



The Lion's Pride



May 3, 2019



Photo of Poetry Celebration (5th Grade Mr. Musgnung's class visiting 2nd Grade Ms. Fast class) & Dr. Kregg Cuellar, Portland Public Schools Chief of Schools honoring James John OBOB victory

Dear James John Families,

Happy May to everyone. I hope you all have been enjoying this lovely sunny spring weather. It has been great to see Portland in the spring and to have many days where students are outside playing in fresh air and sunshine.

April was a very busy month at James John with many exciting events and activities. As you all know, we are so proud of our own "Rose City Readers" who won the Oregon Battle of the Books for Grades 3-5. We hosted a school celebration on Thursday, April 18 that was attended by Portland School District leaders and also featured a congratulatory message from Portland Timbers Goalie Jeff Attinella (and after sending this message the Timbers have won two straight games!). Later that day, we held a school wide poetry celebration that

was highlighted by older and younger students exchanging their poems and some great on stage poetry readings by students and staff.

Looking ahead this month, we begin our Smarter Balanced Assessments for grades 3-5 next Monday. We know our students are up for this challenge! May is also a popular time for class field trips and our 1st graders and Kindergartener are headed to the Oregon Zoo this month. Later this month we will be honoring "STEAM" (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) education on Wednesday, May 22 @ 6pm. Our monthly theme is "Cooperation" and we invite all of you to highlight this principle this month! Talk to you soon!

Sincerely,

Dr. John Melvin

Statewide Day of Action – May 8 – No School

As many of you know, next Monday, May 8 is a statewide day of action by the Portland Association of Teachers (PAT) to support public education and there will be no school. As you should have been informed by PPS Communications, to make up the instructional hours lost on May 8, **the last day of school for PPS students will now be June 12**. We will need to utilize the third and final designated makeup day identified on the 2018-19 district calendar.

St. John's Village – upcoming meetings and information

On Tuesday, April 23, many James John families and St. John's residents attended a meeting at the St. John's Church to learn more about the proposed "St. John's Village" project on a plot of land on N. Richmond Avenue near the intersection of N. Central Avenue. This is a project proposed by the City of Portland Multnomah County Joint Office for Homeless Services. The project is described as the following: *"the proposed village development is to help neighbors experiencing homelessness gain stability, community and shelter, and a chance to move forward to permanent housing."* During the meeting, residents had a chance to ask questions and voice their concerns and support for the project. The next meeting about the project will be at the St. John's Neighborhood Association monthly meeting on May 13 @ 6pm at the St. John's Community Center. It is possible our school will host a meeting for parents to ask questions and learn more about the project later this month. For more information about the project:

<http://ahomeforeveryone.net/news/stjohnsvillage>

School wide Crazy Hair Reading Contest! April 29th – May 24th

Read a book, fill out a form and take it to the library to vote. You get to choose which staff member dyes their hair and what color you want it to be! Ms. Angela, Ms. Cornelius, Dr. Melvin, Ms. Monae, Ms. Rolfe and Maestro Zac are all participating!

Mural Project on Charleston/Leonard St. Intersection -Partnership with Wayfinding Academy



Image of possible intersection mural

James John is excited to partner with our neighboring college Wayfinding Academy to design and create an "Intersection Mural" in front of our school. We've chosen a design for Curiosity Corner - the intersection painting project at N. Leonard and N. Charleston! The design

integrates many of the drawings that were submitted by our students as well as ideas gathered from our surrounding neighbors.

Our partner Wayfinding Academy is hosting a garage sale fundraiser on May 11th and are in need of items to sell. If you have been doing some spring cleaning and have stuff that you are getting rid of, they will gladly take it off your hands. They are looking for these items in good working condition: small furniture and appliances, jewelry/accessories, toys/games, clothes, shoes, dishware and glassware, books, and home decor. Drop off days will be Monday, May 6th and Wednesday, May 8th from 1pm - 7pm at Wayfinding Academy (8010 N Charleston Ave).

If you don't have any items to donate but would like to donate money or time, head to their website to find their PayPal and contact form: [Bit.ly/paintcuriositycorner](https://bit.ly/paintcuriositycorner) or email: elizabethw@wayfindingacademy.org. The painting will happen on June 8th and 9th and everyone is welcome to come out, help paint, and celebrate our community with food, drinks and music!

Review of School-Wide Poetry Celebration- April 18

Thank you to all who attended our Poetry Celebration on April 18 in honor of National Poetry Month. It was great seeing all of our classes mixing it up to collaborate and share poems. The Poetry Slam featured over 40 student performers ranging from Kindergarten all the way to staff performers. Mr. Musgnung won the unofficial top prize for his rap performance of "Little Blue Truck." It was wonderful hearing so many inspiring student voices and hopefully this can become an annual tradition!

