

# Cougar Tracks

Jarrell Elementary Newsletter - January 12, 2026

**We appreciate our dedicated School Board!**





## Dear JES Community!

This week, we began our **i-Ready** Middle of the Year assessments for both math and reading. **i-Ready** is an online reading and math program that helps teachers identify student needs, personalize learning, and track progress throughout the year. It includes two parts: the **Diagnostic** and **Personalized Instruction**, providing data to support each student's growth. Learn more about **i-Ready** by watching [this video](#)! Your child's teacher will be reaching out with information about your child's assessment results soon.

In recognition of **School Board Appreciation Month**, we want to take a moment to consider all of the ways our incredible School Board Trustees support our community. They:

- Set goals and policies that guide the district's direction
- Approve budgets and manage district resources responsibly
- Ensure schools are safe, inclusive, and effective learning environments
- Represent the voices of parents, staff, and community members
- Support academic achievement and student well-being

Thank you to our school board for your leadership, vision, and commitment to providing the best education possible for all students!

We had a wonderful first week back! Let's keep the momentum going. ***While we certainly need our students who have a fever or are sick to stay at home, being at school everyday when possible is essential for your child's success.***

With gratitude,  
Lara Hutchinson  
Proud Jarrell Elementary Principal



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## This week!

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

JES PTO Meeting



## Looking Ahead!

Monday, January 19, 2026

Staff and Student Holiday

## Jarrell Elementary Calendar

[Click here for more events!](#)



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## UIL Awards Ceremony



**Last week's ATTENDANCE 94.4%.**

We are doing great this year on ATTENDANCE! We appreciate your making sure your students are here everyday! It truly matters, and it is making a difference in their success!

## Little Free Library

### Little Free Library January 2026 Newsletter



***Fun Fact: There are more than 150,000 registered Little Free Library book-sharing boxes in 120 countries worldwide.***

Start the year reading about interesting people and places around our world. Travel to the depths of the oceans or to the tops of mountains with one of the fact filled books from our Little Free Library. Spend some time learning about Ellen Ochoa or Hank Aaron, along with many other positive role models who have influenced our culture and the world around us. Whether your curiosity leans toward people or places, you'll be able to find a story in the JES Little Free Library.

Also, JES would like to give a nod of thanks to our families who are donating books to our Little Free Library. Your generosity makes our library even more special.

**We hope you will stop by the Little Free Library and take a book,  
leave a book, or trade a book.**

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**Dato curioso: Hay más de 150.000 cajas Little Free Library en 120 países de todo el mundo.**

Empieza el año leyendo sobre personas y lugares interesantes de todo el mundo. Viaja a las profundidades de los océanos o a las cimas de las montañas con uno de los libros de nuestra Pequeña Biblioteca Gratuita. Dedica algún tiempo a aprender sobre Ellen Ochoa o Hank Aaron, junto con muchos otros modelos positivos que han influido en nuestra cultura y en el mundo que nos rodea. Ya sea que su curiosidad se incline hacia las personas o los lugares, podrá encontrar una historia en la Pequeña Biblioteca Gratuita JES.

Además, JES quiere dar las gracias a las familias que donan libros a nuestra Pequeña Biblioteca Gratuita. Su generosidad hace que nuestra biblioteca sea aún más especial.

Esperamos que pasen por la Pequeña Biblioteca Gratuita y se lleven un libro, dejar un libro, o intercambiar un libro.

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## Lost and Found

January and February are the coldest months for us. You can help your child stay warm by:

- Writing your child's first and last name in all of their jackets and coats.
- Checking our Lost and Found frequently

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## Cold Weather Guidelines

Take a minute to check out our district cold weather guidelines. This may help in sending your student to school appropriately dressed for outdoor recess.

Due to the varying temperatures throughout the day in Texas, we already have an abundance of jackets, hats and sweatshirts in our lost and found. Please stop by and check it out!

If your family could use assistance with cold weather clothes, shoes, hat or gloves, please do not hesitate to reach out to our counselor, Brittany Bui. We have lots of resources available to support.



## Pre-K

### Thematic

This week in Pre-K, we will be learning that tools are instruments used to accomplish a task. We will explore the various types of tools used for work and play and other simple machines.

### Math

In math we will be measuring and comparing objects, using non-standard measurement (using objects other than a ruler).

### Literacy

In literacy we will continue learning letter sounds, sentence structure, focusing on punctuation marks, and exploring features of nonfiction texts.

