



Newsletter

<https://sites.google.com/a/northampton-k12.us/nps/our-schools/jackson-street-school>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Northampton-Public-Schools-Massachusetts/179921372117715>

<https://www.facebook.com/jacksonstreetpto> <http://www.jspto.org/>

You may also connect with us on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/#!/NPSDistrict>

Ms. Alessi's website: <https://sites.google.com/northampton-k12.us/mindfulnessatjss>

JSS Office 587-1510

Volume 22 No. 23

February 16, 2018

If you wish to have a copy of this letter written in Spanish, French or Arabic, please contact the school department at 587-1315. Si le gustaria esta carta en Espanol, es posible. Llama 413-587-1315. Si vous voulez une copie de cette lettre en Français, veuillez contacter le Département de l'École 587-1315. في 587-1315 ية سردم لة اءادب لاصت الة اءري، ءي برعل الة ءل لءاب ءبوت كم ءل اسر لة هءة نم ءءسن ءل ءل لوصء الة ءف بءرء ءنء ءءا اءا 587-1315.

MESSAGE FROM MS. AGNA

Interesting article recently on National Public Radio – stay tuned for more from me on the challenges of parenting in these times...

<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2018/02/12/584389201/smartphone-detox-how-to-power-down-in-a-wired-world>

JOE THE CROSSING GUARD

Mr. Joe Larouche, our long-time crossing guard, has retired due to ill health. We thank Mr. Joe so very much for his many years of steadfast and dedicated service – we miss you, Joe! If you would like to write to Mr. Joe, his home address is 31 Lincoln Ave., Northampton 010160.

We are happy to welcome **Mr. Roe Clark** as our new crossing guard and thank the Northampton Police Dept. for their attention to our students' safety!

JSS SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

At the next School Council meeting – on Monday, Feb. 26, 3:30-5PM – I will share information on the upcoming Budget presentation by the Superintendent. On Tuesday, Feb. 27, he will present the “first look” at next year’s budget as well as the results of the budget survey that was completed by students, staff, faculty and parents/guardians. He has given us principals permission to “preview” this with the JSS community. I have invited faculty and staff to come if they would like.

At our Council meeting we will prepare to attend the Joint Schools Councils meeting about the budget on Wednesday March 7 from 5-6PM. Reviewing the “first look” at the budget will help us to address areas of the budget at this meeting on March 7.

We will meet in the library – please feel free to join us if you'd like!

GREAT SADNESS

Words fail me now – and so often – when we are faced with a shooting in our schools. Children are our most vulnerable and they are way way too often exposed to and victims of horrific violence. The latest incident in Florida is just one more. The statistics worldwide – that 1 in 6 children live in or near communities rife with such events fills us all with despair. Please let us know if we can support you as you parent children in these times. If you have access to the Internet, there are many resources to help with speaking with your children. I have attached a list of tips and resources at the end of this newsletter. And it is time again to turn to Mr. Rogers:

“When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, “Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.”

Please know we at JSS are the helpers.

Have a safe and happy break next week. See you on Monday, February 26, 2018.

With a heavy heart and great respect and affection,

Gwen Agna
Gwen Agna

HOLA

Dear JSS Parents,

Thank you so much to the families who generously pledged to donate support for scholarships this session. As a result, we are able to provide one HOLA class per scholarship request for session three (\$720.00 worth of classes). We appreciate any amount you can donate to help make participation in HOLA an option to all students at Jackson Street School, and are accepting donations in the office for our next session.

Estimados padres de JSS:

Muchas gracias a las familias que han donado tan generosamente para ayudar a las becas para esta sesion. Gracias a esto podemos proveer una clase de HOLA por cada pedido en esta tercer sesion (valor the \$720) Apreciamos cualquier monto que pueda donar para hacer posible que todos los estudiantes de Jackson Street School participen en HOLA.

All class confirmation forms went home Wednesday. If you did not receive your form, email Ms. BG hola@northampton-k12.us or call 587-1510 ext 3775.

