



SCHOOL DISTRICT 12
JOHNSBURG
INSPIRING OUR STUDENTS

Info 12

2011-2012 School Year
Fall, 2011

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Communication is Key to Successful Schools

District 12 Board of Education

It is the start of the new school year and people are talking. Students are talking about what classes they are in, what teachers they have, and what activities they are or will be involved in. They are also talking about how they spent their summer and possibly what is for lunch. Parents are talking as well. They are talking about many of the same concerns that their sons or daughters may have, as well as how to get them to the many activities that are available throughout the school district. Teachers are also talking about the start of the school year. They are renewed and focused on curriculum delivery to their new students, with new schedules, new programs and a few new textbooks.

Talking is one thing, but communication is key to a smooth transition for your students. We all wish to communicate our interests and concerns about our students' educational experience. Parents and educators alike want the most out of the educational system in order to develop life-long learners of character.

Johnsburg District 12 Administration and School Board have been striving to let community members know there are a number of ways to convey their inquiries to the district. At open houses parents were encouraged to communicate with their students daily about school and social concerns. The teachers of District 12 have always made themselves available whenever possible. There are several ways to contact your child's teacher, including talking to them directly at parent teacher conferences or contacting them via email through the district website. The administrators are also available through the same channels. Superintendent Dan Johnson has reached out to the community as well by attending the open houses and by utilizing new technology in the form of the automated calling system to communicate updates and reminders. School Board members are also available to guide you to the appropriate district employee to best serve your needs.

Through the middle of October, members of the community are invited to participate in the district's community survey. This brief, but important survey is a way that the entire community can have input on topics concerning the Johnsburg 12 School District. The survey was developed during a session of the Strategic Planning Committee. The committee was comprised of parents, students, teachers, administrators, School Board members and village officials. The information gathered from the survey will be reviewed and factored into the long term planning of the district. We encourage everyone to invest the time and complete the survey and provide your input. Additionally, starting this year, the district will be establishing and hosting community forums. These forums will be brief, open "town hall" type meetings with a "state of the district" message followed by the opportunity for questions and answers. Although the dates and times for these forums have not yet been set, more information will be coming in the near future.

Whatever your concerns are, Johnsburg School District 12 personnel are here for you. Don't hesitate to ask that question or share your concerns. We welcome your communication. Please be prepared to be part of the solution. The school district has many ways that a parent or community member can participate in the educational process. Let your building principal or teacher know if you can offer your time or if you have a specific passion that you can share. Each building has parent advisory meetings that are held throughout the year. The PTO and JEPF (Johnsburg Education Partnership Foundation), along with several booster clubs are all active organizations that need volunteers for their activities throughout the year.

School Board Members Day - November 15, 2011

On November 15th, Johnsburg School District will join with other districts throughout the state to thank our School Board members for the service they provide to our community and children. Their service ensures that decisions about Johnsburg Schools are made locally by those most familiar with the needs of our community. Please join us in thanking our School Board members for their unfailing commitment to the continuing success of our students now and in the future.

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 any questions regarding the district ACM please contact the district Asbestos Program Manager Mr. Chris Dupre 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 2011-12 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, 2012, to submit claim information. You may provide claim information to appropriate school personnel at your child's attendance center until June 30, 2012.

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.

Curriculum Department Update

Addressing Student Safety and Social / Emotional Development

The online social network has created great opportunity to access information from around the globe and keep in contact with friends, instantly. This has many great attributes for our family and friends. However, there is a downside to this social media. Cyberbullying. Simply put, *cyberbullying* is "being cruel to others by sending or posting harmful material using the Internet or a cell phone" [Center for Safe and Responsible Internet Use]. There are some logical and reasonable steps we can take as parents to be aware of our child's actions. Keep computers in a location where they are easy to see when being used by family members, set clear expectations for online behavior and phone use, be aware of changes in the mood or behavior of your student that may be the result of being the target of a bully, and contact administration for help in ending

this behavior. We are committed to providing a safe environment in school so all students can focus on achieving high academic standards.

