
THE JOHNSON GAZETTE

<http://www.natick.k12.ma.us/schools/johnson/johnsonschoolindex.html>



99 South Main Street
Natick, MA
508-647-6600

Produced by the parents and teachers of the Johnson Elementary School

December 2007

*Building Our Future One
Student at a Time*

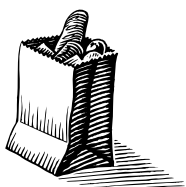
Important Dates to Remember

PTO Game Night	Wed Dec. 5 th
Early Release	Thur Dec. 6 th
Vacation Start	Fri Dec 21 st (end of day)
Back to School	Wed Jan 2nd

Food Pantry Collection: Thursday December 20th

Health and Beauty Aides – Shampoo, toothpaste, soap etc.

Thank you for generously helping those in need.



Principal's page

Dear Johnson School Families,

The faculty and I would like to wish you a healthy and happy holiday season! We thank you for your continued support and generosity and look forward to continued growth and excellence in 2008. School will be in recess for a week-and-a-half following dismissal on Friday, December 21st. School resumes on Wednesday, January 2nd.

The search for Natick's next Superintendent of Schools is underway. Stay tuned in for announcements about "meet the candidate" forums that are to be arranged by our School Committee once the finalists have been narrowed. We wish current Superintendent James Connolly all the best in his retirement (January 1st) and thank him for his years of service in our district!

Visit our "new and improved" district and school websites at: www2.natick.k12.ma.us/
(don't forget the "2" after www)

PLEASE visit our "Lost & Found" for missing items. (Otherwise – it is only a "lost" pile!) It is located outside the main office entrance in the front lobby area. A plethora of clothing and personal items have piled up. Unclaimed items will be donated to charity over the winter break.

Please assist your children to come to school dressed appropriate for the winter season. Our teachers and students are adamant about having outdoors during recess each day. If your child is extra zealous about playing in the snow, it might be helpful to keep a change of clothes at school. Please label any items sent in.

A new year is always cause to take time for reflection. The Johnson School faculty will continue to focus on enhancing instruction to accelerate learning for all students. Our professional development focus is on honing our standards-based curriculum with instructional practices that facilitate creative thinking of students.

- Our next school-based project will be looking at student work (writing samples) K-4 to make sure the grade levels are well connected as we develop competent writers.
- The NPS K-4 teachers are excitedly implementing new life, physical and earth science and engineering units of study across each grade level.
- The new Report on Student Progress (a.k.a. report card) will be issued in late January to inform parents about student progress relative to learning standards and Habits of Mind.
- Continued focus will be placed on mathematics and literacy instructional practices and assessment.

Thank you, as always, for partnering with us to support the learning of every Johnson student. Please let's make every effort to celebrate our school community during these tough fiscal dilemmas that face our town.

Fondly,

Ms. Barbara Brown, Principal

STUDENT FUN PAGE

(students/parents are welcome to submit a game, puzzle or joke to be added to this page)

Brain Booster

Piano Lessons

Abigail, Bettina, Cynthia, and Dahlia all began piano lessons last year. Cynthia took twice as many lessons as Bettina. Abigail took 4 lessons more than Dahlia but 3 fewer than Cynthia. Dahlia took 15 lessons altogether.

Q How many lessons did Bettina take?



JUST FOR LAUGHS...

Q: What do snowmen eat for breakfast?

A: Snowflakes.

Q: What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire?

A: Frostbite.

Q: Where do polar bears vote?

A: The North Poll.

Q: What do you get when you cross an archer with a gift-wraper?

A: Ribbon hood.

Q: What kind of bird can write?

A: A PENguin.

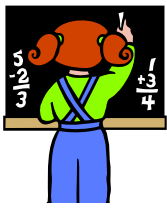


Brain Booster Answer:

Bettina took 11 lessons.

Let A stand for Abigail, B for Bettina, and so on. $C = 2B$ $A = D + 4 = C - 3$ $D = 15$

Since $D = 15$, you know that $A = 19$. You also know that $C - 3 = 19$, which means that $C = 22$. And since $C = 2B$, $22 = 2B$, which means that $B = 11$.



CLASSROOM NEWS

In the Spotlight

Kindergarten



The kindergarteners would like to thank all Johnson School students and families for making their transition into Kindergarten so successful! The kids have done a wonderful job acclimating to Johnson School. It takes a village to raise a child, thank you for all of your support. They have learned the rules and routines of the day and are now feeling confident in their school.

Throughout the fall, the kids have learned about harvesting. We visited Tougas Family Farm, planted pumpkin seeds, and recited fall poetry our very own Fall Harvest Feast. The kindergarteners also worked hard to learn how to chop syllables, isolate the individual sounds in words, identify basic shapes (including hexagon, rhombus and trapezoid!) and create patterns. They continue to enjoy their weekly visits with their fourth grade book buddies.

