



SCHOOL DISTRICT 12
JOHNSBURG
INSPIRING OUR STUDENTS

Info 12

2010-2011 School Year
Spring, 2011

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Historical Review of District Facilities

District 12 Board of Education

To those of you who have children in the district, or who have otherwise been in the school buildings recently, you have seen that many of our facilities need work and improvements to bring them up to current expected standards. All of the buildings are in need of repair and remodeling and many of the areas requiring attention involve major expenditures, including heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) systems, roofs and parking lots. In order to keep the community informed about our facilities, we thought it might be helpful to provide a brief history of the district's educational facilities. Our goal is to provide you the background necessary to better understand the needs of the district.

Ringwood School joined the district in 1968. At that time, Ringwood School District was merged with Johnsburg School District. Ringwood currently houses pre-kindergarten through grade 2. A small addition was completed in 1971 and a major addition was completed in 2000 which more than tripled the size of the building.



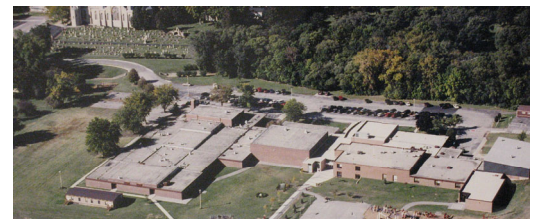
James C. Bush Elementary School currently houses grades 3 & 4. James C. Bush Elementary School was originally built in 1949 with a major addition in 1959, and another smaller addition in 2000. James C. Bush Elementary School is the oldest school building in the district.



Johnsburg Junior High School & Administration Center (specifically the northern part of the building) currently houses grades 5 & 6. In addition, the Junior High also houses the administrative office operations. Originally built in 1973, the facility received additions in 1978, 1987 and 2000.



Johnsburg Junior High School (specifically the southern portion of the building) currently houses grades 7 & 8. This portion of the building was originally built in 1967 with additions in 1972 and 2000. The addition in 2000 joined the north and south sections of the building to create a single school.



Johnsburg High School currently houses grades 9 - 12. Johnsburg High School was originally built in 1978 with a small addition in 1979, and another addition in 2000. Johnsburg High School is the "newest" school building in the district.



Last year, in 2010, the district performed a series of strategic planning sessions facilitated by an individual from outside the district, to bring clarity to the district's future and to engage the community in the planning process. One of the major topics of discussion at those planning sessions involved the district's buildings and the future. It became clear throughout the strategic planning discussions that our facilities are in need of modernization and upgrading.

In the future, in order to determine the community's expectations for the school buildings, the Board of Education will begin the process of engaging community members through special focus group meetings to help seek community input. In the next issue of Info 12 more information will be forthcoming regarding those future focus group meetings.

Producing and Distributing Info 12

What many people may not know is that the production of this newsletter is a combined effort amongst the students and staff of Johnsburg Schools. For the past several years students enrolled in the Graphic Arts programs at Johnsburg High School have assisted in producing and assembling Info 12, the quarterly District newsletter. Some of their responsibilities have included: laying out the pages with graphics and text content, prepping the master file for printing, and actually running the newsletter through the press and assembling the document for distribution by the US Postal Service.

Through the excellent efforts of our graphic arts students and the mentoring of our graphic arts instructor Mr. Larry Zimmerman, the district has been able to produce Info 12 for all Johnsburg School District residents at a very reasonable price. In fact just a few years ago the production costs of Info 12, when compared to commercial vendors, priced well below the most competitive price quote.

Our students continue to still be heavily involved in the process. While one part of the graphic arts process is about learning how to operate the machinery, another part is about learning how to run jobs cost effectively. This includes needing to learn how to properly write requests for quotations with print shop terminology and specifics, as well as determining quantity needed the first time (as you can't just print a few hundred extra in the case of specific needs). We are grateful to be able to provide our students this valuable experience.

Our students also continue to be responsible for assembling the document for distribution and aiding in the designing process as needed. We are grateful to both Mr. Zimmerman and our students for their talents, and are excited to involve them as we continue to produce Info 12 for the benefit of our families and community members.



Student Services in District 12

This article is the second in a series regarding the Special Education procedures in Johnsburg School District 12. The Winter 2010 article described the Child Find Process. This article describes the special education eligibility process.

