



# Johnson STEAM Academy

*Igniting Passion. Cultivating Character. Achieving Dreams.*



Winter 2018

## WINTER ENRICHMENT WORKSHOPS

During January third through fifth grade JSA students had the opportunity to participate in several special after school winter enrichment workshops as part of our JSA PTA's STEAM Enrichment program.



Guest artist, Kathi Pudzuvelis, helped budding drama students discover the art of telling a story as they acted it out on the stage with various puppets of all sizes, types and shapes, then performed their original show for students in the Jane Boyd program.



Students in the Beginning Guitar class were off to a great start as they learned to play basic melodies and simple chord accompaniments to some favorite folk & pop songs.



The new Pokémon Club workshop was a hit as these students got to stay warm inside honing their math and thinking skill strategies while having fun with friends sharing their love & knowledge of the Pokémon cards & game!

# JOHNSON STEAM ACADEMY SPOTLIGHT PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

This time of year, is when our staff spends time reflecting on our vision and mission: The Johnson STEAM Academy community guides all learners to discover their passions through innovative learning experiences. Our tagline that goes along with the mission is pretty simple but packs a lot of power in a very few words: Igniting Passion. Cultivating Character. Achieving Dreams.

Wow, we are really making this happen as a Johnson STEAM Academy learning community! It takes all of us to support the work of a school: a committed and dedicated staff, families who have a strong desire to support their children and see them be successful at school, and students who are eager to learn, explore and be the best young people they can be. We have all of this and more at Johnson STEAM Academy.

**Igniting Passion:** You can see evidence of this throughout the school day and beyond at JSA. Watching our students share their excitement about new learning, being highly engaged in making decisions about their own learning, and showing grit as they problem solve, try again, and experience the Design Process. Discovery Days, hands-on learning options, student voice and choice, and posting their best work to SeeSaw are a few examples of ways we support our children in becoming passionate about learning.

**Cultivating Character:** Our staff, students, and families are committed to supporting students as they learn to become responsible citizens. Students learn social skills through direct instruction in all classrooms, being held accountable to The JSA Way (I am a listener, I am kind, I am calm, I believe I can!). Every day in our school I see evidence of our learning community members living The JSA Way through learning to take ownership of their decisions, managing their emotions, learning, and sharing their opinions.

**Achieving Dreams:** It has been astounding to hear some of the comments from our students about their favorite things at school. Project Based Learning, math, science, ST Math, and hands-on learning all come up repeatedly as our students are becoming more confident in having a voice in what they want to learn and how they might get there. It is not uncommon to hear our children talk about their goals, their educational data, and what steps they plan to take to achieve their dreams.

Thanks to each of you, Johnson STEAM Academy is an exciting place to be where learning comes to life for our children!



Candace Lynch, Principal

## PROPER WINTER DRESS

Students need to be reminded of what they should be wearing before going outside. Hats, mittens or gloves and a winter coat are essential for all students to wear during winter weather. Much body heat is lost when hats are not worn, and children lose body heat faster than adults do. If your child participates in recess, please see that they also have boots and snow pants, so they can enjoy the outdoor fun.



**PRESCHOOL &  
KINDERGARTEN  
REGISTRATION –  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26**

Follow the District on ,  @crschools,  
and  YouTube

## SOUNDS OF THE HOLIDAYS ABOUND AT JSA!

The JSA halls, as well as the surrounding community, have been ringing with the joyous sounds of our JSA students performing Holiday music this winter! Thanks to all the many family and friends that joined us for our fun annual sing-a-long December 21 in our JSA café! Congratulations to the 4th and 5th grade students that participated in the JSA Cocoa and Carols Chorus that performed at Washington High School. They did an outstanding job of representing our school by their beautiful singing and exceptional performance & audience behavior. A select group from this Chorus, along with our JSA Harmony Strings ensemble received many compliments from those in attendance as they performed at the PTA's Book Fair at Barnes & Noble. Congrats also to the JSA Gospel Choir for warming hearts during these cold days with their wonderful performances throughout the community this winter, at the Wellington Heights Neighborhood Holiday Dinner event. Watch for more exciting musical performances to be happening this spring!



### WHAT IS PTA?

PTA's mission is to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.

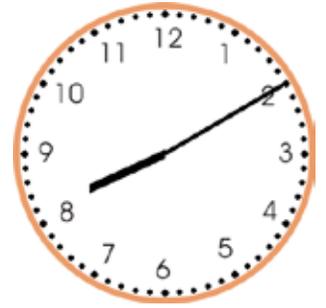
Anyone can join the JSA PTA, attend a meeting, or volunteer, ANYONE!

