

Johnson Street Public School

105 Johnson Street
Barrie, Ontario
L4M 4R4

Phone: 705 – 728-9251

Fax: 705-728-5754

Suzanne Laybolt
PRINCIPAL

November 2016 Newsletter @JSPSJets

Important Dates

- November 1 – Picture Re-take Day
- November 7 – School Council Meeting @ 6:30 pm
- November 9 – Jersey Spirit Day
- November 11 – Remembrance Day Assembly @ 11:15
- November 14-18 – Student Conferences All Week
- November 16/17 – OLSAT Gifted Screening
- November 17 – Kindy/Primary to Little Mermaid Production
- November 18 – PD Day
- November 22 – *Most Likely to Succeed* screening at local schools – go to www.scdsb.on.ca
- November 23 – Dental/Hygiene Presentation in Jr Classes
- November 24 – Intermediate Boy's Volleyball Zones
- November 24 – Intermediate Girl's Basketball Zones
- November 25 – Mustache Day
- November 28 – End of Chocolate Fundraising Campaign
- December 7 – K-3 Concert/Art Auction
- December 8 – 4-8 Concert/Art Auction
- December 20 – Grade 1 – 8 Trip to Matilda – late return at 5:30



Holiday Concert Cafe/Art Auction and Sale

December 7th (kindy/primary)
December 8th (junior/intermediate)



See students perform!
Enjoy community entertainers!
Engage in our Silent Auction/Art Sale – student work *and* pieces from local artists!

It's hard to believe that November is here already! Thank you to our families for your on-going support and teamwork, in our shared efforts to teach and nurture the students at JSPS!

Thanks to our School Council. Already, they are busy organizing events, supporting our Snack Program, fundraising for worthwhile initiatives and collaborating with staff in our efforts to make JSPS a great place to be. Please pay special attention to the School Council additions to this newsletter – *Did You Know* and *Impact*. Communication from a parent's perspective is enlightening for our school community! Our council meets on the first Monday of each month. All are welcome!

Last week, your child's Progress Report was sent home. Please take time to go over this report with your child, reviewing his/her Strengths and Next Steps. This report will be central at your Conference with teaching staff, being held between November 14th and 18th. It is critical at this point of the school year for all parents to meet with teachers in order to set individualized goals and direction. If you have not yet arranged an interview, please contact the school office or your child's teacher ASAP.



Did You Know?

JSPS is a leading school in the board in the creation of outdoor classrooms, school ground naturalization, and outdoor learning! In the past 3 years, the yard has seen transformational changes, and our kids are reaping the learning benefits! Many changes (i.e. bongo drums, xylophone, sitting rocks, wacky sticks) were gratefully provided by the board. Volunteers and community partners with leadership from our very own Mrs. Lash have been responsible for taking it further by adding garden boxes, native species garden, willow tunnel/fort, and yard mulch. More changes can be expected as community support is secured to continue the transformation. Let's be proud of our yard and watch for opportunities to volunteer.



School Council

On Monday October 3rd, your School Council was elected. Thank you to these parents for their time and commitment.

Co- Chairs: Selena Mills and Chantel Nelson

Secretary: Crystal Foster

Treasurer: Leila Verheyen

Voting Members: Stephanie Bell, Alisia Johnson, Nikki McElrea, Laura Perchuk, Antonella Pinto, Curtis Hewitt, Jaime Schrader, Jason Lash

IMPACT

A Note from School Council

Welcome to IMPACT, a column dedicated to connecting School Council members with Johnson Street Public School families! Each month this column will highlight current and upcoming awareness and fundraising initiatives at our school. Together we will recognize and celebrate the efforts of administration, staff and families who are making a positive and lasting difference at Johnson Street Public School.

My name is Stephanie Bell and I am a new parent at Johnson. I decided to become a member of the School Council for two reasons. First, I wanted to meaningfully connect myself to my daughter's new world. The opportunity to meet other parents, collaborate with teachers and administration and learn more about Johnson's core values and initiatives is important to me. Second, I appreciate that becoming actively involved in my daughter's academic and social experience at Johnson might one day give her the confidence to become a contributing student leader. I've attended two meetings so far and am so glad I made the leap!