Payments for HOLA are due by February 26, the day before classes. Please make checks out to The City of Northampton, or if paying by cash, bring in to the office.

And a word about slime... The "Slime!" class was very popular- the most popular in HOLA history- with 46 students signing up for 8 slots. We were able to get another teacher and offer another class on the same day, but that still means only 16 slots for 46 students. Class placement was chosen by lottery. We hope to offer this class again next session, and are sorry, as we are with all HOLA classes, we were not able to give each student their first choice.

Thank you,

Ms. BG

MESSAGE FROM MS. ALLESSI

Free Yoga Class at Karuna

Ms. Alessi will be opening her Wednesday afternoon class on February 28th, from 4:00 - 5:00 to any JSS adult, staff or parent, free of charge!

It will be a gentle, restorative time to relieve stress and increase flexibility and joy.

Thank you to the PTO for sponsoring this event.

And, asking for your help.

I am reaching out to the JSS community in hopes that you can help me to honor my friend and yoga teacher, Eileen Muir,

who is moving to Spain in April. I arrived at her studio door over six years ago with back pain and a broken heart due to the stress of having worked for many years as a classroom teacher in the schools of Holyoke. I was immediately taken in and lead down the path of healing. After just two years, I was strong enough to realize a dream I had been harboring for over 20 years: to work within the walls of Jackson Street School.

My idea is to have staff and families send me videos/pictures/drawings/etc. that start with the words:

Thank you, Eileen, for helping to bring more mindfulness to Jackson Street because...

These will then be shared during a celebration we are having on March 17th at Karuna.

Videos and photos can be sent to:

rallessi@northampton-k12.us

Cards and drawings can be put in my mailbox.

Deadline: March 1st

I also anticipate needing technical guidance around editing the videos and photos that come in.

Please let me know if you are willing and able to help me on this front.

I thank you in advance.

May all be healthy and strong-

Rebeca Alessi

PTO NEWS

BOX TOPS!

It's Box Tops submission time! If you have been saving Box Tops, please turn them in by TODAY, Friday 2/16, the day before school vacation. In the fall we collected \$200 worth – let's see if we can get to \$500 for the year. Every Box Top helps – no amount is too small!

Thanks, Kerry and Suzy

Mark your calendars to eat at Moe's on Feb. 28!

On Wednesday, Feb. 28, please consider having dinner at Moe's (on King Street, in the Stop & Shop plaza). From 5:00 to 8:00 pm that evening, 15% off all orders will go to the Jackson Street School PTO! This is our third year doing a Moe's fundraiser for JSS, and it is always a party!

Please show your server the JSS flyer (we'll send copies home closer to the date, and have some in the office) - or if you forget, tell them you are there for Jackson Street School.

Anyone can participate, so please tell family, friends and neighbors, too!

4th Annual JSS Family Science Night - March 2nd from 5:30 to 7:30

Please join the exciting world of Science to have fun and learning

experience. All ages are welcome.

View the Science-inspired hand-on activities, various demonstrations from our JSS alumni, JSS students/teachers and parent volunteers, exhibits from students of UMass, Smith and Mt.Holyoke.

Dinner will be provided by Sakura buffet from 5:30 to 6:15 in the JSS cafeteria followed by demonstrations.

Please see the attached flyer and RSVP by Feb 27 for dinner.

Hope to see you all!

Thanks,

JSS Science committee and JSS PTO

NEF Small Grants deadline is April 16 - is there a project you would like to see?

The Northampton Education Foundation (NEF) offers Small Grants to Teachers to bring special programs and projects to our schools. There are two grant cycles a year, and the deadline for the Spring one is April 16. Parents can initiate projects, although all grants must include a teacher or school administrator. Some of the grants that NEF has funded recently at JSS include a classical music program coming to JSS later this Spring, Sojourner Truth's Florence: A Walk Through History, Improv Out, field trips with Grow Food Northampton and a program for staff on Promoting Racial Literacy.

