

# Johnson Elementary

## Thunderbirds

### February 2014 Newsletter

#### Important Dates!

**Parent Teacher Conferences 2:30-7:30pm**  
**Parent Teacher Conferences 12:30-7:30pm**  
**Student's released at 12:05pm**  
**1/2 day Kinder Student's will have Conferences**  
**both days.**

Wednesday Feb. 12

Thursday Feb. 13

**Vacation Day - No School**  
**Vacation Day - No School**

Friday Feb. 14

Monday Feb. 17

**PTC Financial Meeting 6pm JES Library**

Wednesday Feb. 19

**3rd Grade Reading TCAP Testing**  
**3rd Grade Reading TCAP Testing**

Tuesday Feb. 25

Wednesday Feb. 26



**PTC Meeting - 6pm JES Library**

Wednesday Feb. 26

**Daylight Savings Time Begins**  
**Set your clocks forward 1 hour**

Sunday Mar. 9

**TCAP Testing Window Grades 3-5**

March 10th - 28th

**PTC Meeting - 6pm JES Library**

Wednesday Mar. 12

**3rd Quarter Ends**

Friday Mar. 14





# Johnson Elementary School

February 2014 Messages from Mrs. Pierce



## Parent Teacher Conferences

\*Conferences will be February 12 and February 13.

\*Schedules will be coming home in Thunderbird folders.

## Celebrations and Recognition

\* The school board recognized JES for our Homework Café and closing the achievement gap.

\* JES was rated number 414 out of 1009 elementary schools in Colorado.

## HELPING CHILDREN WITH READING

### VOCABULARY

Vocabulary refers to the words we must know to communicate effectively. In general, vocabulary can be described as oral vocabulary or reading vocabulary. Oral vocabulary refers to words that we use in speaking or recognize in listening. Reading vocabulary refers to words we recognize or use in print. (Armbruster, Lehr, & Osborn, 2001) These activities can help your child increase vocabulary skills.

#### APPLICATION

- Engage your child in daily conversation using a rich challenging vocabulary. Define and talk about new words that are introduced. Give examples of how to use new words in multiple contexts.
- Model and teach your child to use context (surrounding words, sentence structure, pictures) to figure out word meanings.

#### WORD KNOWLEDGE

- Subscribe to a free dictionary website such as [www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com). They will email you a "word of the day." Discuss the word of the day with your child and how to incorporate that word into daily conversations with others. Challenge your child to use that word throughout their day. At the end of the week add that week's words to your own "word of the day" dictionary.
- Discuss affixes (prefixes & suffixes) when reading with your child. Encourage them to extend past the given word and give examples of other words with those affixes and root bases. "What other words do you know that start with inter?" "Can you name any other words that contain sub?"

#### BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

- Continue to read aloud to your child, even when they are proficient in reading. Choose a book above your child's reading level that contains a rich vocabulary.
- Read from a variety of text such as fiction, poetry, plays, science fiction, and non-fiction including directions, newspapers, websites, etc.
- Expose your child to experiences they will be expected to understand when they read. Examples: zoos, museums, nature walks, exhibits, fairs.

### Return Reply Requested

- I prefer a hard copy newsletter.
- I prefer an emailed newsletter to the following address \_\_\_\_\_
- I prefer to view the newsletter on the web page.

Your name \_\_\_\_\_ Your student(s) name (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to the office.

## Kindergarten News

Our literacy focus in Good Habits Great Readers is "understanding how stories work." Through our read alouds and conversations we are developing the following skills;

- 1) Identifying and describing the main character(s),
- 2) Identifying whether or not there is a problem, and how it is resolved,
- 3) Identifying and describing the setting, and
- 4) Retelling the story by describing three to four main details.

Our writing focus is sounding out words and incorporating sight words into our sentences. We are practicing using appropriate capitalization, spacing between words, and punctuation at the end. Also, we are drawing illustrations that match our writing.

Our math focus is developing number sense, which involves understanding that each number represents a specific amount of objects. We will be introducing the concepts of addition and subtraction through number stories.



We appreciate all of your support with at-home reading. We will see you at conferences!

The Kindergarten Team :)

## First Grade News

HOW MUCH IS ONE HUNDRED? We all had a good notion about that number, having completed one hundred days of school on January 30th. The students celebrated by doing a variety of reading and math activities focusing on one hundred. They enjoyed "classroom museums" where students brought collections from home to show 100 pennies, sports cards, shells, etc. Some of us even wrote about what it might be like for us if we're lucky enough to live to be one hundred.

Don't forget that working with sight words at home and reading Scholastic News as a family can all be included as part of your 20 minute reading log. Thanks for continuing to document your child's reading on the homework sheet and returning it in your child's Take Home Folder. This information is recorded and the classroom data is shared. Please remember that our first grade math goal is that all children know the basic addition math facts to +10 with automaticity. Including this as part of homework is appreciated.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the Parent-Teacher conferences in February!

## Second Grade News



Dear Second Grade Families,

We are half-way through the year and going strong. We are excited for all the learning to come. We will be raising our expectations as the curriculum becomes more challenging throughout the year. We encourage children to be here each day on time and ready to learn. We appreciate your partnership in helping our students to learn to the best of their ability.

### **Reading and Writing:**

In Literacy, our students will be reading to learn. The students will be focusing on two main tasks: 1.) Setting and Monitoring the Purpose for Reading and 2.) Identifying and Using Nonfiction Text Features.

