



SCHOOL DISTRICT 12  
**JOHNSBURG**  
INSPIRING OUR STUDENTS

## Info 12

2010-2011 School Year  
Fall, 2010

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Administration Center  
2222 W. Church Street  
Johnsburg, IL 60051  
(815) 385-6916  
(815) 385-4715—Fax

[www.johnsburg12.org](http://www.johnsburg12.org)

# A Fresh Start to the New Year

*District 12 Board of Education*

Shiny new shoes, backpacks filled with new supplies, an unopened package of crayons, clean chalkboards, unsharpened pencils, and brand new notebooks with blank pages to be filled in. Old friends, new classrooms, maybe even a new school and new teachers to meet. All are images that remind us that the new school year is beginning. Welcome back students and faculty! Let's make 2010-2011 a great year!

Everyone looks forward to a clean slate and the beginning of the new school year, and it is with great pleasure, that we begin the new school year by introducing our new district logo as well. After months of planning the new mission and vision statements, a final component of the new and improved image of our district was voted on during the July School Board meeting. We have encompassed the total vision of our district with a new logo. If you noticed the top of your Info 12 newsletter you will see the changes we have implemented.

### *What is a logo...*

According to Wikipedia the definition of a logo is as follows: A logo is a graphic mark or emblem commonly used by commercial enterprises, organizations and even individuals to aid and promote instant public recognition. Famous logos include: McDonald's golden arches, Target's red circle with a dot in the middle, and Coca-Cola's red script lettering. We hope that other districts will look to our school district for our leadership in education and our supportive community with the symbolic lighthouse leading the way.

### *Why we chose the lighthouse...*

By using the imagery of a lighthouse shining its bright light built on a solid rock foundation we capture the entire message of the district in a simple image. A lighthouse being built on a rock-solid foundation lights the way for a bright future. The district has adopted this

vision in becoming a Lighthouse Blue Ribbon School District.

The criteria included in achieving this goal are as follows:

- Student Focus and Support
- School Organization and Culture
- Challenging Standards and Curriculum
- Active Teaching and Learning
- Technology Integration
- Professional Community
- Leadership and Educational Vitality
- School, Family and Community Partnerships
- Indicators of Success

### *What the colors mean...*

Color is an important tool used to establish and expand Johnsburg's brand image and message moving forward. Royal blue triggers feelings of being strong, authoritative, loyal and confident. Yellow is friendly, joyful and energetic. Reflex blue is exhilarating, electric and a high energy color. In the tradition of the Johnsburg School District we have maintained our school colors. Our colors are rich with school history and Johnsburg pride.

The tag line -"Inspiring Our Students"... Education empowers, but "education" means different things to different people and the reasons for furthering your education vary. Our vision statement, much like our new tag line fully incorporates this idea of inspiring our students whatever their future has in store. Our new mission statement is as follows:

"The mission of Johnsburg School District 12 is to create a safe and challenging learning environment which develops character and inspires students to become productive life-long learners"

It is with this mission and vision that we wish you a GREAT start to a new year. Welcome back!

## **New Website Coming Early October, 2010!**

Johnsburg School District 12 is proud to announce the upcoming release of a new District Website to be premiered in early October, 2010. The new website will feature a variety of new features including a special "Parent Corner", full of information and resources about academics, student services, community partnerships and much more!

[www.johnsburg12.org](http://www.johnsburg12.org)

# The State of the Curriculum

By, Derek Straight  
Curriculum Director

"What kind of a school and school district do you want to be associated with?" That was the question I posed to the Johnsburg High School Staff at their first Professional Learning Community late start day on Thursday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2010. Students and student learning was the answer given. Creating a unified commitment to student learning is a great way to summarize the importance of our job here in District 12. All of our schools will have this same commitment to the education of your children.

Our focus right now with curriculum is looking at actionable data to make informed decisions so that we can deliver appropriate lessons to each child in all our schools.

What is actionable data? Actionable data is information collected from our students in which we can make informed decisions. Examples of actionable data would be: (AIMSWEB K-8), state assessments (ISATS grades 3-8, EXPLORE 8<sup>th</sup> grade, PLAN 9<sup>th</sup> grade, Practice ACT 10<sup>th</sup> grade and the PSAE 12<sup>th</sup> grade). With the

data collected and deciphered, our teachers can make specific plans for the delivery of curriculum that directly impact our students.