To be honest, I was a bit nervous when I attended the first meeting. I didn't know quite what to expect. Well...I'm writing this column to let you know exactly what to expect. Expect to feel welcomed and valued for your interest and participation. Expect that your ideas will be heard and considered. Expect that you can just come and listen and not be pressured to speak. Expect that you will be surrounded by a group of positive and enthusiastic adults who simply want the best for all of our children. We would truly love to see you at our next meeting on January 16th, 2017.

Our *World's Finest Chocolate* fundraiser is off to an amazing start! Our sincere appreciation is extended to all of our Johnson families who are doing what you can to move those chocolates! I don't know about you, but the Crispe bars were the first to go in our family box! Each time you sell a bar or a box, know that this fundraiser generates **big** revenue for our school. Last year's profits were directly applied to the purchase of 23 Chromebooks for our school! Please keep selling those chocolates and know that your efforts are recognized and greatly appreciated.

As a final thought...mark your calendars for our annual *Holiday Art Auction and Concert Series!* The primary evening is Wednesday, December 7 and the junior/intermediate evening is Thursday, December 8. Student and local artist performances are being planned to celebrate the importance and value of Arts education at Johnson. Please plan to enjoy some festive family fun!

On Tuesday December 20th, our Grade 1-8 students will be attending a Mirvish performance of **MATILDA in Toronto. Please return your form and payment to school ASAP. Also, please take special note of our late return from Toronto. Kindly make special arrangements to pick up your child at 5:30 pm. It's sure to be a great treat for all!**

Safe Schools tool for reporting bullying, drug use or vandalism

The SCDSB has an online Safe Schools Reporting Tool, which is available on our school website homepage, <http://jon.scdsb.on.ca>, as a Quick Access button. Students and parents can use this tool to submit a report online if they witness a student engaged in inappropriate behaviour such as bullying, drug use or vandalism. Students are still encouraged to speak to a trusted adult at school or home if they have any concerns. This form isn't a substitute for having a discussion with your teacher or principal. Student safety and well-being is always our top priority. For more information please contact the school or visit <http://scdsb.on.ca/ReportAnIncident>.

Message from SCDSB Director of Education Kathi Wallace

At the Sept. 28 Board Meeting, it was shared publicly that I will retire as of December 31, 2016. As I'm sure you can imagine, this decision was challenging for me. I love what I do - I have felt this way in every role during my 39 years in this board. It's truly been an honour to serve the students and families of Simcoe County throughout my career. I've had the privilege of working with fantastic staff, parents and community partners. I've been surrounded by skilled, passionate and caring people.

My focus remains on our work as I complete my time here. The Board of Trustees have started the search for a new director. We are also now gathering the results of our strategic planning consultation. The input provided by our staff, students, parents and community members will be invaluable to the board and senior administration, including the new director, as they move the system forward.

I am looking forward with optimism to this next stage of my life. It's a chance to spend some more time with my family. This includes my growing group of beautiful grandchildren who provide that daily reminder of life's wonder and simple joys. It's that same reminder I cherish from my days as a classroom teacher.

Free film screening on Nov. 22: *Most Likely to Succeed*, a documentary

On November 22, the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) will hold public screenings of the film *Most Likely To Succeed*. This film examines the history of education, revealing the growing shortcomings of conventional education methods in today's innovative world. The film explores compelling new approaches that aim to transform learning as we know it. To learn more about the film and view a trailer, visit www.mltsfilm.org/.

The following schools will screen the movie:

- Innisdale Secondary School
- Nantyr Shores Secondary School
- Lions Oval Public School
- Nottawa Public School
- Georgian Bay District Secondary School
- Bradford District High School
- Alliston Union Public School

The screenings begin at 6:30 p.m. and the film is 90 minutes in length. Everyone is welcome to attend and the film is appropriate for all audiences (please note that there is one profanity word in the movie). Please pre-register for the event at www.scdsb.on.ca.

Space still available in International Language classes

The Simcoe County District School Board is pleased to offer an International Languages program to students in Grades 1 to 8. This program allows students to develop their first language skills or study a new language.

The Learning Centres offer the following languages:

- Russian, Spanish, Tamil and Ukrainian in Bradford
- Russian, Spanish, Mandarin, Korean and German in Barrie

To register, visit www.thelearningcentres.com or call 705-725-8360.

