



# THE JAGUAR JOURNAL

Respectful, Ready, Responsible, Proud

February 2, 2018



**Feb 13, 2018**  
**Willy Wonka**  
**Jr parent info**  
**meeting**  
**7:00 pm**  
**(see attached**  
**flyer)**

**Feb 14, 2018**  
**Jump Rope for**  
**Heart**  
**(see attached**  
**flyer)**

**Feb 19-20,**  
**2018**  
**NO SCHOOL**  
**President's**  
**Day recess**

**Feb 22, 2018**  
**Parent**  
**University**  
**6:30-8:00 pm**

**Feb 27, 2018**  
**PTO Meeting**  
**9:15 am**

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Caretakers,

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](mailto: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.

Very truly yours,  
Alison Salerno  
Principal

A message from  
Ms. McCue:

Recycle poster **due**  
by Wednesday  
February 21, 2018

Doodle 4 Google  
**due** by Monday  
February 26, 2018



Miren los eventos que vienen  
pronto a nuestra escuela!

[CLICK HERE](#)

Veem os próximos eventos na  
nossa escola!

[CLICK HERE](#)



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



JOHNSON  
PARENT  
NETWORK

*School delay notices are published on radio, television, Twitter, and the Bethel Public Schools website. Follow the Superintendent, Dr. Carver, at @BethelCTSuper to be the first to know when school is delayed or canceled in bad weather. Channel 3, 6, and 8 also offer you the ability register to be notified via text for school delays and closings when reported. Please note as a reminder: When it is necessary to delay or close school due to inclement weather or have an unscheduled early dismissal due to forecasted inclement weather for the afternoon, the "School Delayed" "Schools Closed" or "Early Dismissal" announcement will be made over the following radio and television stations and websites in the morning: 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, TV Channel 8, & TV Channel 6. Bethel Public Schools Website – [www.bethel.k12.ct.us](http://www.bethel.k12.ct.us) Connecticut Weather Website – [www.ctweather.com](http://www.ctweather.com)*



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



## **PTO CORNER**

### **THANK YOU!**

Naomi Hambrecht and Michele Russo for another wonderful staff appreciation coffee cart!

Special thanks to our parents who donated to the cart:

Robin Grubbard, Jennifer Patten, Alli Stowell, Paige Lockwood, Susan O'Boy, Alison Keery,  
Viviana Del Pup, Marlene Boyer, Toni Petruzzellis, Elizabeth Fisher, Sally Ajello,  
Jen Atkins, and Diane Mastracchio

**School Store** is open every Thursday morning!

**Box Tops** can be found on Ziploc, General Mills, Progresso, Lysol, Old El Paso, Reynolds, Fiber One, Kleenex, Green Giant, Land O' Lakes, Boise office paper, Chex, Hefty and many more. Please send unexpired box tops into school with your child's name and classroom written on the envelope/baggie so your child gets credit toward the classroom total!

Submit your Box Tops on 2/19 - 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade class winners will be announced in March!

**Reading Rockstars is coming up! If you'd like to volunteer, please send an email to [rmtjohnsonpto@gmail.com](mailto:rmtjohnsonpto@gmail.com)**

### **Fundraisers:**

Don't forget to consider Smile and Box Tops during your shopping and cooking!

- Box Tops –We've earned over \$700 this year so far! Keep clipping and saving! Our next collection is on Friday, 2/19. Be sure to include your child's name and teacher name on the Ziploc bag so their class receives credit for the competition!
- Amazon Smile – Set up your Amazon smile to support Ralph M T Johnson PTO. ☺

### **PTO Meetings:**

- 2/27 @ 9:15 am
- 3/20 @ 9:15 am
- 4/24 @ 9:15 am
- 5/15 @ 9:15 am

Have questions, ideas or want to be involved?  
The PTO is a very family-friendly organization and all are welcome!  
Contact us at [rmtjohnsonpto@gmail.com](mailto:rmtjohnsonpto@gmail.com)

# Go **Wild** for Heart Health~ Johnson School

**Jump on board with the American Heart Association!**

Jump Rope for Heart is coming to Johnson school!

