



# Friends of Johnston ELP

## Fall 2019 Newsletter



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We heard from Dr. Krista Brittain, clinical psychologist at our first parent program of the year on Oct 7. Check out her [presentation](#) to learn more about what she shared!



Thanks to your generosity, the Friends of Johnston ELP was able to present our ELP staff with \$6,000!

### UPCOMING PARENT PROGRAMS—7:00PM-8:30PM—JMS MEDIA CENTER

**Monday, January 6, 2020—Navigating High School and Preparing for College**

**Tuesday, March 31, 2020—Topic TBD**

### 2019-2020 ELP Staff

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# How Can You Enrich at Home?

## Some ways to combat “*I’m bored...*”

### Invent Iowa

Invent Iowa, one of the premier programs through the Belin-Blank Center, serves the needs of talented young inventors. The Invent Iowa program encourages students to creatively think and solve problems through the invention process. Now in its 29th year, the program has celebrated the work of thousands of students in grades K-12. These novice inventors, whose inventions range from humane mouse traps and mitten dryers to devices that make life easier for someone with a disability, continue to amaze and inspire us with their inventions. For more information, visit this site: <https://belinblank.education.uiowa.edu/students/>

### University of Iowa- Weekend Enrichment

“Does your child need additional challenge beyond the traditional school curriculum? Are they passionately interested in a particular topic? Would they like a chance to meet other like-minded kids? Formerly known as WINGS, our Weekend Enrichment program is designed to supplement what elementary and junior high students are learning in school and give them a chance to explore their interests - or discover new ones!

Weekend Enrichment consists of half-day enrichment opportunities for elementary and junior high students (grades 2-8) that take place at the Belin-Blank Center on the University of Iowa campus. Classes in STEM, arts, and the humanities will cultivate students’ interest and spark their curiosity! Students do not have to be in a gifted and talented program to participate in Weekend Enrichment.” <https://belinblank.education.uiowa.edu/students/weekend/>

The Iowa Center for the Book offers an annual "All Iowa Reads" program. The purpose of All Iowa Reads is to foster a sense of unity through reading. We encourage Iowans statewide to come together in their communities to read and talk about a single book title in the same year. The website, <https://www.iowacenterforthebook.org/air/home>, offers loads of materials including book reviews and discussion questions, if you want to start a book club for children or just have your child participate with the community of readers.

### The 2019 Kids All Iowa Reads: *Amina’s Voice* by Hena Khan.

*Amina’s Voice* tells the story of an 11-year-old girl navigating friendship, family, religion, and dreams of becoming a soul-singing sensation. In a quiet Milwaukee suburb, Amina and her best friend Soojin grapple with their own ethnic identities and the pressure to Americanize. Soojin is Korean American and on the pathway to citizenship. She’s contemplating changing her name to solidify her American identity, while Amina, who is Pakistani American, must reconcile her love of singing Motown with her Muslim faith. Popular Emily, a white girl, who has a history of bullying, creates a wedge when she tries to befriend the pair, drawing skepticism from Amina. Things begin to unravel when Amina’s uncle comes to visit from Pakistan and her deficiencies in Urdu and Arabic are exposed—along with the fact that Amina and her older brother, Mustafa, aren’t necessarily the perfect children her father would like them to be. When the neighborhood mosque is vandalized, the greater community comes together. Amina’s struggles to balance her faith, friendship, and aspirations are all resolved in this universal story of self-acceptance and the acceptance of others.

### 2019 Teen All Iowa Reads: *A Land of Permanent Goodbyes* by Atia Abawi

In a country ripped apart by war, Tareq lives with his big and loving family... until the bombs strike. His city is in ruins. His life is destroyed. And those who have survived are left to figure out their uncertain future.

In the wake of destruction, he’s threatened by Daesh fighters and witnesses a public beheading. Tareq’s family knows that to continue to stay alive, they must leave. As they travel as refugees from Syria to Turkey to Greece, facing danger at every turn, Tareq must find the resilience and courage to complete his harrowing journey.

But while this is one family’s story, it is also the timeless tale of all wars, of all tragedy, and of all strife. When you are a refugee, success is outliving your loss.

