



The Lion's Pride



October 4, 2019



James John Global Climate March 2019

Dear James John Families,

Happy October to you all! Its hard to believe that we are in October already and fall is upon us. I hope you will enjoy this newsletter with a summary of what has been going on at James John and what lies ahead in the coming weeks and months.

It is hard to believe that just two weeks ago our whole school raised our voices in support of the Global Climate Strike on September 20. It was

great to see all of our classes outside participating in our school march and we loved the support from all of the parents and community members who cheered us on. Maestro Renato Parada added to the spirit by providing some energized drumming and Mr. Doug Sammons was especially creative in leading chants with his Kindergarten students (i.e. "Whose earth? Our Earth?"), Mr. Longfellow guided students in Art class to create some

amazing signs and posters. Students in Mr. Musgnung's 5th grade class take the prize for the catchiest chant, "Save the turtles-Save-Save-the turtles." This chant has caught fire and can be heard consistently around the school since the march. We plan to keep this momentum going and lend our voices to important issues impacting our local and global community.

Looking ahead, we are excited for two big school events later this month; the Harvest Festival on

October 24 and the Dia de los Muertos Celebration on October 30. I give much appreciation to our PTA and Padres Latinos groups for their hard work and dedication in organizing these events. It is so wonderful to gather and celebrate together as one community. I wish you all a great month ahead.

Sincerely,

Dr. John Melvin

James John Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBAC) 2019-20 Results

A few weeks ago, the State of Oregon released the results of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) exam for the 2018-19 school year. James John students in grades 3-5 took this exam last May in both Math and English Language Arts. 5th grade students also took an assessment in Science.

Overall, looking at the results of the SBAC for James John, there were both positive results as well as results that show we need to continue to improve. Overall, 38% of our grades 3-5 students are performing at grade level or above in Language Arts (and this was a 4% increase from the prior year and 8% increase over two years). In Mathematics, 29% of our students are performing at grade level or above and this was a 1% increase from the prior year and a 5% increase over two years.

Analyzing these results, it is clear there is more work to do to raise the proficiency percentage for all of our students. This year we have been working as a school staff to strengthen our curriculum under a "Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum" model that is tightly aligned to the Common Core Standards. We have recently implemented a new English Language Arts curriculum (Lucy Caulkins' Readers and Writers Workshop) and we are making refinements to our major Math curricula (Bridges and Engaged New York). We feel that both these curricula combined with our skilled and talented teaching staff make us poised to continue the growth we have been making in these past few years. I will be sharing more information about these assessment results at the October 15 PTA meeting and at other times throughout the year.

If you would like more information on the James John SBAC results, visit:

<https://www.oregon.gov/ode/schools-and-districts/reportcards/reportcards/Pages/default.aspx>

James John Receives Grant for Physical Education

In some great news, James John received a \$450 grant from Oregon Active Schools to support Physical Education at our school. We will be using this grant to support Ms. Schwartzkoph's classes and our PE program at James John.

Ms. Keeler's 3rd Grade Class Visits Sauvie Island



Above are some great pictures of Ms. Keeler's class recent trip to Sauvie's Island. The third graders visited the Sauvie Island Center as part of a unit on plants sponsored by Metro. On the field trips kids explored a working farm and learned the life cycle of plants, their parts and the role healthy soil plays in the cycle.

Pattern Day at James John



Great job to Ms. Rolfe and 5th grade student Hayley Larson for wearing some great patterns for our school spirit day, "Pattern Day" on September 27. Haley managed to wear some patterned socks!

October Theme of the Month- Problem Solving

Our AVID theme of the month for October is "Problem Solving." We will be all challenging ourselves to be extra creative and diligent problem solvers this month.

Halloween Parade- October 31- 1:30pm

We will be holding a school Halloween parade on October 31st @ 1:30pm. Students will be allowed to bring a costume to school on October 31st and can change into their costume in school before the parade. The parade will follow a route around the school and parents are encouraged to attend. Students are to wear costumes without excessive blood and gore and are sensitive to ethnic and racial stereotypes. For students who do not celebrate Halloween, there will be a separate space for students during the parade. If you would like to assist in helping your child put on their costume before the parade, please check with your child's teacher.

Reminder - 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.

Some important tips for families on completing applications:

- Include all students on applications. Some families are only listing one student rather than all students on the application.
- Include all members in the household. Some families do not list other family members on the application, such as a grandparent, who may be living in the household. This can make a difference in whether they are eligible for meal benefits.
- Online applications are easier and faster for the team to process because it requires all information to be on the application and is readable.
- Even if the students are not choosing to eat school meals, being eligible for free or reduced price meals can also make them eligible to receive many fee reductions or waivers in other areas both in the district and in the community.

If you have questions, Contact Meal Benefits at 503-916-3402 or mealbenefits@pps.net.

