



Johnson Jibber Jabber

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Johnson High School

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Contents

- Message from Dr. Gibbs1
- JHS STAR Student & Teacher 1
- GCSA Wins Big2
- Band Has a Busy Spring2
- Forensic Science Class.....2
- Important Dates2
- Jr. Knight's Volleyball2
- Juniors Go For Platinum3
- IB Students Visit Brenau.....3
- Juniors "Masquerade"3
- Spring Sports Activities.....4
- Bodies Exhibition4
- Pennies for Peace4
- CPA Luncheon4
- Johnson Key Club4

A Message from Dr. Gibbs.....Finish Strong!



As is often said; "Spring has sprung." Spring fever is running rampant throughout our building with both students and staff. I would have to admit that I am a little guilty myself. I would encourage our families to help us maintain the focus of our students. The end of the school year is near, and a strong finish is within reach.

Our juniors are completing the four academic tests that make up the Georgia High School Graduation Test (GHSGT) this week. We will receive our results sometime in April and anticipate great results from this group. Our teachers and students worked hard for weeks leading up to the test and I am confident that their hard work will be reflected in our results.

March is a unique month in the education business. We have no student holidays and spring break is looming. This is a critical point in the school year and losing focus can have a negative impact on final grades. On the other hand, maintaining focus will allow everyone to finish strong. Spring break is the first full week in April. Be careful and enjoy your break.

The month of May will bring challenges this year as well. We have End of Course Tests (EOCTs), senior exams, and underclassmen exams for all eight classes taken throughout the year. We will post a comprehensive exam schedule during the first week of May. Underclassmen exams will be stretched over a four day period (2 exams per day) to prevent burnout. Be prepared! It will be here before you know it.

Did I mention that we have a few spring sports? Our student athletes are working hard and competing at high levels. I hope that you will make some time to come out and support our Knights!

Don't forget the attendance policy. It states that once a student has more than eight unexcused absences in any class, that student is denied credit for that particular class. It does not reference nine entire school days. Students checking in late or checking out early can earn absences in those classes if more than half the class is missed. I would recommend that parents check Infinite Campus on a regular basis to keep up with attendance and grades. You can get that information from Ms. Whitfield in the school's front office.

As always, I thank you for your continued support of Johnson High. Please let me know if I can help you or your child in any way. GO KNIGHTS!!!! ♦

2009 STAR STUDENT AND STAR TEACHER NAMED.

Kyle Marcus Bellamy has been named the 2009 Star Student for Johnson High School. This award is presented to the senior in the top 10% of their class who has the overall highest SAT score. This year Kyle Bellamy selected Mr. Billy Daniel, JHS Choral Director, as his star teacher. Both Kyle Bellamy and Mr. Daniel were recognized at the annual Gainesville-Hall County STAR Student/STAR Teacher luncheon hosted by the Gainesville Kiwanis on February 24th at the Gainesville Elks Club. ♦



JOHNSON STUDENTS WIN BIG AT GCSA REGION 3 COMPETITION

Johnson High School was very successful at the region 3 competition on Friday, February 6. We had many winners as well as showing support and teamwork for all of our participants! Here are the results for JHS:

First Place (16 first place!): Leslie Navarro, Agricultural Science; Kayla Mabrey, Career Exploration Manual/9th&10th grade; Diego Cuevas, Community/Civic Awareness; Cristal Vera, Construction Technology; Gullie Morilla, Cosmetology: Nail Design; Karen Benitez, Culinary Arts; Naara Martinez, Fashion Design; Paty Mota, Interior Design; Jackie Zelaya, Most Improved Young Lady; Gerardo Flowers, Most Improved Young Man; Cody Collins, Natural Resource Management; David Umana, Woodworking; Jareth Muniz, Word Processing (9th & 10th); Karina Rodriguez, Chapter of the Year—Superior—will be judged at the State level, too!; Francisco Morfin, Communication Skills (9th & 10th); Elizabeth Rodriguez, Entrepreneurship.

Second Place (13 2nd place!): Danira Lara, Architectural Drafting; Jallissia Daniel, Childcare and Development; Ana Molina, Cosmetology: Hair Design; Diana Castaneda, School Project; Jesus Muniz, Mathematical Concepts (9th & 10th); Jesus Delgado, Mathematical Application (11th & 12th); Paty Contreras, Job Interview; Yesenia Covarrubias, Leadership Development; Will Little, Extemporaneous Speaking; Hannah Hall, Healthcare Science Technology; Maria Cruz, PowerPoint; Michael Ramirez & Adam Reimers, Video Production.

Third Place (6 3rd place!): Caroline Barker, Floral Design; Jackie Ramirez, Prepared Speech; Alex Diaz, Ubaldo DeLeon, Alejandra Vazquez, Creative Problem Solving; Miriam Santos, Communication Skills (9th & 10th).

