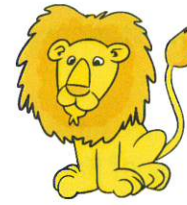




# The Lion's Pride



November 4, 2019



Dia de los Muertos, Harvest Festival Music and Halloween Parade

Dear James John Families,

Happy November to you all. I hope you have been enjoying the recent sunny weather that has come our way. Its been great to be outside and enjoy the sun and all of the colorful foliage. I enjoyed a great weekend with my family doing some bike riding through some of Portland's beautiful parks.

As many of you know, we wrapped up the month of October with a series of fun events at school. The PTA did a great job organizing the Harvest Festival on October 24 and it was great to see all of the families in attendance enjoying games,

treats and live music. A highlight for me was watching our own Doug Sammons playing guitar in a band playing square dancing music. Last week on October 30, we held our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Dia de los Muertos celebration it which was an evening full of dance and celebration. Much appreciation goes to our "Padres Latinos" parent group for organizing this event. It was also great to see many James John teachers and students performing adding their voice to this amazing event. Finally last Thursday on Halloween, we ended our school day with a parade where students and staff showed off some spooky, silly



and creative costumes. It was a fun end to the day sending our students off to a night of trick or treating.

Looking ahead, we have three weeks of school before the week of Parent Teacher Conferences (November 25-26) and the Thanksgiving Break

(November 27-29). If you have not yet signed up for your Parent Teacher Conference, please do so as soon as possible by contacting your child's teacher.

Sincerely,

Dr. John Melvin

### **James John School Site Council Meeting – Thursday, November 7 @ 4pm – Room 29**

The James John School Council is comprised of parents, school staff, and administration and is designed to give input on the school's instructional program. We will be holding our first meeting of the 2019-20 school year next week on Thursday, November 7. Site Council meetings are open to all parents and Spanish translation and childcare will be provided. For more information on James John Site Council, please visit: <https://www.pps.net/Page/3529>

In addition, there are two open positions for parents on the School Site Council. If you are interested in serving as a parent representative on the School Site Council, please contact the school office for a nomination form. Nomination forms are due to the school office by Monday, November 18 and there will be an election in early December.

### **Diverse Learners Night (TAG, AVID and ESL Programs) –Thursday, November 7 @ 5:30-7:00pm – School Auditorium**

We will be holding our Diverse Learners Night this Thursday, November 7 @ 5:30pm. 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. Spanish translation and childcare will be provided.

### **James John Student Council**

We will be forming a James John Student Council comprised of two representatives from each of the grades 3-5 classrooms (and one representative from Ms. Smith's SES classroom). The purpose of the council is to give student voice to decisions and activities in the school. Student council representatives will also represent the school at other school wide functions (assemblies) or school events (i.e.- to greet special visitors). Student council members should show leadership skills, be creative problem solvers and be team players able to hear multiple perspectives.

If students are interested in serving on the student council, they should notify their teacher by Wednesday, November 6. Students should write a brief statement (1/2 page-1page of writing) which they should present to their classmates by the end of the week (by Friday, November 8). Students will then vote for 2 classroom representatives by Tuesday, November 12. Students who are in the election and are not chosen can still serve on a Principal Leadership Team that will meet on a period basis.



## James John Staff Development- Book Club – “Better Than Carrots or Sticks : Restorative Practices for Positive Classroom Management”

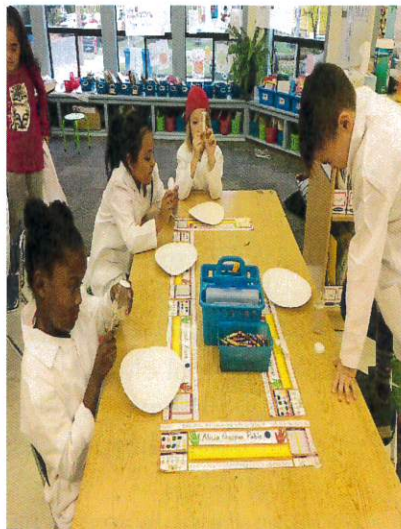
Did you ever wonder what types of topics we cover in our school training time? For the past few years we have been holding a staff wide book club. Last year as a staff we read, “Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Brain,” by Zaretta Hammond. This year we have been reading, “Better Than Carrots or Sticks : Restorative Practices for Positive Classroom Management” by Dominique Smith, Douglas Fisher & Nancy Frey. We held our first book club meeting last week at the Wayfinding Academy and we will be meeting again in January.

## Reminder: November Theme of the Month- Flexibility

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

## ELD Team

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) teachers. At James John we are proud to have a diverse student body, with students and families of many different backgrounds and cultures. Many of our students and their families speak one or more languages in addition to English. Ms. Bessas and Ms. Cornelius love teaching English and learning about their students’ cultures and languages. There are more than 70 students at James John who receive support from our ELD Team. Renee and Sam teach English in small groups and also teach whole class lessons in Science or Social Studies. They use topics in Science and Social Studies as a medium through which to practice language development strategies which benefit all students. This quarter, some topics include rocks and minerals, insects, neighborhoods, the solar system, trees, and sounds.