What kind of decisions do we make regarding this data? An example of data collected from ISATS could be that a certain percentage of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students did not meet the standard for Goal 1A in reading. This would be considered a low area for those students. As teachers deliver their curriculum, they will focus on that specific skill because the data showed us that those students did not understand that specific skill. This is where actionable data and informed decisions directly impact our curriculum and the improvement of student learning.

All grade level and content area staff will be writing SMART Goals in the coming weeks to address the actionable data. These goals will be a guiding light for student learning. This is a very important task that our staff takes seriously, which is one reason why Johnsburg School District 12 is such a strong school district.

## Johnsburg Educational Partnership Foundation

### Dates to Remember

3rd Annual Casio Night  
November 13, 2010  
Johnsburg Moose Lodge

18th Annual  
"Shooting for the Stars"  
Gala  
Early Spring, 2011

18th Annual  
Orange Ball  
Golf Tournament  
June, 2011

## News from the Johnsburg Parent-Teacher Organization

Our first Johnsburg PTO meeting for the school year went great. We have some new chairmen signed up for our events so we're very excited to get the year started. There are still positions available. If you are interested in chairing or helping out with any of our events please send an email to pataspms1@yahoo.com. We invite anyone interested to come to any of our meetings which are held the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. Locations rotate among each of the four school buildings and are listed in the PTO calendar as well as on our website. We would love to see you there.

Our first Wildcat Teen Night will be Friday October 1<sup>st</sup> at the Junior High School! For the admission fee of \$5.00, all students in 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades can come dance to the

DJ, sing karaoke, bounce on the inflatables, play ball in the gym, watch a movie, play board games, and have a chance at winning a free "Teen Night Party" for the following Teen Night. Also available for an additional fee are concessions, craft projects, and tattoos. Doors open at 5:45 p.m. and the event runs from 6:00-8:00 p.m. This fun event requires a lot of volunteers. Anyone interested should e-mail Angie at amflebbe@aol.com.

Please join us Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup> for our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Wonderland at Ringwood School from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. A wonderful breakfast will be served for the small charge of \$6.00 per adult and \$4.00 per child. Be sure to bring your camera and have your kids bring their lists, because Santa will visit

from the North Pole! Coloring Contest winners' pictures as well as the family decoration projects will be displayed for all to enjoy. Come shop at our holiday bazaar where you can get a jump on your holiday shopping. Also, kids of all ages can decorate gingerbread cookies to take home! Interested volunteers and/or crafters can call Pat at 847-875-7476.

Please check your calendars for monthly Market Day and Restaurant Night dates. These are great ways to get involved and show your support.

Thank you so much to everyone in the community for your continued support throughout the year. We look forward to a very successful year with your help and cooperation.

# Mobile Technology Usage in the Classroom

By, R.J. Gravel

Director of Instructional Technology

For the past few years, our nation has seen an explosion of mobile technology devices and applications. Many of these devices have been quickly adopted by kids, teenagers, young adults, middle-aged adults and senior citizens alike due to their wide-scale application to our every day lives. Schools have acknowledged that these devices are items that our students clamor to every moment they have an opportunity to utilize them. Similar to the prior "culture changers" of pop radio and television, students immerse themselves into these technologies and as a result are captivated by their presence.

*So how can we as educators take advantage of these devices' inherent ability to captivate our students, and directly enhance a student's academic ability?*

At Johnsburg School District 12, we are attempting to answer this questions by premiering an iPad Initiative in our ALPS classrooms (a segment of our special

education population) across all grade levels in the District. This initiative is funded in-full by special education grant funds designated for curricular purposes. What we are doing (tested for two months at the conclusion of the 2009/2010 academic year), is providing a number of iPads for use in each building by the ALPS classrooms. We are also providing the instructors iPads for lesson development, as well as \$200 in iTunes store credit for purchasing additional applications for use in the classroom.

