



The Lion's Pride



June 7, 2019



Rainbow Day at James John

Dear James John Families,

We are now at the end of the 2018-19 school year and this is our last newsletter of the year. To me it has been an amazing year and I hope it has been an enjoyable and successful year for you and your children.

Looking back, it seems like yesterday that I met many of you for the first time at the "Meet and Greet" in August in our school cafeteria. I had recently arrived from my journey north from Oakland, California and I was experiencing my first summer in Portland. I felt very fortunate to be named Principal of James John as I met a group of friendly, intelligent students and a group of passionate and caring parents. In addition, as I met our teachers and staff, I recognized

James John had a talented, dedicated group of educators many of whom had been serving the St. John's community for decades.

As the school year began, we began the year focused on creating and maintaining a positive school climate as well as delivering a challenging academic curriculum. We worked as a staff to understand and implement a new assessment system in Reading and Math (MAPS Assessments) to deliver to teachers, students and parents detailed information on student progress. We also continued our use of a new Language Arts curriculum (Lucy Caulkins Units of Study) which provided students

with differentiated instruction improving their reading and writing skills.

We also worked to increase family involvement and to increase engagement by all the diverse communities of the school. In November, led by our PTA and our "Padres Latinos" we held our first celebration of "Dia de los Muertos" and in February we held a successful Multi-Cultural Night. In January, thanks to the amazing efforts of the PTA and many local donors, we were able to open our new playground in our lower grade yard.

Finally, as has been mentioned many times already, in March and April we were so proud to celebrate the victories of the "Rose City Readers" in the Oregon Battle of the Books (OBOB) competitions. As a small elementary school in North Portland prevailing over all of the elementary schools

in the state, this was a huge accomplishment.

Now that we are at the end of this school year, I want to appreciate all of you for helping make this a successful year at James John. James John has been a successful, stable school for many years and you all have helped me to fulfill the potential of our great school. I am looking forward to serving you all next year as we continue to soar even higher! I hope you all enjoy a restful, enjoyable summer and are able to spend quality time together. To our 5th grade families who will be moving on from James John, I wish you all the best and remember that you will always be a part of the James John family.

Sincerely,

Dr. John Melvin

Wayfinding Academy-School Mural Painting- Saturday, June 8 & Sunday, June 9- Intersection of N. Charleston and N. Leonard Street



Join us this weekend for the Curiosity Corner intersection painting at N. Charleston and N. Leonard! We welcome everyone of any age or ability to join us in painting the intersection and celebrating our community. Most of the painting will take place on Saturday, June 8th from 10am-5pm then on Sunday, June 9th we will be finishing it up and doing some detail work if needed and gathering and celebrating from 12-5pm. On Saturday, in addition to the painting there will be a potluck lunch supplemented by some donations from local businesses at 12pm plus activities for kids, and music throughout the day. We would love if you could bring something to contribute to the potluck even if it's very small but if that is a barrier to attending what we really want is for you to be there having fun and painting. For any last minute changes or updates be sure to follow our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Curiosity-Corner-806103863079719/>

Here's the detailed schedule:

June 8th

10am - welcome and opening circle

10:15am - start painting

12pm - 1:30pm - potluck lunch + donated food

1pm - 3pm - continue painting + breakout activities & live music

3pm - 4pm - painting

4pm - 4:15pm - gratitudes and closing circle

4:15pm - 5pm - leanup

June 9th

12pm - 2pm - finish painting & cleanup

1pm - 4pm - activities, celebration, fun, food

4pm - 5pm - cleanup

2019-2020 Student Classroom Assignments

Looking ahead to next school year, I wanted to update you that we will be posting classroom assignments in front of the school on Saturday, August 24, the Saturday before the start of the school year (the first day of school is Wednesday, August 28). Coincidentally, this is the date of the Portland Public Schools "Community Care Day" and we encourage all of our families to join in volunteer efforts to make our school beautiful for the start of the school year.

African-American Families Listening Session –Follow Up

We held our second listening session for our African-American families on Tuesday, May 28 and it was a successful event. The families who attended shared many ideas about their experience at James John and how to improve the experience and involvement of our African-American families in the future. For example, one suggestion for next school year was to hold a monthly morning coffee time for African-American families. Stay tuned for more information at the start of next school year.

Reminder -5th Grade Promotion – Last day of School- Wednesday, June 12 @ 12:30pm

As a reminder to our 5th grade parents, we will be holding a 5th grade promotion on the last day of school, Wednesday, June 12 @ 12:30. The 5th grade promotion will be held in the school auditorium will be followed by a celebration in the school cafeteria. We are excited this year to welcome Roosevelt High graduating senior Ms. Ahliah Nordstrom to speak at the promotion. Ahliah is a James John alumnus (as well as George MS) and one of the top Roosevelt seniors. Ahliah will be attending the University of Oregon in the fall and was a recipient of numerous scholarships. At 1:30pm we will begin the traditional Clap-out in the hallways for the 5th grade class. A reminder of the Clap-out route will follow. Also, Kindergarten classes will be holding promotion events in their classrooms on the last day of school.

End of Year Carnival - Friday, June 7th 4-7pm – School Playground

Please join us for James John's last fundraiser of the year, hosted by Padre Latinos de James John. All proceeds go to our school! There will be a bounce house, games, activities, food, snow cones and more. Entry to the carnival will be free and concessions are available for purchase.

PTA NEWS

We would like to thank everyone who volunteered for and attended any of our events this past year. It's been a great year, but there are a few more things left.

End of year carnival!

Please join us at James John's last fundraiser of the year, hosted by Padre Latinos de James John. All proceeds go to our school!

June 7th - 4:00 – 7:00pm

Bounce house

Games

Activities

Food

Snow cones

Entry is free, concessions available for purchase.

Calendar of Events

10th – Big, Bad Book Give-a-Away

Kindergarten – 2nd grades

11th - Big, Bad Book Give-a-Away

3rd – 5th grades

12th – last day of school for students

12:30 – 5th grade promotion

13th – teacher planning day

14th – teacher planning day



Portland Public Schools recognizes the diversity and worth of all individuals and groups and their roles in society. It is the policy of the Portland Public School Board that there will be no discrimination or harassment of individuals or groups on the grounds of age, color, creed, disability, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex or sexual orientation in any educational programs, activities or employment.

District Title VI & Title IX Contact: (503) 916-3963

District 504 Contact: (503) 916-5460

American Disabilities Act Contact: (503) 916-3544