



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

JSS Office 587-1510

Volume 22 No. 21

February 2, 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. إذا أردت نسخة من هذه الرسالة فبإمكاننا أن نكتبها لك بلغة أخرى، إنجليزية، فرنسية أو عربية، يرجى الاتصال بالمدارس 587-1315.

MESSAGE FROM MS. AGNA



PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE:

Due to the previously scheduled JFK Spotlight, our Science Night will be on FRIDAY, MARCH 2 – please make your calendars!



MCAS DATES

The Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) will be administered to students in grades 3, 4 and 5. We have set the dates for the assessment for our students and ask that you make note of these dates – the schedule is below the MARK YOUR CAL-NDAR section at the end of this newsletter. Please make every effort to schedule dentist and doctor appointments, family vacations, etc. around these dates. Thank you.



DATA FROM THE OFFICE

Noticing that our Tardy Table has had many customers, I asked **Ms. Deirdre Johnson**, our school secretary, to “run the numbers” for January. The daily number of “tardies” – late to school, starting after the final bell rings at 8:50AM – range from a “low” of 12 to highs of 50-64 students signing in late to school. We can do the math – we have 365 students so on most days over 300 of them are not late to school. As a parent myself (with very grown children now but I remember the joys of getting our daughters out to school every day!), I recognize the challenges parents/guardians face. The occasional “tardy” is understandable. But many of those counted each day are the same names and this is concerning.

I have heard some complain about the traffic. I KNOW that is an issue and is more so in the winter when fewer students walk to school. I would hope that knowing there will be traffic means that families could start getting ready and setting off for school earlier.

Thank you to ALL (over 300 of you) manage to get to school on time. The teachers thank you so they can start their day without interruption. The students thank you so they can get the full benefit of the day, from the very beginning. If your family has difficulty in getting to school on time, please let me know. We have supported many families with strategies and tips and will reach out to you by letter and phone. Thank you all for your attention to this important matter.

HOLA Session 3

MESSAGE FROM MS. B-G: The next session of HOLA is starting right after vacation, Tuesday February 27. It will run six weeks, until Thursday April 5. The cost is as follows- \$60.00 regular fee, and \$30.00 free and reduced lunch fee. Please consider making a donation, no matter how small. It will help another JSS family who might not be able to attend.

Make sure to look in back packs for the goldenrod colored registration packets.

Class choice forms are due back no later than Wednesday, February 7th.

Please note that because of rising costs and our generous scholarship policy, HOLA has some financial challenges going into Session 3. If we cannot raise money through donations, there will be many fewer scholarships given. This is against the values of our school but we cannot change the financial restrictions. Please consider giving – any amount is much appreciated! Please make checks to “City of Northampton” and send with your child to school or deliver to the office. Thank you!

NEXT YEAR

We are beginning preparation for the 2018-2019 school year, believe it or not! We, the administrators, staff, faculty and members

of the School Council as well as the City of Northampton are working on the budget. A joint meeting of all the School Councils is scheduled for Wednesday, March 7, 6:30PM at JFK Middle School – to discuss budget priorities with the Superintendent. Our own School Council will meet on Monday, February 26 at 3:30PM in the library – to prepare for this meeting as well as discuss our own priorities. ALL are invited to attend either/both of these meetings.

We do not know yet who will be teaching in each of the grades/classrooms. I hope to be able to share that information with you in a timely manner. We will send home a form for you to fill out called “The Class Placement” form. For those who are not familiar with it, we ask that you share your thoughts and experiences for your child – interests, challenges, ways they learn. This form will be attached to the newsletter on Friday, March 9 – will alert you to it!

THANK YOU

I had a very good trip to the UK last week – a roller coaster of emotions, all of which I expected and continue to be grateful for, and for having been able to be there. My thanks again to **Mrs. Holly Ghazey** for being our Guest Principal, backed by **Mrs. Kathy Malynoski** – as well as all of our staff, faculty, students and YOU, the families. Your words of support and concern mean so much. I continue to feel so honored and privileged to be your principal.

With great respect and affection,


Gwen Agna

NEWS FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

A reminder during Flu Season:

Please keep your student home if they have a fever and/or flu-like symptoms

Please encourage regular hand washing

Please cover coughs and sneezes

Please call the office or Nurse Rebecca to let us know if your child is home with the flu

And as always, get enough sleep, get regular exercise and eat a healthy diet!