Stand up for every child; participate and help provide fair access to a first-class, public-school education, equity and quality in learning, and help safeguard the health and welfare of every child.

Spring Fundraiser:  
April 28th at 6pm at Parlor City  
Blues & BBQ: May 11<sup>th</sup>

## SCHOOL HOURS

The school day for Students is Monday - Thursday at 8:50 AM - 3:50 PM, Fridays at 8:50 AM - 2:20 PM. If your child arrives after 8:55 AM, they will be counted tardy.



JSA begins supervising students at 8:10 AM, with breakfast served from 8:15 to 8:40 AM. Students who miss breakfast will be offered another option that can be eaten in the classroom with a minimum of mess.

### ***For the safety of our JSA students:***

- ***Students may not enter the building each morning until 8:10, as there is no adult supervision available until that time.***
- ***Students in Jane Boyd Achievement Academy or morning enrichments may enter earlier according to the plan their adult supervisor shares with them.***
- ***Students who arrive late or leave early will need to sign in/out in the Main Office.***
- ***All visitors/volunteers need to stop in the Main Office to sign in and grab a badge before entering any classroom.***



### HY-VEE CASH FOR STUDENTS

Please remember to bring in your Hy-Vee receipts. This is a very easy way to raise money for your student's school. For every \$200 in receipts, Johnson receives \$1. No receipt is too small; all the amounts add up in the end. Please remind family and friends to save their receipts. Receipts can be dropped off in the main office.

#### Non-Discrimination Policy

It is the policy of the Cedar Rapids Community School District not to discriminate in educational programs on the basis of race, creed, color, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, gender identity, socioeconomic status, national origin, religion, disability, age (except for permitting/prohibiting students to engage in certain activities) or genetic information and in employment opportunities on the basis of age, race, creed, color, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, religion, disability or genetic information. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy, please contact Rod Dooley, Executive Director of Equity, (RDooley@cr.k12.ia.us), and/or Linda Noggle, Executive Director of Talent Management, (LNoggle@cr.k12.ia.us), Educational Leadership and Support Center, 2500 Edgewood Rd NW, Cedar Rapids, IA, (319) 558-2000.

Nov. 7, 2017

## KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten students have been learning so many things! It feels like just last week you shared your babies with us at kindergarten round up and now we are talking to them about being almost first graders! We have been working really hard to master all our learning targets! Students were working on writing numbers and letters and now are working on writing number sentences and writing words! Many parents have gotten a firsthand glance in the classroom through the use of our Seesaw App! The students have so much fun sharing their learning and up-loading pictures and their work to the app! It gives us shivers of excitement to listen to them read words!

We just finished up our big science and social studies units on Severe Weather. Students loved learning about all the different types of weather and what makes it considered 'severe' and in case you are wondering, we discovered it is the intensity of the wind. We even had Kaj O'Mara come and visit us. He talked to all 3 classrooms about Iowa weather! And of course, we experienced the severe weather that we have in Iowa (burr it has been cold outside)! We raised money and made severe weather kits for every classroom at JSA! We are so excited to be moving on to our Dinosaur unit next!



As the students become masters at learning their letter sounds, they are becoming readers! We are so proud of how hard they have worked to learn their letter sounds and then blend them into words. We encourage you to remind them that they cannot read every word yet, but they can still read! Please take a little time each day to read with or to your child.

In math the students have gone from counting objects to actually writing and solving number sentences. It is such a hard concept to master, but many have mastered their + and - 0 facts! Their math skills have grown so much since the beginning of the year. Continue to count with them when you are walking up steps, counting toys or even just counting for the fun of counting. We think you might be amazed to hear how high they can count!

Please remember every moment in our day is a learning moment. It is important that students come to school every day on time, if they are healthy. We love seeing their bright and smiling faces in the morning! Thank you for sharing them with us!

## 1ST GRADE

What a great time to be a first grader! After winter break, the first graders were introduced to a simulation for our Sound and Light PBL. A letter from "Camping World" arrived in each classroom asking them to design and create a tool that can communicate with others in case they were lost or hurt in the woods. Since cell phones often lose reception in the woods, their tool needed to use sound and light to communicate. Before they could jump in and create, they first had to learn more about sound and light through guided questions, hands-on experiments, and very careful journaling. The students showed their learning through a green screen movie, journals, and of course the tools they created! It has been a wonderful journey, filled with many aha moments and the students were anxious to share their learning with others!