Our school will jump rope to save lives on

**February 14, 2018**

(This event will take place during the school day)

**PARTICIPANTS EARN PRIZES BY FUNDRAISING HERE**

(Search for Ralph MT Johnson School)

ANY PARENTS WHO ARE WILLING TO HELP OUT ON FEBRUARY 14<sup>TH</sup>

CAN EMAIL COACH CLARIDGE

[claridgen@bethel.k12.ct.us](mailto:claridgen@bethel.k12.ct.us)

**YOUR SUPPORT SAVES LIVES!**



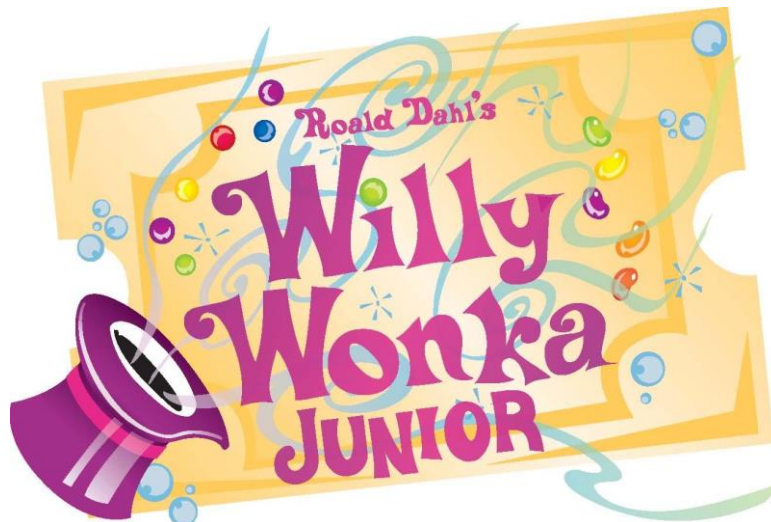


**SAVE THE DATE**



# Parent Information Meeting

for Johnson School's  
upcoming production of



Tuesday, February 13th at 7pm

In the Cafeteria at Johnson

Meet the director and music director, ask questions and get rehearsal and performance schedules.

# BOYS AND GIRLS 9 - 14

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

# FREE THROW CHAMPIONSHIP



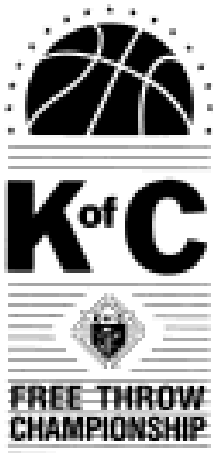
Step Up  
To The Line

Boys and Girls, Ages 9-14 come join the fun.  
All contestants are recognized for their participation and  
First place for each age group will receive a trophy.

**Saturday, February 3rd – 1:00 PM**

Registration starts 12:30 PM

**St. Mary's Elementary School Gym**  
24 Dodgingtown Road, Bethel



Participants are required to furnish proof of age and written parental consent.



Sponsored by Bethel's Local Knights of Columbus Pavia Council #48.

# WINTER IS COMING ...



SAT. FEBRUARY 17<sup>TH</sup>  
BETHEL HIGH  
5 PM START

## BETHEL HOME SHOW

COME SEE OVER 15 UNITS COMPETE AND  
CHEER ON BETHEL'S OWN  
WINTER GUARD!



CONCESSIONS...  
MERCHANDISE...  
RAFFLES AND MORE!

\$15 ADULTS • \$8 CHILDREN & SENIORS • CASH AT DOOR  
ADMISSION PRICES SET BY THE MUSICAL ARTS CONFERENCE





# It's Softball Season!!



**Bethel Softball Association**  
invites you to register for the  
2018 Spring season!

*Registration is open from January 20 - March 4*

Fees:

\$75 per player  
\$100 max per family  
Register by **MARCH 4**  
to avoid \$20 late fee  
and/or waiting list

**\*\* NO REFUNDS \*\***



Registration  
fees include  
uniform shirt,  
socks & FUN!

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



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

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

Questions? [BethelCTSoftball@gmail.com](mailto:BethelCTSoftball@gmail.com)





No tests. No homework. No cost.

Just the tools, tips, and tricks you need  
to help your child succeed.

Parent University • 2/22/18 • 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Don't miss it! More information to follow.