



THE JAGUAR JOURNAL

Respect, Ready, Responsible, Proud

February 17, 2017



February 17, 2017
Professional
Development Day
Early Dismissal
12:56 PM

February 20-21st
2017
NO SCHOOL
President's Day
Recess

February 23, 2017
Parent University
6:30-8:30 pm
See attached Flyer

February 22 -
March 10, 2017
Reading Rockstars!
(see attachment
from PTO)

February 28, 2017
PTO Meeting
9:15 am

**Find us on
Facebook!
Johnson Parent
Network**

Don't Forget to show
your Johnson PRIDE
by wearing spirit
wear or school
colors every Friday



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Educators and parents agree making friends at school is important. Friendships enrich student's lives, boost self-esteem, and provide support when we need an ear to listen. Developmentally speaking, making a friend in school is a vital part of growing socially and emotionally. Learning how to form successful peer relationships is a critical skill for children, and one that they will use and refine over the course of their lives.

So what can parents do to help their child navigate social situations? While parents and guardians can't make friends for their kids, they can help them practice key social skills. If you see your child struggling to make friends or getting rejected by other kids, here are some steps you can take to help.

1. Building social skills

Social skills don't come naturally to all kids. Some children who are eager to make friends often act in ways that are counterproductive to building those relationships. If you notice that your child is struggling to interact with his/her peers, try some coaching at home. Emphasize taking turns and sharing during family playtime and explain that friends expect the same good behavior. Impulsive children will also benefit from practicing different strategies for settling peer conflict. Role-playing can be very helpful here. Of course, as parents we should also be careful to demonstrate good social behavior yourself when talking to family members and our own friends.

For kids who need more intensive guidance, experts suggest using "social scripts," or simple everyday conversations that kids can practice with their parents. If you would like further information about this strategy, you can contact our school counselor, Mr. Melo, at meloj@bethel.k12.ct.us.

As always, if you are concerned about your child making friends, contact your child's teacher or consider setting up a meeting to discuss your thoughts. Often kids will say "everyone hates me," but they may not be able to describe what's going on. Teachers can give a better sense of your child's peer interactions.

2. Practice during play dates

Supervised play dates are a great way for children to build their social muscles. Reviewing social cues with your children prior to a play date is a good practice. Some activities for play date-prep include:

Talk with your child about what it means to be a good host. What will your child do to make his/her guests feel comfortable?

Have your child pick out a few games in advance. How will your child know when it's time to move on to the next game?

Ask your child how he/she will know if his/her guests are having a good time. Are they smiling? Laughing?

After the play date talk to your child. Compliment his/her on specific behaviors that you witnessed. An example of specific praise is, "Johnny you did a great job sharing your toys with Mary."

3. Helping shy kids

Some kids are natural social butterflies while others need more time to warm up to new situations. Don't worry if your child is a little more hesitant in social situations. Expecting every child to jump in and be the leader of the group isn't realistic, so avoid pushing too hard. However, we have to be careful not to make the mistake of keeping more tentative kids at home, either. There's a difference between accommodating and enabling. For shyer kids we want to give them opportunities to meet new kids, but we want to help bridge the transition so they aren't too uncomfortable.

Start with play dates at your house, where your child will be most at ease. After School Clubs and Intramurals are also a good way to make friends because they provide built-in structure that helps minimize anxiety. If your child is reluctant, try finding a familiar peer to join the activity with him/her. As with any social skill, parents can help shy children rehearse ahead of time for a situation that makes them nervous, like going to a birthday party or joining a sports team.

4. Every child is different

It is important to realize not every child is the same. There is a difference between a child who is shy and one who is more introverted and prefers to spend time reading quietly or drawing. We must be cautious as different children have different social limits and degrees of comfort. A child who prefers quiet time or being in small groups isn't necessarily avoiding other kids. However we must see the importance of providing opportunities for more introverted students to make friends. As a parent, you know intuitively how much your child can handle and should set expectations accordingly. It's enough for some kids to find just one thing they like to do once a week.

Enjoy the long weekend with your family.

Very Truly Yours,
Alison Salerno
Principal

Important Reminder!

As the weather continues to get colder, it is so important that your child is dressed appropriately!

