



Johnson Elementary

Monthly Parent Newsletter

February 7, 2008

Kindergarten Registration for 08/09 continues until 6:00 p.m. tonight!

Pride Assembly Results

The following students were recognized at the monthly Johnson P.R.I.D.E. Assembly on January 25: **Ethan Holder, Forrest Smith, Anna Lange, Danea Madrid, Daniel Sandoval, Grace Feist, Lauren Axe, Allie Watkinson, Braedon Stewart, Jacob Rodahl, Tyler Kimbell, Taylor Werning.** Congratulations to each of you!

Spelling Bee Results

Congratulations to **Ethan Holder**, the winner of the Johnson Spelling Bee held on January 16. Way to go Ethan!



Rotary Read Winners!

Following are the names of students who received Barnes and Noble Certificates for their participation in the Rotary Read program last November: **Grace Eddy, Perla Rubi Vargas, Annie Hill, Ryan Bolander, Gianna Cuscela, Cambree Smith, Edie McRoberts, C.J. Hull, Maria Florez, Zach Hupfer, Nathan Sundstedt, Jacob Rodahl, Lu Wu, Sam Eddy, Logan Knight, Parker Lanteri, Jacob Mahar, Kayla Proctor, Laura Mendoza, Theo Champ, Rachel Proctor, Natalie Littauer, Isaac Trippet, Jennifer Schnell, McKenzie Conradson, Ashton Claborn, Joe Anderson, Kyla Box and Jordan McKee.** Congratulations to each of you! Keep on reading!

Fabulous Thunderbirds

Fabulous Thunderbird Cards are given to students when they are caught demonstrating the P.R.I.D.E. character traits. This is just another way of recognizing students for positive behavior. Be sure to ask your child why he/she received the award.

Congratulations to **Colin Jongsma, Kaytlyn Vander Meer and Mackenna Clark** who recently received Fabulous Cards!

CSAP Testing—Just around the Corner

Students will soon begin taking the State-mandated CSAP (Colorado Student Assessment Program) tests. Please keep the following items in mind as your child prepares for his/her testing dates.

- Ensure your child gets a good nights sleep before each testing day
- Provide your student a nourishing breakfast each testing day
- Plan ahead to ensure your child is present and on time for each test
- Schedule appointments or vacations on non-test days



Please see the Johnson Calendar on page 6 for grade level testing dates.

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Johnson Elementary School

Principal, Will Allen

Office: **488-5000**

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

24-Hour Attendance Line: 488-5095

www.psdschools.org/johnson

Get the latest *Johnson News* on our Website!

Newsletter Editor, Tina Crewdson

Science Enrichment Week—Huge Success!

Science Enrichment week was full of many exciting events. How very fortunate Johnson Elementary is to have a principal, like Will Allen and a parent organization (JPO) who support hands-on, child-centered learning.

Throughout the week, we had the opportunity to attend presentations and explore the following topics with guidance from professionals within our community:

- Animal Critter Crates from the Colorado Division of Wildlife, ***thanks to Lisa Evans.***
- Our Five Senses, ***thanks to Leslie Stone-Roy.***
- Forest Fire Presentation, ***thanks to John Arnold.***
- NASA Presentation, ***thanks to Crystal Bloeman.***
- Veterinarian Presentation, ***thanks to Wendy Harley.***
- Humane Society presentations on Birds, Penguins, Prairie Dogs, Ground Hogs, Bats, and Living with Wildlife in Colorado, ***thanks to Carol Fiore.***
- Mountain Climbing Survival, ***thanks to Jim Davidson.***
- Mountain Lion Presentation, ***thanks to Don Hunter.***
- Veterinarian Presentation, ***thanks to Gwen Lombard.***
- Energy Star Presentation, ***thanks to Stu Reeves.***
- Little Shop of Physics, ***thanks to Brian Jones, Sheila Ferguson, and CSU students.***
- Live Raptor Demonstration and education, ***thanks to Carin Avila, her volunteer team, from the Rocky Mountain Raptor Program.***
- A Circuit Board demonstration, ***thanks to Tracy Feist.***
- Ocean presentation, ***thanks to RoseMarie Russo.***
- Microbiology experiments, ***thanks to Heidi Smith.***
- Colorado Division of Wildlife presentation, ***thanks to Ken Kehmeier.***
- What's in our Air presentation, ***thanks to Wade Bontempo.***



The Science Enrichment Committee would also like to thank all of the teachers and staff who were flexible and accommodating with their schedules, allowing this week to be a success.

