



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

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March 23, 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 أردتم الحصول على نسخة من هذه الرسالة بلغة أخرى، يرجى الاتصال بالمدارس هذه من خلال رقم الهاتف 587-1315.

MESSAGE FROM MS. AGNA

TODAY IS THE ALL-SCHOOL CONCERT – 9:30AM IN THE GYM!

TONIGHT IS THE SWING INTO SPRING AUCTION – HOPE TO SEE YOU AT ONE OR BOTH!!

MONDAY

JSS Council will meet for its monthly meeting. Please see the agenda below and join us if you're interested!

FINAL VISITING DAY - Wed. Mar. 28 9:30 - 11AM

TARDIES & ATTENDANCE

I know that some of you were surprised to receive a letter from me in the progress report card envelopes – if your child has been tardy and/or absent more than the district policy allows. If you'd like to read the policy, it is online on the NPS website as part of the Elementary Schools Handbook. We have copies in the office if you'd like one – let us know.

We normally send attendance/tardy letters home earlier in the year if students have ones that exceed the limit. I'm sorry that these letters are late this year. In any case, I know that there are challenges in families with getting to school on time as well as just coming to school – we are still in the season of illnesses and there are other family events to keep students out of school. However, we are bound by regulations from the Massachusetts Dept. of Education – one of the measures of school success is attendance and we are given our percentage rate every year as part of the school's report card. We also believe that it is important to come to school on time, to maximize learning and minimize disruption in classes that have already begun. I also think it is a sign of respect for our teachers who work hard every day to prepare a full day of teaching and learning to have everyone in class and ready to learn from the beginning. Please let me know if you'd like to talk about this or if there are challenges for you/your child that we can help you with.

And Ms. Deirdre, our school secretary, reports that we have had a BANNER WEEK since the letters went home on Friday – a drastic reduction in tardies!! Our daily average has been 20-30 and this week it's been 8!! Thanks so much everyone for your efforts!

COMMUNITY

MANY thanks to our 5th graders and their teachers for their work and presentation at last week's all-school assembly on "community" and what it means to us all. The timing – after some students chose to peacefully walkout of school the day before – was perfect and made it even more moving. These are such hard and stressful times – it feels as if many are on high alert worried about what might happen next in our world. Being reminded of the community that we have to support and lean on was a welcome event. Thank you again, 5th grade.

Walking School Bus starts FRIDAY, APRIL 6! I will walk through Hampshire Heights. Starting at 8AM - again, roll on SPRING!!

With great respect and affection,

Gwen Agna
Gwen Agna

PTO NEWS

SWING INTO SPRING AUCTION

POPCORN and RECESS CHALLENGE

The Swing into Spring auction event at the Garden House at Look Park is right around the corner! Friday, March 23, 2018 6:30pm 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 an annual 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. The event is underwritten by local businesses and 100% of the proceeds benefit JSS!

We are hoping for a fantastic turnout from parents, caregivers, family and friends. The PTO is having a Swing into Spring Popcorn and Recess challenge. For the class that has the most adults attending the auction, we are offering a FREE RECESS WITH POPCORN to all the children in that class. So, finalize your plans to come to Swing into Spring Auction. It will be a fabulous evening with food, drinks, music and way more than 100 items to bid on. And 100% of profits will benefit our school. Hope to see you all there!

CHECK OUT SOME NEW AUCTION ITEMS!!!

- 4 passes to the Emily Dickinson Museum plus a book of poetry.
- 60 minute session at Euphoria Float Spa
- Family membership to the Eric Carle Museum
- Parking spot for graduation!
- Branding and logo Design by Corporately Incorrect
- Original artwork made by your child and their class!
- Gift card to Quarters!
- Movie passes to Amherst Cinema!
- Lunch with Mayor Narkewicz!
- \$100 gift card to Pinch Pottery
- Home accessories from Rise and Fall
- Autographed Hamilton hoodie sweatshirt!!

And so much more!

It's not too late to donate or to sign up to volunteer and help set or clean up the event!

