





March 15, 2019



Photo of Rose City Readers and Ms. Rolfe- Winners of the Portland 2019 Oregon Battle of the Books!

Dear James John Families,

Happy March to you and I hope you are enjoying this warmer weather which is an obvious signal that Spring is on the way (coming up on March 20).

School life has continued to be very busy and we've had much going on at James John. In this newsletter I will share some review of our wonderful Multi-Cultural Night that occurred in late February. I will also give an update on our school budget and school staffing for the 2019-20 school year. Finally, I will share news of an upcoming event in April that will be a great celebration of writing and poetry at James John.

I must give attention here at the beginning to the amazing news that a team from James John, "The Rose City Readers" last

weekend was the winner of the Portland competition of the "Oregon Battle of the Books" (OBOB). A huge congratulations goes out to team members Zahra Faruqui (4th grade), Zayd Faruqui (5th grade), Adahlia King (4th grade), Brody Reid (4th grade) & Claire Streib (4th grade) for this great accomplishment. Of course, I also must acknowledge role of our incredible Media Specialist/Librarian Robin Rolfe who worked tirelessly to organize this event and to support all of the teams during the competition. Please mark your calendars for Saturday, April 6, the date of the state OBOB finals in Salem. Go Rose City Readers!!

Sincerely,

Dr. John Melvin

Review of Multi-Cultural Night – February 28





Thank you all for supporting our Multi-Cultural Night on February 28. The event was a huge success with over 200 family members attending and over 20 countries and cultures represented. The food was absolutely delicious and it was fascinating to see all of the cultural artifacts, clothes and games represented. Much appreciation goes out to our PTA leaders and school staff volunteers who organized this event and made it such a great success.

2019-2020 Budget and Staffing Update

As many of you know, Portland Public Schools (PPS) is facing a \$17 million budget deficit for the 2019-2020 school year that will cause a number of cuts in funding to schools across the District. When I received our school allocation, I saw there was both good news and bad news. In good news, James John did retain our Title 1 funding status for 2019-2020 that amounts to almost \$120,000 in funding. We plan to use this funding to pay for staff such as Educational Assistants, School Climate Support, and support for English Learners and Math Intervention. In not good news, we were allocated two less teacher positions in 2019-2020 that means the loss of quality staff and higher class sizes. Fortunately, we have a separate source of funding (labeled "Equity Funding") that I plan to use to save one teaching position and to keep class size low. Finally, we have a new full-time position, "Site Support Instructor" to assist when there is not a substitute teacher to cover a teacher absence. In the end, we have found a way retain all of our teachers for next year, but looking ahead to next school year, we will have great needs. We are using a larger percentage of our funding to pay for school staff, so we need support to fund other items such as supplies, field trips, assemblies and more. Stay tuned for more information.

Spelling Bee Winners

In February, we held a school-wide Spelling Bee in grades 3-5. Congratulations to Zayd Faruqui (5th grade) for winning the school wide competition in English words and advancing to the District finals. Also, congratulations to Brody Reid (4th grade) and Jasper Keener (3rd grade) for winning the school wide competition in Spanish words. The following are the winners by class:

1st grade: Ms. Grillo – Ava Ray

1st grade: Ms. Wilcox – Jasper Quartarolo

1st grade: Ms. Rodriguez – Adele Holt and Elsa Cotter – (Spanish)

2nd grade: Ms. Fast - Hemali Mahmood

2nd/3rd grade Blend: Ms. Mehretab- Willa Listowich (2nd grade) and Elizabeth Furness- 3rd

3rd grade: Ms. Keeler – Alayzia Bostic and Lane Amore

3rd grade: Ms Wolfe Perez- Eloise Proteau- English and Jasper Keener – Spanish

4th grade: Mr. Horrigan – Zahra Faruqui

4th grade: Ms. Colon - Jasmine Hatley and Olivia Graham

4th grade: Mr. Holgate- Audrey Beck (English) & Brody Reid and Brandon Ortiz Ulloa (Spanish)

5th grade: Mr. Musgnung- Hidaya Salah 5th grade: Mr. Castillo – Zayd Faruqui

Congratulations to all participants! Thank you to Ms. Rolfe for organizing our school contest!

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Upcoming School-Wide Poetry Celebration- Thursday, April 18 –2:30-3:30pm

April is National Poetry Month so mark your calendars for this exciting school wide celebration of poetry on Thursday, April 18 from 2:30-3:30pm. During this event, we will celebrate student poetry through student reading and displays throughout the school. Parents and families are encouraged to attend. Stay tuned for more information.

From the James John PTA:

Our monthly meeting is next Tuesday, March 19th at 6:30pm and we will be discussing a lot of things including our spring fundraising efforts, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) Night in May, student safety at drop-off and pick-up and the school budget for next year and how it will impact our school staff and faculty. It's a big agenda with a lot of big subjects that you won't want to miss. The meeting will begin at 6:30pm and end at 7:30, and child care will be provided. We will have pizza in the cafeteria at 6pm.