This is a wonderful opportunity - would you love to see a special performer or guest come to JSS? Is there a field trip or classroom project that would really enhance learning here but is not in the school budget? Is there a professional development opportunity for teachers and staff?

The application isn't long or intimidating - really! - and NEF really wants to hear your ideas.

The JSS PTO can offer support for the grant writing process - just let us know.

Details about the application, including what NEF does and does not fund, application questions and FAQ can be found on the NEF website: northamptoneducation.org

Just click on the link for Small Grants to Teachers: <http://northamptoneducation.org/small-grant-application/>

And if you want help with this, please email Liz Horn and I will connect you with support: elhorn@mindspring.com

SWING INTO SPRING AUCTION

Get your babysitters lined up because we are gearing up for our annual Swing into Spring auction event, March 23 6-10pm at the Garden House at Look Park!

This is a wonderful event, bringing out JSS parents, teachers and staff and friends for a fun filled adults only evening. Swing into Spring Auction raises money for our

beloved Jackson Street School. It is a JSS tradition and a really fun night out with food, cash-bar, music, dancing, great company and most importantly lots of exciting items to bid on, all benefitting our school!

Invitations will be going home soon, but in the meantime please:

-Mark your calendars.

-Call your babysitters! Maybe share a sitter with another JSS family to help save on the cost.

VOLUNTEER for Swing into Spring

There will be a sign-up sheet to volunteer! Come be part of helping to make this a spectacular and successful event!

Contact:

Karen Hodges kmhodes01060@yahoo.com

Jo Comerford jo.comerford186@gmail.com

Alyssa Richardson ajdca99@yahoo.com

DONATIONS

Do you have a friend that owns a business and wants to donate a gift card, or a generous family member willing to donate a weekend stay at their summer house? Or are you an artist and want to donate your work? These are the kind of items that could bring in money for our school!

The best way to help is mark your calendars and come to this fabulous event! Help support Jackson Street School! MARCH 23, 2018

IN THE NEWS

👏 KUDOS to **Toren Siebecker Grosso** for donating his long locks to "Locks of Love" for making wigs for those who have lost their hair! His new "do" is just as cool and colorful too!

👏 4th grader, Autumn Entin-O'Neill's grandfather, **David Entin**, was mentioned in the Daily Hampshire Gazette, along with **Betsy Yount**, former JSS parent, as being major players in the resettlement of a family from The Democratic Republic of the Congo in Northampton.

👏 **Ellen Brown**, JSS 1st grade teacher, was quoted in the Daily Hampshire Gazette article on the recent School Committee meeting at which she spoke in public session and also at which the Superintendent gave a report on the first 90 days of the inclusion model in the elementary schools. The full article is online at gazettenet.com and is posted on the bulletin board outside the office.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

• 13th Annual VINS DOG SHOW at Northampton High School on Sunday, March 3rd from Noon-3PM.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR – We’re always adding new dates so keep checking. PLEASE check the Northampton Public Schools website for district calendar updates.

Parents Hour in the Family Center every other Wed. from 9-10AM, beginning Wed. Sept. 6.

Walking School Bus (See you in the Spring!) – Ms. Agna alternates on Fridays around 8:10AM between the bike path (starting behind Stop and Shop) and Hampshire Heights, starting at the bottom of the hill near the CVS plaza.