Diverse Learners Night – Postponed to Thursday, November 7 @ 5:30pm

As was mentioned in an e-mail yesterday, our Diverse Learners Night has been postponed from October 8 to November 7. 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 – Cauliflower

Every Thursday in October, all of our school kitchens and cafeterias will be celebrating Cauliflower as our Harvest of the Month. Just like all of our fruits and vegetables, students and adult customers purchasing school lunch can enjoy as much as they want (unlimited). Harvest of the Month is a Farm to School Program that introduces students to great local fruits and vegetables. Show your support for local farmers by buying lunch on Thursdays each month.

Math Instructional Specialist

As the Math Instructional Specialist at James John, I often have parents come to me expressing worry about their children not having their math facts memorized. This idea of needing to memorize is something that many of us encountered as children ourselves when we were in school. And, often, memories of timed tests and the pressure associated with them bring up feelings of stress and anxiety. Fortunately, there has been a ton of research in the years since that tells us that simply memorizing math facts does not ensure, or even encourage, mathematical understanding. What children need is time to work with counting objects, creating and breaking apart groups and representing and visualizing numbers in many ways. This practice will ensure students become fluent and flexible with numbers and comfortable with mathematics.

We all want our children to feel successful in school and much of that depends on how we encourage them in ways that will build knowledge and confidence. So what are some fun ways to do this? Instead of using flash cards have your child count objects you see on a walk, in your home, or at the store. Play questioning games like, “How long will it take me to brush my teeth?” or “If I have five crackers and I eat 2 how many will I have left?” The more we talk to children and help them experience math in their everyday lives, the more confident and fluent they will become. Because, after all, children and adults alike want learning to be meaningful and fun!

If you have any questions about this or any other topic, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me.

Carolyn Stone
Math Instructional Specialist, Rm. 24
cstone@pps.net

PTA (Parent-Teacher Association) News

This coming Tuesday (October 8th), is Friends & Family Night at McMenamins St. John Pub! This is our first big fundraiser of the year and our wonderful neighbors at McMenamins are donating 50% of the evening's sales to the James John PTA. This is a big, generous deal that only comes around every couple of years so please plan to have dinner at McMenamins St. Johns Pub on Tuesday. The fundraiser starts at 5pm and runs until they close at midnight. Wear your James John spirit wear and show your pride!

Do you have any Box Tops for Education laying around? We are having a Box Tops drive from October 14 - 23rd! Please carefully clip the box top labels from participating products, bag them up send them to school with your child's teacher's name on it. The class that gathers the most Box Tops will win free popcorn at our Winter Movie Night. If you have a smart phone and you'd like to avoid clipping those box top labels, visit www.boxtops4education.com and learn about how Box Tops are moving to the digital age! You can now raise money for the PTA by simply snapping pictures of your receipts and submitting your box tops through their handy app.

Our next PTA Meeting is coming up on October 15th starting at 6pm in the auditorium. Food, child care and Spanish language interpretation will be provided. We are running the meetings with a new format this year that features small group stations where you can learn about things vital to the school community. This next meetings stations are: Dr. Melvin will share information about the school's academic testing, our PTA events team will talk about the upcoming Harvest Festival and a guest from www.yesforteachersyesforkids.org will share information about the November ballot measure 26-207 which seeks to sustain funding for teachers.

Harvest Festival is coming! Plan to join us on October 24th for an evening of family fun! The annual Harvest Festival is a cherished James John tradition that will feature music, dancing, food, art activities, a scavenger hunt, games and a photo booth. If you'd like to volunteer for the event, please let Misty Gremaud know at volunteers@jamesjohnpta.org. The festival kicks off at 5:30 and runs until 7:30.

Finally, come and enjoy our first Movie Night of the year at 6:30pm on October 18th in the auditorium. We'll be showing the amazing Toy Story 4. Admission is free and concessions will be for sale. Parents must sit with their kids in the auditorium and no outside food or drink is allowed. Join us for this heart-warming adventure with Woody and his pals.

Look for information about all of these events in our monthly newsletter in your child's backpack. As always, you can learn more about your PTA on our website www.jamesjohnpta.org.

Calendar of Events

- 7th - Fall SUN School begins
- 8th – Health Screenings – vision and hearing
Kdg., 1st & 3rd
- 8th – McMenamins Family & Friends Night
5:00 – close
- 11th – Inservice / new teacher orientation
school closed
- 15th - Annual Title 1 Parent Meeting
8:15am
- 15th – PTA Meeting
6:00 – 7:30
- 16th – Kindergarten field trip
Krueger’s Farm @ 9:30 – 1:00
- 18th – Movie Night
6:30; Toy Story 4

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

District 504 Contact: (503-916-5460)

American Disabilities Act Contact: (503-916-3544)