# News from Johnston Elementary Schools

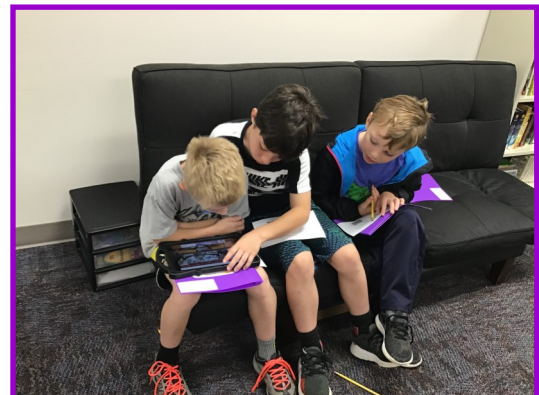
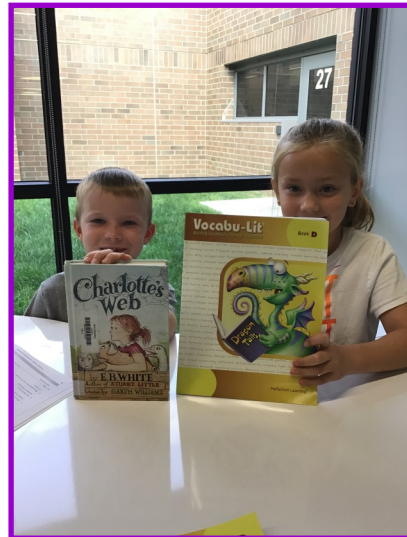
Submitted by Mitzi Hetherton, Nikki Paradise-Williams, Kristen Hartman, Kate Florer

Some things you might see when visiting the elementary schools....

- ✎ Kindergarten and 1st grade classes participating in whole group thinking activities led by ELP teachers in the classrooms
- ✎ Primary Education Thinking Skills (PETS) Students enjoying “seeing” their old friends from Crystal Pond Woods who have helped them review the characteristics of convergent thinking and introduced various problem-solving strategies
- ✎ Learning math sites to use back in the classroom, such as [Freckle.com](http://Freckle.com), [Khan Academy](http://Khan Academy), [sumdog.com](http://sumdog.com) and [Byrdseed.TV](http://Byrdseed.TV)
- ✎ Problem solving tasks using Try-A-Tiles, Logic Puzzles and Perplexors, CALC cards, Number Circuits Reading Literature like *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library*, *Chocolate Fever*, *Who is Julius Caesar?*, *Punished* and *Peter Pan*
- ✎ Leveraging Duoling online program to learn another language
- ✎ Enjoying *Dynamath Magazine*
- ✎ Learning number patterns and beginning multiplication problem solving
- ✎ Affective students using *Gifted Kids*, *Survival Guide*, *I'm Not Just Gifted*, and *Who Am I?* text and activities
- ✎ Studying base systems in math , including Base 2, Base 5, Base 20, Base 60 and Roman Numerals
- ✎ Mystery genre—reading mystery literature and discovering the elements in the story that make it fit into the mystery genre
- ✎ Humanities—some advanced language groups in grades 3-5 are studying latin words and stems, grammar and writing using the Michael Clary Thompson Curriculum
- ✎ Stock Market Game
- ✎ STEM exploration: Biochemical Engineering

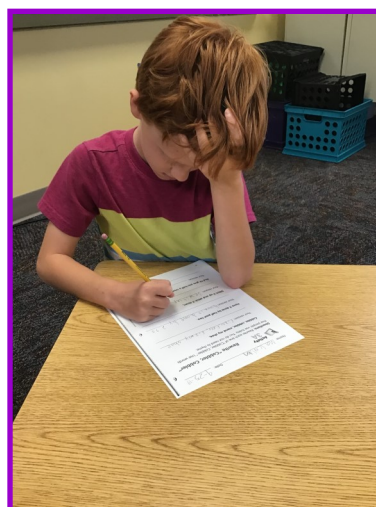
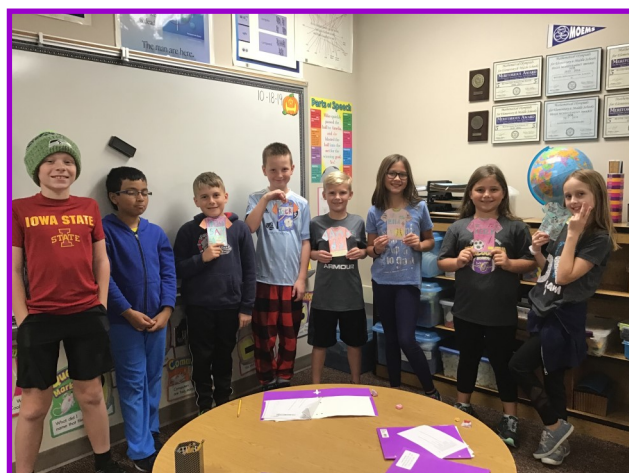
## Math Olympiad

Fourth and fifth grade Math Olympiad groups are learning problem solving strategies that will help them be successful on their tests. Some of the early strategies include Think 1, 2-10 Method, Draw a Picture, and Venn Diagram. We are anxious to tackle the first test early in November!





