



The Lion's Pride



October 18, 2019



Dear James John Families,

Happy mid-October to you all! I hope you all have been enjoying the frequent downpours we have experienced lately. As a new-ish Portland resident, I really enjoy the rain of the Pacific Northwest. I guess I experienced too many years of drought in California and enjoy “soaking up” this wet weather.

We have been having a very busy month at James John. In this past week on Thursday we participated in the “Great Oregon Shakeout” where we had an earthquake drill on 10:17am on 10/17 along with many other schools in Oregon and across the US. Teachers led students in practice and shared lessons related to earthquake preparedness. All of the students did a great job during this drill.

At this time of the year, James John students and teachers have been immersed in narrative writing and narrative storytelling as the first

English Language Arts unit on Narrative Writing is wrapping up. I enjoyed visiting Ms. O’Doherty’s 5th grade Spanish DLI classroom and watching some videos of her students reading their stories on a program called “Seesaw”. The students “published” their stories by reading both in English and Spanish and posting these videos to the classroom Seesaw sight. Throughout the school I have heard and seen students sharing their creative stories.

Looking ahead, as I have mentioned in the last newsletter, we are excited for two big school events later in the next few weeks; the Harvest Festival on October 24 and the Dia de los Muertos Celebration on October 30. We will also be holding a Halloween Parade @ 1:30 on Thursday, October 31. Lots of events ahead and we hope you will join us!

Sincerely,

Dr. John Melvin

"Story of the Bat at James John" by Marge Heffernan

An interesting visitor showed up at school this October. It was first spotted during 5th grade lunch recess on Monday, the 7th. As a crowd of students gathered under the art room windows, I wondered what the cause of all the commotion was. Turns out it was a bat! I don't know much about them, but I was concerned that a bat out in the daytime was not a healthy one. Dr. Melvin was on the scene, though, and he made sure the kids kept their distance. Later that afternoon, I was glad to see the bat had moved on...but the following morning, it was back!

At that point the next step seemed obvious – we needed to move the bat. Drawing from a past experience with a Black Crowned Night Heron found in my backyard, I recalled advice from the Audubon Society: trap it like a spider you want to take outside. A box was obtained and Dr. Melvin and Ms. Monae, using a broom, carefully brushed the bat off the wall into the box and closed it up. Ms. Cornelius got in touch with the Audubon Society and was told we could bring the bat in to their wildlife center. I wasn't sure what to expect because the little creature was barely moving when I last saw it, but I took it to the Audubon Society that afternoon.

Upon arrival, I was quickly assured we had made the right decision to bring the bat in. The technician reported there were no obvious injuries, that it could just be starting to slow down for winter, and that bats like this one, an adult Big Brown Bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*), are mosquito eating machines. That means bats help protect our health because mosquitos can carry diseases. Adult Big Brown Bats can eat up to 1,000 insects an hour!

The presence of rabies in wild bat populations is really quite low, only about 1%. It is likely, therefore, that our bat was just cold and found an unfortunate spot to start its hibernation cycle. The bat will remain under observation at the Audubon Society for several days to make sure it does not present symptoms of a rabies infection. If found to be healthy, it will be released back into the wild.

There are 14 species of bats in Oregon, and many (although not the Big Brown Bat) are considered threatened. All Oregon bats are insect eaters. They are especially unique because they are the only flying mammal. What a neat little guy to learn about this month!



Reminder : 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: October Theme of the Month- Problem Solving

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

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

As was mentioned in an e-mail earlier, 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 and our AVID program. Please contact the James John school office if you have any questions.