In direct connection to this topic, a district curriculum committee evaluated our strategies involved in delivering instruction to our students regarding bullying, cyberbullying and dealing with those issues both in school and in our community. The committee studied curriculum that focused on the social emotional learning standards, which can be found at http://www.isbe.net/ils/social_emotional/standards.htm, as well as a program that was research based. We found exactly what we were looking for in a program titled "Second Step". This program will be delivered to our Ringwood and Bush School students on a regular basis. The Junior High School

and High School will be doing a follow-up and reinforcement of the skills learned in the PK-8 program. Our Junior High School is also incorporating a program titled Rachel's Challenge. We are very excited about this new and updated look at an issue that has us focusing on keeping our children safe.

Another area regarding instruction that we are very proud of is the professional development opportunities we have provided our staff. It is our goal to stay ahead of the curve regarding best practices in the classroom. Last year we provided over 200 professional development opportunities for our staff to improve instruction for our children, which leads to student learning. This is an area in which we will continue to create opportunities for our staff as we seek ways to improve student learning.

Johnsburg Junior High School Kicked Off Character Education Program with Rachel's Challenge this September

On September 7, 2011, Johnsburg Junior High School hosted a Rachel's Challenge assembly. Rachel Scott was the first victim in the Columbine High School shootings and she touched the lives of thousands with her kindness and compassion. Inspired by her many journal writings, Rachel's Challenge spreads Rachel Scott's message through powerful educational presentations. The purpose of the assemblies was to promote positive character, random acts of kindness, and acceptance of everyone.

JJHS had three assemblies during the school day for the Junior High and James C. Bush Elementary School students and an evening performance for parents. Throughout the year, JJHS will be reinforcing the lessons and concepts of Rachel's Challenge to its students to continue the momentum of this powerful presentation. Since the Rachel's Challenge assembly, JJHS has organized several groups to keep the idea of the challenge alive with kindness and compassion. The Junior High has a group of over sixty 8th grade students and twenty adults that volunteered for a club called "FOR", (Friends Of Rachel). The main

goal of this club is to help create a permanent culture change and to motivate the club members to treat others in a positive way. The sub-committees of the FOR club are: Marketing, A.O.K. (Acts Of Kindness), C.I.A. (Compassion In Action), Mix It Up, Target Kindness, Historians, Welcoming, Rachel's Rally, P.A.C.K. (Pass Along Compassion and Kindness). JJHS will be following up with the sub-committees' stories and events throughout the school year.

Johnsburg Junior High School will be combining the concepts of Rachel's Challenge with other character education throughout the school year with all of their students. As events and programs are scheduled, additional information will be posted on the JJHS website.

For more information about Rachel's Challenge or to learn more about Rachel's inspiring story please visit their website at: www.rachelschallenge.org.



JHS Music Boosters Fundraising

The Johnsburg High School Music Boosters have several great fundraisers lined up for this fall to raise money for the band and choir. In early October we'll be having our annual Pizza & Cookie Dough fundraiser. You won't want to miss this delicious fundraiser! In late October we will be selling Gold Cards, which provide savings at local restaurants and much more. Gold cards can be used over and over all year! On November 12, come to see "Arsenic and Old Lace" performed by our extremely talented drama students, and leave the cooking to us. On that per-

formance night only, we will be selling tickets for our spaghetti dinner that comes complete with spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, lemonade, and a selection of fantastic desserts!

Our next meeting is at 7:00 p.m., on October 3, 2011 at the High School. All are welcome. Also, please visit our table at the All-District Choral and Band Concerts. The Music Boosters appreciate your continued support! With your help, we are able to make a difference. Thank you.

'Tis the Season for a Celebration

Celebrate the holiday season by attending the 9th annual JHS Madrigal Dinner. This spectacular 2-hour dinner show includes music, song, and costuming from the Renaissance Era. The sixteen 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, which will be 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 10th at 1:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. and Sunday, December 11th at 1:00 p.m. While tickets are available at the door, 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 at 815-385-9233 for ticket information.

Come and join the Madrigal Singers for a night of feasting, music, and merry-making. This is a one-of-a-kind show that has become a holiday tradition for many area families. We hope to see you there!

