



The Lion's Pride



September 20, 2019



Back to School Night 2019

Dear James John Families,

I hope you all are well and are enjoying this Portland like weather and an early start to fall. We have had a fast and furious start to the school year at James John and this newsletter will share with you information about what has been going on at school and events coming up.

First of all, it was great to see all of you last week on September 11 at our Back-to-School Night. We had a great turnout with a packed cafeteria for dinner and full auditorium for an introductory session. Parents and students then went to classrooms to meet with teachers and hear about the year ahead. Much appreciation goes to our PTA for organizing the dinner. While we were pleased with the way that the Back to School Night turned out, we are always seeking ways to make the night better. Please feel free to share any feedback on the event with your child's teacher or e-mail me directly.

As I write this newsletter we are preparing to lend our voice to the Global Climate Strike on

September 20. As you know, James John classes will have a march on Friday @ 1:15pm to show their support for the global action on Climate Change. Our planned march is set to move around the perimeter of the school and students and staff will share messages and songs related to taking action about Climate Change. We encourage our students to actively consider how to improve our world and society and it will be great to see our students raising their voices on this issue.

Otherwise as the month of September winds down, we look ahead to a busy month of October with some big events such as the Harvest Festival (October 24) and our Dia de los Muertos Festival on October 30. Stay tuned for more information on these events.

Sincerely,

Dr. John Melvin

Presenting the PPS Vision

“A graduate of Portland Public Schools will be a compassionate critical thinker, able to collaborate and solve problems, and be prepared to lead a more socially just world.”

That is one of the conclusions of the months-long process to create a Vision for PPS. In fall 2018, the Board of Education and the Superintendent of PPS launched a community-wide process to develop a long-term Vision for public education in Portland. This Vision, created after dozens of community meetings involving hundreds of stakeholders, describes PPS goals for the graduating class of 2030, and the educational experience that will increasingly be the reality for each of our graduates from 2019 onward.

Please click the link below to see the full Vision for Portland Public Schools (translated in multiple languages):

<https://www.pps.net/Page/12780>

New Outdoor Classroom at James John



Some of you may have noticed our new “outdoor classroom” at James John this year. This outdoor classroom consists of nine benches surrounded by trees next to our turf field on the playground. This project was completed over the summer and was the culmination of planning that began in 2007 during the James John Playground Master Planning process. James John teachers had voiced that they wanted an outdoor space to bring their classes for lessons. James John parent Joseph Purkey created the design for the classroom and the project was finally begun last school year. The total cost for the project was just under \$10,000 and was funded thanks to a generous donation from a James John alumnus. Please take a moment to visit the classroom and appreciate the new addition to our outdoor area.

MAP Growth Testing at James John

MAP Growth Testing – through September –Testing in Math and Reading – Grades 1-5

James John is continuing to use a new computerized assessment called MAP that will be used for all students in Grades 1-5 in both Math and Reading. The test is adaptive and is used as a diagnostic tool to measure individual levels and provides activities for improvement. After taking an initial test this month, students will take the assessment two more times during the

school year to measure students' improvement over time. For more information on the MAP assessment you can access this website: <https://www.nwea.org/parent-toolkit/>

University of Portland/Decoding Dyslexia Oregon Event - October 11

UP School of Education and Decoding Dyslexia Oregon are partnering up to offer a training on Statewide Inservice Day! PPS will pay for FORTY participants to learn strategies for supporting students and families impacted by Dyslexia. To secure one of our PPS slots, please contact the school office as soon as possible. These slots are open to any PPS administrator, teacher, assistant and/or parent/community member.

Free or Reduced Lunch Applications & Title 1 Funding – due by October 9th & Annual Title 1 Parent Meeting- October 15th @ 8:15am

James John is fortunate to receive Title 1 funding based on the percentage of families in the school that qualify for Free or Reduced Lunch (FRL). Based on last school year's applications, we received just over \$120,000 this school year which we have used to fund staff positions to provide intervention as well as extra instructional materials. This is a reminder to all families to turn your FLR applications in to the cafeteria by October 9th if you think you might qualify for Free or Reduced Lunch. Please see the school office if you have any questions or need an application. Applications can also be filled out on-line at www.pps.net/nutrition . If you are interested in learning more about the Title 1 programs and funding at our school, please attend our Annual Title 1 Parent Meeting on October 15th @ 8:15am in the school auditorium.

Diverse Learners Night – Tuesday, October 8th @ 5:30pm

All families, please join us on Tuesday, October 8th @ 5:30pm for our annual "Diverse Learners Night". The goal of this night is to empower families with information about a range of services and resources for diverse learners including English as a Second Language (ESL), Talented and Gifted (TAG) curriculum, Special Education, and 504 Plans. Please contact the James John school office if you have any questions.