Spring is almost here and our annual plant sale is underway! The order forms went home in backpacks last week. If you didn't get one, you can pick one up in the office. Completed order forms need to be turned it at the office or to your child's teacher by Spring Break. You'll be able to pick up you plants after school on Friday, April 19th (2:15 to 3:30) and on Saturday, April 20th from 9am to 11am.

A big thanks to everyone who showed up to Stormbreaker Night last week. We apologize for promising 10% off if you mentioned James John. There was some crossed wires on those details and that discount was not actually in the plans. We hope everyone had a great evening despite that mix up. We raised \$214.65. Thank you for your support.

The Green Team work party that was scheduled for this coming Saturday (March 16th) is being postponed until we know when the next load of mulch is being delivered. Once we have that information, we will let everyone know when to show up and spread that mulch goodness around. Email Kim if you'd like to be on that list. greens@jamesjohnpta.org

If you haven't already saved the date for our annual Prom, please slap Friday, May 4th (May the 4th be with you!) on your calendar in red ink and circle it. This year's prom will be the party of the year so book your babysitters now.

Please remember that our website <u>jamesjohnpta.org</u> is up and running to provide you with information about all of the events, activities, fundraisers and opportunities we have for you. You can also purchase James John T-shirts and kids' hoodies in our online store and they will be available for pick up the next day at school.

James John is working together with <u>Wayfinding Academy</u>, a new non-traditional, 2-year college and our neighbors on the corner of N. Leonard and N. Charleston, on a <u>community intersection</u> <u>painting</u>. Their hope is to continue strengthening the community between all the different schools, organizations and neighbors in our little corner of St. Johns. The project is called Curiosity Corner in honor of the diverse, intergenerational learning community that exists at the intersection with a college, preschool, elementary school and library. They are hosting a community potluck in their space (8010 N Charleston Ave) on **Sunday, March 17th from 11am-1pm** to talk about the project and to start gathering design ideas. The hope is to gather and integrate design ideas for the painting from all the organizations, students and neighbors on the intersection. The actual painting will happen on **June 7th & 8th** and they invite everybody of any age to join in, no matter how artistic they are!

To find out more information or donate head to their website: http://bit.ly/paintcuriositycorner or contact Elizabeth Wegmann, at elizabethw@wayfindingacademy.org.

Next Tuesday, March 19th, Dub's at Marie's is holding a fundraise for the PTA. Starting at 5pm, you can snag a Leg and Thigh Chicken Dinner, (which includes mashed potatoes, mac-n-cheese and cornbread) for \$15 and the fine folks at Dub's will donate 100% of that \$15 to the PTA! Dub's is now located inside Marie's, which is a bar, so keep that in mind. If you'd like to get your Chicken Dinners to go, you can call ahead to (503)998-8230 to order. Marie's is located at 8727 N. Lombard. Grab some delicious chicken and then come to the PTA meeting at 6:30!

Finally, we are kicking off an effort to improve the safety of our students as they come and go from school each day. We've had several incidents of close-calls between pedestrians and cars around the school this year and we want to ensure that everyone can get to school and come home safe every day. Join the conversation on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/JamesJohnSchoolPTA/

Information about head lice

Head lice is a common problem for children of all ages, races, and socioeconomic status. PPS has posted the following position on head lice in the schools:

"Throughout the year we are dealing with head lice. The CDC and the EPA emphatically do NOT consider head lice a disease or a health hazard. Below is the current PPS position on handling head lice in schools. Work with your school nurse or clinic if you suspect lice. Some additional resources are:

MESD https://www.multnomahesd.org/headliceinformation.html

- EPA http://www2.epa.gov/managing-pests-schools/about-lice-and-their-control
- CDC http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/

Although head lice is not categorized as a communicable disease, it is recognized as a health issue that can affect a student's focus and comfort and can be passed on to other students in a classroom setting if the students are not following good health practices. PPS follows this protocol if head lice are found:

- A student with live lice should be excluded from school, and sent home with lice treatment information.
- A student with no live lice may return to school, even if nits are present. Parents are strongly urged to remove all nits from their child's hair to help prevent re-infestation.
- Students will be re-checked for lice and nits upon initial re-entry and at 7 and 14 days after re-entry into school.

If live lice are present, the student will be excluded from school again. After 14 days if live lice remain present, the student will be excluded again and must remain out of school until there are no lice or nits."

Medical and community health experts recommend that parents and caregivers check their children for head lice at least weekly. They also recommend that you talk to your children about not sharing personal items such as combs and brushes, hats or scarves. As a rule, the school will not send out notices informing parents that classmates have lice. As a parent or guardian, assume that lice are present in the school, as it is in a movie theatre, a carpool, or a friend or neighbor's home, and get into the habit of checking weekly for head lice.

Calendar of Events

March 2019

19th - PTA Meeting 6:30 - 7:30 22nd - Spirit Day Crazy Hat Day 25th - 29th - Spring Break no school

April 2019

3rd - Walk to School Day 7:45 @ St. Johns Community Center 5th - Hora de Café 8:15 – 10:00 in Rm. 35



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