



SCHOOL DISTRICT 12  
**JOHNSBURG**  
INSPIRING OUR STUDENTS

## Info 12

**2011-2012 School Year**  
**Winter, 2011**

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*Student Services Director*

R.J. Gravel  
*Director of Instructional  
Technology*

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## **Johnsburg Schools: Today and Tomorrow**

*District 12 Board of Education*

We are not sending out a "tweet", nor do we have anything to share with you via Flickr and this is not a request for you to "friend" us on Facebook; but rather an invitation to read on and be a part of our community experience.

Your Johnsburg School District Board of Education, in partnership with the administration, faculty and staff are committed to improving in their respective roles and continuing the pursuit of becoming a Blue Ribbon Lighthouse School District. The Board of Education continues to volunteer their time to engage in long-term planning, self-evaluation, and implementing cost saving measures, such as the use of electronic Board packets and attending trainings and seminars to better understand the implications of recently enacted legislation. The Board of Education is dedicated to making the most of all available resources as together we prepare our students for their future endeavors.

Every year, school districts across the State of Illinois are evaluated on their performance in annual high stakes testing. In our elementary and junior high grades, students are required to participate every spring in the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT.) At the high school level, students are required to take the Prairie State Achievement Exam (PSAE), which includes the ACT. Johnsburg School District 12 is exceedingly proud to report that despite the challenging economic times we all face, our schools are continuing to make academic progress. As a district, Johnsburg School District 12 is 1 of only 4 school districts out of 18 in McHenry County to make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) according to federal developed academic progress markers. In addition, the Johnsburg School District is twice as large as any other district that achieved this goal. For more information on this success and compliance efforts regarding the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, please check out our district website at [www.johnsburg12.org](http://www.johnsburg12.org).

While continuing to be a leading academic school district in the county, the Board of Education remains steadfast in maintaining fiscal responsibility. Once again this year, the Board of Education has adopted a balanced budget for the 2011-2012 school year. The Board of Education continues to maintain high expectations regarding budgeting and management of revenues and expenditures. With the uncertainties of the current economy and of state payments, financial projections continue to be challenges we face. The Board of Education and entire district share in the community's expectations and are dedicated to continuing to evaluate these uncertainties, prepare for the future, and maintain fiscal responsibility.

Last month, the Info 12 newsletter mentioned our community survey taking place and your opportunity to have a voice in our district. Thank you to those that have participated. As the Board of Education continues to expand communication with our community, we would like to invite you to the upcoming **"State of the District" presentation on Thursday, January 26, 2012 beginning at 7:00 pm in the Johnsburg High School Auditorium.** Everyone is welcome. During the presentation you will have an opportunity to learn about the many accomplishments of our faculty, staff and students that have contributed to our Districts establishment as a challenging learning environment for all students in grades Pre-Kindergarten through Twelfth Grade.

If you would like to learn more about our District's successes both inside and outside of the classroom, please visit our school's websites. Throughout these websites you will find news articles, pictures and other updates that represent the many exciting opportunities and efforts of our school communities.

**PLEASE JOIN US AS WE PLAN FOR THE FUTURE OF  
JOHNSBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2012 AT 7:00 PM  
JOHNSBURG HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM**



*Learn More at [Johnsburg12.org](http://Johnsburg12.org)*

# Curriculum Department Update

## Common Core Curriculum: Increasing Rigor in the Classroom

In Johnsburg, we believe that all students must be prepared for either college or a career. The nation also supports this philosophy with the implementation of the Common Core Curriculum. The Common Core State Standards Initiative is a state-led effort coordinated by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). The standards were developed in collaboration with teachers, school administrators and experts to provide a clear and consistent framework to prepare our children for college and the workforce.

The Common Core Curriculum helps ensure that students are receiving a high quality education across the nation. There are 44 states that have adopted the Common Core Standards. Common Core Standards provide a greater opportunity to share experiences and best practices within and across states that will improve our ability to best serve the needs of ALL students.

Our teachers and administrators are working hard to continually update our reading and math curriculum to match with the Common Core. We have identified specific learning standards (power standards) for both reading and math and what students should specifically

achieve at the end of each grade. These power standards allow staff to focus on specific content and skills on a regular basis.

