Week of Oct 30 - Nov 3rd

**Principal’s Corner**

We are looking forward to our first spirit week of the year! Parents please look at the attached flyer that shows what is the theme for each day this week. We pride ourself on working hard here at Johnson, but we also enjoy having fun with our students as these are the moments that build our community and make us who we are. We hope everyone enjoys this week, can’t wait!

-Mr. Traub

**Staff Member of the Week:**

We would like to congratulate Ms. Dimmer for being voted this award by her colleagues this week!

Mrs. Dimmer is one of our ESAPs (Elementary Student Assistance Providers) here at Johnson. She has had many roles over the years, and seems to thrive, no matter what the role or title is. She has a heart of gold, and is able to shine that onto anyone that she meets. She is absolutely adored by her colleagues, and always finds a way to do what is best for all of our students here!

**Points of Pride**

⇒ We have implemented our first round SOAR Clubs and students had a blast!
⇒ Our Car Loop continues to improve each day and we are under 10 minutes!
⇒ Our staff continues to learn from one another and work together in Professional Learning Teams each week!
⇒ One student from every class was nominated for student of the week!

**PBIS Update**

This week we spent time going over our SOAR Expectations for the cafeteria. Also, this week our SOAR Clubs began, something we will look to implement at the end of every month. Students had the option to choose from 10 different clubs that they got to join for an hour on Friday. Our PBIS Team will continue to look this over and make improvements during the year. We will be pulling in students at the beginning of November to look over our data for the month of October.

**Planning for the future:**

**October 2023**
- Spirit Week 10/30 - 11/3
- Halloween Fun 10/31

**November 2023**
- No School 11/7
- Buddy’s Pizza PTA Fundraiser 11/9

**Week At A Glance**

Monday 10/30
Tuesday 10/31
Wednesday 11/1
Thursday 11/2
Friday 11/3

Our Mission: Johnson Upper Elementary School is committed to providing a safe, respectful environment that supports the academic and socio-emotional needs of every student as they develop the necessary skills to become capable, confident, life-long learners.

Keep soaring Jayhawks!
Our Mission: Johnson Upper Elementary School is committed to providing a safe, respectful environment that supports the academic and socio-emotional needs of every student as they develop the necessary skills to become capable, confident, life-long learners.

My favorite part of being a Jayhawk is ...

Working with such caring and hilarious staff and helping kids be the best humans they can be. I love my Jayhawk family!

Some of My Favorite Things:
Place To Travel:
The Upper Peninsula
Foods:
Guacamole and Chips
Color:
Turquoise
College:
Eastern Michigan University
TV Show:
Adventure Time
Sports Team:
Detroit Tigers
School Subject:
Art & Social/Emotional Learning

My hobbies:
Collecting rocks and crystals, puzzles, art, bowling, and books!

Staff Member of the Week
Mrs. Dimmer

Keep soaring Jayhawks!
Due to your support, PTA is able to provide 5,000 pieces of candy for the school to help students celebrate!

At our last PTA meeting, we randomly selected 2 members to win Target gift cards. Congratulations to Jeremy Byrnes and Erin Hulett. We appreciate your support of the PTA.

Johnson PTA now has an email! If you have any ideas or questions, please feel free to contact us at johnsonupperpta@gmail.com.

Instead of cooking on Thursday, November 9th, dine out at Buddy’s on Plymouth Road in Livonia from 11 a.m.-9 p.m. and some of the proceeds will come back to Johnson PTA. Be sure to mention Johnson PTA. Dine-in or carry out will work.

Our first Color Run was a great success! Our community raised $23,000!!! Thank you to the incredibly generous Johnson community for supporting the students. They had a blast participating in the Color Run. We look forward to seeing Mr. Traub and Mrs. Samouelian pied at an upcoming date. Raffle prizes will be raffled off soon.

Reflections Program- It celebrates the many skills of our students and encourages them to pursue artistic expression in a number of different ways including Dance Choreography, Film Production, Literature, Musical Composition, Photography, and Visual Arts. Entry Form

- Johnson Spirit Wear is available all year. Check out https://www.johnsonupperspiritwear.com/ to order some Johnson clothing today.

- Save the date for our next PTA meeting on November 16th at 6 pm. We can’t wait to share what we have accomplished so far this year!