Fourth Place (1): Edgar Vazquez, First/Aid & CPR ♦

JHS BAND HAS A BUSY SPRING

The JHS Bands performed their pre LGPE concert on February 24 at Brenau's Pearce auditorium. The Concert and Symphonic Bands also performed at the 9th District GMEA LGPE event at Banks County High School on March 12th & 13th. The bands are planning a spring concert in May and will also be performing for the Johnson graduation ceremony on May 23rd (7:00 p.m.) at the Free Chapel Worship Center. Several JHS Band members will be participating in the Southern Honor Band of Hall County's trip to Hawaii, July 1-7, 2009. ♦

HALL COUNTY'S LEAD INVESTIGATOR SPEAKS TO FORENSIC SCIENCE CLASS

The Forensic Science Class at JHS had as a guest speaker February 19th, CSI Cameron Durham of the Hall County Sheriff Department. He is the head investigator and has been doing crime scene investigation for over 18 years. He spoke to the class about types of crimes and scenes that are investigated by his department. His powerpoint presentation to the class was enlightening and helped to dispel the "CSI Hollywood" myth. He also spoke about assisting agencies such as the FAA and GBI at local crime scenes. Ms. Cindy Tumblin and Mrs. Jean Prezel arranged for Investigator Durham to speak to the class. After the presentation, several students reconfirmed their interest in criminal justice and crime scene investigation as their pathway after graduation. Brooke Hancock, a 10th grader, stated that "...oh yes, I am still sure this is what I want to do!" Sara Hudgins, a 12th grader who is interning with the Hall Co. Sheriff Department, also reconfirmed her interest in this field for the future after she graduates this year. ♦

IMPORTANT DATES



- April 3rdEarly Release Day
- April 6th-10th Spring Holidays (Students & Staff)
- April 30th Honors Night 7:00 p.m. Hopewell Baptist
- May 12-15 End of Course Tests
- May 18-22 Final Exams—Underclassmen
- May 22ndLast Day of School for Students
- May 23rd Johnson Graduation 7:00 p.m. Free Chapel
- May 25th Memorial Day Holiday
- May 25th & 26th Post-Planning
- July 13th & 14th..... Graduation Retests
- July 15th Graduation Retest Writing Portion

JOHNSON JR KNIGHTS VOLLEYBALL TRAINING

Any 3RD—8TH grader can enroll for six weeks of volleyball training and the chance to play other programs on Saturday afternoons. Dates of the training are March 14, 21, 28, April 18, 25, and May 2. Cost is \$25.00. Anyone who is interested should contact Coach Eidson at deb.eidson@hallco.org. ♦



JUNIORS GOING FOR THE PLATINUM THIS WEEK!



This week all juniors are taking their High School Graduation tests with a lot at stake. But this year they have another incentive to do well on these tests. That incentive is the JHS Platinum Card. The "Platinum Pride" card is designed to motivate and reward students for passing all sections (Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies and Writing) of the Georgia High School Graduation Test on the first attempt. Although students can pass the test and earn the right to walk at graduation with a minimum score of 500, the state determines a school's AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) status from the number of students who score a 516 or higher. In addition, students have multiple attempts to take and pass the test prior to graduation; however, the school is measured on how many students are successful on the first attempt in their junior year. As a result, AYP at JHS now stands for "Are You Platinum?" Platinum Pride card recipients have great benefits at JHS and within the local community. Membership has its privileges. Johnson incentives include free admission to all home athletic events and a \$10.00 discount on certain fees, including parking permits. A detailed list of all the community incentives can be found on the Johnson Website at: <http://www.hallco.org/johnsonhs/platinum.htm>. Earning the Platinum Pride card...the credit they deserve...is one part of the program; however, keeping the privilege is another part of the program. Platinum Pride recipients must remain in good academic standing and consistently demonstrate respect, restraint and responsibility at all times. Students must demonstrate they possess strong "credit" in the area of academics and behavior. Students who do not maintain outstanding credit will have their credit denied...just like the real world! The Platinum Pride program is solely the principal's program. These privileges can be rescinded by the Johnson High School administration at any time. ♦

Good Luck, Juniors, as you begin to look toward graduation and Platinum Status at JHS!!



IB Students Visit Brenau University for Afghani Exchange Students' Presentation

Two of Brenau University's exchange students from Afghanistan, Najia Nassim and Khadija Safi, delivered a presentation to the Hall County IB students explaining the culture and customs of their native country. In their presentation, they shared how both of their families had to leave Afghanistan for a number of years and take refuge in Pakistan when Russia invaded Afghanistan. Before and after pictures of prominent and historical Afghani buildings were shown to illustrate the destruction and devastation the war with Russia had on Afghanistan. Both students traveled to Kabul, Afghanistan in December to visit their families. They explained how Afghanistan continues to strive to rebuild itself. The students shared facts about Afghanistan, such as currency (afghani), religion (Islam), ethnic groups (i.e., Pashtun, Tajik, Hazara, Uzbek, Turkmen, and Kabuli), etc. The JHS IB students were very attentive during the presentation and asked thought-provoking questions after the presentation. Students also had the chance to speak with exchange students from other parts of the world, such as China and Argentina. This was a great opportunity for our students to learn about another country's culture first-hand from two of its citizens. ♦