Start to a Great Year at Ringwood

Ringwood School Primary Center is off to a great start for the 2011/2012 school year. All four orientations, as well as the open house, were well attended. The parental support is appreciated by the entire staff.

Each year our District has the opportunity to send staff members to an annual summer Reading Recovery training event. Reading Recovery is a research-based one-on-one intensive reading intervention to assist first grade students whose reading skills are slightly behind expectations.

Ringwood School Primary Center currently has three Reading Recovery teachers who each service 8 - 10 students throughout the year. Those 24 - 30 students are seen each day for between 8 -

20 weeks depending on their progress. Students graduate when they are reading at grade level. We have two other teachers who are Reading Recovery trained on staff performing other duties while integrating Reading Recovery strategies into their classrooms. Reading Recovery has proven to be the most successful program we have used to improve reading skills.

The students and staff members of Ringwood School Primary Center are looking forward to another exciting and meaningful school experience.

Johnsburg Educational Partnership Foundation

Dates to Remember

4th Annual Casino Night
November 12, 2011
Johnsburg Moose Lodge

19th Annual
"Shooting for the Stars"
Gala
Early Spring, 2012

19th Annual
Orange Ball
Golf Tournament
June, 2012

www.jepf.org
(815) 385-6916



Students in Transition Learn Independent Living Skills in New Program

McHenry Township's Whispering Hills Community Center has become the location of activity for Johnsburg Community School District 12's newest program, Future Life Learning Years Together (FLLYT). This program is designed to assist in developing the basic life skills needed in the transition of students with special needs into independent adulthood. The goal of FLLYT is to support each student and address their individual needs by providing additional instruction and support in order for them to become productive citizens.

The newly implemented program is utilizing the Whispering Hills Community Center as a classroom and home base. The

FLLYT program focuses on the development of practical living skills, functional communication, community integration, vocational preparation, and the development/utilization of community resources.

Young adults, ages 18 through 21, are served by this program. The curriculum includes training in the areas of daily living skills, home safety, recreation, self-advocacy, economic self-sufficiency, and community integration.

The Transition team consists of special educator Judy Pieper, trainer Cheryl Daniel, social worker Nancy Fodor and transition coordinator Tom Weaver. SEDOM's Education to Careers Director,

Sharon Slover, will continue to offer technical advice and consultation to the Johnsburg 12 team.

"This has been a great collaborative effort between the Johnsburg School District and McHenry Township to develop a program to meet the needs of young adults as they successfully transition into adulthood. Everyone has put in many hours of planning and preparation over the past year to make FLLYT a reality" stated Richard Schisler, Director of Student Services. "The Township has been enthusiastic and cooperative from the very beginning."

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>

Safety First Reminders from Our Transportation Department

School buses, as everyone knows, carry "the most precious cargo". Trust me when I tell you that even transportation personnel get "stuck behind a school bus". No one enjoys it, but it's a necessity of life for the big, yellow buses to be on the roads at any given time of the day, transporting our students to wherever they need to be going.

Almost daily, a school bus driver will call over the radio with the license plate number and description of a vehicle that has violated the bus stop arm. This information is then sent to the corresponding police department. If convicted of this violation, your driving privileges will be suspended for three months. Two convictions within five years will result in your driving privileges being suspended for one year. Hefty fines and court costs will also be incurred.

It is a violation to ignore the bus stop arm anywhere a bus may be with lights activated - on the road, in school drives, parking lots, at athletic events and field trips. Illinois state laws require school buses to activate the 8-light warning system and stop arms any time that students are being loaded and unloaded. If you are ever in doubt, act on the side of caution. Children are unpredictable. We teach and remind them how to load and

unload regularly. Although we hope that they will do what they're supposed to in regard to procedures, we can't guarantee that they always will. Waiting for a school bus may bother you, but it could bother you for the rest of your life if you don't.

Remember too, that cell phone use is illegal in school and construction zones. Hands-free devices are allowed. School bus drivers are prohibited from using any type of cell phones to send or receive calls and texts while driving the bus, except in an emergency situation, regardless of whether driving empty or with students.