Students who are referred for special education must go through a process to determine if they are eligible for special education instruction and/or related services. The district has established criteria for each area of eligibility and must determine if a student's disability has a significant impact on his/her education.

The first step for the district is to hold a "domain" meeting. At this meeting, the eight domains of the student's life are considered, which of these need to be evaluated, and by whom. The domains (areas of school life) include academic performance, functional performance, cognitive functioning, communication status, health, vision/hearing, motor abilities, and social/emotional status. Qualified personnel use a variety of educational tools and strategies in the

evaluation process. The testing instruments must be technically sound and not biased against children because of race, culture, language or disability.

Once signed parental consent is obtained, the district has 60 school days to complete the evaluations. After the evaluations are completed, the district schedules an IEP/eligibility meeting with the parents to review the results. Disability areas considered are: autism, cognitive disability, deaf-blindness, deafness, emotional disability, hearing impairments, multiple disabilities, other health impairment, orthopedic impairment, specific learning disability, speech or language impairment, traumatic brain injury, and visual impairment.

The IEP team must determine if a disability exists, if it impacts educational performance, and if special education instruction or related services are needed. If so, then an Individualized Educational Program (IEP) is developed. The IEP process will be described in the next Info 12 article.

Johnsburg High School *Post Prom* Committee

The Post Prom Committee is actively preparing for the Promenade and Post Prom events. The events will begin on Friday, May 6, 2011 and conclude on Saturday, May 7, 2011.

We are in need of parents and community members to help set up on Thursday night for the Promenade as well as to pick up items that are being borrowed for the festivity. If you are interested in helping, please contact Meg Redshaw at (815) 679-6089 or via email at redmeg93@yahoo.com.

We also need help with the Promenade (5:00 PM) at the High School to assist in coordinating Prom students and loading/unloading busses. If you are interested in helping, please contact Gabi Sparacio at (815) 236-8717 or via email at burnex@aol.com.

Video Conferencing in the Classroom at JCB

This year, the staff at James C. Bush Elementary School have been hard at work utilizing digital technologies to promote student learning. In addition to the virtual field trips taken this year to places such as Plimoth Plantation, staff are exploring the use of video conferencing in the classroom. Video conferencing provides staff a means to connect their classrooms to other classrooms, professionals, and authentic learning opportunities without leaving the school building.

Fourth Grade Teacher, Mrs. Stephanie Helfand, has utilized video conferencing throughout the school year to enhance her students' learning. Through the use of video conferencing, her students were able to interview Mary Amato, an author whose books they read. In addition, they met students and staff from Mooresville

Intermediate School, located in North Carolina, and Gold Hill Elementary School, located in South Carolina, as part of their Southeast Region study in Social Studies. Students even had the opportunity to meet Mr. Larry Luxenburg, Museum Society President of the Appalachian Trail Museum as part of their Northeast Region study.

This use of technology has truly benefited students in their learning by providing them with more in-depth information and real life connections to the subject matter. As our use of this technology continues to expand, we look forward to sharing with the community our experiences on our school's website. So be on the lookout for pictures, student reflections and other information about these excellent learning opportunities for our students.



18th Annual JEPF Orange Ball Event

On Friday, June 24th the Johnsburg Educational Partnership Foundation will sponsor its 18th annual Orange Ball Golf Tournament. This event is one of the three major fund raisers the Foundation holds yearly to raise funds for the various student enrichment projects it supports. This year, the Orange Ball Tournament will be a scramble event. The event will be held at the McHenry Country Club and will begin at 1:00 PM with a shot gun start. The event includes a lunch and dinner. Prizes will be awarded for the traditional "closest to the pin", "longest drive," as well as other prizes.

During the event, each golfer in the foursome takes turns playing holes with an orange golf ball and the foursome's "orange ball" score for each hole is recorded. Yes, you guessed correctly! The pressure mounts and the scores seem to rise when it's your turn to hit the "orange" ball.

The public is invited to play and this always turns into a very entertaining community event. For more information please visit the Johnsburg Educational Partnership Foundation website at www.jepf.org or call Dan Johnson at 385-6916.

Junior High Students Are Offered Many Participation Opportunities

Johnsburg Junior High School offers students a unique opportunity which many other schools do not offer. At the Junior High we participate in two separate athletic conferences, the Fox Valley Conference and the Lakes Region Conference. This nearly doubles the opportunities that our students have to participate in different types of athletics.