In conjunction with the Common Core, there will be a new assessment system that is scheduled to begin during the 2014-2015 school year. We have been informed through Illinois state officials that this assessment will be a "student growth model" which implies students being assessed several times per year. Currently, we are assessed one time during March for elementary students and one time in April for high school students. The new assessment, as we have been told, may be an online assessment where students complete the test either in all or in part on a computer. Details regarding this new approach are yet to be communicated to district officials. As we move closer to the date, more information will be released.

## Annual Student Safety Survey:

A district created document titled "District Efforts to Promote Student Safety and Positive Student Behavior" was created in 2011. This document outlines the several proactive measures we take to promote student safety. Parents can access this document by clicking on the **Student Safety Button** on any of our school websites. The introduction of the document reads, "Johnsburg

School District 12 is committed to promoting student safety and positive student behavior in our mission to provide a safe and challenging learning environment for our students. Our schools and district offices offer a variety of resources accessible to parents and students during and outside of school hours so that our communication and support as a district continues regardless of the time of day. This stems from the reality that our students are continuously learning and developing as they interact with their classmates and schoolwork in and out of the classroom. As such it is our responsibility as educational leaders to support our learning community members when they need support."

One integral aspect of this document includes a Student Safety Survey. This student safety survey has been part of Johnsburg Schools for many years. Recently, we wanted to look at the opportunity to collect data as a value added measure. Rather than look at student opinions one time per year, we now evaluate student perceptions twice in a year to better support their feelings regarding student safety. District staff will continue to evaluate the data and take proactive steps to address any of the concerns noted by our students.

## JHS Music Boosters Continue to Raise Support Students

The Johnsburg High School Music Boosters have been very busy during the first quarter of the school year. Our group supported a variety of events. We provided fruit and water for the band during their breaks this past summer at band camp. We also brought water to the band during football games this fall. We hosted the Spaghetti Dinner in November, which was exceptional this year thanks to the culinary expertise of one of our members, and the talented musicians who performed during the event.

There are several services the Music Boosters provide throughout the year, including concessions during the High School plays and the Junior High School Solo and Ensemble Contest in February.

On Sunday, March 4, 2012 we will host the Bowl O' Arts where we will serve a variety of delicious soups which you can enjoy in your one-of-a-kind bowl created by our very own High School art students. The soup is fantastic and the bowl is yours to keep! We will also be selling high quality cheesecakes in the spring, so be sure to support your favorite musician by purchasing one.

The Music Boosters raise funds for a couple of good reasons. First of all, we help pay for the "extras" the band and choir could not afford otherwise. This year we are looking to update the band classroom with some new soundproofing equipment to improve the educational environment.

The second reason we raise funds is to help the band and choir students pay for a trip somewhere special every other year. This year the students will be traveling to Orlando, Florida where they will be mixing business with pleasure. In addition to visiting Universal Studios Islands of Adventure and Walt Disney World Parks, the students will be attending a performance clinic at the University of Central Florida. To top off the trip, the students will be performing for a large audience at one of the Walt Disney World Parks.

Thanks to all of you for your support. We welcome new members. Our meetings are held at the High School on the first Monday of each month.

# JHS Efforts to Promote a Safe Learning Environment

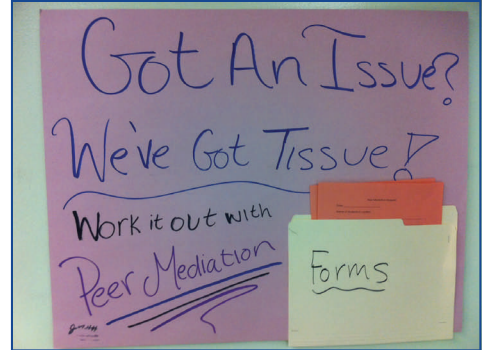
At JHS, our staff is dedicated to providing a safe learning environment for our students. This commitment includes the efforts of many individuals and groups who are constantly working to find ways to provide "safety nets" for our JHS students. Two new ideas have been implemented recently at JHS through these efforts.

The first is our JHS "Go to Team" that was developed by our JHS Anti-Bullying Committee (which is comprised of students and staff members at JHS). The premise of this team is that there may be students who are uncomfortable speaking with an adult at JHS about a conflict that may be occurring with another student. The JHS "Go to Team" is available to help in this scenario. Students who are part of the "Go to Team" will be wearing large, green wristbands to designate themselves as an advocate for fellow

students at JHS. These students will then help to advocate for any student who comes to them, and speak to administration, teachers, counselors or our social worker on their behalf.