In writing, students will be spending a majority of their time with expository writing. Students will be introduced to research and will begin their first formal report on a planet in our solar system.

### **Mathematics:**

In Math, we will finish Unit 6 on whole number operations and move swiftly into Unit 7 on patterns and rules. Kids will also collect data and construct tables, line graphs, bar graphs, and identify the median within the data set.

### **Science:**

In Science, all second graders will learn about space and the solar system. To compliment this, kids will explore one planet of their choice. They will research their planet in depth and complete a formal report.

Thank you for your support and partnership in meeting the academic needs of your child.

Second Grade Team

Ms. Coleman, Ms. Holcom, Mrs. Waldow and Mrs. Wolfe

## Third Grade News

Happy New Year from Third Grade!

The students have been working hard since getting back from winter break. A reminder: third grade takes their state test, TCAP, in reading at the end of February. We'll complete the writing and math portions in March when the fourth and fifth grades take their reading, writing and math TCAP.

Our testing dates for reading are February 25th and 26th. Please don't make appointments/pull your child from school on those two days.

**READING** - We are finishing up Unit 4 in our reading program. We have studied story grammar, poetry and text features. We'll be moving into Unit 5 soon, which will guide our readers to read to learn. This unit will concentrate primarily on nonfiction features and structures. We're proud of the At-Home Reading minutes our third graders are logging! Keep up the great work and efforts.

**MATH** - Unit 7 in math takes us into reviewing multiplication/division patterns and extends multiplication patterns by multiplying by tens, hundreds, and thousands.

We recently administered the district math facts assessment. By this time of year, the third graders should show 90% accuracy on the addition and subtraction math facts. Math facts practice is an area where parents can really support their child's progress. Please provide supervised time for your child to practice the basic facts in addition, subtraction and multiplication every day. Five to ten minutes a day is enough time to develop basic math fact fluency.

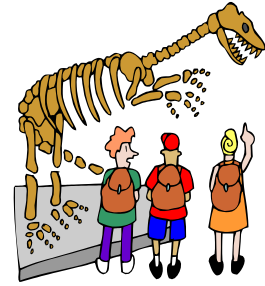
Thank you for your continued efforts and support. See you at Parent /Teacher Conferences!

**Third Grade Team**

Mrs. Casebier, Ms. Crosby, Mrs. Head, Mrs. Kiehlbauch

## Fourth Grade News

Fourth grade is studying fossils and cells in science. We have had hands on experience with fossils, and are creating cell models.



In reading and writing we are identifying story elements, theme, and working with third person writing prompts.

In math we are drilling and practicing our math facts; addition/subtraction, multiplication, and division. Please continue to work with your students at home on their math facts. We are still working with long division and beginning to work with fractions.

The fourth grade team wants to thank you for your continued support at home.

## Fifth Grade News

5<sup>th</sup> grade has been busy learning our math facts this quarter. 5<sup>th</sup> grade students are required to know their facts up through division by the end of the school year. Thank you for all your help and support on daily math fact reviews.

Please be on the lookout for information pertaining to this year's end of school, over night, trip to Glenwood. We will be sending out information about this year's fundraiser following conferences. Cost and information will be enclosed in a letter to come within the next few weeks.



**Playground Champions** is a new program here at Johnson that will be implemented on the playground the end of January. Considering that we have approx. 550 students here at JES this program is perfect in helping the students help themselves and each other.

The main goals for Playground Champions are to:

- Problem solve for others on the playground
- Provide extra sets of eyes on the playground/cafeteria
- Students helping students solve the “lesser” problems
- Referrals to adult playground supervisors



In October the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders were presented with this option. They were asked to fill out an application and were selected by their teachers for this job. Since then, every other week, they’ve been attending an ½ hour training for this job. They have practiced active listening, recognizing passive, aggressive and assertive behaviors, problem solving steps and the nuts and bolts of filling out report forms and working together to help others.

Playground Champions are on the playground during morning recess and lunch recess for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade. They will be wearing a lime green vest and carrying a clipboard that houses the visual aids and reporting forms. They only problem solve. They do not pass out Thunderbirds, white slips or pink slips. They have been carefully instructed to refer any escalated behaviors to the adults on the playground.



## What’s New in the Library

**Update: Giving Tree** - Thanks to the very generous donations from our students AND the employees of Russell Stover Candies, we were able to help 16 of our Johnson families with food boxes and turkeys for the Winter Break! Your kindness was very much appreciated!

**BOOK FAIR:** Can you BELIEVE it? It’s almost Book Fair time again! Our spring fair will again be held during Parent/Teacher conferences. We will be open **Wed, Feb 12**, from **2 to 7:30 p.m.** and on **Thurs, Feb 13**, from **noon to 7:30**. Our fall fair was our best EVER...let’s see if we can hit that mark again! Our goal for this fair is to use the proceeds to purchase a Scholastic Weekly Reader magazine subscription for EVERY student at Johnson for the 2014-2015 school year. These weekly magazines are age appropriate, and filled with interesting facts and current events. They will be a valuable resource for classrooms AND homes, both as non-fiction reading material and supplemental information for instructional use. Teachers will also have online access to additional teaching materials that reinforce the information given in each edition. Our PTC supports this goal, and with your help, we should have NO problem achieving it! We are always in need of volunteers to help at the fair...contact Mrs. Mahan if you have an hour or so to help on Wednesday or Thursday! See you there!