

# JOHNSON'S JOURNAL

September 22, 2014

MRS. JOHNSON  
PINE RIVER ELEMENTARY

EMAIL:  
[JOHNSOND@BCREEK.ORG](mailto:JOHNSOND@BCREEK.ORG)

WEBSITE:  
[JOHNSON3D.WEEBLY.COM](http://JOHNSON3D.WEEBLY.COM)

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It was nice to see many parents at our recent curriculum night. Thank you for taking the time to attend. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Grades are now being posted online, and you can view them on [Skyward Family Access](#). If you have not yet registered with the site, the directions and other information about grades can be found [here](#). Please note that not all class work and assignments will be entered into the grade book. Please call the office if you have any difficulty accessing your child's account.

Our school is collecting Box Tops, Campbell's UPCs, Aunt Millie's School Spirit labels, and Coke Rewards (bottle tops and codes from inside the boxes of canned soda). Thank you to Mrs. VanNorman for processing the donations. Please send items in a baggie labeled with your child's name and teacher's name so that your child may be entered into periodic drawings for prizes. Thanks for your support.

## Reading

The students have been working to choose books that are *just right* to read during their daily reading workshop time. That means that the books are not too difficult. Research has shown that students who read books that are *just right*, or even a little easy, make the most growth in their reading levels. Books that are too difficult have been shown to actually slow down progress.

So, how can you tell if a book is *just right* for your child? One way to check is to listen to your child read aloud. If the reading sounds choppy, then it's probably too difficult.

## Writing

Students are composing personal narratives, which are stories about their lives. They're learning techniques on how to select a topic and how to develop it.

## Mathematics

Our current topic in math and math lab is the place-value of numbers to 10,000. Students have been practicing writing numbers in *standard* form (i.e. 1,246), *expanded* form (1,000+200+40+6), and in *word* form (one thousand, two hundred forty-six). Also, they have been creating place value drawings in preparation for their work with adding and subtracting large numbers. More information about this unit can be found in the math newsletter that was sent home last Friday.

Adding fluently was a second grade skill. In an effort to improve the speed and accuracy of that skill, addition facts testing will begin next week. More information was sent home with your child today.

## Science

The children enjoyed their field trip to the Chippewa Nature Center to learn about animal classifications. Next, they'll learn about animal adaptations.

## Social Studies

*Where in the world are we?* That's the question we've been trying to answer. We've created and explored maps, and we've reviewed directions (N, S, E, W, NE, SE, NW and SW). Next, we'll learn the names and locations of the continents and oceans.

## Spelling

Spelling lists and interactive games are available [here](#).

## Specials Schedule

Note: Our daily schedule can be found [here](#).

Monday	Library Checkout & Library Skills
Tuesday	Physical Education
Wednesday	Art
Thursday	Music
Friday	Physical Education & Computer Lab

## Lunch & Recess Schedule

Lunch & Recess            11:40 - 12:34

## Important Dates

### **October 9**

Picture Day

(More information coming soon.)

### **October 10**

No School (Prof. Development Day for Teachers)

### **October 17**

PTO Popcorn Day

(The PTO is going to provide popcorn to each student once a month for the school year. They have asked for a one time donation of \$5.00.

Proceeds will go toward our specials classes. Thank you to those of you who have sent in money.)

### **October 20 & 23**

Parent-Teacher Conferences

(More information coming soon.)

### **October 31**

Halloween Party (1:00-2:15 PM)

More [holiday party information](#) can be found on our website.



Our Classroom Family  
2014 - 2015

\*\*\*

## Mark Your Calendars!

### **May 19 & 20**

Michigan's 3rd Grade State Assessments:  
*English Language Arts*, Parts 1 & 2  
(Approximately 4 hours each day)

### **May 27 & 28**

Michigan's 3rd Grade State Assessments:  
*Mathematics*, Parts 1 & 2  
(Approximately 3 hours each day)

*Calculation fluency [answering facts quickly and accurately] is important for measuring future math ability, enabling performance on advanced arithmetic, and reducing processing time in order to maintain meaningfulness in the problem.*

Adela Korn, Cognitive Scientist