## 2ND GRADE

Happy New Year!! Second grade finished 2017 with a lot of growth and learning in the classroom. We are excited about what 2018 will bring.

On Tuesday, Feb. 6th we visited the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art and the Grant Wood Studio. It was great to learn more about Grant Wood and the amazing art we have access to in Cedar Rapids. We hope you can make it down to the Art Museum with your family and let your second grader share with you all that they learned about the museum and art. We are excited about learning more about the Winter Olympics and are spending Pod People and classroom time learning about the winter events and tracking the medal winners. The Winter Olympics start on Friday Feb. 9th – we hope you can follow along with the events.

We continue to work on our priority Math and ELA standards: fluently adding and subtracting within 20 using a variety of strategies (2.OA.1), understanding that three digits of a three digit number represent hundreds, tens, and ones (2.NBT.1), skip counting within 1,000 by 5's, 10's and 100's from any given number (2.NBT.2), knowing and applying grade level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding (RF.2.3), and revising and editing writing with guidance from peers and teachers (W.2.5). These are the "big rocks" for second grade and really form the base for all other learning in second grade. Please continue to work on these skills at home to help your child master these skills.

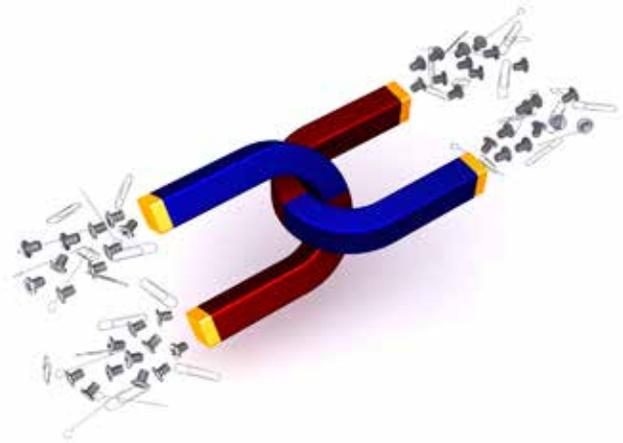
It was great to see everyone at conferences and share the goals and accomplishments of each student. We are excited to continue to work on mastery of all second-grade standards/skills through the remainder of the year. It is great to see all the growth and excitement on the students' faces when the light bulbs go off and learning happens. Thanks again for all you do to support your child and the JSA community!!

**SPRING PICTURE DAY  
IS MONDAY,  
MARCH 26**



## 3<sup>RD</sup> & 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

We have just started our Motion and Matter Unit in science. Students learn about matter and its interactions, the engineering design, and forces and interactions. Magnetism and gravity are the forces students explore as they look for patterns of motion to predict future motion. Students get to work with magnets and paperclips, wheel an axle system, paper air twirlers, and rotating tops. Students will make observations, measure mass and volume, and make mixtures and solutions.



We are wrapping up our Slavery and Segregation Unit by researching famous African Americans. Students chose one African American to study, created a poem and timeline of their life, created a model, and a completed a project of their choosing. Students will participate in a performance called "Connections to Freedom" and show their projects on March 1st at 2:45 starting in the JSA Cafeteria, then moving to classroom at 3:15. We would love to see you there!



## MAKING CONNECTIONS LEARNING CELEBRATION

On January 10 fourth and fifth grade students in Mrs. Ernst's, Mr. Frette's and Mrs. Yager's classes shared their first semester learning as they made STEAM connections from the past to the present. They connected their science focus of living things and environments to American history social studies curriculum, along with their music and art skills to present a performance on the stage for JSA students, family and friends. After the concert in the café they shared their learning through tech presentations in their classroom (using PowerPoint, green screens, iPads, etc.). Here are some reflections from the students about their learning celebration...

