



John Johnson Elementary

December

This year has been a successful one at John Johnson Elementary. Thanks go out to all students, parents, teachers, and staff members for making the success possible. The last three weeks of the first semester will be busy, so please read this letter carefully to see how you and your family can participate in the upcoming events.

December 4, 2017



Christmas Programs

PK and Kindergarten will sing their Christmas songs at 8:10am on December 20th in the gym. Top Dawgs for December will be announced during this assembly.

Grades 1-4 will participate in "The Reindeer Whisperer" in the gym at 9am. We invite parents to attend during their students grade level performance.

Adopt a Child at Christmas

For many years, JJE students, faculty, and staff have worked together to help provide Christmas for children who may otherwise not experience a very merry holiday. This year, we are partnering with several other outside organizations to help provide the necessities that are needed for these families. We will be collecting school supplies, as well as hygiene items and undergarments. We will be sending a list of the specific items home with your child. We hope that you will discuss this project with your family and participate, if possible. Learning to give back and help others are valuable lessons for our girls and boys to learn.

21st Century After School Program

The 21st Century after school program will start implementing the YMCA in January. The students will not be traveling to the YMCA, but will be served here at JJE with fun and energetic activities to promote good health for the mind and body. Below you will find a recipe for a healthy and easy snack.

Banana Dippers

Cut a banana into 1 1/2 inch chunks. Spread one end of each with 1/2 teaspoon of peanut butter and dip in your favorite granola or trail mix. (about 160 calories)



Thanksgiving Food Drive

Our students donated 1387.7 pounds of food to the local food bank, which in turn will be distributed to needy families. Kudos to the students and families who participated! The winning classroom was Mrs. McRae. They will be rewarded with a party sponsored by First Port City Bank. Thanks again for giving from the heart.

Parent Involvement

The Parent Involvement Resource Center, housed in JJE's Media Center, contains many brochures and resources for parents. We also have a computer available for checking the Parent Portal and accessing educational websites.

JJE's Christmas Sweater/Shirt Contest

Students and Faculty will be able to participate in John Johnson's Christmas Sweater/Shirt contest on December 14th. Students may wear a Christmas themed sweater or shirt. It can be bought or decorated at home. Each grade level will be judged in the following categories:

- Store bought
- Tackiest
- Most creative

Notes from the Nurse

Please be aware of the policies that Decatur County Schools have about students with fever. If your child comes to the nurse and is determined to have fever higher than 100.5, a parent/guardian will be contacted to come and pick up the child from school. A student can return when they have been fever free for 24 hours without having to take fever-reducing medicine.



Upcoming Events:

December 7- Santa pictures; JJE Chorus in the park at 5:30pm for Yuletide Jubilee; Last day of 21st century afterschool until January 8th

December 8- Charleston Wrap slide party for those students that sold 15 or more items

December 11- Visit from State School Superintendent Richard Woods at 1:30pm

December 14- Christmas Parade

December 15- Kindergarten Gingerbread Day

December 19- Kindergarten Polar Express Day

December 20- Top Dawgs with PK and K Christmas Program at 8:10 am in the gym;
Grades 1-4 perform "The Reindeer Whisperer" at 9am in the gym; End of 1st Semester

December 21-January 2- Christmas Holidays

January 3-4- Professional Development Day for Teachers

January 5- Students Return; Begin 2nd Semester

January 11- Report Cards Issued

January 15- MLK, Jr. Holiday- No School

Grade Level Information

Pre-Kindergarten

Pre-K Holiday Celebration is Wednesday, December 20th at 12:00pm in your child's classroom. Donations will be requested.

White t-shirts are needed to decorate for the Christmas Sing-A-Long on the 20th. T-shirts are due by Wednesday, December 13th.

Mandatory Pre-K parent conferences will be scheduled during the week of December 11th.

Kindergarten

During the month of December, Kindergarten students will be celebrating the season with many fun and engaging activities. We will celebrate Gingerbread Day and Polar Express Day in each class. Please see Kindergarten's December newsletter for specific dates and details.

Please continue to study your child's sight words and SRA words each night.

A note was previously sent home asking parents to teach their child their home address. Please make sure you are working on this.

Don't forget about our Book It Program. Keep reading every night!

1st Grade

We can not believe that in a few short weeks, first semester will be coming to an end. Continue to read nightly with your student. Our students that are reading at home with their parents are much more confident in the classroom. Our Reading goal each month is to have read 10 books and have them recorded in their folder. The Christmas Holidays will be a great time to read with your child. In Math, we are working on missing addends and solving word problems.

We will be sending home a note about our STEM project this week. It involves making an instrument. Please send in household items to help us with this project. Some examples are: oatmeal boxes, Pringles cans, paper towel rolls, toilet paper rolls, empty Kleenex boxes, etc. Look for the note in your child's folder.

We are still collecting box tops and hoping that we will win one of the parties for the class that has collected the most.

We appreciate everything you do to support us in a successful first grade year. Happy Holidays!

Guidance Corner

Your student continues to learn about careers. Talk to him/her and be a student of your child. No two children are alike, so we have to learn what effective ways work with their particular learning style. Talk, talk, talk with your child and help him/her to see that different is good and that it is okay to not be liked by everyone.

2nd Grade

As the first semester swiftly comes to an end, please encourage our hard workers to continue to put forth their best effort. We are eager for the countdown until Winter Holidays! We are working on lots of skills during the month of December. In Math, we are working on measurement and counting money. In Science, we are working on Moon phases and creating an almanac. In Social Studies, we are working on Economics, and in ELA, we are doing an informational writing. Continue to study for weekly Math and DOL quizzes. We are also collecting box tops. We want to win the

3rd Grade

Please continue to read with your child and study multiplication facts nightly.

We are sending home graded papers on Monday. Please review them and go over them with your child. This will help them at test time. Thanks for all you do!

4th Grade

We will begin Unit 3 in Journeys which focuses on natural disasters. Language skills we will focus on include frequently confused words (to, too, and two for example), possessive nouns, and modal auxiliaries. Our target reading skills will be rate of reading, pauses, stress and expression. Always review the study guide for each lesson nightly with your student.

In the spirit of the season, we will complete our Grinch unit. We will read the story and analyze the literary elements. We will have all sorts of activities and opportunities to learn about this well known character. We will celebrate our completion of this unit by having a Grinch party where everything will be green on Tuesday, December 19th. Please be looking for notes about this coming home soon.

In Math, we are continuing to sharpen our multiplication skills. Students are required to know how to do the partial product (box method) of multiplication of 2 digits x 2 digits. We will also be starting division. Please review daily math each night. Daily math quizzes are every Friday, and homework is due on Fridays.

The American Revolution is our focus in Social Studies this month. We are studying the causes leading up to the start of the war, important battles and historical figures involved. Please review notes in the SS section of your child's binder each night.

In Science, we will begin our unit on light and complete our 2nd nine weeks STEM project.

Music

The Christmas program will be held on December 20th. Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten will perform Christmas songs. Grades 1-4 will be presenting "The Reindeer Whisperer" at 9:00am.

The JJE Chorus recently performed at the Retired Teachers' Breakfast and did a wonderful job. Their next performance will be at the Yuletide Jubilee on December 7th at 5:30pm.