During our testing phase in April and May, our ALPS faculty members found themselves utilizing a variety of free and low-cost applications to enhance the student's classroom experience. In one situation, a faculty member utilized a Weather Channel app as a method of teaching their student's about weather conditions and patters (with visual and auditory resources). In another situation, a faculty member utilized a money-

counting application to help a student better understand how to count change when going to a store. Still another faculty member utilized a Dr. Seuss interactive book app that allowed students to follow along in a self-paced reading activity, as well as be visually captivated by the moving and stationary graphical elements and audio resources.

There are several educational apps out that there we know about, and many that we are still learning about. As a result, faculty members were allowed to take home some of the "testing phase" iPads for further evaluation during the summer months.

To ensure that the program is successful, there will be regular staff development session on the utilization of iPads in the special education classroom, as well as continuous debriefing and "success story" sharings between the entire initiative faculty.

## Annual JHS Music Spaghetti Dinner

The Johnsburg High School Music Department is sponsoring its annual Spaghetti Dinner in conjunction with the Drama Department's presentation of "Twelve Angry Jurors".

This year's "Dinner before the Theater" will be held on Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 until 7:00 p.m. Advanced tickets can be purchased from a JHS student or at the JHS office for \$6.00 each. Tickets can also be purchased at the door. The meal includes spaghetti, salad, Panera bread, a beverage of coffee or lemonade and dessert. (Play tickets need to be purchased separately.) Johnsburg High School band and choir students will provide instrumental and vocal entertainment throughout the meal. For more information, please contact Teri Graszer at tgraszer@johnsburg12.org or call the High School at 815-385-9233.

Please consider joining us for a fun-filled evening!

## JHS Athletic Boosters Donate \$42,000+

The Athletic Booster Club at Johnsburg High School is proud to report that they were able to donate over \$42,000 to the Athletic Department for the 2009-2010 school year. These donations were used to purchase uniforms for many teams, fund scholarships and make improvements to the campus and concession stand. In addition, we were able to provide some needed equipment and amenities.

The Athletic Booster Club also deposited over \$4,950 into individual team activity accounts last year in return for their staffing the concession stand. Thanks to everyone who worked at or purchased items at our concession stands. Please continue to support the boosters so they can continue to support your students.

## Annual Madrigal Dinner Coming in December

Celebrate the holiday season by attending the 8<sup>th</sup> annual JHS Madrigal Dinner. This spectacular 2-hour dinner show includes music, song, and costuming from the Renaissance Era. The 16 cast members are already preparing to provide you with a performance sure to please young and old alike!

You will feel like you have been transported back in time 400 years as you enjoy the show and the meal in our cafeteria (transformed into a medieval castle), complete with a court jester and wench. Brass and recorder ensembles will provide entertainment prior to the show and during the meal.

This year's performances are on Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm and 5:30 pm, and December 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm. Advanced ticket purchases are recommended, as seating is limited and could sell out. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$12 for JHS students, children under 10, and seniors over 60. Contact David Smith at Johnsburg High School for more information at 815-385-9233.s

# Annual Asbestos Containing Material Notification

Under federal and state law the Johnsburg School District #12 must provide annual public notification regarding management of the Asbestos Containing Material (ACM) found in the district schools. ACM is a product or building material (floor tile, pipe insulation etc.) that has an asbestos content of greater than one percent asbestos by weight. The ACM found in the district schools is routinely inspected every 6 months to ensure that

it is properly maintained so that there is no threat to the school occupants.

Individual school Asbestos Management Plans are available for public review at the district office that is located at 2222 West Church Street in Johnsburg Illinois. If there are any questions regarding the district ACM please contact the district Asbestos Program Manager Mr. Bob Sinder at (815) 344-2803.



## Transportation Reimbursement Information

Parent(s) or legal guardian(s) who must provide transportation to and from school **because free transportation is not available for their children** may be eligible to receive money from the state to help offset some of the cost, for example, bus fares or mileage reimbursement for private automobiles at \$0.505 per mile.

If you can answer **yes** to the following questions for the 2010-11 school year, you may be eligible to receive reimbursement for providing such transportation.