It is illegal to pass a school bus in a school zone. Speeding in a school zone can also be charged as reckless driving. Please take every precaution when a school bus is near or when driving in school zones. Keep to a safe following distance behind the bus and be prepared to stop. Watch for children coming or going from all directions. If you designate someone else to drive your child to or from school, please inform him/her of our procedures to protect them from possible legal issues.

Our job is not an easy one - we have to remain diligent and trust that our community will act in accordance to complete each day safely.

JCB: Welcoming a New Year with a Fresh Look

The students and staff at James C. Bush Elementary School are off to a great start to the 2011-2012 academic year! There is a great energy within the school and that can be attributed to the many building improvements that have occurred throughout the summer!

Our hallways have been painted and the flooring throughout the upper level of the school has been replaced with new carpet and tile. The cafeteria has been turned into a café, equipped with murals and a décor that is truly bright and cheerful!

There is no doubt that all of the work that has been done at James C. Bush Elementary School was a team effort and we would like to thank all of those involved in helping to take our vision and turn it into the amazing reality that it now is! All of these renovations were done with the end goal in mind of creating a safe, cheerful, and effective learning environment that will enhance the overall success of our students.

Research indicates that a school environment that elicits positive emotional responses from its students may not only

lead to enhanced learning, but also to a powerful, emotional attachment to that school. It is our hope that the improvements made to James C. Bush Elementary School will result in our students viewing their school as a place where they love to learn, a place they seek out when they have the desire to learn, and a place that they may someday have fond memories of when they reflect on their learning experiences!



Supporting Freshman From Day One at JHS

JHS is off to a positive start for 2011-2012, and LINK Crew continues to be a key component for this positive start. LINK Crew is a program that assists with how we transition our students from the Junior High to the High School.

Link Crew is a high school transition program that welcomes freshmen and makes them feel comfortable throughout the first year of their high school experience. Built on the belief that students can help students succeed, select Johnsbury High School students are trained as mentors. Students selected as Link Crew Leaders are normally from the junior and senior classes. As positive role models, Link Crew Leaders are mentors and student leaders who guide the freshmen to discover what it takes to be successful during the transition to high school and help facilitate freshman success. The Link Crew program provides the structure for freshmen to receive support and guidance from juniors and seniors who have been through the challenges that high school poses, and understand that the transition to a larger school can sometimes be overwhelming.

Link Crew is a yearlong transition program with four components that contribute to its success:

High School Orientation: Link Leaders and freshmen start building the mentor relationship and freshmen receive information about how to be successful in high school.

Academic Follow Ups: Link Leaders support freshman academic success and character development through structured classroom visits.

Social Follow Ups: Link Leaders and freshmen connect outside the classroom at social events to increase student engagement, and promote positive school climate.

Leader Initiated Contacts: Link Leaders connect with their freshmen on a more individual basis.

We look forward to upcoming events sponsored by this positive peer group throughout the year at JHS!



PTO Hosts First Meeting with a Great Turnout

Our first Johnsburg PTO meeting for the school year went great. We have many new chairmen signed up for our numerous events so we're all very excited to get the year started! There are still plenty of opportunities to get involved. We have several chair positions available and need your help! We invite anyone interested to come to any of our meetings, which are held on the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. The locations for the meetings rotate among each of the four school buildings and are listed in the PTO Calendar as well as on our newly revised website. We would love to see you there!

Our first Wildcat Teen Night will be held on Friday, September 30th at the Junior High School! For the admission fee of

\$5, all students in 5th-8th 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. The doors will open at 5:45 p.m. and the event will run from 6:00-8:00 p.m. This fun event requires a lot of volunteers. Anyone interested should email [Niki Warden](mailto:denike.warden@gmail.com) at denike.warden@gmail.com.

Please join us **Saturday, December 3rd** for our **6th Annual Winter Wonderland** at Ringwood School from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. A wonderful breakfast will be served for the small charge of \$6 per

adult and \$4 per child. Be sure to bring your camera and have your kids bring their lists, because Santa will again be visiting 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 shopping for the season. Kids can also come to shop our Santa's Secret Shop to surprise mom and dad with a Christmas gift that they buy and wrap themselves! Interested volunteers and/or crafters should call Heather at 815-679-6277. Be sure to look for the flyer coming home with your Pre-K-5th grade children in November.