Now with fall coming to an end, the kindergarteners have many wonderful winter activities to look forward to. The kids will learn about the three states of matter, begin to write sentences during Writer's Workshop, and collect and represent data. Most importantly, the kids will go sledding on the hill in front of the school during recess! Be sure to send snow pants, boots, a warm jacket, a hat, and gloves in with your kindergartener every day this winter. Unless otherwise stipulated by the health department, we will continue to go out for recess.

Keep up the good work parents, continue to READ, READ, READ!

The K Team ☺

SSF Day

On Wednesday, November seventh, the staff and students of Johnson School surprised us with a special day in our honor. We were called to the teacher's room in the morning and discovered it had been transformed into a blue and silver fantasy. It was adorned with balloons and streamers. Huge bouquets of flowers awaited each of us, along with a star shaped balloon with our name on it. We were presented with bejeweled crowns and a poem read to us. The star studded table held a bounty of food.

We were not only overwhelmed by the breakfast but even more so by what happened a few hours later. A special assembly was held. Each class had prepared a special tribute to us. The three kindergartens sang a song. We received cards, signs, letters, poems and more flowers. Students spoke about each of us individually. We were so touched! The finale was when the entire school, led by Mrs. Cotter's class, stood up and sang to us. SSF day was truly a day to remember.

With appreciation and thanks to our Johnson School family,

Mary Zanchi
Katie vonderLieth
Judy Goss
Donna Moor

(Student Support Facilitators)

DECEMBER 2007

						1
3-5pm Holiday Lighting On the Common 2	3	4	PTO Game Nite 6:30 - 8pm 5	Early Release 12:00 Dismissal 6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	Food Pantry Donations Gazette Deadline 20	Vacation Starts End of Day 21	22
23	Vacation Week 24	25	26	27	28	29
30	New Year's Eve School Closed 31	New Years School Closed 1	School ReOpens			

****Lunch tickets may be purchased on Thursdays.*

PTO NEWS



Hello Johnson Families,

Happy Holidays everyone! Wow, I can't believe the holidays are upon us already. We hope everyone has a happy healthy holiday season.

We *had* a cut-a-thon in Nov. for the fourth grade end of the year trip. It went pretty well. Look for another to come in the future. *Thank you* **Andrea Lamont** and **Robin MacBlane** for doing the cut-a-thon.

Also, **Kathleen Walz** and all the volunteers who made the items for sale, the parents working the stations and all the yummy bake goods. Also thank you to **Beth Holman** for organizing the class baskets.

Open Positions for next year;

*co-pres for the pto for next year

*wrapping paper fundraiser-go over orders

*fall fun fair-organize

There will not be a PTO meeting in Dec. The pto will host game night on Dec.5th. Families bring favorite games and bond with your kids in the gym from 6:30-8pm. A light snack will be provided.

As always if you have any comments or suggestion please feel free to contact us;

Robin MacBlane 508-651-0047 jrmacblane@rcn.com

Kristin Brothers 508-647-6905 kristinbrothers@verizon.net



Natick Education Foundation

Main Entry: **trib·ute** Function: *noun*

2 a: something given or contributed voluntarily as due or deserved; *especially* : a gift showing respect, gratitude, or affection

This holiday season, give your favorite teachers, school staff and administrators a gift with meaning, a Tribute Gift to the Natick Education Foundation (NEF). NEF is an independent nonprofit volunteer organization that stimulates excellence in the Natick Public Schools by awarding grants for projects and purchases that enhance the curriculum, by funding scholarships and professional development for educators, and by raising the profile of public education in Natick. NEF accepts gifts of \$25 or more to honor and recognize those who touch our children's lives. Honorees will receive notification of the gift by mail and their names will be posted to the NEF web-site.

For additional information, forms, or to contribute on-line, please go to www.natickedfoundation.org. Or contact Betsy Rigby brigby@verizon.net or 508.653.0810.

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me. In addition to my home number listed above, my cell phone number is 508.561.2148.

Thank you in advance,
Betsy Rigby

PTO MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, November 7, 2007

Principal Report: Dr. Barbara Brown

Dr. Brown was unable to make the meeting and will update on MCAS at the January meeting.

PTO President Report: Robin MacBlane

Family Game Night in lieu of December PTO Meeting: There is no PTO meeting in November. Instead there is a family game night. Families bring games to play and it is a nice opportunity to mix, mingle and play games with other Johnson families

Silent Auction Sign-up –Positions needed for the Silent Auction-the school’s biggest fundraiser to be held on March 29, 2008. A decorating committee is needed. The event will be held at the Community House in Sherborn.

Sock Hop-January: Chair –Mary Ellen Kaye. To be held on January 25, 2008

Reports:

Treasurers Report: Glynn Hawley

- Scholastic Book Fair –Raised \$1,015 in cash and \$700 worth of books for the school
- Fall Fun Fair -\$1675
- Wrapping Paper Fundraiser -\$2,290
- Original Works -\$1,028
- Tilly’s Pumpkin Fair -\$401
- Letter sent home regarding direct donations to school -\$1,675 (12 donations)

Cultural Arts –Carrie Hladick, Susie Grant

4th grade will be taking a field trip to the Berkley School of Music and the Maporium.