And from us all at JSS, we thank SO MANY of you who responded to our call for donations of antibacterial wipes (Lysol or some other brand) so that we can keep surfaces clean and germ-free (ish!). We are working hard to keep our school healthy!

PTO NEWS

INTERNATIONAL NIGHT – OH, WHAT A NIGHT!

What an incredible event on Jan. 26! It was truly a celebration of all the cultures that make our community so strong and so special. A huge thanks to everyone who helped make it a success, especially event leaders **Lisa Clauson and Rose Boulay**, all the parent volunteers who assisted with planning, set-up, clean-up and event management, and all the families and UMass groups who presented countries. A list of the countries and families went out by email – please let us know if you did not receive it.

Special thanks to the PTO for working behind the scenes to support International Night by expediting new bylaws

which broaden the definition of our community--helping to facilitate and reinforce that JSS should remain open and welcoming.

A shout-out to **custodian Carol**, who helped so much that night, to **Deirdre Johnson and Maria Vega** who fielded countless logistical requests with grace, and to the YMCA afterschool program for being so accommodating.

Big thanks to the local restaurants who donated their delicious food: **Amanouz Café, Asian Taste, Belly of the Beast, Bombay Royale, Hillside Pizza, India Palace, Mimmo's Pizza, Noodles Restaurant, Oriental Taste, Paul and Elizabeth's, Pita Pockets, Sakura Buffet, Osaka, Starr's Pizza, Thai Garden and UMass Dining.**

And thanks for the amazing performances by: **Alexis Webber-McCollaum, UMass Irish Dance Club, Lusophole Student Alliance, UMass Belly Dance Club, Cape Verdean Student Alliance, the Eck family, the Bollywood Medley by JSS students and the fashion show by the Arab Cultural Association and JSS families.**

It was a wonderful night – thank you to everyone who came, and please consider joining in the planning and/or presenting a country next year!

WINTER WALK TO SCHOOL DAY - WED. FEB. 7- AND COME FOR FAMILY COFFEE HOUR RIGHT AFTER!

Even in the cold and snow, we're still trying to stay active and be outside as much as we can! To celebrate all of you who walk, bike (or scooter or skate...) to school, please join us for the third annual statewide Winter Walk to School Day on Wednesday, February 7. To reward you on a cold morning, we'll be giving out stickers and other fun stuff - and cups of hot apple cider to warm you up! Come to the flagpole from 8:25 to 8:45 am.

And right after, 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!

THIRD ANNUAL JACKSON STREET FILM FESTIVAL - THURSDAY, FEB. 8 AT 6:00 PM IN THE LIBRARY

Come see the amazing, fun, creative short films that your friends and classmates worked so hard on!

Please come and see these wonderful short films by our talented young filmmakers - you'll laugh, enjoy yourself - and maybe be inspired to create your own short film for next year's festival!

Thursday, Feb. 8 at 6:00 pm – everyone welcome! The program will last under one hour - there'll be popcorn and fun surprises!

Bring family and friends! Hope to see you there!

FRIDGE REPAIR NEEDED!

There is a full-size refrigerator here at JSS that is only in need of a freezer repair to work great. Does anyone have the skills or know of a company that would donate an hour or so of labor to make our fridge work-able? If you do, we'd be so appreciative. Please let Maria in the office know. Thanks!

BOOKS!!

Our book tree is up in the lobby! It's now filled with leaves that show all the books in the three heavy boxes that have already been purchased for the library. Please help us fill our tree (and shelves!) and buy books on the wish list by visiting Broadside or using this link to buy online:

<http://www.broadsidebooks.com/wishlist/46>

BOX TOPS!

It's Box Tops time again! Now's the time if you've been saving Box Tops to bring them into the school. We submit them at the end of February. We will be collecting them until Friday 2/16 – the day before Spring Vacation. Consider dropping them off when you attend one the several events happening at the school in the next few weeks – the collection box is right outside the Office. Every box top helps – no amount is too small! In the winter we collected \$200 worth – let's see if we can get to \$500 for the year! Thank you for all your contributions.

Please note - Family Science Night rescheduled!

JFK Middle School Spotlight event is scheduled for March 1st. It's an important event for the 5th grade transition.

Due to this event clash, we are moving our Family Science Night event to Friday, March 2nd. Please note this change and let us know if you have any concerns or send an email to pallubv@gmail.com

Sorry for any inconvenience due to this change.

