment.

The School Choice policy now offers parents of multiple-birth siblings the opportunity to submit one application for each set of multiple birth siblings. If a parent chooses this option, the siblings will be considered for available spaces together. The school will need to have the appropriate number of spaces available to accept the siblings as a group, if the number of siblings exceeds the number of spaces, the students will remain on the waiting list until enough spaces are available. For more information, view the School Choice policy and timelines on the PSD Web site.

Volunteers wanted!

If you have a few hours to share your skills and expertise, you could make a huge difference in the lives of our students. Please contact Cyndi Gile at cynthiag@psdschools.org, or 490-3208. We have many opportunities available!

PSD Weather-Related Delayed Start Plan

Should the need arise due to bad weather and/or questionable road conditions, PSD may implement a delayed start of all schools by 2 hours. The following is important information for parents regarding delayed start, as well a refresher on school closure and early release plans.

Delayed Start of Schools Due to Weather, Road Conditions

Should the need arise, the delayed school start time will be 2 hours, for all schools.

Delayed start decision: A decision about delayed start will be made by 5:30 a.m.

Parent notification: visit the PSD website at www.pdschools.org or tune in to local radio or television stations to find out about delayed start the morning of the day in question. Please do not call schools, district offices, or broadcast media. No announcements by media and on the website means all schools are open as usual.



Johnson Elementary Thunderbird Times

Bus pick up times: Buses will pick up students at bus stops 2 hours later than regularly scheduled pick-up times. Buses will make every effort to be punctual, although traffic and road conditions may increase travel time. Please ensure your child is dressed warmly in anticipation of a potentially longer wait time. Parents are encouraged to walk their children to bus stops and avoid walking along the roadways. Sidewalks are safer even if these areas are not cleared of snow.

Drop off and arrival times: Parents dropping off students, students who walk, and students driving to school should arrive 2 hours after their regular arrival times. Please do not arrive earlier.

Kindergarten and Early Childhood: Morning-only kindergarten programs and morning Early Childhood programs are cancelled when there is a delayed start schedule. Afternoon kindergarten and afternoon Early Childhood programs will run on normal schedules. Full-day kindergarten and full-day Early Childhood programs will start 2 hours later than normal.

Before- and after-school childcare: B.A.S.E. (Before and After School Enrichment) Camp will open as normally scheduled for students attending these programs. If your childcare provider is other than B.A.S.E. Camp, contact them for start times.

School dismissal times: School dismissal times will remain on regular schedules, including bus drop-off times in neighborhoods and parent pick-up times at schools.

School Closures Due to Weather, Road Conditions

If schools are closed due to inclement weather and/or questionable road conditions, parents should tune in to local radio and television stations, or go online to PSD's website at www.psdschools.org to find out about school closures the morning of the day in question.

Media outlets are informed if schools are closed. No announcements by the media or on the PSD website means all schools are open as usual.

A decision about weather-related school closures is made by 5:30 a.m., and media outlets are notified immediately. **Parents should NOT call schools, district offices, or broadcast media.**

The PSD website (www.psdschools.org), radio and television stations will provide information about PSD school closures. We will notify Spanish radio stations KGRE 1450AM and KJJD 1170AM for Spanish speaking families.

Note: When PSD schools are closed, B.A.S.E. (Before and After School Enrichment) Camp will be closed.

Early Release of Schools Due to Weather, Road Conditions

If the weather forecast suddenly changes to adverse conditions, PSD may put into action an early release. Parents are urged to please develop a plan for the possibility of your student's early release to your home. B.A.S.E. (Before and After School Enrichment) Camp will not be available after school if schools release students early.

When PSD makes a decision to close schools earlier than the regularly-scheduled release times due to inclement weather and/or questionable road conditions, parents will be notified by phone. **In addition, media outlets (listed above) and the PSD website (www.psdschools.org) also will communicate early release information.**

Parents are urged to make sure family contacts and telephone numbers are current at your child's school for such an emergency.

For additional information about the policy and procedures, contact Scott French, PSD director of transportation, at 490-3555.





Johnson Elementary - Calendar of Events

November			
6	3:05—3:30 pm	October—Johnson P.R.I.D.E. Assembly	Johnson Gym
9	7:30—8:30 am 3:30—5:30 pm 7:00 pm	Shared Leadership Team Meeting Fun Services Fundraiser—Order Delivery Johnson Parent Teacher Org. (JPTO) Meeting	Staff Lounge—Parents Welcome! Johnson (Media Center) Media Center
11	9:05 am	Veteran's Day Flag Raising Presentation by CSU Color Guard	Johnson Flag Pole
12	9:30 am 7:00 pm	5th Grade Fall Music Performance for Students 5th Grade Fall Music Performance for Parents	Johnson Gym Rocky Mountain High School
17	11:30am—1:15 pm 6:30—8:30 pm	Johnson Choir Field Trip Johnson Skate Party at <i>Rollerland</i> Skate Center	Fort Collins Senior Center 324 S. Link Lane
20	3:10—3:30 pm	November—Johnson P.R.I.D.E. Assembly	Johnson Gym
25—27	NO SCHOOL	Thanksgiving Recess	
30	NO SCHOOL	Staff Collaboration Day	
December			
7	7:30—8:30 am	Shared Leadership Team Meeting	Staff Lounge—Parents Welcome
10	7:00 pm	Thunderbird Choir Performance for Parents	Johnson Gym
11	9:45 am 10:30am-1:00 pm	Thunderbird Choir Performance for Students Thunderbird Choir Field Trip/Performance	Johnson Gym Foothills Mall
14	7:00 pm	Johnson Parent Teacher Organization Meeting	Johnson Media Center
15	7:00 pm	3rd and 4th Grade Winter Music Program	Rocky Mountain High School
18	3:30—3:30 pm	Johnson P.R.I.D.E. Assembly	Johnson Gym
21—1	NO SCHOOL	Winter Break	
January			
Jan. 4	NO SCHOOL	Teacher Work Day	
11	7:30—8:30 am 7:00 pm	Johnson Shared Leadership Team Meeting Johnson Parent Teacher Organization Meeting	Staff Lounge—Parents Welcome Johnson Media Center
12	TBD	4th/5th Grade Field Trip—Fort Collins Symphony	Fort Collins Lincoln Center
14	7—8:00 pm	5th Grade Living Timeline	Johnson Elementary
18	NO SCHOOL	Martin Luther King Day	
27	6:30—7:30 pm	Open House for 2010-2011 Kindergarten Parents	Parents Only

Johnson Weekly Enrichment Events

Running Club	Mondays	3:45—4:45 pm	Contact: Jenn Hanna	hanna@psdschools.org
Chess Club	Tuesdays	8:00—8:45 am	Contact: Alex Martin	alexm@psdschools.org
Thunderbird Choir	Tuesday & Thursdays	8:00—8:45 am	Contact: Monita Doenges	mdoenges@psdschools.org
Pre-School Story Tm	Thursdays	9:05—9:30 am	Contact: Liz Slocomb	lizs@psdschools.org
Climbing Club	Fridays	8:00—8:45 am	Contact: Catie Caywood	ccaywood@psdschools.org



Poudre School District website

Do you want to know the latest news in PSD? Check the PSD Website at www.pdschools.org.