TODAY Fri. Feb. 16	Deadline for BOX TOPS!
Mon. Feb. 19-23	NO SCHOOL – February vacation
Mon. Feb. 26	WELCOME BACK! JSS Council meeting 3:30-5PM in the library – all are invited to attend!
Tues. Feb. 27	HOLA Session 3 starts
Wed. Feb. 28	VISITING DAY 9:30-11AM MOE’S Fundraiser 5-8PM
Fri. Mar. 2	Class Placement forms due! SCIENCE NIGHT!
Wed. Mar. 7	VISITING DAY 9:30-11AM Joint Schools Council meeting 5-6PM at JFK Middle School
Wed. Mar. 14	VISITING DAY 9:30-11AM
Wed. Mar. 21	VISITING DAY 9:30-11AM
Thurs. Mar. 15	All-school assembly – 5th graders present at 9:15AM
Fri. Mar. 23	SWING INTO SPRING AUCTION!
Wed. Mar. 28	FINAL VISITING DAY 9:30-11AM
Thurs. Apr. 5	HOLA Session 3 ends
Wed. Apr. 11	all-school assembly – 1st graders present at 1:30PM.
Wed. May 30	all-school assembly honoring our JSS/High School Grads – with KDGners at 2PM
Thurs. June 14	all school assembly “FINE FINE SCHOOL” led by Ms. Agna at 10:00AM

VISITING DAYS 9:30 - 11:00 am

Wed., Feb. 28, Wed., March 7, Wed., March 14, Wed. March 21, Wed. Mar. 28 – one more due to Feb. 7 snow day!

April MCAS

- Tuesday April 3, 2018 MCAS 3rd Grade ELA
- Wednesday April 4, 2018 MCAS 3rd Grade ELA
- Thursday April 5, 2018 MCAS 3rd Grade ELA
- Tuesday April 10, 2018 MCAS 4th Grade ELA
- Wednesday, April 11 MCAS 4th Grade ELA
- Thursday April 12, 2018 MCAS 4th Grade ELA
- Tuesday April 24, 2018 MCAS 5th Grade ELA
- Wednesday April 25, 2018 MCAS 5th Grade ELA
- Thursday April 26, 2018 MCAS 5th Grade ELA

May MCAS

- Tuesday May 1, 2018 MCAS 3rd Grade Math

- Wednesday May 2, 2018 MCAS 3rd Grade Math
- Thursday May 3, 2018 MCAS 3rd Grade Math
- Thursday, May 3, 2018 MCAS 3rd Grade Math
- Tuesday May 8, 2018 MCAS 4th Grade Math
- Wednesday May 9, 2018 MCAS 4th Grade Math
- Thursday May 10, 2018 MCAS 4th Grade Math
- Tuesday May 15, 2018 MCAS 5th Grade Math
- Wednesday May 16, 2018 MCAS 5th Grade Math
- Thursday May 17, 2018 MCAS 5th Grade Math
- Monday May 21, 2018 MCAS 5th Grade Science
- Tuesday May 22, 2018 MCAS 5th Grade Science
- Wednesday May 23, 2018 MCAS 5th Grade Science

Talking with Children About Tragedy in the News

- First, find out what your child or student knows about the event. Even if you haven't yet discussed it together, the child may have heard the news from media sources or classmates. The child's perception of what has happened may be very different from the reality.

- Reassure the child that it is ok to talk about sad or scary events. It is also ok to admit to feeling sad, scared, or angry and to acknowledge that you are having those feelings too. In an interview with Good Morning America, expert Willow Bay advises, "Establish that there is no question too scary for your child to talk about." Likewise, Mr. Rogers writes, "If we don't let children know it's okay to feel sad and scared, they may think something is wrong with them when they do feel that way."

- Encourage questions, both now and in the future. David Schonfeld, MD, writes, "Like adults, children are better able to cope with a crisis if they feel they understand it. Question-and-answer exchanges provide you with the opportunity to offer support as your child begins to understand the crisis and the response to it."

- Reassure the child that he or she is safe. When a child has questions such as, "Why did this happen?" or "Am I safe?", explain that events like these are very rare. Ms. Bay also encourages parents to talk about the many people who work every day to keep kids safe, such as police officers, teachers, or the school principal.

- In sharing information, be honest, but be mindful of the child's age. The National Association of School Psychologists offers these helpful guidelines in its tips for talking with children about violence (available in multiple languages below):

- o Early elementary school children need brief, simple information that should be balanced with reassurances that their school and homes are safe and that adults are there to protect them. Give simple examples of school safety like reminding children about exterior doors being locked, child monitoring efforts on the playground, and emergency drills practiced during the school day.