JUNIOR CLASS PROUDLY PRESENTS "MASQUERADE"

The junior class is excited to announce this year's Senior Prom, "Masquerade," to be held on Friday, May 1, 2009 at the Gainesville Civic Center. Traditionally, the junior class puts on the Prom for the senior class as a final farewell and "thank you" for the years of friendships and memories made together. Tickets will be on sale during the first and third week of March, and every day during April for \$45 each. Tickets can be purchased during lunch or before or after school in Rm. 200. ♦



UPCOMING SPORTS ACTIVITIES

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT(S)</u>
March 18	Baseball Creekview @ Johnson Tennis Johnson @ Chestatee (boys & girls)
March 19	Boy's Tennis Flowery Branch @ Johnson Varsity Soccer West Hall @ Johnson
March 20	Baseball Johnson @ Chestatee
March 23	Baseball Johnson @ Lumpkin County Tennis Johnson @ West Forsyth (boys & girls) Boys Varsity Soccer Buford (Mtn Cup) @ Allen Creek
March 24	Boy's Tennis North Hall @ Johnson Soccer Johnson JV Boys @ Riverside Soccer Johnson Varsity Girls @ Osbourne
March 25	Baseball Flowery Branch @ Johnson Soccer Johnson @ Chestatee (Mtn Cup)
March 26	Boy's Tennis East Hall @ Johnson Soccer Johnson JV Girls @ Flowery Branch
March 27	Baseball Johnson @ West Hall Soccer Johnson Varsity Boys @ Chestatee (Mtn Cup) Soccer Johnson JV Boys @ West Hall (Mtn Cup)
March 30	Boy's Tennis Johnson @ Gainesville JV Soccer Johnson vs. Gainesville @ Allen Creek
March 31	Boy's Tennis West Hall @ Johnson Varsity Soccer North Hall @ Johnson
April 1	Baseball Johnson @ Pickens County JV Soccer Chestatee @ Johnson
April 2	Varsity Soccer Johnson @ Chestatee
April 3	Baseball White County @ Johnson
April 6-10	Spring Holidays

For specific times and events after spring holidays, check the Johnson website.

<http://www.hallco.org/johnsonhs>

HUMAN A&P CLASSES VISIT "THE BODIES EXHIBITION"

Alice Broxton's Human A&P classes went on a fieldtrip to The Bodies Exhibition in Atlanta. The exhibit features actual human specimens allowing people of all ages access to sights and knowledge normally reserved only for medical professionals. Specimens are dissected at various stages and preserved through a special technique. The exhibit dedicates a separate room to each system of the human body allowing visitors to see how each system is unique and contributes to a system's overall homeostasis. Students had an opportunity to handle individual organs at the end of the tour. After observing diseased smoker's lungs, students are preparing anti-smoking campaign videos for the students of South Hall Middle School. ♦

PENNIES FOR PEACE

The JHS IB students have learned about the children of Afghanistan through their volunteer efforts with the non-profit organization Pennies for Peace. Pennies for Peace (www.penniesforpeace.org) raises money (pennies) to purchase school supplies, build schools and offer scholarships for students in Afghanistan and Pakistan who otherwise might not have an opportunity to obtain an education. JHS IB students planned, organized and implemented a Pennies for Peace campaign at JHS. The goal is to raise all JHS students' awareness about the plight of children in Afghanistan and show them how they can make a difference in the lives of these children by simply donating their pennies. ♦

WIRSING ATTENDS CPA LUNCHEON

The Georgia Society of CPAs recently held the seventh annual *High School Honors Luncheon* during January at the 755 Club located in Atlanta's Turner Field. Quinton Wirsing was selected by accounting instructor, Cree Wilson, to represent JHS at the honors luncheon. The purpose of the luncheon is to honor outstanding high school accounting students and share with them information about career opportunities available in the accounting profession. Accounting professionals from various fields spoke to the students and answered questions. Quinton received a certificate of achievement from the president of the GSCPA's. ♦

JOHNSON KEY CLUB STAYS ACTIVE

Johnson High School's Key Club is currently in its second year of existence. We may be few in number (with an active group of 9) but we have been busy working for our community. We have participated in various community service projects throughout the year to help others. Our motto is "Caring—Our Way of Life." We participated in Toys for Tots, held a coat drive for the Flowery Branch Police Department, brought in stuffed animals for the local police departments, and held our 2nd Annual Waffle Breakfast. Half the proceeds from the Waffle Breakfast went to support Johnson High School's Relay for Life Team. Over half our members are seniors and will be graduating in May. If you are interested in joining the Key Club next year, please contact Mrs. Worley. ♦

