



JOHNSTONVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



September 2010

Excellence in Education

Website: www.johnstonville.org

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Mrs. Clark

We are excited to begin another year at Johnstonville School. From the test results we have received, our academic achievement continues to rise. I will have more details in the October newsletter when the remainder of test results are available.

Back-to-School night is on Tuesday, September 21st from 6:00-7:00 p.m. Teachers are eager to share their plan for the year and important aspects of their classroom with you, so mark the date on your calendar. Also, stop by the front entrance of the school to sign up for JSCA (our parents club), boy scouts and other functions. JSCA needs more parent participation and there are many ways to serve your child's school. Please take the time to visit with the JSCA representative at the front entrance of the school.

Teachers worked together last spring and this summer to create a **new discipline plan** for Johnstonville School. Expectations for students are clear and consistent through all grade levels. The plan is combined with character education through Character Counts, Love & Logic and the teaching Ron Clark's *Essential 55*, norms for student behavior.

FREE & REDUCED MEALS

Paperwork to qualify for free and reduced breakfast and lunch must be completed every year. If you are uncertain if your family qualifies, please call the school secretary at 257-2471 .

INTERDISTRICT TRANSFERS

If you have not had the interdistrict transfer form sent from your home district, please do so immediately. The home district must agree to release your child from their district. You will need to fill out an interdistrict transfer form at the home school district office and they will fax it to us. About 50% of our interdistrict students need the form completed. Please call the school secretary at 257-2471 should you have questions.

UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

- 9/6 Labor Day Holiday, no school
- 9/13 Site Council Meeting 2:45
- 9/15 School Board Meeting 6:00
- 9/21 Back-to-School Night 6:00-7:00
- 9/22 Picture Day – watch for the flyer to come

WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEES

Melissa Pickett – Media Technician

Mrs. Pickett will be our librarian and computer tech. She has a wealth of experience working with computer systems and websites. Melissa is new to Susanville, but her husband grew up here, so it is actually a return home.

Dianne Morrison – Instructional Aide

Mrs. Morrison has joined our staff as an instructional aide and yard duty supervisor. Dianne loves working with adolescent children. She has experience working as an instructional aide in Juvenile Hall and is currently a youth group leader for her church.

Ronda Mallery – Instructional Aide/Custodian

We are very grateful to have Mrs. Mallery back on board at Johnstonville. She has worked for Johnstonville in the past as a custodian. She has experience working as an instructional aide at several area schools. Ronda is also our morning supervisor for the students arriving between 7:45 and 8:15.

CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING

Cross-country is for students in K-8th grades and is our biggest sport of the year. The county organizational meeting has not occurred yet, but we should be starting in mid-September. If your child is interested in participating in cross-country running, please schedule a sports physical with your family doctor. Students are not allowed to participate without a yearly physical. The physical will allow students to play in all extra-curricular sports for the year.

Tips for Raising a Successful Student

By Maya Cohen

Numerous factors contribute to a child's success in school, but research groups such as the Harvard Family Research Project agree that parental involvement and influence weigh heavily among them. Knowing how to wield your influence is very important, because you don't want to put too much pressure on your child or overemphasize the importance of grades. The key is to make learning an enjoyable activity rather than a chore.

Develop educational habits outside of school

It's important to remember that learning is not something that happens exclusively within the walls of schools. Educational experiences can arise anywhere, and can be fun and informal. Remember that children learn everywhere. Heather Weiss, director of the Harvard Family Research Project, says, "Parents provide a strong influence and help children make choices on how to spend out-of-school time." Think about productive and beneficial ways your child can spend his time, and develop habits within your household that provide intellectual stimulation.