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Keep soaring Jayhawks!
Important Reminders
Week of October 30th

Our Mission: Johnson Upper Elementary School is committed to providing a safe, respectful environment that supports the academic and socio-emotional needs of every student as they develop the necessary skills to become capable, confident, life-long learners.

Keep soaring Jayhawks!

Spirit Week October 30 - November 3

Monday October 30 - Stand Up 2 Cancer Day (Pink Out for Breast Cancer Awareness or wear other bright colors)

Tuesday October 31 - Dress for Halloween (Costumes must be school appropriate, no masks or toy weapons)

Wednesday November 1 - Relax and Roll Into November (Pajama Day)

Thursday November 2 - Twinning Thursday (Pick a friend or a few, and dress alike!)

Friday November 3 - Jayhawk Spirit Day (Black, Red, and Everything Johnson Jayhawk you can wear!)
Important Reminders

Week of October 30th

Livonia Public Schools
UPPER ELEMENTARY MENU
November 2023

MICHIGAN SCHOOL MEALS PROGRAM NO COST FOR MEAL
**ALL ENTREES INCLUDE CHOICE OF SIDE ITEMS AND MILK**
**COST FOR MILK ONLY: 0.60**
THIS MENU SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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*THIS INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER*

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Keep soaring Jayhawks!
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Keep soaring Jayhawks!
CAPTURE YOUR MEMORIES IN THIS YEAR’S JOHNSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL YEARBOOK!

Customize Your 2 Free Pages
Add photos from your computer, Facebook, Instagram, Google Drive & more.

Answer fun Memory Questions to help remember the year.

The 2 Custom Pages are FREE and are printed ONLY in your book. Want more pages? Each additional 2 pages is just $0.99.

To Purchase & Customize Your Yearbook
Must be a parent or student 13 years or older.

1. Go to: www.treering.com/validate
2. Enter your school’s passcode: 1016976710002014

Regular price: $18.71 Create Custom Pages by: Mar 29

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Keep soaring Jayhawks!
AFTER THE BELL

LET’S HAVE FUN LEARNING THE FUNDAMENTALS OF

BASEBALL/SOFTBALL

WEDNESDAYS
11/8/2023 - 12/6/2023
3:45 - 4:45 AT

JOHNSON UPPER ELEMENTARY
IN THE GYM AFTER THE BELL

USING PLASTIC BATS & BALLS
MITTS WILL BE PROVIDED

REGISTER AT
DAWGPOUNDBASEBALLORG@GMAIL.COM

$75.00
CASH APP TO $DAWGPOUNDBASEBALL
ANY QUESTIONS CALL
AARON RICHARD
248-521-0597
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Keep soaring Jayhawks!
Annual Bowling For Backpacks – Livonia
Families, Groups, Individuals
Merri-Bowl Lanes, 30950 Five Mile Road, Livonia, MI

Saturday, November 18, 2023, 2:30pm - 4:30pm (registration begins at 1:30pm)

$22.50 (bowler) $12.50 (Non-bowler)

Bowler includes: 2 hours of bowling, shoes rental, 2 slices pizza and pop
access to raffle gifts, doorprize
Non-bowler includes: 2 slices pizza and pop, access to raffle gifts, doorprize

Opportunities to sponsor lanes, donate raffle items

DOORPRIZE, RAFFLE. 50/50 DRAWING

Please Register online prior to the event!

Purchase Tickets at https://guestli.st/757722

Or Visit our website at www.biablivonia.org

For special accommodations or information, contact
Audra Rons at audrarons@gmail.com

Proceeds to Benefit Blessings in a Backpack-Livonia for the children of Livonia Public Schools

Blessings in a Backpack is a non-profit organization 501(c)(3). All donations are tax deductible.
This organization provides backpacks of food each weekend to at-risk, school-age children in the Livonia School System.