## Happenings at a few of the Elementary Schools



# News from Summit Middle School

Submitted by Colleen Ites

## 6TH GRADE

### Humanities

6th grade Humanities has been addressing the driving question: "How does categorization influence the human experience?" Students are exploring how the human tendency to categorize influences our experiences in life. Through this exploration students are learning about reliable online resources and how to develop a search strategy, cite sources in MLA format, and write research questions and thesis statements in addition to many other skills. By utilizing online resources available via Heartland's online resources and online searches utilizing search skills to evaluate and determine source authenticity and credibility, students continue to expand their knowledge.

### STEM

Students in 6th grade ELP STEM examined the driving question, "How can the interpretation, adaptation, and manipulation of light & color impact the ways humans interpret the world?" Math and Art students examined the electromagnetic (EM) spectrum and how human vision of color, as well as color-blindness, impacts their world. Students completed an art analysis on a chosen piece of art and then determined how it would look through a specific type of color-blindness. Those color-blind and original art pieces, long with the student's analysis of how colorblindness impacts the elements of the chosen art piece, were layered on top of each other and put on display in our classroom Color-Blind Interpretation Art Gallery. Sixth grade teacher Jake Wager also gave a presentation on what it is like to live with color-blindness and to allowed students to try on an see the world through his Enchoma glasses, which allow him to experience full-spectrum color vision.

They also delved into research surrounding the similarities and differences between Euclidean and fractal geometry, especially using the VR lab in our LMC. Students analyzed two geometric proofs using GoogleBlocks in order to determine if a pyramid could be deconstructed into a cube and if a cube could be deconstructed into a pyramid. They also utilized GoogleBlocks and TiltBrush to create 3D VR perspective art that they shared with their peers in a virtual art gallery.



## 7TH GRADE

### Humanities

Students in 7th grade Humanities are learning skills surrounding the driving question "How might we \*collaborate and use \*feedback inside and outside of our classroom to affect change for the greater good?" Student groups have chosen passion projects they wish to implement in order to improve a chosen area of the greater good. By delving deep into the questioning process that drives research forward, students are learning that they often have more questions evolve as previous questions are answered. Each group has developed and is following an evolving Blueprint of research questions, proposed real world experts, implementation ideas, and timeline of research in order to bring these affecting change projects to life. A Community Feedback Session was held for parents, teachers, JCSD administrators and School Board Members, and real world experts to assist students in their evolving research process.

### STEM

Lunar Robotics students examined the driving question, "How can we adapt to engineering constraints (time, resources, scope) while developing the most efficient, effective, and purposeful design solution?" They have continued to increase the depth and complexity of their knowledge about the environment of space and how this working environment impacts robots, a thorium nuclear reactor, communications, and a launch and landing pad. Students created individual robot designs that they presented to our lab (class), then self-organized into teams based on super-protocols mining, infrastructure, maintenance, transport, and communications. These teams are developing a working prototypes of their combined ideas that they can present in a request for proposal (RFP) to JPL scientist Dr. Jason Rhodes. Students have also digitally meet with Dr. Rhodes to ask questions about building items and working in the environment of space.





# Summit Middle School Collaborations

Submitted by Colleen Ites

Ms. Ites and Mrs. Brown have been collaborating to provide supports for 6th grade students in Compacted 7 / 8 math. During classroom work time students have the option of using Ms. Ites' room or Mrs. Brown's room for work time, question and answer, and reinforcement of existing skills. Ms. Ites has also been working with 7th grade science teachers to develop extensions for their new science curriculum, and providing supports for 6th grade ELP and social studies teachers. ELP students will have the opportunity to participate in lunch and learns each month with Ms. Ites starting in December.



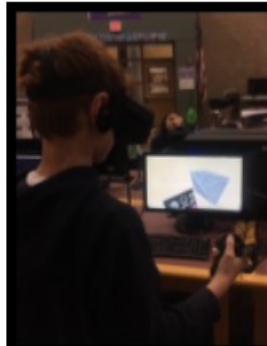
Ms. Brown and students during Compacted 7/8 supplemental work time.