Singing to the whole school was cool. It was the best part of our learning celebration! My favorite part of the performance was when Eloise sang solo on the Annie musical song, Tomorrow. I think we were good at harmony too. Keyondra, Room #209



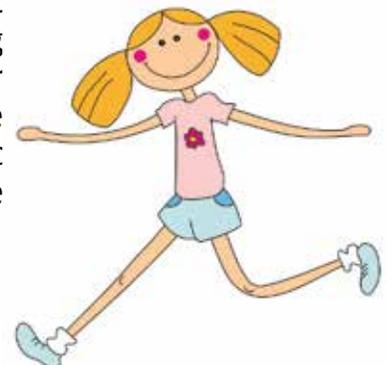
Our class did a really good job singing the Rhythm of the Season song. We picked it because we are good at rhythm and it shows how we connect math and music. You have to count! I liked the song, Green & White, with our artwork slide show too. Lincoln, Room # 208

My favorite part was our class singing Mother Earth, about Native Americans and important nature. We learned about Native American music and instruments from different tribes. We even worked in small groups and composed our own Nature Music. Some people got to perform it for the concert. Bailey, Room #203

## 5TH GRADE

Mr. Frette's and Ms. Yager's 5th grade classroom and Ms. Ernst's 4/5 room have been very busy since returning from Winter Break as we make the push before Spring Break. In Math we have conquered long division and breaking into the wonderful world of fractions. We are continuing to work hard and are seeing the hard work pay off in our reading groups! We had a huge jump in our fluency numbers from the start of the year to right now and we are not slowing down. We will start to dive into "Test Taking" strategies as we are getting closer and closer to the Iowa Assessments! In Science, the 5th graders are studying "Mixtures and Solutions" and Ms. Ernst's classroom is working on "Models and Designs". Please be aware of Seesaw and the notes that your child will be bring home as we have many exciting events coming up. Those will include information on a study trip, fun run, end of the year celebrations and middle school visits! Your child will also have to make the decision if they want to participate in band, orchestra or vocal music in sixth grade next year! Lots of exciting things will be happening and we look forward to sharing these with you all!

Mr. Frette  
Ms. Yager  
Ms. Ernst



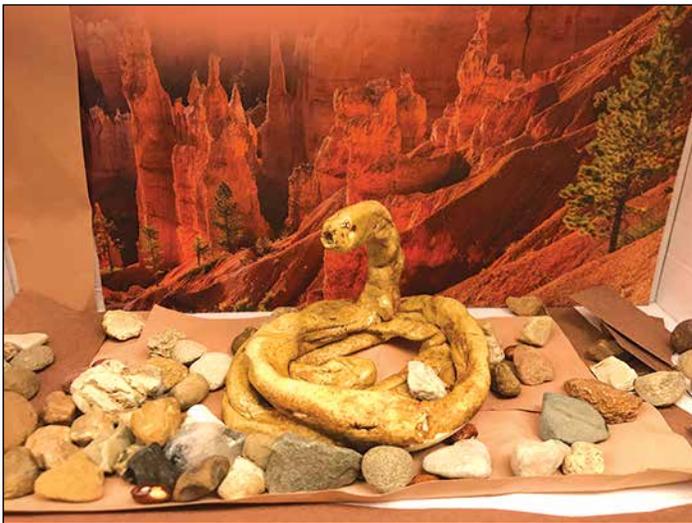
## JSA ART

Students have been busy in the art room this winter! Third grade students just finished up their clay animals and habitats for the Art Show at the downtown library. These were features alongside many other third grader's clay projects from other schools around Cedar Rapids. They worked very hard on these projects and it shows!

Second graders celebrated the end of their unit on Grant Wood and his birthday on February 13th by visiting his studio and looking at some of his work in the Cedar Rapids Art Museum. These students also made landscapes inspired by Grant Wood using painted paper, clay houses and barns, and oil pastels. The pictures were displayed in the gallery and in the halls of the school from mid-January through mid-February.

We plan on studying several African-American artists during Black history month and recently finished a unit on Guatemalan Worry Dolls. Also, check out all the beautiful kindergarten hearts on display outside their classrooms. Each one is unique, just like them!

Spring will bring in lots of observational drawings with flowers and bugs! We are also working on updating the Paul Engle posters by the downstairs restrooms. Way to go JSA artists!



## TITLE 1

The JSA Family Bookstore opens to students



and families on a Friday morning before school every other month. All books are only \$1.00! Book certificates awarded to students allow them to pick out 1 free book. This year Title 1 funds helped

purchase books for the JSA Family Bookstore in order to get more books into students' hands and homes. In addition to our bookstore, Western Fraternal Life donated money to purchase 1 book for every student at JSA. In December students picked a book, wrapped it, and brought it home. We hope that everyone has had time to read and enjoy these new books!