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Keep soaring Jayhawks!
### BOWLING FOR BACKPACKS SPONSORSHIP/DONATION FORM to Benefit Blessings in a Backpack – Livonia

**November 18, 2023**  
Merri-Bowl Lanes, 30950 Five Mile, Livonia, MI

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Yes, I/My company would be interested in participating in the following manner:

**Sponsorships**  
☐ Gold $ 500  ☐ Silver $ 250  ☐ Bronze $ 100  ☐ Door Prize $100+  
☐ Check -- Payable to Blessings in a Backpack-Livonia.  
☐ Visa ☐ MC ☐ Amer. Expr. ☐ Discover  
Amount $________ Date:________ Name on Card:________
Credit Card Number:__________ Exp. Date:________
V/Code:________ Billing Zip Code:________
Signature:________

---

**Auction / Raffle Donation**

☐ Enclosed is the donated item(s)  
☐ Please call to schedule pick-up arrangements  
Donation: Please provide a detailed description of the donation

Value $________

---

Please remit to: BIAB - Livonia, P.O. Box 51603, Livonia, MI 48151
Or Contact: Audra Rons at audrarons@gmail.com

Blessings in a Backpack is a non-profit organization 501(c)(3). This organization provides backpacks of food each weekend to At-Risk school age children in the Livonia School System.  
For more information, go to [www.biablivonia.org](http://www.biablivonia.org) or find us on Facebook at BlessingsInABackpackLivonia

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Important Reminders
Week of October 30th

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**GOOD & STRONG CLUB**

Social club for tweens, teens and adults with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities

- **Friday July 14**
  Meet and Greet/Information night with Karaoke
- **Friday August 4**
  Makers and Mentors - make a treat
- **Friday September 15**
  Karaoke
- **Friday October 20**
  Makers and Mentors - make a treat
  Halloween costumes encouraged
- **Friday November 10**
  Karaoke
- **Friday December 8**
  Holiday Party
  (may take place offsite)

at Anastasia and Katie's
Coffee Shop & Cafe
19215 Merriman Road in Livonia

Cost - $5
Advance Registration Required
anastasiaandkatiecoffee.com/
Light snack included
Coffee shop open for food purchases

Time:
Adults 5:00-6:30 pm
Tweens/Teens 7:00-8:30 pm

Volunteers Wanted!
anastasiaandkatiecoffee.com/good-strong-club-info

This event is made possible by a grant from the Livonia Community Foundation.

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Important Reminders
Week of October 30th

ABOUT MI WORK MATTERS

WHO ARE WE?
Mi Work Matters, (pronounced My Work Matters!) is a small 501(c)(3) Michigan non-profit organization founded in 2018 by a group of families, caregivers and advocates of people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD). We are on a mission to create, sustain, and advocate for meaningful, paid employment opportunities for people with I/DD.

We believe in the unique significance and unlimited potential of each and every person.
Everyone’s Dreams Matter!

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GROW UP?
“Alone on my parent’s couch” is not a likely answer. Yet that is the reality for most adults with disabilities facing an over 80% unemployment rate. At age 26 students age out of school-based transition programs and are left to pursue employment opportunities that simply do not exist.

In addition to a lack of job opportunities, there is also a pay disparity between individuals with disabilities and those without. People with disabilities are more likely to make below minimum wage. In 2019, more than 5,000 workers with disabilities in Michigan earned about $3.61 an hour through a waiver to the Fair Labor Standards Act. We know we can do better here in Michigan!

GETTING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES TO WORK
We create paid work opportunities through grass roots advocacy and directly employing people with I/DD at our award winning, inclusive program – Anastasia and Katie’s Coffee Shop & Cafe.

"We first met Mi Work Matters in December 2019 when 4 Ambassadors from their organization visited our corporate office in Novi, MI. They enlightened many of our business leaders about the benefits of hiring people with Down syndrome. It was then that we realized our company had a business need and that there was a talent pool available to help us address that need."
– Theresa Gutierrez, Sr. Director, HR, Talent & Culture, Learning Care Group

ANASTASIA AND KATIE’S COFFEE SHOP & CAFE
The coffee shop is Mi Work Matters first employment program. It was opened to create a place where people with disabilities can work in an inclusive and supportive environment. Through the coffee shop and our current Employment Ambassadors advocacy program we are starting the conversation about how businesses can hire somebody with a disability and why they should.

Anastasia and Katie's was awarded the Livonia Chamber of Commerce 2021 Community Enhancement Award!

EMPLOYMENT AMBASSADORS + EMPLOYMENT PARTNERS
These amazing young adults earned money giving presentations to area businesses on the advantages of hiring people with Down syndrome. Mi Work Matters worked with the ambassadors to create a presentation and provided training in the area of public speaking. This resulted in our first employment partnership. Learning Care Group successfully hired one of the Ambassadors to work in their corporate offices in Novi following one of the presentations.

If you would like to learn more about working with and employing people with developmental disabilities please contact us!