We hope that Johnson's Science Enrichment week has encouraged more children to consider a career in science. At the least, we hope it has encouraged children to be excited about wondering!

Thank you for your support,
Sheri Stalnaker, Susan Tree, Robyn Still, and Kim Bontempo
Science Enrichment Team

Wellness Thoughts for the New Year...

The New Year is a great time to try some new strategies and ideas to improve your family's health and wellness. Here are a few easy things to try to get you on the path! Look for **colorful** information to start arriving in your homes in the coming 1-3 weeks (Thanks Mr. Johnson!). Ask your child what they've learned about being healthy! Remember to "eat your colors!"

- Exchange your loaf of white bread for a loaf of whole grain (look for 100% whole wheat on the label).
- Drink plenty of water
- Eat one more piece of fruit or one more serving of vegetables every day. These can be in the form of fresh, dried, canned, frozen, or 100% fruit or vegetable juice.
- Start moving! If time is an issue, remember that even a small amount of exercise is beneficial (use the yellow "Schools on the Move" sheet that came home last week to start). The recent *Healthy Kids News* for ideas too.
- Check out www.mypyramid.gov for the latest and greatest information on healthful eating.
- Make breakfast a priority! Your kids learn by what you model, so choose something healthful to begin your day.
- Encourage your kids to help with meal planning and shopping. They'll be more likely to eat what they help plan, shop and prepare. What an excellent way to improve math skills, too!

Have a happy and healthy 2008!

-Your Johnson Wellness Committee (To get involved with this committee, please contact Eric Hess at ehess@psdschools.org, or call our front office and speak with Mr. Allen 488-5000).



Got More Boxtops???

The second submission deadline is coming up on Friday, February 22. Please drop off what you've collected in the box located by the front office. The class that collects the most boxtops will receive a special treat!

Stephanie Walts, Boxtops Coordinator

PSD School Choice Deadline—February 8

70% of PSD students attend neighborhood schools, where PSD's rigorous standards-based curriculum is complemented by enrichment activities. However, parents who would like their children to attend a school outside of their attendance area can do so through School Choice.

Parents may choose from a neighborhood school, a school close to work, all-day or half-day kindergarten programs, before- and after-school care, and various programs and curricula (on a space-available basis).



PSD's School Choice deadline is Friday, February 8, 2008. School Choice students are accepted on a space-available basis, and transportation is the responsibility of the parent. **Students who are currently attending Johnson Elementary as School Choice DO NOT need to re-apply.**

To access a School Choice application form, visit www.psdschools.org and click on "School Registration," or pick up an application at any school office or at the Johannsen Support Services Center, 2407 LaPorte Avenue, Fort Collins.

Fecha Limite para Escoger la Escuela del PSD. Es el 8 de Febrero, 2008.

Aproximadamente el 70% de los estudiantes del PSD atienden a las escuelas de la vecindad, en donde el plan de estudios esta basado en un estándar-riguroso del PSD. Es complementado por actividades del enriquecimiento. Sin embargo, los padres que quisieran que sus niños atendieran a una escuela fuera de su área de asistencia pueden hacerlo por medio ó a través de la opción de la Escuela Escogida.

Los padres pueden elegir de una escuela de la vecindad, una escuela cerca del trabajo, todo-día o cuidado de medio día de los programas del jardín de la infancia, antes de y de la después-escuela, y los varios programas y planes de estudios (sobre una base espacio-disponible).

El plazo/ ó la fecha limite para Escoger la Escuela del PSD.

Es el Viernes, 8 de Febrero, 2008. Aceptan a los estudiantes de la Escuela Escogida sobre una base del Espacio-Disponible, y el transporte es la responsabilidad del padre.

Para tener acceso a un formulario de inscripción ó matricula de la Escuela Escogida,

Visitar: www.psdschools.org y marque donde dice: " Matricula de la Escuela," ó tome uno en cualquier oficina de la escuela ó en el Centro de Servicios de Ayuda Johannsen, en el 2407 de la Avenida LaPorte, Fort Collins, Colorado.

Superintendent Hosts "Listening Sessions" for Community

Parents and community members will have an opportunity to talk with Superintendent of Schools Jerry Wilson during several "listening sessions" scheduled throughout the school year at different locations.