The JSA Book Club is for 1st and 2nd graders who get extra reading help from our Title 1 Teachers. The book club students meet individually most afternoons with a paraprofessional or Ameri Corps volunteer to reread text from their reading lesson. Rereading is very important for building word automaticity and fluency. The extra rereading time reinforces students' decoding of new words, builds their confidence, and expands their comprehension of the text. Rereading is a powerful habit we want all young readers to develop.

## SAFETY CONCERNS

Cedar Rapids Community School District takes your safety seriously and welcomes your input. Please contact your building principal/administrator and report any safety concerns that you may have. Thank you for helping us keep staff and students safe.

## **BOOK FEE REMINDER!**

Book fees are due at the beginning of the academic year. Book fees are \$29.00 per student for the entire year. The fee is used to cover a part of the cost of consumable instructional materials. If you have additional questions, please contact Ms. Shawn at 558-2174 or you may pay these on line with Cashonline.com.

## **A NOTE FROM THE COUNSELOR: IOWA ASSESSMENTS**

All students in 3rd-5th grades will take the Iowa Assessments. April 2 – April 13. Here are some things we encourage all students to do as our testing window gets closer:

- Come to school every day and on time as we start our tests by 9:30 each day
- get plenty of sleep
- eat breakfast at home or at school
- do your personal best
- stay calm, relaxed and focused



## **ARRIVING TO SCHOOL ON TIME EACH DAY “SETS THE TONE” FOR EXCELLENCE**

It is important that students arrive on time for school. When students arrive late they miss important tasks and conversations that “set the tone” for the entire day. We all know how it feels when we oversleep, run late for an appointment or walk in late for a meeting. Please support the good habit of promptness in your child by making sure they arrive at school on time, every day!



## **BE ATTENDANCE AWARE**

Would you know if your child was tardy or had an unexcused absence? Would we know how to get ahold of you if your child got ill at school or JSA had a winter weather related closure? Help student safety, by ensuring we have up to date phone, address, email and emergency contact information. JSA and the CRCSD send important communications via phone, email and traditional mail; make sure you are receiving them.

Your JSA Calendar and Family Handbook is full of information related to student absences, absenteeism and school closures. One critical piece of information is that the Cedar Rapids Community School District policy states “After a student has accrued fifteen (15) days of absences, for reasons other than a health condition verified by a school nurse, and the building level administration has exhausted every means available (phone calls, letters, home visits, etc.) to the school to assure that the student is in regular attendance, the following should occur:

The school administrator will inform the parent/guardian in writing that due to the lack of improvement in the attendance of their child, the school will be referring the student and the parent/guardian to the District Truancy Officer for further action.”

Do you know how many days your student has missed?

If you are concerned about your child’s attendance, please contact Ms. Conyers, our JSA Transition and Attendance Specialist, at 319-558-2174 or [aconyers@cr.k12.ia.us](mailto:aconyers@cr.k12.ia.us)

## MAGNET INFORMATION UPDATE

Currently, we have three magnet schools in the CRCSD, Kenwood Leadership Academy and us, Johnson STEAM Academy. In the fall of 2017, Roosevelt Middle School opened as Roosevelt Creative Corridor Business Academy (RCCBA). JSA parents will have the opportunity to apply for their child to attend RCCBA through the magnet school Lottery. More information on this school of choice will be provided to JSA 5th grade parents and students in the coming weeks. If you have a 5th grader and are interested in learning more about RCCBA, please contact Lindsay Micek at [lmicek@cr.k12.ia.us](mailto:lmicek@cr.k12.ia.us).

### Magnet School Lottery

The Magnet School Lottery is Open! The Cedar Rapids Community School District believes in the value of neighborhood schools. Students who currently live within a magnet school attendance zone can automatically attend the magnet school. They are not required to enter the Lottery to attend the magnet school serving their neighborhood attendance area.

### Who needs to apply for the CRCSD Magnet School Lottery?

JSA students who used to live in the neighborhood attendance zone and moved out of the JSA neighborhood during the 17-18 school year.

Siblings of students who were accepted to the JSA via the Magnet School Lottery

Students who live outside of the JSA neighborhood attendance zone.