## Kindergarten

### NEWSLETTER - Updated!

## 1st Grade

### **Math**

We will wrap up Module 3 with an assessment on Wednesday. We will begin Module 4 (Place Value, Comparison, Addition and Subtraction to 40) on Thursday. The module opens with students being able to study, organize, and manipulate numbers within 40.

### **Reading**

We will continue working in our small skills reading groups to build fluency and comprehension. In order to develop and deepen comprehension of their text, students will be making connections with personal experiences, ideas in other texts, and society. They will be synthesizing information from their text by using prior knowledge and experiences to form deeper insights and connections.

Students will also use text evidence to support a given response to questions about the text. We will also begin a new unit in Knowledge about animals and habitats by introducing our students to the wonder of the natural world, focusing on the interconnectedness of all living things with their physical environment and with one another. Students will learn what a habitat is and will also learn to identify specific types of habitats and their related characteristics.

### **Skills**

We will continue with unit 4 in skills. Students will continue reading from our reader with a fictional character, but the information in the book is factual, making it an informational text. The reader will include new text features that are often part of informational texts, such as headings within each

for each story. Students will continue to decode and spell two-syllable words, including compound words, words made up of a root word followed by an ending, and words that have two vowel sounds and each syllable ends in a consonant. We will continue with verb tense practice by understanding how we can change a sentence from the present tense to the past or future tense by changing the verb. Students will also be using adjectives to describe nouns by using their five senses to help give a more vivid and interesting description. Students will begin planning a descriptive paragraph at the end of the week.

## Science

We will be wrapping up our unit in science about force and motion. Students will review how pushes and pulls can start, stop, or change the speed or directions of an object's motion. Students will also review the planning and conducting of a descriptive investigation that predicts how pushes and pulls can start, stop, or change the speed or direction of an object's motion. We will finish the week with a topic assessment.

## 2nd Grade

In Skills we will be learning /ee/ > 'y' and 'ey', practice changing 'y' to 'i' and adding -es, review action verbs, and present and past tense of to be. We will read from our grade level reader, A Job Hunt, to practice reading comprehension. In Knowledge we will be reading stories about The U.S. Civil War.

In Math we will be learning how to relate manipulative representations to the subtraction algorithm, and use addition to explain why the subtraction method works. We will use math drawings to represent subtraction with up to two decompositions, relate drawings to the algorithm, and use addition to explain why the subtraction method.

In Science we will be learning how to investigate and describe how wind and water move soil and rock particles across the Earth's surface such as wind blowing sand into dunes on a beach or a river carrying rocks as it flows.

In Social Studies we will be learning how to identify and use information on maps and globes using basic map elements such as title, cardinal directions, and legend.

## 3rd Grade

This week in Reading, we will continue our study of Unit 6: The Viking Age. We will read *Stolen Thunder*, *The Wedding Feast*, and *Balder the Beautiful*. We will use the text to identify plot elements: characters, setting, conflict, and resolution. We will also use text evidence to respond in our writing. In Math, we will determine the area of rectangles with whole number side lengths in problems using multiplication related to the number of rows times the number of unit squares in each row. We will

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CONTINUE OUR STUDY FORCE AND MOTION, AND IN SOCIAL STUDIES WE WILL CONTINUE LEARNING ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT. IT'S GOING TO BE A GREAT WEEK IN THIRD GRADE!

## 4th Grade

This week in ELAR, students will complete Unit 5 and finish the adventure story *Treasure Island*. They will then review the unit's priority TEKS, focusing on character development, summarizing, and using context clues. Students will take their **Unit 5 test on Thursday**.

In Social Studies, students will begin learning about the Republic of Texas.

This week in Math, students will be exploring shapes and their attributes. They will focus on identifying angles and lines of symmetry. We will wrap up the week with the **Module 4 Test on Friday**.

In Science, students will be learning about the seasons by collecting data and looking for patterns. They will explore how things like temperature and the amount of daylight change throughout the year and use this information to make predictions about seasonal changes.

## 5th Grade

### ELA

Our poets are diving deep into poetry this week. Students will explore implied metaphors and give their own metaphors a glow up by revising and using them in original poems. We will uncover allusions and talk about how they add meaning, while also analyzing characters and settings to make strong inferences. Students will learn the unique structure of villanelle poems, use textual evidence to explain meaning, and identify parallel structure to compare and contrast scenes. So much thinking, creativity, and poetry magic happening!