The second is that JHS social worker, Aris Johnson, has assembled a group of students to be trained as peer mediators. If two students are involved in a conflict at JHS, they may choose to pursue peer mediation as an option. It is voluntary for both sides, and the peer mediators do not assign any disciplinary consequences, but assist both sides in trying to find a "win-win" scenario in order to avoid further trouble.

We are appreciative to the staff members and students who have invested their time in these worthwhile programs to support our students.



## Johnsburg Educational Partnership Foundation

### Dates to Remember

20th Annual  
"Shooting for the Stars"  
Gala

To be held on Saturday,  
March 3, 2012 at  
The Lakemoor

For more information,  
please visit the JEPF web-  
site, or contact the District  
Office to be contacted  
when tickets are available  
for purchase.

[www.jepf.org](http://www.jepf.org)  
(815) 385-6916

## PTO Corner

The PTO is doing great things this year! Our Restaurant Nights and Teen Nights have been highly attended. Our Halloween Dance at the Junior High was a big success. Winter Wonderland was fantastic with all the new components, crafts, Santa's Secret Shop etc. Thank you to everyone who participated in these fun events. The kids in our district benefit from each and every one of you!

January is right around the corner, so be sure to save some dates for the many fun events that the PTO has planned. On Thursday, January 19, 2012 is our PTO **Restaurant Night** at Billy's in Spring Grove.

Also in January is our annual **Father/Daughter Dance** on Friday, January 27, 2012. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. at Ringwood School for picture taking and raffle opportunities before the dance from 7:00 -9:00 p.m. Bussing will be available from the High School due to limited parking. Be sure to look for the flyers coming home soon.

Finally, we have our **Market Day** pick-up on Saturday, January 28, 2012 from 9:45 -11:00 a.m. Keep forgetting to place your order? Ordering online is easy! Just

go to [www.marketday.com](http://www.marketday.com). Orders can be placed as late as noon on the Wednesday before the Saturday delivery date.

Keep your eyes open for flyers to come home regarding the next Teen Night and other exciting events. We will also be sending routine updates through our District Skyward messaging system. Be sure to watch out for the Thursday email blasts full of upcoming event details and other opportunities to support the PTO and your child's classrooms. If you are missed a message, you can also log into Family Access and view the most recent messages on the front page.

**PTO meetings** are held the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. Meetings rotate between all of the four school buildings. Please check your PTO calendars for locations. You may also check out the PTO webpage located on the District website at [www.johnsburg12.org](http://www.johnsburg12.org). We thank all of our parents and students for their support and invite everyone to attend our upcoming meeting on **January 10, 2012 at 7:00 PM at Johnsburg Junior High School**. We would love to see you there!

# Ringwood School Celebrates and Learns About Veterans Day

Ringwood School Primary Center was honored to celebrate Veterans Day with the students in attendance for a meaningful day of activities. These activities help the children understand the significance of this special day in various ways.

In the morning the students were able to visit a hands-on display of artifacts from wars. They learned about the uniforms and duties soldiers had during these times. This interesting event was brought to the school by several volunteers from the McHenry VFW.

The 13<sup>th</sup> annual Ringwood School Primary Center Veterans Day assembly was

held in the afternoon. Forty one veterans were in attendance and each veteran was escorted into the assembly by one of the students, generally a relative, and was presented with a medal as a sign of appreciation. Students then read letters, sang songs and thanked the veterans for their service and dedication to the United States of America. Gene Nelson, a veteran and father of one of Ringwood's staff members, spoke to the students about his experiences and insights. He helped the students to understand how much the tribute meant to the veterans who were present. It was a touching ceremony and everyone present was proud of our veterans.



# Pre-Kindergarten Registration and Screening for Three, Fourth, and Five Year Olds

Johnsburg School District 12 will hold registration for all children who are three, four or five years of age, and who have not yet entered kindergarten. It will take place at Ringwood School Primary Center on Tuesday, March 6, 2012 and Wednesday, March 7, 2012 according to the following schedule:

**Tuesday, March 6, 2012**  
1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M.  
5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.

**Wednesday, March 7, 2012**  
9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.  
1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M.

This registration applies to all preschool children ages three through five, **even if the child has registered and been screened in previous years.** This process allows parents and staff to document each child's growth development.