We try to allow for outdoor recess as much as possible (weather permitting). If your child is in need of a winter coat, please call Kate Coffey at 203-794-8679



When it is necessary to delay or close school due to inclement weather or have an unscheduled early dismissal due to forecasted inclement weather, the announcement will be made over the following radio, TV stations, and websites:

- WLAD AM Danbury 800 on the dial
- WINE AM Brookfield 940 on the dial
- WICC AM Bridgeport 600 on the dial
- WEBE FM Bridgeport 108 on the dial
- WEZN FM Bridgeport 100 on the dial
- TV channel 3, channel 8, channel 6
- Bethel Public Schools website - <http://www.bethelk12.ct.us>
- CT Weather website - www.ctweather.com



IMPORTANT PLEASE READ!

THIS WEDNESDAY, GOVERNOR MALLOY IN HIS PROPOSED BUDGET PROPOSED A SIGNIFICANT CUT TO ECS OR THE EDUCATION COST SHARING GRANT. FOR BETHEL, THE IMPACT IS DEVASTATING \$3,878,245. THIS REPRESENTS CLOSE TO 9% OF OUR BUDGET. IN LAST WEEK'S SUPERINTENDENT'S NEWSLETTER, THE SUPERINTENDENT DISCUSSED THAT THE SUPERINTENDENT'S PROPOSED BUDGET WOULD MAINTAIN ALL OF OUR OUTSTANDING CURRICULAR AND EXTRACURRICULAR PROGRAMS. IF THE LEGISLATURE APPROVES THIS CUT, IT WOULD MEAN MAJOR CUTS TO PERSONNEL AND PROGRAMS. YOU CAN FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE IMPACT TO THE TOWN BY CLICKING ON THE LINK: [HTTP://CTMIRROR.ORG/2017/02/08/SEE-HOW-YOUR-TOWN-FARES-IN-THE-GOVERNORS-PROPOSED-BUDGET/](http://ctmirror.org/2017/02/08/see-how-your-town-fares-in-the-governors-proposed-budget/) . PLEASE CONTACT OUR LOCAL LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION AND THE GOVERNOR AND LET THEM KNOW YOUR FEELINGS ON THE CUTS:

- Governor Dannel Malloy - [Email Contact for Dannel Malloy](#)
- Senator Toni Boucher - Toni.Boucher@cga.ct.gov - [800-842-1421](tel:800-842-1421)
- Senator Mike McLachlan - Michael.McLachlan@cga.ct.gov - [203-743-3147](tel:203-743-3147)
- Representative Stephen Harding - Stephen.Harding@cga.ct.gov - [860-240-8700](tel:860-240-8700)
- Representative Will Duff - William.Duff@cga.ct.gov - [860-241-0100](tel:860-241-0100)

02/23/17

6:30-8:30PM*

BETHEL MIDDLE SCHOOL



Rated “Excellent” by an overwhelming majority of 2016 Attendees

“...the most useful presentation I've ever attended!”
“Very informative!” “Great opportunity...” “...very engaging.”

parent university

REGISTER TODAY!

**[HTTP://WWW.BETHEL.K12.CT.US/
QUICK_LINKS/PARENT_UNIVERSITY](http://www.bethel.k12.ct.us/quick_links/parent_university)**

WORKSHOPS INCLUDE

KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION • STRATEGIES TO HELP
YOUR CHILD REGULATE STRESS • NAVIGATING THE
PARENT PORTAL • INTERNET SAFETY • AND MORE!

FREE CHILDCARE

MUST BE AT LEAST 4 YRS OLD AND TOILET TRAINED

*Snow date, March 2, 2017.

Parent University is sponsored by the Bethel Family-School Partnerships and the Bethel Central PTO.



PTO CORNER

Updates on Fundraisers:

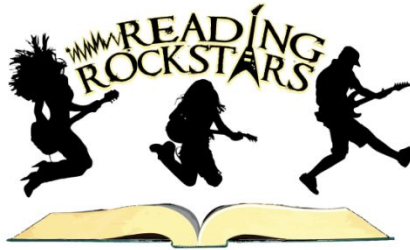
- **READING ROCKSTARS IS COMING!** 2/27 through 3/17
 - 2/24 Dress up like a Rock Star!
 - 3/2 Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss! Dress up like a Seuss character!
 - 3/3 Author visit with Lynda Mullaly Hunt! Book orders due 2/17.
 - 3/10 Dress up like your favorite book character.
- **BOXTOP COLLECTION DATE FEBRUARY 23RD!!** Get 'em ready!
- Every Thursday morning the school store is open!.
- **COMING SOON:** Be on the lookout for the fliers with all the info!
 - Spring Fundraiser
 - Spirit Wear

Upcoming PTO Events:

- **PTO meetings:**
 - 2/28 @ 9:15 am
 - 3/21 @ 9:15 am
 - 4/18 @ 9:15 am
 - 5/16 @ 9:15 am

Want to get involved? Contact us to learn more, or come to one of our meetings. All are welcome, even our littlest family members.