Upcoming Testing Schedule- Grades 3-5 Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBAC) – May 6-10- English Language Arts / May 13-May 17 – Math

This is a reminder that we will begin our annual Smarter Balanced Assessment this Monday. As most of you know, our students in grades 3-5 take the Smarter Balanced Assessment based on the Common Core Standards at the end of each school year. This year James John students in grades 3-5 will take the English Language Arts assessment from May 6-May 10 and the Math assessment from May 13-May 17. The Smarter Balanced Assessment has both an adaptive multiple choice as well as a writing component and measures both student improvement over time and overall achievement. As with all other times of the school year, please make sure that your child gets a good night sleep, eats a nutritious breakfast and arrives on time to school during this period.

James John English as Second Language (ESL) Program and Staff

Though most students at James John know them as the Science teachers, Soumountha (Sam) Bessas and Renee Cornelius are actually our school's English Language Development (ELD) specialists. At James John we are proud to have a diverse student body, with students from families of many different backgrounds and cultures. Many of our students and their families speak languages other than English. For some of these students, English is their third or fourth language.

We have nearly 70 students at James John who receive support from our ELD team as English language learners. These students represent about 15 different languages. Ms. Bessas and Ms. Cornelius visit several classrooms each day to lead lessons in Science or Social Studies. They use topics in Science and Social Studies as a medium through which to practice academic language building strategies that benefit all students, not just English learners. Ms. Bessas and Ms. Cornelius have a passion for language and culture and are driven by a goal to help each student become proficient in English, and reach their full potential.

PTA News

With this wonderful weather we've been enjoying it's obvious that Spring has sprung! Another sign of Spring is the Prom and our unique spin on the annual event is an adults-only affair that serves as our largest fundraiser of the year. Please join us this Saturday, (May 4th) from 5:30 to 9:30pm as Los Prados (10105 N. Lombard St). Aside from live music and dancing, there will be refreshments, a silent auction, raffle, photo booth and loads of fun! The theme is "Under the Sea" so feel free to dress up in your finest party wear and come shake a leg. Tickets are \$20 per person or \$30 per pair. This is a 21 and up event.

Teacher Appreciation Week is next week and we want our wonderful teachers to know how much we love them! On Monday we are looking for people to bring in sweets to treat our teachers. You can drop them off at the teacher's lounge adjacent to the cafeteria by 10:30am. On Tuesday we are looking to whip up a great breakfast. We need folks to bring items by 7:30am to the Teacher's Lounge. On Thursday we'll provide lunch, so we need items delivered by 10:30am. You can see what people are bringing and sign up to bring things here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0944aaa929a4f85-staff>

The Lions Fun Run is coming up on May 15th, and we can always use volunteers to come and cheer on the runners and help with keeping track of laps. The runs take place throughout the day, with a break for lunch.

Save the date : The Grupo de Padres Latinos will be hosting the End of the Year Carnival that will be held on the 7th of June from 4-7pm. We are looking for carnival-like games to borrow and would love volunteers to help organize and/or to help on the day of. Contact Carla at treasurer@jamesjohnpta.org to help!

The Wayfinding Academy (our awesome neighbors) are planning a massive block party and street painting on June 8th and 9th. We'll have more information about it at our May 21st PTA meeting.

Speaking of our PTA Meeting, it will be the final meeting of the year and that means elections. We will be electing a new Co-President, Vice President and Secretary. We will also be talking about the budget for next year. Please make plans to join us! It's May 21st at 6:30pm in the

auditorium. Pizza will be served at 6pm in the cafeteria and child care will be provided during the meeting.

And finally, STEAM Night is coming on May 22nd from 6 to 7:30pm. Our final PTA event of the year will feature a wide range of people who work and play in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math as well as hands-on activities. If you, (or someone you know) works or plays in STEAM and you would like to share your knowledge, please contact Mason Marsh at president@jamesjohnpta.org to learn how you can be involved.

Calendar of Events

- 6th – 10th – SBAC Testing – ELA
3rd – 5th grades
- 6th – 10th - Dental Sealant Program
2nd & 3rd graders only
- 8th – Day of Action
no school for students or staff
- 13th – 17th – SBAC Testing – Math
3rd – 5th grades
- 15th – Fun Run – all grades

FUN RUN
Wednesday, May 15th

8:20 – 8:50: Wilcox, Grillo & Rodriguez
 9:00 – 9:30: Keeler, Wolfe-Perez & Mehretab
 9:40 – 10:10: Colón, Horrigan & Holgate
 10:15 – 10:45: Fast, Parada & Lilley
 Lunch and Recess
 12:45 – 1:15: Sammons, Pires & Ruiz Torres
 1:30 – 2:00: Castillo & Musgnung



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