



Newsletter

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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. 22

February 9, 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. 587-1315 ي ف سردم ل ا ةراد ا ل اصت ال ا ي جري ، ي ب ر ع ل ا ة غ ل ل ا ب ة ب و ت ك م ة ل ا س ر ل ا ه ذ ه ن م ة خ س ن ي ل ع ل و ص ح ل ا ي ف ب غ ر ت ت ن ك ا ذ ا

MESSAGE FROM MS. AGNA



SCHOOL DOG

As some of you have heard, Jackson St. School will get a “school dog” that is trained as a “therapy” dog! I have hesitated to announce this only because we do not have a definite date for its arrival and waiting is the hardest part, as Tom Petty sings. However since some people know about it, I want to share the facts with you, staying away from “fake news”. I will announce this at our assembly next week – as a “Valentine” from me to our school.



There is quite a bit of research on the effectiveness of therapy animals in general, and dogs specifically. In the past, Leeds and Bridge St. had therapy dogs. Please let me know if you'd like links to this. Needless to say there is strict criteria for such dogs that includes the dog's disposition, the training, the shedding (or lack of it) and therefore the non-allergenicness of it, as well as the preparation for our students and families. I know that there are students and families who have a range of feelings about dogs – from loving them to being very uncomfortable and afraid of them. Please believe me when I say that NO STUDENT will be asked to interact, pet, snuggle or even be in the same room as the dog if the student does not want to. Again, a big piece of this is preparation for our students and families about what it will mean to have a dog here at JSS. More on that as it gets closer to the dog's arrival.

GREAT thanks to our amazing PTO for sponsoring half of the cost of the training of the dog, which includes training the “humans” who will oversee the dog's activities at JSS. My husband, Tom Marantz and I are purchasing the dog and it will live, when not at work at JSS, at our house. We will be among the humans who will be trained. I am not betraying anything when I say that I will retire one day (I'm NOT announcing anything right now!). When I am no longer the principal, the dog will still be the JSS therapy dog – per an understanding that I have with our superintendent, John Provost, who will communicate this condition with the new JSS principal. My husband and I plan to stay in Northampton for the foreseeable future and Tom has agreed, when I am no longer at the helm, to bring the dog to school per its work schedule.

There are many details to share and many unknowns right now – in particular we don't know exactly WHEN the dog will arrive. A litter of puppies has just been born and the trainer is making decisions about whether our school dog is in this litter. It will be a labradoodle – that we know.

I will share more in the next few newsletters. Again, my thanks to the PTO as well as the JSS staff and faculty for their enthusiastic response to having a school dog!



DATA FROM THE OFFICE – PART II

Thanks to so many who worked hard to get to school on time this past week! We'll share the data on this in next week's newsletter!

NEXT YEAR

Please find the “Class Placement” form attached to this newsletter – in English and Spanish. We ask that you fill this out and return to school as soon as possible and no later than March 2, 2018. Thank you.

I will write more about the process we undertake here at our school for making up the classes and assigning teachers in future newsletters.

ASSEMBLY NEXT WEEK

A reminder that our 4th graders will present at the February all-school assembly – next THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15 at 9:45AM in the gym. All are invited to join us!

VALENTINE

Whether or not your family observes Valentine's Day, I think it's a wonderful chance for us all to pause and think about love and who it is that we care about. It is in that spirit that I share the following quote by one of our students from a very proud mama!

"You know, Mama, people think your heart is full of all the love you have. Really, your heart is a muscle that's full of all the blood it pumps out to your body, so that your body can function. But your soul is INSIDE your heart, and that's where all the love lives."

Enjoy the weekend – see you next week!

With great respect and affection,


Gwen Agna

PTO NEWS

TODAY - FRIDAY, Feb. 9 is the re-scheduled WINTER WALK TO SCHOOL DAY.

Wednesday's snow day cancelled our original plan, so we've shifted it to Friday. Ms. Agna will walk in Hampshire Heights. Everyone can meet at the flagpole from 8:35 to 8:45 - we'll be giving out stickers, bike reflectors and other fun stuff - and cups of hot apple cider to warm you up!

Reminder: The next PTO meeting is February 14

6:30 p.m. in the library

Free childcare and snacks

We'll welcome a special guest from the Northampton Education Foundation who will answer questions about NEF's next grant cycle and participate in a community brainstorm about potential spring grants for JSS! This will kick off a two-month period where the PTO will support those wanting to submit grants to NEF--through grant writing training and grant coaching.