Thank you so much to everyone in the community for your continued support

Instructional Technology is Thriving in the District!

Over the past eighteen months, the Instructional Technology Department has been working to streamline equipment in each of our classrooms. Part of the process included evaluating what we have in each grade level and comparing that to what we have in our curricular goals. For example, if one of our goals is to provide an interactive whiteboard experience for our students in grades 7 and 8 in the mathematics department, then every 7th and 8th grade classroom should have: a projector, interactive white board (ex. SMART Board) and teacher computer capable of running the latest whiteboard software.

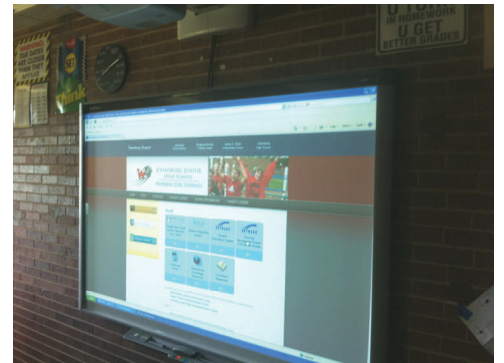
As we identified our curricular goals and the equipment necessary to accomplish those goals, we began to prioritize purchases for the following academic year. Beginning last year we started the process of identifying standardized hardware that would be purchased. For example, while there are many makes and models of classroom projectors, interactive white boards and desktop computers, we compared a variety of models and chose the model and manufacturer that offered the best compatibility with our existing equipment, ease of use for our faculty, as well as the longest anticipated life.

We then began to solicit quotations and proposals from a variety of vendors that stretched the nation to ensure that we were receiving the best price available. After completing the quotation process

we were able to purchase significantly more needed equipment due to the competitive nature of the technology industry.

The fruits of our technology purchases are just now beginning to be seen in our classrooms. Our students' faces are lighting up as they have the opportunity to walk to their classroom's SMART Board and interact with the material that once only was projected onto a screen from an overhead projector. In other classrooms at Ringwood School, our students will soon begin to use iPod Touch devices as one of their "centers" that students will rotate into as they complete their daily work. At Johnsburg High School our students have access to newly updated computer labs where they are able to access the Internet without hesitation and are able to create dynamic documents and presentations, as well as participate in online learning modules that reach learners of all types.

Many of our faculty members have attended trainings after school and on the weekend so that they can be prepared to inspire their students in new ways each day. As we continue to expand the role technology plays in our classrooms, we look forward to updating you through our publications and websites. Technology in instruction is a reality of today, and Johnsburg is proud to be a leader in developing digital classrooms for today and tomorrow's learners.



2011-2012 School Calendar

Upcoming Dates to Remember

Monday, October 10, 2011 Columbus Day	No School	Monday, January 16, 2012 M.L. King's Birthday	No School
Thursday and Friday, November 3 and 4, 2011 Parent Teacher Conferences	No School	Thursday, February 16, 2012 Parent Teacher Conferences	No School
Wednesday, November 23, 2011 Thanksgiving Holiday	No School	Friday, February 17, 2012 School Not In Session	No School
Thursday, November 24, 2011 Thanksgiving Holiday	No School	Monday, February 20, 2012 President's Day	No School
Friday, November 25, 2011 Thanksgiving Holiday	No School	Monday, March 26, 2012 Spring Break Begins	
Friday, December 2, 2011 School Improvement Day	1/2 Day of School	Monday, April 2, 2012 School Resumes	
Wednesday, December 21, 2011 Holiday Break Begins		Friday, April 6, 2012 School Not In Session	No School
Wednesday, January 4, 2012 School Resumes		Friday, May 4, 2012 School Improvement Day	1/2 Day of School
Friday, January 13, 2012 Teacher Institute Day	No School	Monday, May 28, 2012 Memorial Day	No School
		Thursday, May 31, 2012 Last Day of School	Last Day of School If No Emergency Days Used