Dan the “T-Pee Man” visits Johnson school on 11/16 –all grades visit the t-pee set up in the gymnasium.

December 3 –Impulse Dance will do an interactive nutcracker with the first graders.

PCC - Lena Johnson & Lisa Landon

The superintendent search is still underway. There is a questionnaire on the town website that you can complete on what you would like in the new superintendent.

There is a virtual back-pack system in some of the other schools (Ben-Hem, Lilja, Brown) where information, homework, flyers are all posted on the school website. This is coming to Johnson in the future.

Pac -Sharidan Langley –not present at meeting

School Council: Jen Murphy, Glynn Hawley, Lisa Landon, Jessa Huff

Still looking for parents that would be willing to share their skills in an after school enrichment program.

Successful math night was held in October. Third grade math breakfast sessions are being planned –details to come.

Guest Speaker: Beth McLaughlin (k-parent): “Who is your child?”

Beth McLaughlin gave an informative and interactive presentation on understanding your child’s personality through type testing and using that information to have more successful interactions. If you would like more information you can contact Beth or visit the website www.nurturebynature.com.

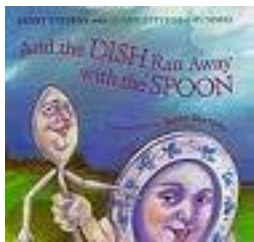
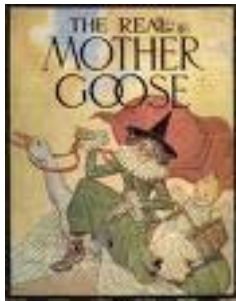
..from the Library

Our recipe books are taking shape; it is hard not to bring them home before they are finished. This month we hope to add more recipes for soup Kallaloo! (Gershator) and pizza!

K's and 1's have loved exploring Mother Goose nursery rhymes, through original



representations, and creative extensions. Miss Smith's Incredible Storybook (Garland), A Wolf at the Door, (Ward), The Web Files



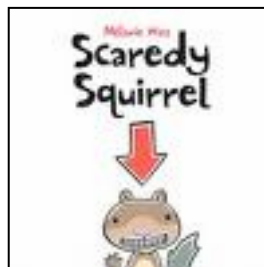
(Palatini) We are impressed with their vast knowledge ("schema") – a direct result of the variety of lyrics and poems and stories you have shared with them!

We loved David Wiesner's The Three Pigs. What a fun book to share. And kudos to Jack Gregorian (1S) for remembering Wiesner as the 2006 Caldecott Award winner!!



KM took a slight diversion into the concepts of scary and the notion that what might be scary to one

is not to another. Some things are Scary (Heide), Scaredy Squirrel (Watts) Psst it's me, the Bogeyman (Park) provided rich discussion.



Second, third and fourth grades continue to explore novel reads including Gooney Bird Greene (Lowry) Sassafrass (Birney) The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane (DiCamillo). We have also revisited holiday favorite We Gather Together, Now Please Get Lost (DeGroat). Adult and child alike can relate to the trials of Gilbert and sigh with his conflict resolutions.

It has been gratifying to see students using the library in ways that fit them individually. Many K's and 1's are saving books in their class buckets during library time, then returning books during a free time (snack, recess, etc – with teacher approval). In addition to this practice, older students are donating books from home that they no longer want and that they know are of interest to their peers.

Many thanks to the Berg, Goudsmit, Whalen, Rollins, and Huff families! The monthly book swap is also a helpful way to recycle and share well loved books.

Finally, as holiday pressures mount, allow your selves time to get lost in a book, a wonderful escape. "Happy Holidays to all and to all a good read!"

Ms. Mangan and Mrs. Berg

Book – by Valerie Worth

*Such a
Bountiful
Box of
Tricks:
Packed
With the
Five senses,
The seven
Seas, the
Earth's
Four winds
And corners,
All fitted
Exactly in.*

Deadline for January Gazette Submissions Thursday December 20th

All submissions via electronic format must be in MS Word or typed in the body of your email for cut/paste into the Gazette template.

Please send all electronic submissions to:

Dori Ross doriross@comcast.net 508-651-2478

Krista Whalen kristawhalen@rcn.com 508-650-9812

All other submissions can be dropped off in the box labeled Gazette in the office. Any questions feel free to contact us at the numbers above. Thank you for your continued support!

Fun things to do around town during vacation week...

At the library:

Friday Dec. 28th

10:30-12:20 est. **Ratatouille** Rated G

2:00-4:48 est. **Pirates of the Caribbean at Worlds End** Rated PG-13

Monday Dec. 31st

2:00-5:00 Kids Connect New Years Eve Party

\$6 per person or \$22 per family

William L. Chase Arena Public Skating (\$4 with rentals available for \$4):

Sat Dec 22nd & 29th - 5-6pm

Sun Dec 23rd & 30th - 5-6pm

Mon Dec 24th - 10:30-11:50 and 1:30-2:50

Wed Dec 26th - 10:30-11:50