- 1) Will the pupil be under the age of 21 at the close of the school year?
- 2) Is the pupil a full-time student in grades kindergarten through 12?
- 3) Does the pupil either live 1 1/2 miles or more from school or live less than 1 1/2 miles from school but **must be transported** due to a serious safety hazard approved by the Illinois Department of Transportation? (See following paragraphs.)
- 4) Does the pupil attend a school within Illinois which meets Illinois compulsory attendance laws?
- 5) Did the parent/guardian incur transportation expenses resulting from transporting the pupil to and from school?
- 6) Did the pupil not have access to transportation to and from school provided entirely at public expense?

- 7) Did the parent/guardian reside within Illinois during the time period expenses were incurred?

If you answered yes to the above questions, lived in Illinois and wish to file a claim, you must go to the school where each of your children is enrolled by June 30, 2011, to submit claim information. You may provide claim information to appropriate school personnel at your child's attendance center until June 30, 2011.

In addition, parent(s)/guardian(s) who have pupils living **less than 1 1/2 miles** from the school attended must verify that a safety hazard due to vehicular traffic exists by completing an Application for Determination of Serious Safety Hazards. Parents can obtain a copy of the Application for Determination of Serious Safety Hazards from the Office of the Regional Superintendent of Schools for the county in which they reside **except** parents residing within the City of Chicago. Chicago residents can receive a copy of the Application for Determination of Serious Safety Hazards from the Illinois State Board of Education, Division of Funding and Disbursement Services, 100 North First Street, Springfield, IL 62777. All applications for Determination of Serious Safety Hazards must be received no later than February 1, 2010, at the office from which the application was requested. Example: ISBE (Chicago residents), ROE (Illinois residents other than those resid-

ing in Chicago). The Regional Superintendent of Schools is required to send the Application to the Illinois Department of Transportation within 15 days. The Illinois Department of Transportation reviews and approves or denies the application and returns it to the Regional Superintendent of Schools within 30 days. Upon receipt of the reviewed application, the Regional Superintendent of Schools will mail it to the parent/guardian who requested the safety hazard be verified. **If the safety hazard is approved, the parent/guardian must go to the school the pupil attends to submit claim information.** Parents who received verification of a safety hazard during and after the 2005-2006 school year, whose children attend the same school and live at the same address do not have to reapply for safety hazard verification.

Once all claim information is submitted at the school, it will be transmitted electronically to the Illinois State Board of Education. If your claim information is approved, you should receive a check directly from the state for the lesser of the cost of transporting your child/children or the average per pupil reimbursement paid to public schools for transporting regular education pupils. If insufficient funds are appropriated by the General Assembly, all claims will be prorated.

If you have any questions, please call or come to the school as soon as possible.

## Don't Forget To *Add Money* To Your Lunch Accounts!

Many of our families take advantage of our food service offerings in each of our buildings every day. As a cash-less kitchen (cash is not accepted at the register), it is important to make sure your child's lunch account has funds in it *prior* to their lunch period.

While we still accept over-the-phone food service account transactions during business hours via credit card at, (815) 344-2803, we encourage you to take advantage of our 24-hour food service account system online if you have not already done so!

The online system is free to use, and accepts Visa and Mastercard Credit or Debit cards. Check out the system today, and feel free to call us with any questions!

Access the system through your internet browser at:

<http://familyaccess.johnsburg12.org>

## James C. Bush Elementary Makes The News

We have much to celebrate at James C. Bush Elementary School as we kick off the 2010-2011 school year!

In fact, on Friday, August 27, the faculty and students of James C. Bush Elementary School gathered on the school lawn to take part in our annual Accelerated Reader Program Ceremony. The event was filled with celebrations including a visit from a local hero, as well as recognition of students and staff.