Contact us: rmtjohnsonpto@gmail.com



Johnson School is hosting our 2nd annual Read-a-thon for 2 weeks from Friday February 24 to Friday March 10. The goal of our Read-a-thon is for every student to be a Reading ROCK STAR by setting a challenging reading goal while raising money for our school!

Fun Prizes and Awards:

- There are fun prizes for participation and for getting pledges including youth tickets to a Danbury Titans Hockey Game (April 1), raffle tickets for awesome prizes, Rock Star Swag, Johnson Jaguar Mascot stuffed animals, gift certificates to the school store, or a Rock Star party for your class.

Important Dates during the Read-a-thon:

- **Friday 2/24 Kick-off Event:** Dress like a Rock Star
- **Monday 2/27 Secret Code Contest:** entries due by 3/2 to win prizes
- **Hoopla Week starts:** students need to bring their library card on their Media day (make sure your library card is up to date; if you need help with this, contact the Bethel Public Library at 203-794-8756)
- **Thursday 3/2 Dr. Seuss Day:** Dress like your favorite Dr. Seuss character
- **Friday 3/3 Author Visit**
1st Pledge Turn-in Day
- **Wednesday 3/8 The Big Reading Switch**
- **Friday 3/10: Dress Like your favorite book character**
Final Pledge Turn-in Day
- **Friday 3/17: Raffles, Prizes, Guest Rock Stars, and celebration**

All pledges must be returned by **Friday, March 10th** to be eligible for prizes! Cash or checks made out to Johnson PTO.

A Parents' Letter with more details and Pledge Sheet will be sent home in folders on Friday February 17th. For additional information visit the Johnson School Website PTO Page, the Johnson Parent Facebook Page or contact the PTO at rmtjohnsonpto@gmail.com.

PTO EVENT



R.M.T. JOHNSON SCHOOL
RESPECT • READY • RESPONSIBLE • PROUD



Clip Those Boxtops!



Our classes are competing to see who can collect the most box tops this year! Who will win??



*How many we can we collect
by February 23rd ?*

Please contact us if you have
any questions!

rmtjohnsonpto@gmail.com

**HEY
STUDENTS!**

CAN YOU COOK?



Calling all “**FUTURE CHEFS**” for our
6TH ANNUAL CULINARY COMPETITION

**WE’RE LOOKING FOR YOUR FAVORITE
COMFORT FOOD RECIPE!**

Six lucky Bethel elementary school students (grades K-5) will be chosen as finalists to complete in our *live cook off* on **Thurs., March 16** at Bethel High School.

As an added bonus, the winner of this event will be entered into a national competition for some great prizes!

FIRST PRIZE IS A \$100 VISA GIFT CARD AND A BACKPACK FILLED WITH FUN STUFF—INCLUDING A FITBIT ZIP!

**PICK UP YOUR
ENTRY FORM TODAY!**

They’re available
in the cafeteria!

Please turn them in to
the cafeteria by Friday,
March 3RD.

*QUESTIONS?? Contact Amanda Riley, Food
Service Director at riley@bethel.k12.ct.us*



Tips to be a Finalist in this Year's Culinary Competition

Have your eye on the prize? Here are some tips that may help!

