

Principal's Message

Hello Students, Parents and Community Members!

Happy New Year and welcome back to Johnson Elementary School! We are again approaching that time of the school year when our Grade 4 and 7 students are required to write the set of exams called Yukon Foundation Skills Assessment (YFSA). These tests are focused primarily on Language Arts and Mathematics skills. Some are up to an hour in length and some less. Answers are multiple choice, written and on computer format. The tests are then marked in a central location by teachers trained in the Yukon Foundation Skills Assessment. The results will be shared with parents once they arrive back at the school.

These skill tests will inform us about our students' levels of reading, writing and math skills. Because all students in the Yukon write the Yukon Skills Assessment tests, the results help us as teachers to know what we are doing well and what we can do better in order to help students reach or surpass the standard for their grade. It can also help you as parents know how your child is doing in his/her grade level.

We are asking for parental/guardian help in two areas. Firstly, we would greatly appreciate 100% attendance for the days of the tests so every student required to participate in the assessments does so and to allow us to further assist our students. Secondly, we ask that you please make sure your child gets to bed at a reasonable hour and is well rested. A well-rested and focused student will do better on the assessments.

We will be preparing and practicing now for the assessments. They will be written from Monday, February 8 to Friday, February 12.

For further information, I have an attachment with the newsletter providing a more in-depth overview. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Ralph Pilz,
Principal



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A big thank you is extended to all parents and community members who were in attendance at the JES Christmas Concert, “Santa’s on Strike”, by Teresa Jennings.

All of the children were thrilled and excited to see their families in attendance watching them perform in front of a great audience. We also want to take this opportunity to recognize Ms. Ingalls, Ms. Cournane and Mrs. Slager for the volunteer time they graciously gave to conduct the Christmas Concert. We would also like to thank Mrs. Peregoodoff and students for decorating the gymnasium and Pastor Steve Pederson for his musical accompaniment. Finally, a big thank you to all the JES students and staff for their help, assistance and excellent performance.

A big thank you goes out to all parents who were in attendance for the Parent/Teacher Conferences on December 10 & 11. Johnson Elementary School Staff and School Council values parental involvement. When parents and teachers are partners in the educational journey of children, learning is maximized to the fullest. Remember, it takes a community to educate a child.

Congratulations to Ms. Finan again and all the staff who assisted in organizing the JES Annual Book Fair and also, a big thank you to all parents who purchased books for their children. This is a great fundraiser for the school since a portion of the money raised goes back to the classrooms for more reading resources and books.

We would also like to thank Mr. Gadoua for providing his time in coaching a JES team of Gr. 6/7 students who participated in the Teslin 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament. JES teams enjoyed participating in the tournament winning and losing some games, but most of all participating to their fullest and always demonstrating excellent sportsmanship. Our JES students participating in the tournament were excellent ambassadors for Watson Lake. Two of our students were recognized with awards:

Most Sportsmanship Award – Amber Dickson

Most Energetic Award – Adam Lamha

Finally, we would like to provide you an overview of the new JES Social Skills Development Program:

All students will be taught various methods to help calm, self-regulate and get along with each other.

Kindergarten/Grade 1 – introducing the concepts of friendship, empathy, and kindness using stories, role play, games and Second Step.

Grades 2 and 3 – expanding of the above concepts of self-identity (“I Am Me, I Am Unique and I Like Me”). Acceptance, tolerance and respect utilizing the GLSEN’s “Ready, Set, Respect” elementary tool kit.

Grades 4/5 and 5/6 – introducing students to the concepts of self-control and mindfulness utilizing the Mind-Up curriculum.

Grade 6/7 – Students will delve deeper into all the above concepts and promoting self-awareness, self-regulation and respect.

Ms. Paula Chisholm, M.Ed. Counselling

DATES TO REMEMBER

Thurs., Jan. 28, 2016

1/2 Day of School

Dismissal at 11:30 a.m.

Fri., Feb. 26, 2016

Heritage Day

School Closed

Mon., March 7 to

Fri., March 18, 2016

March Break

School Closed

BRRRRRR!

As the temperature drops, please make sure that your child brings warm outer wear to school. They need a coat, hat, gloves, boots and snow pants.

We have outdoor recess every day in the morning and at lunch recess. Outdoor recess is only cancelled if the temperature drops to -25 C or colder.

For the children’s comfort and well-being, warm clothing is a must.