7th grade Lunar Robotics students work in protocol teams to develop robots while consulting with JPL scientist Dr. Jason Rhodes



7 ELP Humanities students clean up the SMS school garden and provide produce for the Johnston Partnership



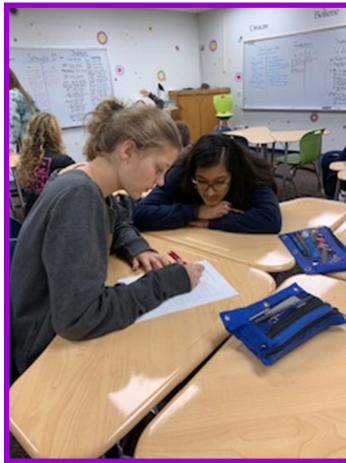
6 ELP STEM students examine geometric proofs and create perspective art in the SMS VR lab



# Johnston Middle School News

Submitted by Molly McConnell

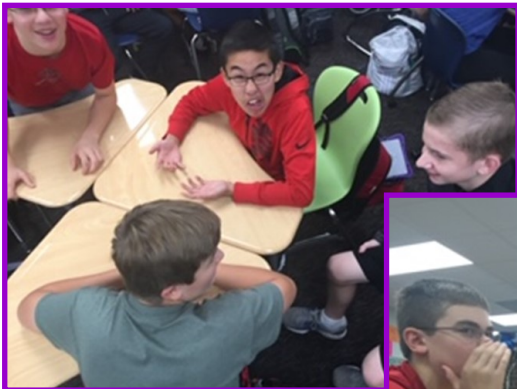
Students have been working diligently on their in-depth study projects this semester. This year students will create 2 quarter-long projects instead of one semester-long project. First quarter projects are due at the end of October. Projects this quarter range from cooking/baking projects, to film studies, to engineering and design projects. The majority of class time is used as project work time, but once a month, students come together for a whole class activity. This month's whole class activity focused on collaboration and critical thinking skills to determine if they would survive a plane crash in the Canadian mountains in the middle of the winter. Students were asked to choose their top 5 items among a list of things recovered from the crash based on usefulness. Items included extra clothing, an empty lighter, a can of Crisco, and an aerial map among other things. Teams then had to decide if they would stay at the crash site or try to walk to the nearest town located 20 miles away. At the end of the exercise 30% of teams were determined to survive until rescue.



Students collaborating to survive a plane crash

## Middle School Mock Trial

Middle school Mock Trial is in full swing! This year JMS has 4 mock trial teams consisting of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. 7<sup>th</sup> grade students meet at Summit on Wednesday and Friday mornings before school, while 8<sup>th</sup> grade students meet during FIRE time. Teams also meet on Tuesday evenings and on the weekends with their attorney coaches. This year's mock trial case is a criminal case focusing on the death of an actor during the dress rehearsal of a play. The first dress rehearsal scrimmage was held on October 29<sup>th</sup> and teams practiced running through their entire trial from beginning to end for feedback from some guest judges. The district mock trial competition was held on November 11<sup>th</sup> at the Franklin Junior High Events Center. Look for results in the next newsletter!



8<sup>th</sup> grade mock trial students playing a mock trial vocabulary review game during FIRE time



# High School News

Submitted by Sue Cline

ELP class has been running smoothly so far this semester. We started the year with a few days developing individualized ABC books illustrating our favorite things. Those were really entertaining, informative, and also let us know that some students have amazing art skills! Some photos of their work are included.

The academic projects this year are spanning the gamut from ACT prep to AP Art History, with some creative writing and pleasure reading mixed in. This picture shows Sara L involved in some problem-solving for her work with the LMC's collection of robots. One of the bots sits on the table next to her. She has worked with three different types of robot sets, and will be writing user guides for students to utilize.

## Competitions

Competition season is underway, with Knowledge Bowl finals occurring on October 24. Three teams played in our internal competition the week of October 10. Two of those teams, marked by an \*, qualified for the regional finals at DMAACC. The Oranges even placed fourth overall!!! Here are the team photos from the finals, and the team personnel for all three is below.

<b>*APPLES*</b>
<b>Owen Smith</b>
<b>Mackenzie Lauridsen</b>
Joe Arthur
Vivian Chen
Julia Chen

<b>*ORANGES*</b>
<b>Heather DeBruin</b>
Duncan Christakos
Cole Meyer
Drew Jauron
Adam Ehler

<b>BANANAS</b>
<b>Sara Lastine</b>
Mallora Lehman
Matthew He
Adam Ehler
Alex Heron

*Adam Ehler participated with the Orange team during regionals*



## Academic Decathlon

Academic Decathlon preparation is underway, and it looks to be a good year. We have 34 students currently on the roster, so we should be able to field 3 teams at Regional competition in January. We have already had the Art and Music study sessions, led by rookie player Payton B. Next week, Matthew D. will be leading the Math study, and we'll continue to work weekly until competition. Any student in grades 9-12 who is interested in joining us should contact Mrs. Cline in room 426 or email at [scline@johnston.k12.ia.us](mailto:scline@johnston.k12.ia.us).