The assembly was featured in the August 28<sup>th</sup> edition of the Northwest Herald, in an article entitled, "Much to Celebrate at Student Ceremony". The article can also be seen on the Northwest Herald online by visiting:

[http://www.nwherald.com/articles/2010/08/27/r\\_7rbuxc3qsg0o6zxhdtna/index.xml](http://www.nwherald.com/articles/2010/08/27/r_7rbuxc3qsg0o6zxhdtna/index.xml)

# High School Happenings

Professional Learning Communities have started at JHS this fall. Our first meeting occurred on Thursday, September 2. Derek Straight, the Johnsburg District 12 Curriculum Coordinator, met with our JHS teachers for **SMART** Goal training. **SMART** goals have the following characteristics:

- S** – Strategic and Specific
- M** – Measurable
- A** – Attainable
- R** – Results-based
- T** – Time-bound

Our teachers will be working with Mr. Straight, JHS administration, their own content department, as well as other departments to formulate strong **SMART** Goals in order to construct a strong School Improvement Plan (**SIP**) that will help our students achieve Adequate Yearly Progress (**AYP**). At JHS, we strive to prepare students for life, whether it is by being college ready or work ready, and our **SIP** plan will assist us in this process.

Our **SIP** plan also focuses on preparing our students for state testing. Every spring, our juniors take the **PSAE** test. This test is made up of two days of test-

ing. The first day is the **ACT**, which tests college readiness. The second day is called the **Work Keys** exam, and it tests work readiness. All juniors will be meeting with JHS administration and their counselor to discuss what these tests are all about, and how they can prepare to do their best on these exams.

ALL juniors have a unique opportunity to prepare for these tests using ACT Online Prep for FREE. **ALL juniors will receive a login and password to ACT Online Prep, which is being provided to JHS as a FREE service.** Students can take a pre-test to determine areas of strength and weakness, and the online program will design a specialized plan that meets each student's specific needs. Students will also have the opportunity to take up to two practice ACT exams through this program. Considering that research shows the average ACT score goes up 2 points by just taking the test twice, this is a huge benefit to our juniors...and it is **FREE!**

If you have any questions about this service, please contact your son or daughter's counselor or Kim Hinley, our assistant principal, for more information.

## Ringwood School Makes Playground Improvements

Thanks to the generosity of the P.T.O. who gave Ringwood School Primary Center the proceeds from the ice cream social which was held in May, we were able to make additions to our playground.

The most popular pieces of equipment are always swings. We were able to add an additional set of swings and the children keep them occupied each recess period. We were also able to modify our sandbox which is the second most popular area for students.

Gone are the tires that filled with water and were deteriorating. They have been replaced with ties and a much larger sandbox area.

This is still a work in progress and if we have additional funds remaining we will purchase a storage box and more sand toys.

## See What's Growing at Johnsburg Junior High

You may have noticed a new "Schoolyard Habitat" in the parking lot by St. Johns Church.

This native perennial garden was established by our 5th and 6th graders last year (our current 6th and 7th graders) with funding from the Illinois Conservation Foundation and the Jadel Family Foundation.

The over 400 plants that were planted by our students last year are now being used by classes to study the botany of plants. Keep watching for more blooms in the years to come!

# 2010-11 School Calendar

## Upcoming Dates to Remember

Friday, October 8, 2010 Teacher Institute Day	No School	Thursday, February 17, 2011 Parent Teacher Conferences	No School
Monday, October 11, 2010 Columbus Day	No School	Friday, February 18, 2011 School Not In Session	No School
Monday and Tuesday, November 22 and 23, 2010 Parent Teacher Conferences	No School	Monday, February 21, 2011 President's Day	No School
Wednesday, November 24, 2010 Thanksgiving Holiday	No School	Friday, March 18, 2011 School Improvement Day	1/2 Day of School
Thursday, November 25, 2010 Thanksgiving Holiday	No School	Monday, March 28, 2011 Spring Break Begins	
Friday, November 26, 2010 Thanksgiving Holiday	No School	Monday, April 4, 2011 School Resumes	
Friday, December 3, 2010 School Improvement Day	1/2 Day of School	Friday, April 22, 2011 School Not In Session	No School
Monday, December 20, 2010 Holiday Break Begins		Friday, May 6, 2011 Teacher Institute Day	1/2 Day of School
Monday, January 3, 2011 School Resumes		Friday, May 27, 2011 School Improvement Day	1/2 Day of School
Friday, January 14, 2011 Teacher Institute Day	No School	Monday, May 30, 2011 Memorial Day	No School
Monday, January 17, 2011 M.L. King's Birthday	No School	Thursday, June 2, 2011 Last Day of School	Last Day of School if No Emergency Days Used