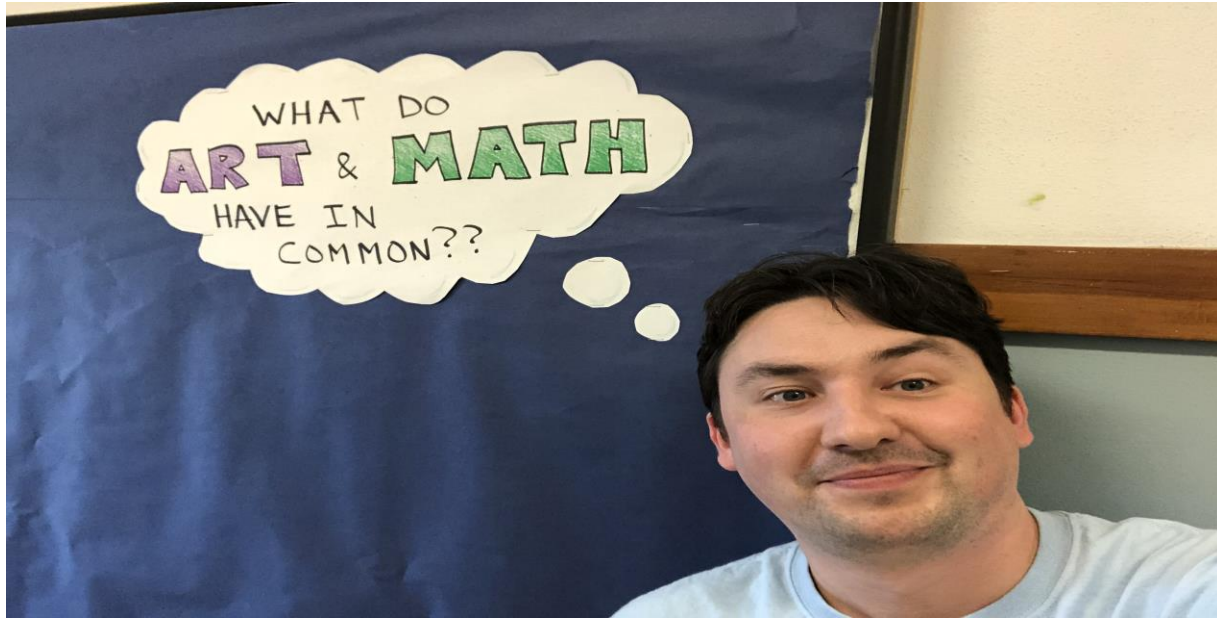
HARVEST OF THE MONTH –

OCTOBER LOCAL LUNCH – CARMAN RANCH GRASSFED BEEF

October is National Farm to School Month. On Tuesday, October 15, all of our PPS kitchens will be featuring locally raised grassfed beef from Carman Ranch in Wallowa, Oregon. The hamburgers will be on our regular 100% whole wheat bun freshly baked in Clackamas, and topped with melted Tillamook cheddar cheese. Customers can also choose to add Portlandia organic ketchup to their burger, along with a side of roasted red, purple and gold organic potatoes from Stoneboat Farm. Everyone can support our Oregon farmers and ranchers by choosing school lunch. We hope you join us!

Whitney Ellersick, Senior Director, Nutrition Services
wellersi@pps.net

Art Teacher



Hello from the art room! Hopefully by now you've heard at least one story about art from your students this year. If you haven't, ask your student what they did in art this week! Every student has art twice a week. We'll be exploring a variety of styles and mediums through the year. As careful as we all are, sometimes it does get messy in the art room. It may be wise to find out which days your student has art so that they don't show up in their nicest, newest clothes to try new painting techniques.

Outside of the art room you can follow along with parts of the lessons on my YouTube channel (just search "Jay Longfellow"), and just starting this year is an Instagram where I'll be showcasing finished student work (@jamesjohnart). If you ever have any questions I can be found in room 31, and reached by email and Class Dojo.

Thanks!

- Mr. Longfellow, James John Art Teacher



PTA News

A great way for you to support your PTA is by collecting Box Tops for Education coupons. These can be found on the packaging of many products. Chances are, you have some in your home right now. If you have some, please carefully cut them out and check the expiration date on each coupon. We are holding a Box Tops drive right now and if you send them to school in an envelope with your child's teacher's name on the front, we will count them all up and the class with the most coupons will win free popcorn at our winter movie night! The fall Box Tops drive ends on October 23rd, so get those coupons in! If you would like to avoid all the clipping, you can now use your smart phone to earn box tops for the school. Simply visit www.boxtops4education.com and download the app to your device. When you shop, you can scan your receipt and collect Box Tops instantly.

Thank you to all of you who came out to the McMenamins Friends & Family Night on October 8th. We would also like to thank our wonderful neighbors at McMenamins St. Johns Pub for hosting the event that raised a significant amount of money for the PTA. It was a fun evening of great food and drinks, which some of us enjoyed around the outdoor fireplace. We are so fortunate to have such supportive family-friendly restaurants in St. Johns!

Our annual celebration of autumn is back! Join us for our Harvest Festival on October 24th from 5:30 to 7:30pm. Try your hand at a variety of games, dance to live music, paint sugar skulls for the Dias de los Meurtos celebration and get your family photo

taken. Everything is free, including dinner! When you arrive, grab your passport and have a blast!

As always, you can learn more about your PTA at our website: www.jamesjohnpta.org

Calendar of Events

22nd – Principal for Almost a Day

Guest Principal Evan Strandberg - Business Development Manager at iQ Credit Union

24th – Harvest Festival

5:30-7:30

30th – Días de los Muertos

5:30 – 7:30

31st – Halloween Parade

1:30

November 2019

1st – planning day

no school for students

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