The informal gatherings are an opportunity to talk with Dr. Wilson about issues and concerns, ways to enhance student achievement, and ask questions about PSD's major initiatives.

"Listening Sessions" will be held:

- **Noon to 1 p.m., Thursday, March 6, 2008, at the Partnership and Volunteer Center, 1630 S. Stover.**
- **7 to 8 p.m., Tuesday, May 6, 2008, at Bauder Elementary, 2345 W. Prospect.**

Everyone is encouraged to attend. No registration is necessary.

For more information, call 490-3607 or e-mail info@psdschools.org.



PSD Announces Summer School Dates and Schools

Elementary summer school will be held from June 5 through July 2 at Bauder and Zach Elementary Schools. Hours are as follows: Bauder 7:45 a.m.-11:45 a.m., and Zach 9:00 a.m.-12 Noon. More information will follow at a later date.

Secondary summer school will be held from June 3 through July 3, at Fort Collins High School. Other locations: Physical Education classes will be held at Fossil Ridge High School; independent study classes will be held at Poudre Transition Center. Classes normally offered the first semester will be held from 8 am-11:30 a.m., and second semester classes will be held from 12 noon-3:30 p.m.

Information on classes and registration will be available in late March or early April. For additional information, call Dan Lawler at 488-6735 (elementary summer school) or Mike Roberts at 488-4940 (secondary summer school).

Four High School Boundary Change Scenarios to be Presented at Public Input Meetings

The Boundary Steering Committee, which has been studying high school boundaries to better balance enrollment in Poudre School District, has finalized four scenarios to present to the public at meetings in late February and early March.

The Steering Committee studied 20 different scenarios before selecting the final four options. Throughout the process, a Review Committee, made up of parents and principals from schools, has been giving feedback to the Steering Committee.

On February 13, the Steering Committee will present the four scenarios to the Review Committee for discussion.

The scenarios will be presented at four public input meetings scheduled for 6 to 8 p.m. on the following dates:

- Tuesday, Feb. 26, Room 200D, Rocky Mountain High School, 1300 W. Swallow.
- Wednesday, Feb. 27, Room 500, Poudre High School, 201 Impala Drive.
- Monday, March 3, Room 300, Fossil Ridge High School, 5400 Ziegler Road.
- Tuesday, March 4, Room RC100, Fort Collins High School, 3400 Lambkin Way.

Parents and community members may attend any of the four meetings, at which the same information will be presented. Large boundary maps of each scenario will be posted and committee members will be there to talk about the boundary process and answer questions.

Following the public meetings, the Steering Committee will use community feedback to update scenarios if needed. The Steering Committee will present a high school boundary recommendation to the Superintendent who will make a final decision in May 2008.

Implementation of new boundaries will occur in Fall 2009.

For detailed information, visit the PSD web page at www.psdschools.org, click on Boundary Changes, or call Sarah Siple, PSD Business Services, at 490-3501.

Schools Developing Readiness Plans for 2009 Grade Level Change

PSD schools are convening teams to begin work on their school's readiness plan to assist in the transition to new grade levels in fall 2009. The District Grade Configuration Implementation Committee (DGCIC) finalized a readiness plan framework for school teams to use to draft and submit by the end of April, for approval by November 1.



A Middle Schools Committee of principals, teachers, and counselors has developed essential components of successful middle school education based on student achievement, student well being, and effective instruction.

The goal is to blend the best of what schools are currently doing in junior high (grades 7-9) with essential components for successful middle schools (grades 6-8). Teachers and principals met with the Middle School Committee in mid-January to discuss curriculum and essential components that will best meet the needs of students.

New PSD website information links include: Grade Configuration Implementation Plan, Essential Components for Successful Middle Schools, and the detailed January 2008 update.

Information: www.psdschools.org under District Committee Updates, Grade Configuration Implementation, e-mail info@psdschools.org or call 490-3427.

Small Schools Committee Discussing School Size

By the end of December, the Small Schools Committee completed 3 of its 4 objectives:

1. Analyze different size schools for program offerings, scheduling implications, and cost ramifications.
2. Determine consistencies and what essential classes can be offered through the analysis of prototypical models.
3. Recommend cost implications to affect 2008-09 Student-Based Budgeting (SBB), the funding formula that allocates funds to schools each year.