Thanks from the Science Night Committee

- Volunteers needed still needed...

To make it happen, we need many adult volunteers who would be willing to prepare or share a science demonstration/hands-on activities.

Please sign up by emailing Pallavi at: pallubv@gmail.com or jsspto@gmail.com

Thanks,

JSS PTO Committee

MESSAGE FROM KELLEY KNIGHT, NORTHAMPTON OUTREACH SOCIAL WORKER

As you may be aware, we have had 30 families, couples or individuals come to our community from Puerto Rico. They are currently residing in a local hotel here in Northampton. These people have had their stay here supported financially by FEMA. This is likely coming to an end on February 14th. There is a scramble to find permanent housing. While all may not be able to secure housing before that date, so me will. Due to this, we are having a number of families looking for supplies and items for their new apartments all at the same time. I am writing to you to see if you can help. First and foremost, they need beds, with clean and serviceable mattresses. These are our first priority. After that, each household will need kitchen items- dishes, pots, pans, silverware, etc. Any additional pieces of furniture may be welcome.

If you have items that you would like to share, please email me to let me know what you have and what the condition of the items is. We are really looking for items that are in good condition and something that you would be willing to use in your own home. I will make a list and then contact people as we can match it with the need of the families. This is a fair amount to coordinate and I really appreciate that I can ask you all for help when needed. Thank you.

Kelley Knight, Northampton Schools' Outreach Social Worker

kknight@northampton-k12.us

SPRING COMMUNITY DANCE

Want to host a spring JSS dance?!

We're looking for a volunteer or two to host a FREE and FUN JSS community dance sometime this spring.

It's PTO funded and will be open to the entire JSS community.

If you're able to volunteer, we'll help you find committee members.

(And there's a great model for this dance, so you'll be building on a solid foundation!)

Please contact Jo @ jo.comerford186@gmail.com.

ARCADIA SCHOLARSHIPS!


Message from Arcadia/MA Audubon Sanctuary Summer Camp: Our registration has opened and some camps are already almost half full. If you are interested in applying for a camp scholarship, please let us know ASAP. If you need any further information, send me an email and I'll get it right to you. Feel free to also refer anyone who you know who might be interested.

Thanks,

Rachel Telushkin, Bookkeeper
413.584-3009 x5820
rtelushkin@massaudubon.org

Mass Audubon's Connecticut River Valley Sanctuaries
127 Combs Road
Easthampton, MA 01027
<http://www.massaudubon.org/Arcadia>

IN THE NEWS

 **Marissa Rodrigues**, daughter of Mr. Brian Rodrigues, special education teacher at JSS, was named to the all-stars in volleyball in the Daily Hampshire Gazette!

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. 7 **WINTER WALK TO SCHOOL DAY!** Ms. Agna will walk in Hampshire Heights. We'll all meet at the flagpole!
VISITING DAY 9:30-11AM
- Thurs. Feb. 8 **JSS FILM FESTIVAL 6-8PM**
- 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**
- Fri. Mar. 2 **SCIENCE NIGHT!**
- Wed. Mar. 7 **VISITING DAY 9:30-11AM**
- Wed. Mar. 14 **VISITING DAY 9:30-11AM**
- Wed. Mar. 21 **FINAL VISITING DAY 9:30-11AM**
- Thurs. Mar. 15 **All-school assembly – 5th graders present at 9:15AM**
- Fri. Mar. 23 **SWING INTO SPRING AUCTION!**
- 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. 7

Wed., Feb. 14

Wed., Feb. 28

Wed., March 7

Wed., March 14

Wed. March 21

MCAS

April

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

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

WE NEED YOUR HELP!



Thursday, February 15th
Jackson Street School
Room 107, 5:00-6:30 pm
Title 1 sponsored activity

Reading Game Making

Game Playing

Come make reading games to take home and play with your children. These games will help your children with their reading goals. Children will also receive a book to take home.

If there is a snow day on February 15th we will hold the workshop on Thursday March 8th.

So, please join us!

Please, bring scissors



PS: Pizza will be served



Please fill out the part below and return it to school by Friday Feb. 9th.

___ Yes! I will come, (student name) _____

Number of family members that will attend _____

___ No, (student name) _____ and family cannot come this time, but we'd like to come to one in the future.