BOX TOPS!

It's Box Tops submission time! If you have been saving Box Tops, please turn them in by 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

COFFEE/TEA!

February orders for delicious Jackson Street School coffee, tea and hot chocolate are due this Monday, Feb. 12 by 9:00 am.

Warm up on these snowy days with hot beverages - locally roasted/blended, fair trade and organic. And all profits go to JSS!

You can submit a paper order in the office or email me anytime. If you have a standing monthly order, thank

you and you are all set.

Orders will be delivered by Friday morning, Feb. 16.

Thanks so much.

- Liz Horn, elhorn@mindspring.com

Mark your calendars to eat at Moe's 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!

Special Valentine's Day Coffee Hour!

We've missed a couple of Family Center coffee hours this winter due to a snow day and PD/no school day.

On Wed., Feb. 14, all parents, guardians, staff are invited for our Family Coffee Hour in the Family Center from 9:00 to 10:00 am. Free coffee, tea and treats, conversations with other grown-up's, and usually a visit from Ms. Agna. Grandparents, special friends and younger children warmly welcome!

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.

-Stay tuned for the announcements of very exciting items coming to auction

-Spread the word!

If you have any questions please contact:

Karen Hodges kmhodes01060@yahoo.com

Jo Comerford jo.comerford186@gmail.com

Alyssa Richardson ajdca99@yahoo.com

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.

RECESS HELPS KIDS

Mary Cowhey, Title I Math teacher, submitted the following:

MTA-backed legislation that would guarantee students in kindergarten through fifth grade 20 minutes of recess a day is stuck in the Joint Committee on Education, where it could die if it's not acted on. We need MTA members and parents/guardians to flex their collective muscles again to get the legislation out of committee.

Rep. Alice Peisch (D-Wellesley), co-chair of the committee, needs to hear from educators and parents about how valuable recess is for students' social, emotional and physical health. Call her at 617.722.2070. Tell her you are calling her because she is a committee chair and urge her to support H. 235 by releasing it with a favorable report.

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.

Wed. Feb. 14 VISITING DAY 9:3-11AM

Thurs. Feb. 15 All-school assembly – 4th graders present at 9:45AM
Kindergarten 2018-2019 Information Meeting 6:30PM at JFK Middle School

Fri. Feb. 16 Deadline for BOX TOPS!

Mon. Feb. 19-23 NO SCHOOL – February vacation

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. 14

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

Información Para Colocación en Clase

Favor de devolver esta forma no mas tarde del viernes de marzo 2 del 2018

Nombre del Estudiante _____ Maestra/o _____

Mi Hijo/a _____ estará _____ no estará, asistiendo a la Escuela Jackson Street el próximo año.

1. Describa las características del ámbito de aprendizaje mas efectivo para su hijo/a.
2. Describa algunas de las áreas fuertes de su hijo/a y los intereses especiales fuera de la escuela.
3. Mencione algunos programas o servicios que su hijo recibe fuera de la escuela. (por ejemplo, clases de piano, tutoría, consejería, karate, etc....)
4. Coteje cualquiera de las siguientes opciones que apliquen a su hijo/a:

_____ trabaja bien independientemente

_____ es bien organizado

_____ disfrutas de actividades creativas

_____ necesita un ambiente mas estructurado

_____ se lleva bien con otros niños de su edad

_____ le gusta la escuela

Al dorso de esta carta, por favor provea cualquier información adicional que usted sienta que nos ayudara a decidir la mejor colocación para su hijo/a. Esta información sera destruida al final del año escolar y no será parte del expediente escolar de su hijo/a.

Firma(s) del/los Padre(s)/Encargado(s) _____

Class Placement Information

Please return by FRIDAY, MARCH 2, 2018

Child's Name _____ Teacher _____

My Child _____ will, _____ will not, be attending Jackson Street School next year.

1. Describe the characteristics of the most effective learning environment for your child.

2. Describe some of your child's strengths and special interests outside of school.

3. List any special programs or services that your child receives outside of school. (examples-piano lessons, tutoring, counseling, karate, etc...)

4. Check any of the following that apply to your child:

_____ works well independently

_____ is well organized

_____ enjoys creative activities

_____ needs a more structured approach and environment

_____ gets along well with other same-age children

_____ enjoys school

On the reverse side, please provide any additional information that you feel will assist us in making the most appropriate placement for your child. This information sheet will be shredded at the end of next year and is not part of your child's school record.

Signature(s) of Parent/Guardian _____