### Math

We are working with fractions in real life ways. Students will find fractions of a set using hands on models and pictures, find fractions of measurements, and solve word problems that help them explain their thinking clearly and confidently. Fractions are starting to make sense in new and exciting ways!

### Science

Our earth scientists are learning how the Earth slowly changes over time. We will explore weathering and erosion and discover how landforms like canyons, deltas, and sand dunes are created. Students will be amazed at how powerful slow changes can be.

# COUNSELING CORNER

JANUARY 2026



## What's Happening

### Hi JES Families!

This month, we're focusing on commitment! Commitment is choosing to stick with something, even when it feels challenging. It means showing up, doing our best, and continuing to try — whether we're learning something new, working toward a goal, or being there for others.

As we begin the new year and start the second semester, commitment reminds students that growth doesn't happen overnight. Every small effort adds up! By practicing commitment, students build confidence, responsibility, and pride in their work — and they learn that their actions matter.

We're excited to welcome a fresh semester filled with new goals, new learning, and new opportunities to grow. We look forward to supporting our JES students as they commit to themselves, their learning, and our school community in the year ahead!



## Commitment at Home

### Model It!

Show commitment in everyday ways by finishing tasks you start, following through on promises, and talking out loud about sticking with something even when it's hard. When kids see adults persevere, they learn that commitment matters.

### Encourage It!

Notice and praise your child's efforts to keep going, such as completing homework, practicing a skill, or trying again after a mistake. Emphasize effort and follow-through, not just the final result.

### Talk About It!

- "What is something you're working hard on right now?"
- "How did you keep going when something felt challenging?"
- "Why is it important to finish what we start?"

**Let's work together to help our kids build commitment by setting goals, practicing perseverance, and celebrating the effort it takes to grow at home, at school, and beyond.**

# DISTRICT NEWS

## Elementary Attendance Zones 26-27

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school attendance boundaries, which determine where students attend school. Recently, the attendance zone committee identified their top two drafts, draft #3 and draft #4. These drafts, along with the current zones, can be viewed by clicking this [link](#).

Your feedback is essential to ensuring the attendance zones align with the needs and priorities of our district and the families in our community. The committee invites you to complete this [brief survey](#). The survey will allow you to vote for your preferred plan and offer input.

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## 2026-2027 Academic Calendar - Vote NOW!

Various committees have been diligently working to create two calendar options for the 2026/2027 school year. Please click this [link](#) to view the two drafts.

To vote for your preferred calendar, please complete this [survey](#). The voting period will be open from January 5th to January 14th. On January 21, 2026, the calendar option with the most votes will be presented to the JISD Board for approval. Please submit your vote and feedback by the deadline to ensure your voice is included.

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## Medical Care for JISD Families

Lone Star Circle of Care is offering medical and behavioral services to Jarrell ISD families. They accept families with or without health insurance. Additional information is on the flyer.



**Lonestar Circle of Care.pdf**

[Download](#)

886.1 KB



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PDF

Lonestar Circle of Care - Spanish.ppt

948.2 KB



## District Calendar





## MANY HEARTS, ONE SCHOOL WHERE ALL MEANS ALL

### IMPORTANT Daily Deadlines!

In order for our systems to run smoothly and safely, please observe the following daily deadlines times.

**7:30 a.m.** The back doors automatically lock, and you will need to drive around and walk your child in to the building. PLEASE DO NOT DROP-OFF STUDENTS AFTER 7:30. ***They must be signed in by a parent or guardian.***

**1:30 p.m.** ALL transportation changes must be made by 1:30 by emailing or calling Kendra Field or Monica Santos at (512)-746-2170 or [kendra.field@jarrellisd.org](mailto:kendra.field@jarrellisd.org) or [monica.santos@jarrellisd.org](mailto:monica.santos@jarrellisd.org).

**2:30 p.m.** Any student checking out early for an appointment must be picked up before 2:30. Our dismissal process is underway by that time making it very difficult to change.

**Observing these cut-off times helps us ensure the safest and smoothest possible processes!**

**Thank you!**



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## Jarrell Elementary School

Please reach out with any questions or suggestions you may have!

[Lara Hutchinson, Principal](#)

[Jaclynne Bizzell, Assistant Principal](#)

[Lupita Viveros, Assistant Principal](#)

[Brittany Martin, Counselor](#)

[Stephanie Garcia, Administrative Assistant](#)

[Terry Kurtz, Registrar](#)

[Kendra Field, Receptionist](#)

[Clarissa Aviles, Nurse](#)

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### Lara Hutchinson

Lara is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters



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