School officials are hopeful that all parents of children who are three, four and five years of age will register during these days. Under this new format, parents will complete their children's developmental history and diagnostic screenings will be scheduled for all children. Also, an accu-

rate registration is necessary to plan an educationally sound kindergarten.

Appointments for the diagnostic screening of speech and language skills, cognitive skills and motor skills, as well as, the hearing and vision screening (set for June) will be made at this time.

An official birth certificate from the county is *necessary for the registration of a child entering kindergarten in the fall.* Parents should bring the certificate to the registration.

Proof of residency also must be provided. The only acceptable forms of proof of residence are: tax bills or utility bills; mortgage or rental agreements. (Bills for cell phones, or cable / internet service are usable for proof of residency.)

**We ask that children not attend the registration.** Prospective kindergartners must be five years of age by September 1<sup>st</sup> in order to begin school.

If you have any questions, please call Ringwood School Primary Center at (815) 728-0459.

## 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 online account payment system 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>

# Johnsburg Junior High Continuing “Rachel’s Challenge”

Johnsburg Junior High School has been promoting the beliefs and goals of Rachel’s Challenge since we had our assembly back on September 7<sup>th</sup>. We have developed nine different committees to include over 20 adults and 100 students. The committees have been very active so far and are looking to reach staff and students throughout the school year.

The **AOK** (acts of kindness) Committee has challenged all students to do acts of kindness. There are boxes located in the Learning Centers for other students to submit names of students that have put kindness into action. For every act of kindness a star will be hung from the hallway ceilings of the school.

The **Target of Kindness** Committee is in the process of writing and sending thank you cards to all the building’s cooks, custodians and bus drivers. They are being recognized for their contributions to JJHS.

The **Mix It Up** Committee has offered various morning activities in the north and south gyms during morning recess to get kids to interact and have fun during their recess. They have been playing a variety of games in the morning and are looking to implement some activities during

lunchtime for each grade level as well, in order to get kids to meet other students they wouldn’t normally talk to or hang out with at lunch.

The **Welcoming Committee** was developed to help ease the transition of new students into our school. Every new student is given a small gift bag and a tour by another student to help them learn where to go for their classes. They try to buddy up other students at lunchtime and introduce a more inviting atmosphere.

The F.O.R. **Marketing** Committee’s objectives are to communicate the positive messages learned from Rachel’s Challenge and to support/promote the events of the other JJHS F.O.R. Committees. These are exciting times at JJHS, preparing for Project Hoodie, spreading Rachel’s messages, expressing gratitude to others and planning for our holiday spirit caroling!

The **Historian** Committee will be documenting all the events of the Friends of Rachel Committees and will be supporting the Junior High Giving Tree. They will be planning a large group project in the future.

The **BEARS** Committee focuses on mentoring younger students. The BEAR Club will support younger students in a variety of areas, including aiding with homework, helping in classrooms, assisting in PE class or simply building positive relationships.

**Rachel’s Rally** Committee ran a winter clothing drive called the Winter Wear Closet. They are accepted donations of gently used coats, hats, gloves, scarves, etc. The closet was held on Saturday, December 3, 2011 at the Johnsburg Junior High for people in need of winter clothing items.

The **CIA** Committee stands for compassion in action. This committee helps to spread kindness throughout the school in various ways.

All of the “Friends of Rachel” committees are open to all students at JJHS. The more students we get to participate the more powerful the committees can become! The FOR Club goal is to inspire, equip and to empower students to create a permanent positive change in our school and community.

## Social Emotional Learning Opportunities at JCB This Year

In 2004, Illinois became the first state to include Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) in the learning standards from pre-school through high school. SEL leads to students demonstrating more positive behaviors, making a huge difference in terms of how effective and efficient the classroom is.

SEL not only makes the environment in the school better, but studies have shown that it can help students make real improvements in their academic skills, such as achievement gains in math, literacy, and social studies. Social and emotional learning is a process. It involves both teaching students a set of skills to help support their social and emotional well being and creating a safe, caring learning environment conducive to learning and applying those skills.

At James C. Bush Elementary School, in order to promote SEL, our School Social

Worker, Miss Dawn Vent, is implementing Second Step in all classrooms on a weekly basis. Second Step is a universal prevention program. The Second Step program is designed to increase students’ school success and decrease problem behaviors by promoting social-emotional competence and self-regulation. In this curriculum, students learn skills including empathy, emotion management, and effective problem solving. These skills are taught through discussion, music, interactive activities, video, and handouts to be completed at home with parents.