At this age we believe it is important to provide our students with the chance to experience a variety of different interests. In addition, we have been extremely lucky to have a great group of coaches who

provide quality instruction to our students in all sports.

Besides this unique athletic opportunity offered to our students, Johnsburg Junior High also offers a wonderful variety of clubs as well. Some of the options available to our students at the Junior High include student council, drama club, ski club, yearbook, book club and the outdoor club. The variety of clubs/activities provide our students with the opportunity to experiment with different interests and expand their knowledge.

Board of Education Abates Taxes

In December 2005, the 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 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. The district continues to work with the Villages of Johnsburg and Ringwood by planning for anticipated growth.

At the December 14, 2010 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 abating these taxes, the Board will shift the financial burden for the cost of this land on the new growth we are seeing.

Common Core Standards: What Do I Need to Know?

Last Info 12 described what tasks our staff was working on. In short, they were/are working on implementing in math and language arts, the common core skills. Here is more specific information on the Common Core that all parents should know.

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 NGA Center and CCSSO received initial feedback on the draft standards from national organizations representing, but not limited to, teachers, postsecondary educators (including community colleges), civil rights groups, English language learners, and students with disabilities. Following the initial round of

feedback, the draft standards were opened for public comment, receiving nearly 10,000 responses.

The standards are informed by the highest, most effective models from states across the country and countries around the world, and provide teachers and parents with a common understanding of what students are expected to learn. Consistent standards will provide appropriate benchmarks for all students, regardless of where they live.

These standards define the knowledge and skills students should have within their K-12 education careers so that they will graduate high school able to succeed in entry-level, credit-bearing academic college courses and in workforce training programs. The standards: 1: Are aligned with college and work expectations; 2: Are clear, understandable and consistent; 3: Include rigorous content and application of knowledge through high-order skills; 4: Build upon strengths and lessons of current state standards; 5: Are informed by other top performing countries, so that all students are pre-

pared to succeed in our global economy and society; and 6: Are evidence-based.

The common core in math and reading were rolled out in June of 2010. At the writing of this article, over 40 states have adopted them. In English Language arts, the foundation is set based on the following focal points: Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening, Language, Media and Technology. In Mathematics the foundation is set based on the following focal points: K-5: solid foundation in whole numbers, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, fractions and decimals. Having built a strong foundation K-5, students can do hands on learning in geometry, algebra and probability and statistics.

Students who have completed 7th grade and mastered the content and skills through the 7th grade will be well prepared for algebra in grade 8. The middle school standards are robust and provide a coherent and rich preparation for high school mathematics.

PTO Events for Johnsburg Families

For the second time, the Harlem Wizards basketball team visited Johnsburg School District for an exciting evening of tricks, hoops and alley-oops! The rematch was a great success as community members, students and parents witnessed the talent of the Wizards against members of the faculty and administration for all of our four schools.

Several pictures are featured to the right of this article, including a picture of the District 12 team. In addition to the excellent teamwork and support of our faculty and administration, we want to thank Billy's Beef in Spring Grove who donated 25% of the profits from all of the concessions sales from the event. We greatly appreciate the assistance of our local businesses, coming together to support our community and children's schools.

In addition to the Harlem Wizards rematch, the PTO sponsored several winter events which included the Father/Daughter Dance, Adult Fun Bowling Night, Restaurant Nights and Teen Night. All of these events were a

huge success with strong attendance and great fun had by all!

In the next two months, we encourage you to all mark your Calendars for upcoming events:

Mother/Son Bowling to be held at Raymond's Bowl in Johnsburg on April 17, 2011. Watch for flyers to come home with more details.

Ice Cream Social will be held on Friday, May 13, 2011. Please join us for this wonderful family/community event. It is always a good time and we would love to see your whole family.

Lastly, we would like to encourage all of our parents to join us for the next PTO meeting on Tuesday April 5, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at Johnsburg High School. We hope you can join us as we begin our planning for our activities and functions next school year. All are welcome!



Exciting Events at Ringwood School

Star lab was delivered to Ringwood School Primary Center during the last week of January. During this exciting event, each classroom was able to visit this portable planetarium and learn about astronomy from Mrs. Pitzen, the school learning center director. All of the students shared their excitement as they learned a little about the sky we look at each night and how the stars exist.