HARVEST OF THE MONTH – WATERMELONS!

Every Thursday in September, all of our school kitchens and cafeterias will be celebrating melons as our Harvest of the Month. Fresh watermelons from Pollock and Sons in Hermiston, Oregon will be sliced up every week. Just like all of our fruits and vegetables, students and adult customers purchasing school lunch can enjoy as much as they want (unlimited).

PTA News

Thank you very much to everyone who came out for our first PTA Meeting of the year this past Tuesday. We are trying a new meeting format that provides more opportunities for everyone to engage with the James John community. If you didn't make it to the meeting, don't worry! You can catch the next one on October 15th at 6pm in the auditorium. Dinner and child care will be provided!

This year, your PTA is dedicated to supporting our teachers and staff so they can continue to inspire our kids through engaging learning experiences. This commitment involves some serious fundraising, and we would love your help. First off, please visit our website (www.jamesjohnpta.org) and under the "Fundraising" section you will find a detailed breakdown of our anticipated revenue and expenses this year. If you feel inspired to donate to our efforts, we would be incredibly honored and grateful. There are many ways in which you can financially support the PTA. You can always make direct donations through our website, and this year we are encouraging our friends to donate on a sustained basis through monthly contributions. If you happen to work for a company or corporation who matches your charitable donations, we can help you double and possibly even triple your contribution. You can also give to the PTA by making us the beneficiary on shopping rewards programs. Fred Meyer, Amazon.com, and other stores will donate a portion of your spending to us, (and it won't cost you anything!).

Another way you can support our efforts is by attending our fundraising events. The first one of the year is a big one that you won't want to miss. On Tuesday, October 8th from 5pm to close, our friends at the McMenamins St. Johns Theater & Pub are donating 50% of the evening's sales to us! The McMenamins Friends & Family Night has been a major source of funding in past years and we are thrilled to be doing it again! All you need to do is show up at the St. Johns Theater & Pub after 5pm and half of what you spend on food and drinks will be donated to the PTA.

Another way we support our school is through our Green Team work parties. Our next one is on Saturday, September 28th from 9 to 11am. If you would like to help beautify the school grounds, show up on the 28th with your gloves and garden tools, (if you have them. If you don't have any gloves or tools, don't worry! We have some you can borrow).

Finally, we are getting ready for our annual Harvest Festival, which will take place on October 24th from 5:30 to 7:30pm at the school. This fun family event is a long-standing James John tradition and this year's festival will feature music, games, a scavenger hunt, photo booth, and food! We will also be making decorations for the Días de los Muertos celebration which will happen on October 30th. If you can help us prepare for the festival or as a volunteer on the night of the event, please let our Volunteer Coordinator, Misty Germaud, know. You can reach her at volunteers@jamesjohnpta.org.

School Climate: Building a positive environment for all

School climate refers to a schools attention to fostering safety; promoting a supportive academic, disciplinary, and physical environment; and encouraging and maintaining respectful, trusting, and caring relationships throughout the school community. At James John that means we work on building lasting relationships with our students, our families, and with each other. We do this through a variety of methods that many of you are very familiar with. Below is a list of the bigger ways we provide positive feedback to our students.

- Pride of the Pride slips
- Weekly Lion Pride awards
- Student of the month awards
- Pling (our plastic tokens that go on their necklaces)
- Restorative circles
- Small group counseling
- Classroom guidance

We are also a restorative justice (RJ) focus school. We have an RJ Coach that meets with our staff 2 times each month. Classroom teachers are starting their days with a community circle to build community and relationship. Students then are familiar with the format and when an issue arises we are able to do some restorative work around conflict or harm and moving away from a more punitive disciplinary approach.

Finally, we are always looking for new ways to promote a positive climate at James John. If you have suggestions or concerns feel free to contact me through email or voicemail. I have contacted the PTA volunteer coordinator and are looking at having parents bring back our running club. The running club was very motivating to many of our students. And a way that students build up their Pling necklaces.

Debbie Nicholson
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Calendar of Events

24th – Keeler field trip
Sauvie Island 9:10 – 1:50
26th – Colon's field trip
Sauvie Island 9:10 – 1:50
27th – Spirit Day
Pattern Day
27th – Wolfe-Perez field trip
Sauvie Island 9:10 – 1:50

October 2019

1st – Fresh Fruit and Vegetable program starts
2nd – Walk to School Day
7:45 @ Community Center
4th – Picture 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)