- o Upper elementary and early middle school children will be more vocal in asking questions about whether they truly are safe and what is being done at their school. They may need assistance separating reality from fantasy. Discuss efforts of school and community leaders to provide safe schools.

- o Upper middle school and high school students will have strong and varying opinions about the causes of violence in schools and society. They will share concrete suggestions about how to make school safer and how to prevent tragedies in society. Emphasize the role that students have in maintaining safe schools by following school safety guidelines (e.g. not providing building access to strangers, reporting strangers on campus, reporting threats to the school safety made by students or community members, etc.), communicating any personal safety to school administrators, and accessing support for emotional needs.

- Remember that it is ok to admit that you don't have all of the answers. Mr. Rogers offers the following: "If the answer is 'I don't know,' then the simplest reply might be something like, 'I'm sad about the news, and I'm worried. But I love you, and I'm here to care for you.'"

- Be patient. If the child doesn't have much to say yet, give him some time and let him know he can come back with more questions or to talk about the events when he is ready. If he shows signs of depression and anxiety over time, speak with the child's pediatrician or a school counselor for guidance.

Other important steps

- Turn off the news. Media images can add to the trauma of a tragedy, particularly for young children. Images on the television, in video, and on the Internet can be confusing and disorienting as dramatic images are repeated over and over again. Mr. Rogers notes that "Someone who has died turns up alive and then dies again and again," while Dr. Elaine Ducharme explains that this can lead children to believe that the tragedy has happened many times. In addition, the live coverage and the closeness of the TV images can add to the sense of danger. If the child does see these images, help her understand that she is far away from where the news has happened.

- Look for "kid-friendly" sources of information. These might include children's books, magazines and websites for children who want to learn more. For more information about using children's literature, see *After the Crisis: Using Storybooks to Help Children Cope*. Websites about current events for kids are listed below.

- Encourage the child to express feelings and ideas through familiar activities. Professor Bonnie Rubenstein recommends writing, painting, and singing. Play may also be helpful, but Mr. Rogers encourages adults to help children come up with "safe" make-believe scenarios such as helping someone at a hospital rather than reenacting the tragedy.

- Talk about people who are helping. Mr. Rogers notes that whenever his family learned about bad news, his mother encouraged him to "look for the helpers." These may include first responders, volunteers, doctors, or community members. Let your child know that even though bad things happen, the world has many good people who want to help.

- Ask the child for ideas on how to help. This might include fundraising, collecting donations, or being pen pals, as well as ways to make a difference closer to home through a community project. Mr. Rogers also suggests talking about ways that adults can help, such as making a donation or writing a letter to an elected official.

- Keep up your routine. Normalcy will help the child deal with difficult feelings, as will doing fun things that you both enjoy. Remember that kids still need to be kids!

- Stay calm. OneToughJob.com emphasizes how important it is for adults to manage their own stress so that they can be the best caregivers possible — and also to remember that children may be listening to adult conversations.

- Get close! A final tip from Mr. Rogers: “Give your child extra comfort and physical affection, like hugs or snuggling up together with a favorite book. Physical comfort goes a long way towards providing inner security. That closeness can nourish you, too.”

Talking to Children About Violence: Multilingual Tips for Parents and Teachers

The National Association of School Psychologists recommends a number of helping tips in how to talk to children about violence and safety in this tip sheet, also available in multiple languages.