1. **Be original** - You don't have to be like everyone else. Consider putting a new twist on your favorite comfort food recipe.
2. **Be creative** - A student once submitted a recipe for "dill cookies!" Sounds terrible, but they were actually great! Don't TRY to be too weird, but we love to see recipes that are different!
3. **Don't do recipes that are too easy or too complicated.**
4. This *doesn't* have to be your own, original recipe. You can get them off the Internet or anywhere, but try to alter it slightly to make it your own!
5. SORRY, only **ONE** person can make each recipe at the competition.
6. We are looking for **healthy comfort food** recipes, so try to avoid recipes with a lot of sugar or fat in them.
7. At the main competition, judges will consider the following 6 criteria:
 - Taste
 - Originality
 - Ease of Preparation
 - Healthy Attributes
 - Kid Appeal
 - Plate Presentation

The use of one or more of the following ingredients will earn **bonus points** at the judging:

Whole Grain Pasta, Whole Grain Bread, Brown Rice, Low-Fat Cheese, Eggs, Lean Ground Beef, Turkey, Potatoes & Mushrooms.

GOOD LUCK & HAVE FUN!!!!



Bethel Public School District
Recipe Entry Form

~Healthy COMFORT FOOD Recipe~

Open to All Elementary School Students!

My Name:	
My School:	
My Grade:	
My Teacher's Name:	

Return to your teacher or the office by **Friday, March 3, 2017.**

Teachers: please send to the main office if received.

My recipe is called: _____

List all ingredients and exact amounts of the ingredients here:

List the "method" or exactly how to make this dish. If you need more room, attach (and staple) another piece of paper to this form.



BETHEL EDUCATION FOUNDATION

PRESENTS A FUNDRAISER TO SUPPORT INNOVATION, CREATIVITY AND EXCELLENCE IN OUR SCHOOLS

11TH ANNUAL

BARNUM BALL

A ROARING GOOD TIME



SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 2017

ALL INCLUSIVE 6:30-8:30PM

BEVERAGES ADDITIONAL AFTER 8:30PM

ETHAN ALLEN HOTEL

\$105 OVERNIGHT RATE
MENTION THE BARNUM BALL WHEN
MAKING YOUR ROOM RESERVATION

DINNER & DANCING
LIVE & SILENT AUCTION

\$80 PER PERSON
\$750 TABLE OF 10

PURCHASE YOUR BALL TICKETS ONLINE AT
WWW.BETHELEDFOUNDATION.ORG

Order your
tickets
by **Feb. 20**
to be entered
into a drawing
for overnight
accommodations
for the Ball

ORDER YOUR TICKETS TO THE BARNUM BALL
ONLINE OR SEND THIS PORTION TO SCHOOL
WITH YOUR CHECK BY TUESDAY, MARCH 7TH

*Order your tickets by Feb. 20 to be entered into a drawing
for overnight accommodations at Ethan Allen for the Ball
* generously donated by Ethan Allen Hotel*

Yes! I'm looking forward to the Barnum Ball on March 18th
Enclosed is my check for:

- ☐ # ____ tickets x \$80 = \$ ____
- ☐ Table of 10 = \$750 (you can include separate checks,
but payment must be paid in full)
Please list all names on the back of this form

Sorry, I can't make it!

Here's a donation to support school grants \$ ____

Name _____
please list each name for this reservation
if purchasing a full table, please include all names on the back of this form

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____
An email confirmation will be sent once payment is received

Please seat me with _____

DINNER SELECTION:

- # ____ Herb Crusted Tilapia
- # ____ Bistro Steak with Port Wine Demi Glaze
- # ____ Roasted Vegetarian Napoleon

Mail to: PO Box 92, Bethel, CT 06801

Checks payable to Bethel Education Foundation

Questions? Email: BethelEdFoundation@gmail.com

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

POWERED BY PEOPLE. FUELED BY VALUES.
Ingersoll
AUTO OF DANBURY



Elmer's
DINER



Bethel's Hometown
Pizzeria Since 1982





It's Softball Season!!



Bethel Softball Association
invites you to register for the
2017 Spring season!

Registration is open from January 20 - March 1

Fees:

\$75 per player
\$100 max per family
Register by MARCH 1
to avoid \$20 late fee
and/or waiting list

** NO REFUNDS **

Coaches! Volunteers!
Team/League Sponsors!
We need you!
Email if you are interested



Registration
fees include
uniform shirt,
visor, socks
& FUN!

We offer recreational teams for ages PreK 4 - 16.
Spring Season runs April - June.
All skill levels are welcome!!



Sign up today using our **NEW ONLINE** Registration System at
www.leaguelineup.com/bethelsoftball
(or just Google Bethel CT Softball!)

Questions? BethelCTSoftball@gmail.com