## African-American Families Listening Session - Thursday, November 21 @ 6pm

Last year we held several listening sessions for our African-American families to learn more about their experience at James John. In order to lay the groundwork for greater school involvement by our African-American Families, we are partnering with our SUN School partner agency, Self Enhancement Inc. (SEI) to again hold parent listening sessions this year and our first session will be on Thursday, November 21 @ 6pm. SEI has organized listening sessions at neighboring PPS schools that have been very successful at hearing from families and building school involvement going forward. All families (and staff) who identify as African-American are invited to this event. Dinner and childcare will be provided. A flyer and invitation will be delivered to students later this week. We ask families to RSVP to their teacher or the school office. Let me know if you have any questions or would like to support this event.

## PTA News

Our November PTA Meeting is coming up on the 19th at 6pm in the auditorium. You don't have to be a PTA member to attend. Child care, dinner and Spanish translation are all included. This month's meeting will feature a presentation by PPS Director of Learning Technologies Kevin Crotchett, who will talk about internet safety.

The Portland PTA Clothing Center is in need of volunteers on Monday the 18th from 9am to 1:30pm. The Clothing Center is a free source of clothing to PPS students who need them. If you'd like to help, contact our volunteer coordinator, Misty Gremaud at [volunteers@jamesjohnpta.org](mailto:volunteers@jamesjohnpta.org).

We are resurrecting the Tuesday Running Club on the 5th and each Tuesday thereafter throughout the school year! This fun event occurs each Tuesday during school hours from 11:00-12:30 unless cancelled due to inclement weather. The hour & a half time span accommodates all the different grades & recess times. Running Club takes place on both playgrounds (K-2 & 3-5) concurrently. We are seeking volunteers to assist. You would keep track of laps by marking the punch card of each participating student. If you're able to assist on any particular Tuesday you could even split the hour & a half timeframe with another volunteer. Contact Misty Gremaud if you'd like to volunteer.

Our annual Winter Craft Fair will happen on Saturday, November 30th from 11am to 5pm in the James John Gym. Local artists will be selling hand-made gifts and we'll host a bake sale. Plan to kick off your holiday shopping with us!

## Calendar of Events

|   |  |
|---|--|
| 6 <sup>th</sup> - Walk to School Day<br>7:45 @ Community Center | 8 <sup>th</sup> – Picture re-takes<br>Auditorium       |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> – Site Council<br>4:00 – 5:00                   | 11 <sup>th</sup> – Veteran's Day<br>school closed      |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> – Diverse Learners' Night<br>5:30 – 7:00        | 12 <sup>th</sup> – Running Club<br>during lunch recess |

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



### The SafeOregon Tipline aims to increase student safety

Keeping with our commitment to student safety, PPS joined school districts across the state a couple years ago in using the SafeOregon Tip Line. We want to remind you about this important resource.

SafeOregon was funded by the Oregon Legislature as part of a statewide effort to improve school safety. **It provides a secure means for anyone to anonymously report suspicious or imminently unsafe situations, such as threats of violence, fights, drugs and alcohol, weapons, bullying, harassment, intimidation or self-harm.**

Anyone, from students to parents to community members, can access the system in a variety of ways, including:

- The “Report unsafe behavior” button found on every PPS school’s website
- The [SafeOregon website](#)
- A live call/text (844-472-3367)
- An email to [tip@safeoregon.com](mailto:tip@safeoregon.com)
- The mobile app that can be downloaded from your Smart Phone via iTunes or Google Play

Trained staff are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to respond.

Please be sure to share this information with your friends and family. Remind your students: **If you see or hear something, say something - immediately.**

Let’s work together to keep our community safe.



## **Temporary Medical Conditions**

There are times when students experience temporary medical conditions and need accommodations to continue academically.

What is a temporary medical condition? A temporary medical condition is an illness or injury that is expected to last more than 2 weeks but not more than six months.

### **Examples of temporary medical condition**

- Broken bones
- Recovery from surgery
- Extended illnesses such as mono

### **Examples that are NOT temporary medical condition**

- Colds, flu, Strep throat etc.
- Anxiety and other mental health conditions

**Who determines what accommodations are needed?** A school team, including school nurse, in consultation with outside medical provider (with parent consent). Supports are coordinated through Student Services Department and must be approved in advance.

Medical/Health Assessment and Release of Information (including translations)

**Temporary Medical Condition Education Plan** - is only for students with temporary medical conditions (more than two weeks but likely to resolve within six months). Medical documentation is required.

**What happens if temporary medical condition lasts longer than expected?** Temporary supports will not be provided beyond six months. Students should be referred for 504 or special education consideration at any point the team suspects that the student has a chronic condition that is likely to require accommodations, supports or services for an extended period of time.

**What is the expectation for students who are out of school for illnesses or injuries that are not considered temporary medical conditions?** The expectation is that schools will make homework available for pick up by the family and that teachers will help the student with catch up once the student returns to school. Submit to: [studentservices@pps.net](mailto:studentservices@pps.net)