English, Spanish, Korean, Vietnamese, French, Amharic, Chinese, Portuguese, Somali, Arabic, Kurdish-Bahdini

Resources

News websites for kids

- Newsela
- Listenwise: Public Radio Podcasts for Students
- Time for Kids
- Scholastic News
- CNN 10: News in 10 Minutes

Talking about & preventing school violence

- Coping with a School Shooting (National Association for the Education of Young Children)
- Mass Violence Resources (National Child Traumatic Stress Network)
- School Violence Prevention: Tips for Parents & Educators (National Association of School Psychologists)
- Understanding School Violence (The Centers for Disease Control)
- Tips for School Administrators for Reinforcing School Safety (National Association of School Psychologists)
- Talking to your children about school shootings (American Psychological Association)
- How to talk to your kids about school shootings (NBC News)
- How to talk to children about shootings: An age-by-age guide (Today)
- School Violence and the News (KidsHealth)

Talking about the Sandy Hook shooting

- Classroom Resources: Talking and Teaching About the Shooting in Newtown, Conn. (The New York Times)
- Handling Tragedy: How to Talk to Kids About Sandy Hook (Edutopia)
- How to Talk to Your Kids about the Connecticut Shooting (ABC News)
- Talking to Children About the Connecticut Shooting (American Federation of Teachers)
- After Newtown: Tip Sheets and Information (American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry)
- In the Wake of Newtown, Helping Children Cope (Education Week)
- Innocence Lost: Honoring the Children of Newton, CT (Reading Rockets)

Talking about tough topics

- How to Help Kids Feel Safe After a Tragedy (PBS Parents)
- Parenting for a Challenging World: Recovery After a Traumatic Event (National Child Traumatic Stress Network)
- Help in the Times of Crisis or Loss (National Center for School Crisis and Bereavement)
- Talking About Tragic Events (One Tough Job)

- A Child in Grief (New York Life Foundation)

Talking about tough topics: Multilingual resources

Spanish language

- Talking to Children About the Connecticut Shooting (American Federation of Teachers)
- Helping your children manage distress in the aftermath of a shooting (American Psychologists Association)
- Talking About Tragic Events (One Tough Job)
- Helping Children Cope with Trauma (Red Cross)
- Parent and Educator Tips for Talking with Children About Violence (National Association of School Psychologists)
- A Child in Grief (New York Life Foundation)
- School Violence and the News (KidsHealth)

Other languages

- Helping Children Cope with Disaster: Multilingual (Red Cross – see bottom of page)
- Parent and Educator Tips for Talking with Children About Violence: Multilingual (National Association of School Psychologists)

School safety

- Parent Guides on School Violence (National PTA)
- Safeguarding Our Children: An Action Guide (U.S. Departments of Education and Justice and the American Institutes for Research)
- School Violence Prevention and Intervention (Center for Effective Collaboration and Practice)
- School Violence and Security: A Historical Timeline (Education Week)

Educational resources

- Student and Teacher Resources & Forums on the Newtown, Conn. Shootings (The New York Times)
- Ongoing News Coverage of Sandy Hook Shootings (Education Week)

About the Author

Lydia Breiseth is the Manager of Colorín Colorado, which is a part of the Learning Media Department of public broadcasting affiliate WETA. In this capacity, Ms. Breiseth manages content, web production, outreach, and partnerships on behalf of the project.

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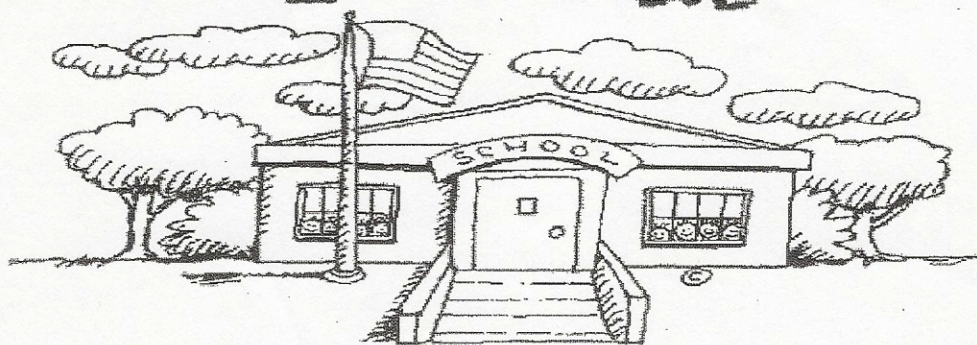
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WELCOME!