James C. Bush along with all of our schools continues to support our students SEL growth through the implementation of curriculum and programming. Please check out our school websites for more information on our efforts towards SEL in each of our buildings.



*Pictured above is Mrs. Prejna’s Third Grade students, listening to a song on being a respectful learner.*

# District to Offer Parenting Technique Seminars

The Office of Student Services is proud to announce a series of evening seminars focusing on effective parenting techniques beginning February 23, 2012. All sessions will be held from 6:30 until 8:00 PM. Light refreshments, childcare and homework helpers will be provided.

Check the website for specific times and locations of these seminars. Summaries of the upcoming events follows.

## February 23, 2012

### The Road to the Future

*Sharon Slover, Director of Education and Careers with SEDOM*

Parental involvement is key in the transition process. Though there are no specific guidelines for parents to follow, there are several roles for them to play. Sharon is bringing together several county agencies in one location to make it easier for families to connect with services as well as fulfill the different roles. (This particular seminar is only open to

families receiving special education services through an Individualized Education Plan.)

## February 29, 2012

### ADD/ADHD – Current Treatments & Concerns

*Dr. Robert Folz, Clinical Psychologist & Assistant Professor at the Chicago School of Professional Psychology*

Understanding the diagnosis is important in exploring what treatments may get the best results. This presentation will provide an overview of the ADD/ADHD diagnosis and the impact it can have on a youth's performance in the classroom.

## March 7, 2012

### Understanding & Avoiding Power Struggles

*Dave McKenna, Licensed Clinical Counselor & Behavioral Consultant for Johnsburg High School*

This presentation will teach parents to identify the components of conflict and

how to avoid power struggles with their children. Parents will also learn to identify common sources of conflict in regards to anger.

## March 14, 2012

### "Smarts" Alone are not Sufficient for Success: Emotion & Emotion Regulation – Why Should it Matter?

*Dr. Chinni Chilamkurti, Clinical Psychologist & Director of Clinical Training and Clinical Associate Professor at Rosalind Franklin University*

Performance/grades in school are not the only indicators of a child's success. Recent research points to the critical role of emotional and social competence in the overall development and education of children. This presentation will discuss emotional regulation, emotional and social intelligence, and specific strategies that parents and educators can use to teach and enhance children's social and emotional competencies; these skills are necessary for life long success.

## Tax Abatement Update

In December 2005, the Johnsburg School Board accomplished one of its main goals for the year by purchasing 119 acres of land north of the Junior High School. This land purchase has provided the district with maximum flexibility to meet any of its future needs. While no building plans are in place at this time, this parcel of land is large enough and adaptable enough that it could be used for any building project that the district may face in the foreseeable future. Johnsburg School District 12 continues to work with the Village of Johnsburg and

the Village of Ringwood by planning for anticipated growth.

At the December 13, 2011 Board of Education meeting, the Board continued to meet their pledge of abating those taxes associated with the land purchase for the upcoming year. This means that the cost of the land will continue to be paid for by the new growth occurring in the district. By continuing to abate these taxes, the Board of Education will shift the financial burden for the cost of this land on the new growth we are seeing.

## Help Wanted for JHS Soccer

The Athletic Booster Club would like to help the Girls and Boys (Fox Valley Conference co-champion) Soccer teams by building dugouts for the teams. They are currently sharing the benches they use with the football team and the benches are open to all the elements, particularly rain and wind. While the soccer teams have already made arrangements for roofs to be installed, they still need help with the walls. This fall they were able to pour the concrete pads for the base of the dugouts, but now they need someone with a little expertise. If you are, or know

of someone who is, a mason who would be able to construct the dugouts from concrete blocks, please contact the Athletic Director, Trevor Leopold at (815) 385-4003, or send him an email at [tleopold@johnsburg12.org](mailto:tleopold@johnsburg12.org).

The materials will be provided and there are plenty of hands willing to help. The club just needs guidance from an experienced builder so that the job is done right and to ensure that the dugouts will last for many years to come.

## JHS Receives Donation from Local Business

This past November, Johnsburg High School was nominated for a \$500 monetary reward to support educational programs through the Combined Oil Company's Educational Alliance. JHS was nominated by the Sunnyside Little Store and Mobile Gas Station located at 4304 Johnsburg Road. On behalf of the students and staff of Johnsburg High School, we thank this local business for their continued support of our educational mission.