In December, the committee passed size factors for small schools recommendations on to the Student-Based Budgeting (SBB) committee. The recommendations were made after studying the impact of school costs as they relate to schools of different sizes. The SBB committee will now revise the size factor for next year's funding allocation for schools.

In mid-January, the committee began discussing the 4th objective, which is to identify school sizes at which closure may be considered. The committee will address the question—how small is too small for a school to offer an adequate educational program for children?

The committee is focusing on what cost savings might be associated with the closure of schools, based on program offerings and requirements. The committee is expected to finalize its work by mid-March. Kevin Hahn, assistant superintendent of elementary schools and committee chair, will then develop a report to present to the Superintendent on the school size concern.

Stay Connected! Online PSD E-mail Sign-up Now Available

We want your current e-mail address! Sign up to receive 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 **eNewsletter Signup** link on the www.psdschools.org and input your address. Please note that we will never communicate with parents via email exclusively, we will communicate in multiple ways.

Stay connected. Sign up today!

Little Shop of Physics- 17th Annual Open House
Saturday, February 23, 2008
10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Lory Student Center at Colorado State University



Colorado State University's popular hands-on science outreach program is throwing a party, and you're invited. We will have over 200 hands-on experiments for you to explore, dozens new this year, including:

- **Dark Energy:** Can you run a solar cell with radiation you can't see? Indeed
- **Tornado Box:** The emblem of this year's tour, The Cyclone of Science. A humidifier, a fan and some holiday lights let you make a small (and safe) tornado.
- **Infrared Goggles:** Can you see beyond the rainbow? Oh, yeah.
- **Cup of Cloud:** Hold a cloud in your hand, or pour one on your friend.

We will also have 7 interactive presentations featuring flying stuffed animals, fog rings, liquid air, 3 foot sparks and more!

The event is, as always, free and open to the public, and appropriate for all ages. Additional information is on our web site: <http://littleshop.physics.colostate.edu> or call 970-491-3212.

Looking Ahead

February			
7	9—9:30 a.m. 7 a.m.—6 p.m.	Pre-School Story Time Kindergarten Registration for 2008/2009	Media Center Johnson Office
8		School of Choice Application Deadline	
12, 13, & 14	11:00—12:00	3rd Grade Reading CSAP Testing	
14	9—9:30 a.m. 2:30 p.m.	Pre-School Story Time Class Valentine's Day Parties	Media Center
18	NO SCHOOL	Staff Collaboration Day	
20	1:00 p.m.	Poudre School District Spelling Bee	Johannsen Support Svs. Cntr.
21	9—9:30 a.m.	Pre-School Story Time Kindergarten Report Cards go Home	Media Center
28	9—9:30	Pre-School Story Time	Media Center
29	3:00 p.m.	Johnson P.R.I.D.E. Assembly	Gym
March			
3		Read Across America Day	
4	6:00 p.m.	JPO (Johnson Parent Organization) Mtg.	Media Center
5	7:45—8:40 am	Site Leadership Meeting	Parents Welcome
6	9:00 a.m.	Pre-School Story Time	Media Center
9		Daylight Savings Time Begins	
11, 12 & 13	9:30-10:30 a.m.	5th Grade CSAP Testing (Science)	
12	9—11:00 a.m.	Dr. Jerry Wilson visits Johnson	
13	9:00 a.m.	Pre-School Story Time Johnson Skate Party	Media Center <i>Rollerland on Linc Lane</i>
14	NO SCHOOL	Teacher Work Day 3rd Quarter Ends	
17 thru 21	NO SCHOOL	Spring Break	
25, 26 & 27	9:30-10:30 a.m.	5th Grade CSAP Testing (Writing)	
27	9:00 a.m.	Pre-School Story Time Report Cards go Home	Media Center
28	3:00 p.m.	P.R.I.D.E. Assembly	Gym

Specials Rotation Schedule

February 8 — March 7

8 D	15 A	25 B	3 C
11 A	19 B	26 C	4 D
12 B	20 C	27 D	5 A
13 C	21 D	28 A	6 B
14 D	22 A	29 B	7 C

Thunderbird P.R.I.D.E.

P articipate with a positive attitude
R espect yourself, others and property
I nsist on safety always
D emonstrate honesty
E xpect the best from yourself and others.