**J.F.K. MIDDLE SCHOOL
INFORMATIONAL MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 8th 2018
6:30-8:00 pm
IN THE J.F.K. CAFETERIA**

Parents/guardians of prospective J.F.K. students who will be
in grades six, seven or eight
in September, 2018 are encouraged to attend.

Presenters will be Ms. Lesley Wilson (Principal), Mrs. Katelyn Champine (Associate Principal), Ms. Elaine Mount (Associate Principal of Special Education) and the members of the Guidance Department. The presentation will include conversation regarding: scheduling, curriculum, middle school model, and support services.

A tour of the building will be included. A representative from the J.F.K. PTO will also be introduced.

This program is for parents/guardians. Students will have other opportunities to visit J.F.K.

A Spanish translator will be present.
We look forward to welcoming you!

An Invitation for all Prospective JFK
students and their parents and guardians

Bake Sale

Student Performances

Student Work

Visit Classrooms

JFK Spotlight

March 1, 2018

6:30-8:00

Curriculum
Highlights

Clubs and Activities

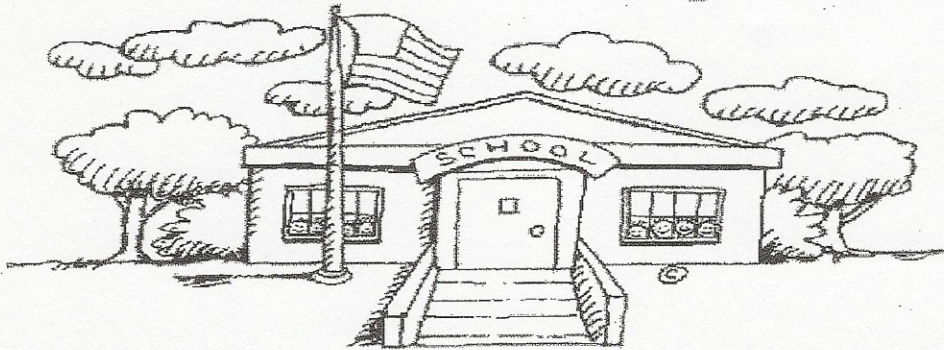
We hope you'll join us!

Please stop by for an informal
showcase

featuring JFK Middle School

Stay tuned to the JFK website for a more
detailed program of events.

WELCOME!



**Escuela Intermedia J.F.K.
REUNION DE INFORMACION
EL 8 DE MARZO DEL 2018
A LAS 6:30-8:00 PM
EN LA CAFETERIA DE JFK**

Los padres y guardianes de los estudiantes que van estar en sexto, septimo o en octavo grado en Septiembre, estan invitados.

Los presentadores seran, la Sra. Lesley Wilson (Principal), el Sra. Katelyn Champine (Asistente Principal), la Sra. Elaine Mount (Asistente Principal)

y miembros del Departamento de Consejeria. La presentacion va a incluir una conversacion con respecto al curriculo de educacion, programacion, modelos de la escuela intermedia, y servicios de apoyo.

Se les dara una excursion de la escuela.

Un representante del PTO de JFK tambien sera introducido. Esto es un programa solamente para padres y guardianes. Los estudiantes tendran su oportunidad de visitar J.F.K en otro momento

Un traductor en espanol va estar disponible.
Deseamos que atiendan. Todos estan bienvenidos!

Invitación para padres, tutores y todos los estudiantes futuros

Venta de golosinas

Actuaciones de estudiantes

Visita los salones

Trabajos de los estudiantes

Enfoque de JFK
El 1 de marzo,
2018 6:30-8:00

Puntos interesantes
Sobre el plan
de enseñanza

Actividades y clubes

Por favor venga para una
presentación

Uniformal de la escuela JFK

¡Esperamos nos acompañen!

Permanezca atento al sitio web de JFK para un
programa ma's detallado de acontecimientos.