To learn more or support our work, visit us at:
MiWorkMatters.org or email info@MiWorkMatters.org

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Keep soaring Jayhawks!
Important Reminders

Week of October 30th

**Upcoming Spirit Days** - Spirit Days are one of our favorite things we do here at Johnson. We will also have a Spirit Week October 30th - November 3rd. Please see the attached flyer that gives specifics. We WILL allow students to dress up for Halloween on October 31st. Costumes must be school appropriate.

**EMERGENCY CARD INFORMATION** - It is required that each family review the emergency contact information that is on file at Johnson. You can view this information in parent connect. **WHY?** in the event of an emergency, sick child, severe weather, we may need to reach you. The process to verify your emergency contact information is correct is simple. Simply log into Parent Connect and follow the prompts.

**DROPOFF AND PICKUP TIMES** - Students cannot be dropped off for school in the morning prior to 8:15am. This is when the doors open for breakfast and when staff is available to supervise students. Prior to this time, all school doors are locked. Students are not to be left unattended, arrangements must be made. Also, dismissal is at 3:30pm daily and at 11:45am on half days. It is required that all students who are picked up in the car loop be picked up no later than 3:45pm. Staff is not available to supervise students beyond that time. The district offers a SACC program for those students that cannot be picked up by 3:45pm. Please contact SACC at (734)744-2966 to make arrangements.

**COMMUNICATION** - The beginning of the day and the end of the day are always busy times in the school office. At Johnson, we realize there are always unexpected circumstances that arise and we will do everything in our power to accommodate unplanned interruptions. We also ask parents to call the office after 9:00am and prior to 3:00pm if they are making alternate transportation arrangements for their students' trip home. Teachers frequently use the end of the day time for classroom reorganization, recess and/or specials and catching up to a class can be a challenge. We appreciate your help. The office phone number is (734)744-2740.

**OFFICE HOURS** - Mr. Traub, Principal and Mrs. Samouelian, Assistant Principal, are available via email, telephone and in person. If you have any questions or concerns, please set an appointment to discuss your situation privately with one of our Administrators. The Johnson school office is open M-F from 7:45am to 4:15pm. Teachers are generally unavailable during the day as they are teaching. If you have a concern, please reach out to teachers via email or contact the office directly at (734) 744-2740. Students will not be permitted back into the building for forgotten items once the office is closed for the day!

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*Keep soaring Jayhawks!*
ATTENDANCE LINE - It is vital for academic success that your student be in attendance daily, ready to learn. If your student is absent on any given day, please contact the school office and let them know. This helps reduce phone calls home to verify a student's absence and it helps keep accurate attendance records. A reminder, if a student has a fever or has vomited, they are not to return to school for 24 hours once the fever is gone and/or vomiting has stopped. In this time of concern over congested or cold/coughing students still coming to school, we will leave this judgment to the parents. We simply ask you to make sure your student is healthy and not a distraction to the learning environment. Thank you for your cooperation. The attendance line is available at (734) 744-2740 ext 1.

MEDICATIONS AT SCHOOL - Oftentimes a student will come to the office with a medical need. The office staff is able to dispense medication as needed as long as the medication is: 1) Delivered to school by a parent in the original unopened package or prescription container, {NO MEDICATION can be brought to school by students} 2) As long as there is an individual, signed medical authorization on file for each medication {form available in the office and online} Medication includes but is not limited to cough drops, aspirin, Tylenol, Advil, prescription drugs, creams, lotions, vitamins, inhalers, EpiPens, etc.... We cannot administer any medication that is not listed on file in the office. Please reach out to Jill Jablonski in the office to set up a time to bring in medications and to review your student’s medical needs when they are in the building.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK (BIAB) - We work in conjunction with BIAB to provide weekend meals to those families in need of food assistance. If this is something you would like to participate in, all you have to do is fill out the form that came home with students today or simply contact the office at (734) 744-2740 and we will sign you up. Delivery will begin the following week.

SOCIAL MEDIA - JOHNSON has a Facebook page filled with stories of our daily student activities/projects/concerts and general shenanigans. Be sure to like our page to see our students and staff in action! In addition, Johnson is fortunate to have an amazing PTA and they have a facebook as well! Information about how to join the PTA, events, volunteering, contributing and general information are included in the welcome packet.

“There are no shortcuts to any place worth going.”

-Beverly Stills

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