Message from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit:

Are you a parent of a JK or SK student? Do you worry about your child's eating habits?

Nutri-eSTEP can help! Check out www.smdhu.org/Nutri-eSTEP - you answer 17 simple questions to find out what's going well and what to work on to keep your child healthy. Nutri-eSTEP is a questionnaire for parents with children aged 18 months to five years. When you help your young children learn how to eat healthy, move more and limit time spent sitting, you make a difference to their lifelong health. Visit www.smdhu.org/Nutri-eSTEP for tips to keep your child healthy with the *Healthy is as easy as 1, 2, 3* fact sheet. For more information, call Health Connection weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 705-721-7520 or toll free 1-877-721-7520.

Message from the Health Unit: Stay Healthy This School Year!

Colds and Influenza spread easily from person to person. These germs can spread directly from person to person when someone coughs or sneezes, or indirectly when germs land on hard surfaces like door knobs, desks, keyboards, or wet tissues and then are touched by someone. These germs can then enter the body through the eyes, nose or mouth.

The most important thing you can do to keep from getting sick and stop the spread of germs to others is wash your hands with soap and warm running water for at least 15 seconds. If your hands are not visibly dirty you can use alcohol based hand rub "hand sanitizer" for 15 seconds. Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or cough into your sleeve or upper arm and stay home if you are sick. Teach your kids to do the same!

For more tips to keep you and your family healthy this school year, contact *Health Connection* at 1-877-721-7520 or visit the health unit's website at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.

Message from the Health Unit: Misusing pain medication is very dangerous

One in ten students in Grades 7 to 12 report misusing pain medication, and the majority of them got the drug from someone's home. Pain medication (opioids) like Tylenol No. 3®, Percocet, morphine and fentanyl can be misused in two ways:

1. If used in ways other than intended by a physician
2. If used by someone it was not prescribed for.

What can you do?

- Keep your medications locked up and out of sight
- Clean out your medicine cabinet regularly and take left over or expired medication to the pharmacy for safe, free disposal.

For more information, visit the health unit's website at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org or call *Health Connection* at 721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520.



Brag Board

- **Congratulations to our Student Council Members who joined us at the Me To We Concert in Toronto in October**
- **Shout Out to our student body for the tremendous collections of non-perishable food during our Halloween for Hunger Campaign**
- **Thank you to our many parent volunteers who now arrive each morning to prepare healthy snacks and food for our Eat Well to Excel Program**
- **We are proud of our students and classes who made contributions at our Remembrance Day Assembly..... and thanks to the almost 50 parents who joined us!**
- **Best Wishes to our Intermediate Boy's Volleyball and Intermediate Girl's Volleyball teams as they move to our Zone Tournaments this week**
- **Our Ukulele Program is off to a great start – music fills our halls at JSPS!**
- **Our Hip Hop Dance and Yoga sessions are providing a great outlet for our students**

Special Food Days @ JSPS

Pizza – Wednesdays during second break (\$1.50)

Popcorn – Fridays during second break (\$1)

Milk – each day (\$1)

A reminder that there are alternative ways to purchase these items at JSPS. You can buy sheets of tickets through the school office and Cash Online. You can also bring exact change on the select day. We are pleased to provide these options to your family.

For the safety of our kids:

our sidewalk lane in the parking lot is meant as a Kiss'n'Ride. Please NEVER leave your car unattended, allowing for flow of traffic. Please always avoid double parking.

Thank you.

SCDSB STAR Employee Recognition Program



Have you had a SCDSB STAR encounter? Has a staff person in one of our schools or education facilities gone above and beyond to inspire a positive change in your life, or the life of your child?

If you know an outstanding SCDSB teacher, custodian, educational assistant, early childhood educator or office staff who has done something wonderful to support students in our system, nominate them for a STAR. Efforts to provide an outstanding learning environment and experience shouldn't go unnoticed. You can nominate someone with the form at www.scdsb.on.ca and we will recognize that special person with a thank you card from the Director of Education, as well as a special star lapel pin they can wear with pride! It's just one way to recognize the shining stars in our education system who make a difference every day in our schools, facilities and classrooms!