### Important Lottery Dates

#### 2017-2018 Magnet School Lottery Information:

\*\*\* Current JSA families do not need to apply for the lottery, this is merely for communication\*\*\*

February 1, 2018	CRCSD Elementary School Lottery opens
March 1, 2018	Open Enrollment Deadline ( <a href="#">Open Enrollment paperwork due</a> )
March 9, 2018	CRCSD Elementary School Lottery Application Period closes at 11:59 pm
March 22, 2018	CRCSD Elementary Magnet Lottery

### Johnson STEAM Academy Magnet School Visits Parent Representatives

We will be hosting a variety of magnet school visits for interested parents/guardians as well as interested educators/districts. These are an opportunity for us to share what makes Johnson STEAM Academy a great place, to share our story and student learning, and for visitors to ask questions. Information regarding these visits can be found on the JSA website. If you're interested in being a parent/guardian representative at one of these visits, please contact Leah Ferring at [lferring@cr.k12.ia.us](mailto:lferring@cr.k12.ia.us). Thank you to those of you who have already volunteered to help us share our story and scream our STEAM theme!

### ST Math

We are in our third year of ST Math implementation. ST Math is a game-based math supplemental math program. ALL K-5 JSA students participate in ST Math learning each week. Did you know ST Math is unique to JSA in the Cedar Rapids Community School District? We are seeing great results from ST Math and don't know what we would do without our friend, Jiji. Jiji the penguin is a part of the JSA family and helps students model #TheJSAWay. Here are some ways ST Math helps students:

ST Math helps me; grow, receive feedback, work through problems, solve problems without getting angry, make mistakes, so I do not give up, think outside the box, calm down, learn, pushes me to try my best, by not telling me what to do, showing me strategies, making improvements and helping me understand what I'm doing, and gets me ready for the real world."

(Description created from combined student answers on the Fall 2017 JSA Student Engagement Survey.)

## CONGRATULATIONS MS. REINKEN!

The Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council and Kemin Industries have announced the recipients of the 2018 I.O.W.A. STEM Teacher Award sponsored by Kemin Industries.

The Southeast STEM region's honoree is Cassidy Reinken, a Magnet Coordinator at Johnson STEAM Academy in Cedar Rapids. Ms. Reinken's goal is to inspire and encourage teachers to become more engaged in and understand the importance of STEM subjects and careers through cross-curricular connections. She works with students and teachers through professional learning, coaching conversations, co-planning and co-teaching to STEM lessons. Ms. Reinken also supports the writing and implementation of all STEAM curriculum that aligns with the Iowa's academic standards and led the rework of this year's final curriculum map at Johnson. She loves to incorporate art into her STEM lessons and one of her favorite projects has been the Makey Makey Op Art, which is focused on teaching



students that energy can be transferred in a variety of ways and how math is used in designing optical illusions. This lesson uses the computer-based Makey Makey invention kit that turns objects into a touchpad. Students studied Op Art movement and learned the role of math in optical illusions through this program.

Ms. Reinken sits on and leads many forward-thinking educational committees in the Cedar Rapids Community School District. She facilitates continued professional learning for JSA teachers and was a member of the CRCSD's Theory of Action Task Force, Teacher Leadership System Task Force, and School Improvement Advisory Committee. She acts as the voice for STEM integration, personalization and innovation in all these groups. Her blog "rethink + innovate" pushes fellow educators to think innovatively about the future of education. She holds monthly conversations about a specific topic/concept in education and invites fellow innovative educators to speak. Ms. Reinken holds five Discovery Days throughout the year at JSA, where students learn in cross-graded age groupings on a select topic, such as 3D printing, building/construction, coding or Makey art. She was awarded a Governor's STEM Advisory Council Scale-Up Program called ST Math in JSA's first year as a magnet school, and she has helped secure funding to sustain the usage of this program for the past two years.

This award recognizes and celebrates one teacher from each of the six STEM regions who goes above and beyond to increase their student's interest in STEM. Each recipient is recognized for their dedication in representing I.O.W.A.; by being Innovative in their methods, Outstanding in their passion for education, Worldly in the way they help students see that STEM is all around them, and Academic through engaging students in the classroom to prepare them for higher education and high-demand careers. Each recipient was selected by a panel of judges after being nominated for the award by a colleague, school administrator, parent, student or community member and completing an application showcasing their contributions to STEM education. Each recipient will receive \$1,500 for personal use and another \$1,500 for their classroom.

Reinken and the other five recipients have each been honored with ceremonies in their classrooms with their students and peers and has also been recognized together at STEM Day at the Capitol, with Gov. and STEM Council Co-Chair Kim Reynolds and a representative from Kemin Industries.