Integrate some of these healthy habits into your regular routine:

1. **Make reading an integral part of your home life.** Read aloud to your children or set aside quiet time each day in which your family can sit together and read silently. Instead of flipping on the television, turn to books during downtime.
2. **Use your daily time with your children wisely.** When you are in the car or walking to the school bus, talk to your kids about what they are learning in school, or prompt a conversation about a topic that they find interesting and intriguing.
3. **Know what interests your children**, and encourage them to explore those subjects. According to Weiss, "You should know what your child likes, and orient him toward the activities he enjoys, so that as he progresses his interests will build."
4. **Provide a quiet and comfortable learning environment for your children.** The discord of raising kids, preparing meals, tending to scrapes, and cleaning spills can make any home environment pretty chaotic. Try to find some space where your children can do homework, read, study, or think in comfort and without distraction. If this is impossible, then become a regular at your local library or community center, and teach your children to use community spaces to be productive.
5. **Keep a positive attitude about school.** Never refer to school as a drag, or make it seem like attending class is a chore. Keep your kids excited about learning, and eager to share their daily discoveries.

6. Encourage your children to register for educational extracurricular programs.

"Parental encouragement makes a huge difference in whether children go to [educational] out-of-school-time programs," says Weiss. Find out if your school or community offers an after-school activity that would interest your child.

MORNING SUPERVISION

Morning supervision is available for students **starting at 7:45 a.m.** in the school library. **Do not leave children at the school before 7:45 a.m., as there is no one to watch them.** Johnstonville is committed to providing this service for parents to allow them to drop off their child and get to work by 8:00. If you need a place for your child before 7:45 a.m., there are private child care providers in the neighborhood. Many students currently walk from these providers to school.

ALL STUDENTS ARRIVING BETWEEN 7:45 – 8:15 MUST GO TO THE LIBRARY. BREAKFAST STUDENTS MAY GO TO THE CAFETERIA AT 8:05 a.m.

PARKING AND PICK-UP

We know that parking is difficult after school. Please make every attempt to find a place where you can **park out of the lanes of traffic. Your child will be waiting at the pick-up area between the gym and multipurpose room with a supervisor. Do not pick up your child near the front entrance**, unless you have business in the office. This is a bus zone. There is no supervision, a lot of traffic and a danger to your child. We have already had a couple children run in front of the bus and into traffic trying to get to their parent's car.

We will be rearranging staff parking to make more room for you in the pick-up area. If this does not work, we will have a parent/teacher committee work on the parking and pick-up situation.

Thank you for your help!

DAILY SCHEDULE

7:45 – 8:15 Early supervision in the library

8:05 – 8:30 Breakfast in the cafeteria

8:35 School begins

12:10 Kindergarten ends

2:30 School ends

All students must go home at 2:30 unless they are participating in school sports. There is no after school supervision. The playground is open to the public at 4:00 p.m.

LASSEN COUNTY HEALTH UPDATE

Whooping Cough Epidemic & Tdap Vaccine Availability

August 27, 2010

Dear Parents and Guardians:

We wanted to inform you that there is a whooping cough (also called pertussis) epidemic in California. Whooping cough can cause a violent cough at any age and can kill young babies.

Know how to protect yourself against whooping cough and **seek medical care promptly if you or anyone in your family might have whooping cough**. Whooping cough starts out like a common cold, and is often followed within days by severe coughing spells (young babies may not cough and disease can be milder in older children and adults). The disease can spread easily at school or home.

There is a vaccine to protect your children and family against whooping cough. You and your child may have been immunized between infancy and kindergarten. However, this protection wears off over time. A booster shot is recommended for all children and adults 10 years of age and older to help prevent getting whooping cough, especially if there is a new baby at home or coming soon. **Talk with your doctor about getting immunized!**

Whooping cough vaccines have been proven to be safe and effective. The most common side-effect is soreness at the injection site.

If you do not have health insurance, ask your local health department about the Vaccines for Children Program. This program provides free vaccines to children 18 years of age and younger.

Other vaccines recommended to protect your child:

- Kindergarten or older
 - Influenza – vaccinate each fall or winter
 - Chickenpox vaccine
- 6th grade or older
 - Meningitis
 - Cervical Cancer [HPV]

**A message from your school nurse, the
California School Nurses Organization,
the California Department of Public
Health and
Lassen County Health**



California School Nurses Organization
1225 8th Ave. Suite 500
Sacramento, CA 95814
Ph: (916) 448-5752
Fax: (916) 448-5767
www.csno.org