If you have any questions please contact:

Karen Hodges kmhodes01060@yahoo.com
Alyssa Richardson ajdca99@yahoo.com
Jo Comerford jo.comerford186@gmail.com

COMMUNITY CHOICE GRANT

On Wednesday night the Jackson Street School PTO received a Florence Bank Customer's Choice Community Grant for grand total of \$2,400 in recognition for our contribution to the community. Listing to the CEO John Heaps talk, you could really feel that Florence Bank wants to strengthen and support community efforts by offering a helping hand. This year 57 local non-profit organizations received a total of \$101,000 in grants from Florence Bank. And they have distributed over \$1,000,000 since the program began 17 years ago. What a great donation from Florence Bank for the community!

We were told that this year each vote was worth about \$15. This means that about 160 people voted for Jackson Street School PTO ... including JSS staff, administrators and teachers, students, parents, guardian, family members, and members of our community. Many thanks to each and every one of you who helped us obtain this wonderful grant to support JSS. The JSS PTO plans to use the funds to continue to update the books in the JSS library.

Every person who has a Florence Bank account can vote each year. And you can already vote for 2018 grants ... if you want, click here to vote right now. If you, or your child, do not have an email address you will need to vote via paper ballot. Contact Julie Harvey Park (juliebaboolie@yahoo.com) if you need a ballot(s).

Much Gratitude from the JSS PTO Leadership Team,

Alana, Gwen, Jo, Julie, Liz and Pallavi

JSS COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY

Here's the agenda – all are invited to attend!

Jackson Street School Council Agenda, Monday March 26, 2018, Jackson Street School Library

1. Greetings & Approve Minutes(5)
2. All Council Meeting recap (10)
3. District Budget (10)
4. Hirings & Vacant teacher positions (10)
5. Screen Time in Classrooms (15)
6. Review current School Improvement Plan – progress towards goals (15)
7. OTHER – NEXT MONTH'S AGENDA

NEF GRANTS

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 per-

former 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

HOLA

We are looking for coffee cans. Please bring them to the front office.

The Tuesday and Wednesday snow days will be made up. Tuesday 4/10 and Wednesday 4/11 will be added on. Thursday classes will end on 4/5.

*Thank you very much.
Ms. BG*

IN THE NEWS

ESL teacher and ESL Dept. Chair, Mrs. Kathy Malynoski's husband, **Greg Malynoski**, was the recipient of the first annual Patricia Ahearn Community Volunteer Award at the St. Patrick's Day Breakfast last week. Both Greg and Kathy are also parents of JSS grad, Ben Sun Ho Malynoski. Greg has recently retired from his position in development at Look Park and has been instrumental in many community fundraising events – including the JSS Auction!

SAVE THE DATE

The 22nd Annual Support Our Schools (SOS) Plant & Garden Market Saturday, May 12, 2018 9AM-1PM at Smith Vocational/Agricultural School!

You may think that it is a little crazy to be thinking about gardens while the forecast calls for snow, but the volunteers have been meeting and planning to make this event another success. The funds raised are distributed to each of the Northampton Public Schools, Jackson Street receives a direct benefit.

The event includes a raffle. You can purchase tickets for your choice of prize: 1. A solid cedar arbor/trellis/bench or 2. A beautiful 80" x 80" quilt with floral patterns and butterflies. We have these tickets and pictures of the prizes in the JSS office.

Lots of volunteers are still needed so please contact Robin Freedenfeld (rfstudios@aol.com) if you are interested. Also, we collect plants from area gardens to sell. Please let Robin know if you are digging or dividing at your home or business.

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. Mar. 23	ALL- SCHOOL CONCERT! 9:30AM in the gym! SWING INTO SPRING AUCTION!
Mon. Mar. 26	JSS Council meeting 3:30-5PM
Wed. Mar. 28	FINAL VISITING DAY 9:30-11AM
Thurs. Apr. 5	HOLA Session 3 Thursday ends
Fri. Apr. 6	WALKING SCHOOL BUS STARTS AGAIN!! Ms. Agna will walk through Hampshire Hts. starting at 8AM!
Tues. Apr. 10	HOLA Session 3 Tuesday ends
Wed. Apr. 11	all-school assembly – 1st graders present at 1:30PM. HOLA Session 3 Wednesday ends
Sat. May 12	SOS PLANT & GARDEN MARKET 9-1PM at Smith Vocational/Agricultural School
Wed. May 30	all-school assembly honoring our JSS/High School Grads – with KDGners at 2PM
Fri. June 8	FIELD DAY (rain date on Friday, June 15)
Thurs. June 14	all school assembly “FINE FINE SCHOOL” led by Ms. Agna at 10:00AM

MCAS DATES

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