## WHY IS HAND WASHING SO IMPORTANT?

Did you wash your hands? How many times did you say that today? Kids may not always listen when you tell them, but it is a message worth repeating. Hand washing is by far the best way to prevent germs from spreading and to keep your kids from getting sick.

Think about all the things your kids touched today from pencils to the toilet. Whatever they did today, they were exposed to germs and those germs can easily find their way into the body, especially when eating.

Good hand washing is your first line of defense against the spread of many illnesses, including colds, influenza, meningitis, hepatitis A and most types of infectious diarrhea.

The best times to wash your hands are before eating or touching food, after using the bathroom, and after blowing your nose, touching pets or playing outside.

Use these hints when washing your hands.

- Use warm water
- Use soap
- Work up a good lather; rub for at least 15 seconds
- Rinse and dry well with a clean towel

Do not underestimate the power of good hand washing. The extra time you spend at the sink will save you even more time at the doctor.



## JANE BOYD

This winter Jane Boyd is excited to announce that Jane Boyd Achievement Academy will be expanding our partnership with Johnson by providing after school programming for Kids on Course University during the summer months.

Kids on Course University

(KCU) is a FREE seven-week summer camp that combines learning and fun to grow reading and math skills. The Cedar Rapids Community School District offers KCU to students who qualify. The program runs from 8:30AM – 1:30PM at schools designated as Super Sites, such as Johnson this upcoming summer. Feedback from last summer indicated a community need for an after-school program option during KCU to help parents with full day childcare. Jane Boyd Achievement Academy will provide after school programming at Johnson from 1:30-5:30pm for kids who attend KCU this summer. KCU invites will be sent to those who qualify later in February, and Jane Boyd Achievement Academy staff will be present at conferences on the 15th and 20th to provide additional information. For more information or questions, please contact Megan Isenberg at 319-366-0431 ext. 2608.



The District offers an online Virtual Backpack site to support the efforts of community organizations wanting to share information about educationally-based programming.

Individuals or organizations wishing to post material on the Virtual Backpack submit items electronically and approved materials will appear online for families to access.

Organizations will find a link to submit flyers for consideration on the District homepage at [www.cr.k12.ia.us](http://www.cr.k12.ia.us). Families can access the Virtual Backpack from their school Web site.

# Welcome to Kindergarten

**Kindergarten Registration will now be ONLINE starting Monday, February 26, 2018, beginning at 7A.M.**

<http://www.cr.k12.ia.us/schools/how-to-enroll/>

Your child(ren) will be eligible to enroll in kindergarten if they will be turning 5 years old *on or before* **September 15, 2018**.

If you are unsure of your **home** attendance school, please use the link below to find the school in your home attendance area.  
<https://gis.linncounty.org/webapps/education/attendancearea/>

**It is important that we have a copy of your child's birth certificate. If you need to obtain another copy, you should contact either of the following:**

Linn County Vital Records            or  
Jean Oxley Public Service Center  
935 2<sup>nd</sup> Street SW  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404  
319-892-5445

Iowa Department of Public Health  
Division of Vital Statistics  
Lucas State Office Building  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319  
515-281-4944

The following forms will need to be completed and brought to your child's school on or before their first day:

1. **CERTIFICATE OF IMMUNIZATION**

**State law requires evidence of up to date immunizations (or state authorized exemption) prior to entrance into school. Without this up to date certificate completed by your health care provider, your child will not be allowed to attend school.** This certificate may be returned directly to your child's assigned school or your health care provider may mail it to the school.

2. **HEALTH STATUS FORM**

While this form is not required, we strongly recommend that your child have a physical examination prior to entering school. This form may be returned directly to your child's assigned school or your health care provider may mail it to the school.

3. **DENTAL SCREENING CERTIFICATE**

State law requires completion of this form for students entering Kindergarten.

4. **VISION SCREENING CERTIFICATE**

State law requires completion of the vision screening form for students entering Kindergarten.

5. **LEAD TESTING**

State law requires all children entering kindergarten to have at least one blood-lead test. Please check with your health care provider to determine if your child has been blood lead tested.

It is our strong belief that the first years of schooling are very important and that the development of strong home/school communication is a vital component in the provision of a quality educational program for your child. If we can be of further assistance, please feel free to call **558-2247** or your neighborhood school.

Thank-you for enrolling your child with the Cedar Rapids Community School District for the **2018-2019** school year.

We hope you and your child have a great experience as they enter Kindergarten this fall.