On January 26, 2011 we held our annual "Science Night" where over 300 attendees were able to enjoy the Star lab as a family as well as a multitude of hands-on science activities in the gymnasium. Several parents commented on how this was the first time they had seen a planetarium, and were not aware of a portable version. We hope to provide experiences like these in the future so that our children can continue to benefit from these multi-faceted learning opportunities.

Ringwood School also recently held its Pre-kindergarten and kindergarten registration at Ringwood School Primary Center on March 8 - 9, 2011. If you missed those dates, please call the Ringwood School Primary Center office at (815) 728-0459 to set a time to register and schedule a screening time. Screening will take place June 7 - 9, 2011 at Ringwood. We look forward to meeting our new families and welcoming your children to our school!

By registering your child you give us the necessary information to adequately plan for your child's arrival into the Johnsburg school system. Information about our "at-risk" pre-kindergarten program can be found on our website. Screenings are used to determine which children qualify for this program. Screenings also help us plan for appropriate kindergarten placement for each child.



High School Student Prepare For Spring PSAEs

Juniors across the state of Illinois are preparing to take the Prairie State Achievement Examination (PSAE) on April 27 and 28. The P.S.A.E. measures a student's progress in reading, writing, mathematics, and science. Students are required to participate in the P.S.A.E. or Illinois Alternative Assessment to be eligible to receive a high school diploma.

The PSAE test is made up of two days of testing. Juniors will take the ACT on the first day, and the Work Keys test on the second. These scores will be a permanent part of a student's transcript.

Why are ACT scores important?

Most students and parents know that overall ACT scores are commonly used for college acceptance. What they usually don't know is that while their overall ACT score may get them accepted, a low score on a particular area (math for example) could result in a student having to take a developmental or orientation class in college in that subject that does not count for credit (but they still must pay full tuition for this class). This applies not only to four year schools, but also to community colleges like MCC. Our admini-

stration and counselors have met with our juniors multiple times already this year to educate them on this, as well as the opportunities they have to prepare for these tests.

Every junior has received a login and password for ACT Online Prep, a free service that provides ACT preparation, practice ACT tests, and supplemental help in each content area of the ACT test. Information on the tests and sample test items are also available on the Illinois State Board of Education website.

Sylvan offers free practice ACT tests. Call 815-363-3910 and make an appointment for a free practice ACT test.

Another free website you can access is www.march2success.com. This is website also has ACT prep and free practice ACT tests, and is provided by the US Army.

Why are Work Keys scores important?

Work Keys scores are becoming used more frequently in the business world (Follett Industries, for example) to filter applicants for jobs. This test shows the

practical application knowledge of a student. Employers are starting to look more at these scores as a better indicator of the practical knowledge of a student than simply looking at their grades. Some college students have contacted JHS many years after taking the test in order to retrieve their Work Keys scores to share with a potential employer.

This information, as well as additional resources for your student may be found on our website accessible through the guidance department link.

We encourage our parents to review the importance of these tests with their students so that they understand the importance of the results. If at any time a parent needs more information about one of these programs, we encourage you to contact your child's guidance counselor at the High School. Counselors are available during the school day via email or telephone at (815) 385-9233. Thank you in advance for your support of our students!

2010-11 School Calendar

Upcoming Dates to Remember

Listed to the right are dates to remember for the remainder of the 2010-2011 school year. Please note that because of the snow days that were called on February 2 and 3, it was necessary to change the last day of school from Thursday, June 2, 2011 to Monday, June 6, 2011.

It is our hope that we will not have another snow (emergency) day yet this year which would make it necessary to add one more day to the school year.

Friday, April 22, 2011 No School	No School
Friday, May 6, 2011 Teacher Institute Day	1/2 Day of School
Friday, May 27, 2011 School Improvement Day	1/2 Day of School
Monday, May 30, 2011 Memorial Day	No School
Monday, June 6, 2011 Last Day of School	Last Day of School if No Additional

Online Student Registration Process

This June, we will begin offering parents the opportunity to register their children for the upcoming school year. As in years past, the student registration process will be facilitated through our Skyward Family Access System. Information regarding this process will be sent out via US Mail in the later part of May.

If your child will be registering for school for the first time this year, we encourage you to visit the District Administrative Office as soon as possible, to complete all of the required forms and submit documentation of residency. More information about the registration process for new students can be obtained by calling, (815) 385-6916, or by visiting the District Website and selecting **Parent Corner**.