If you are a local business owner, or are attached to a business that provides scholarship or grant opportunities to schools, please contact one of our building principals or the District office. Our staff works diligently to identify and seek out additional funds that can be used to supplement our classrooms with tools that support their learning. We would be very grateful for any grant "leads" that our community members might be able to provide.

# School Building and District Communication

Over the past few years, Johnsburg School District has expanded its methods that are used to communicate with parents. Today we utilize a variety of auditory, digital and print forms of communication that support our mission of parent involvement to create safe and challenging learning environments. While many of us think of these methods as “things that we’ve used for years”, we are finding that many of our parents are not as familiar with all of our ways to communicate. Therefore, we wanted to take an opportunity and review ways that our schools and District use to communicate with parents. Each of our methods are listed below.

## Skyward Message Center

Our student information database, Skyward, allows schools and faculty members to send emails to parents based on the information provided during the registration process in the fall. Emails that are sent out always include your child’s name in the body of the message to limit the likelihood of these important messages being captured by your internet service providers SPAM folder.

## AlertNow Telephone Messages

Johnsburg Schools subscribe to a service called AlertNow, that enables our faculty and staff to contact each household by telephone with a pre-recorded message. When the system is utilized, a telephone call will be received by each parent with a telephone number within a designated 30-minute time period. The AlertNow system recognizes when a voicemail system answers the call, and will not play the message until the voicemail greeting has concluded. In addition, if a phone

line is busy the system will attempt to contact the household four (4) additional times in an effort to reach each household.

## Parent Corner

Our District website (accessible at [www.johnsburg12.org](http://www.johnsburg12.org)) and all of our school websites feature a **Parent Corner**. This contains all of the special event notifications, school and District notices, forms and resource information for parents and community members. Parents are encouraged to regularly visit the Parent Corner for the latest information regarding your child’s school.

## Info 12 Quarterly Newsletter

Info 12 (**this publication**) is the official newsletter of Johnsburg School District 12. This publication is distributed four times annually (September, December, March, June) via US mail to all households within the District boundaries. This newsletter features articles from each of the District departments and school buildings, and is written as a resource for community members and parents.

## US Mail and Email

Our offices utilize US mail when corresponding with parents that do not have access to electronic messages (email). We also utilize US mail when corresponding with parents and community members in situations where US mail is required by law, or in situations deemed appropriate by the Board of Education or Administration. Due to the rising costs in postal services, the District has made efforts to decrease the amount of correspondence we send using traditional US

mail methods, and supplement much of our correspondence with email.

## Telephone Calls

Schools and District offices are encouraged to contact parents and community members via telephone whenever an issue arises that would be best communicated by voice communication. Often times these communications will also be submitted via other forms of communication (email and / or US mail).

## “Backpack” Publications

Our schools receive a variety of publications or correspondence items that are sent home with students in their “backpacks”. Some items sent home include: community advertisements, school event information and discipline referral forms.

All of our offices attempt to utilize the most efficient communication methods based on the information that is being communicated. For example, if our students could not attend school due to inclement weather, we would activate our AlertNow automated telephone message service and post messages on all of our District websites. An announcement regarding a sporting event or fundraising opportunity might only be sent through the Skyward Message Center and within a Backpack Publication.

Parents are reminded that they are always welcome to identify their preferred form of communication by notifying your child’s school office.

# When Do Johnsburg Schools Close Due to Weather?

People often ask, “When do Johnsburg Schools close school due to the weather?” Although the actual decision is quite complex, the process is rather straightforward. The decision to close school is based solely on the safety of students and staff.

The analysis generally begins the day before as weather forecasts predict potentially dangerous conditions. The Superintendent, Maintenance Supervisor, Transportation Director and others monitor the forecasts, radar, and weather con-

ditions throughout the night, not only staying in contact with the National Weather Service, but also with the various governmental agencies. Factors that influence the decision include: amount of snowfall accumulation on the ground; future amounts of anticipated snow; road conditions; temperature; wind chill; bus availability; projected duration of weather conditions; and other relevant factors.

The decision to close school generally occurs by 5:30 am.

When the decision is made to close school, the Superintendent immediately notifies the Emergency Closing Center (which provides closing information to all media outlets), activates our AlertNow automated telephone message system to parents and staff, and posts the announcement on the school district’s website, [www.johnsburg12.org](http://www.johnsburg12.org).

