



# 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.jspspto.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. 29

April 13, 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 بلغة عربية، يرجى الاتصال بالمدارس هذه من 587-1315. بلغة فرنسية، يرجى الاتصال بـ 587-1315.

## MESSAGE FROM MS. AGNA

**TODAY – FRIDAY, 4/13 I will be walking on the Walking School Bus on the Bike Path starting at 8:10AM. Please join me!**

### TARDIES

A 4th BANNER WEEK – HOORAY and thank you all!!

### JACKSON THE DOG

We now know WHO our school dog will be – we received photos of him as well as videos of the training he is undergoing. I presented the photos and one video to the students after the beautiful 1st graders' presentation on Mindfulness at our assembly this past week – everyone was thrilled with the presentation and also being introduced to Jackson, the school dog puppy! Check out the photos on our school's website as well as the display in front of the school office. We hope that Jackson will finish his training and start his work at JSS in June.

The following is a wonderful idea from two 1st graders – as a way to welcome Jackson to our school:

**Lyla and Sylvie Whitehill**, first graders, would like to create a welcome album of JSS pets for when Jackson, the service dog, arrives. They know that their dog won't be able to meet Jackson and they would like to show him that he has animal friends in the JSS community too! Please email your photos of any pets and your pet's name to their mom at [marissajeanne@gmail.com](mailto:marissajeanne@gmail.com) or drop a hard copy in the office by May 25 for inclusion in this project. Thank you!

### MCAS

We continue to have a smooth testing period – this past week for 4th graders. Thank you again so much for your support and preparation – they seemed at ease and ready to “try their best – and it will be fine. We will resume testing after the April break, with the 5th graders, on Tuesday, April 24.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

You are all invited to join **Ms. Mary Bates** in celebrating her upcoming retirement from teaching at JSS – on THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 5:30-7:30PM! Her request is that we have a GARDEN POTLUCK – in the garden, if weather permits (if it's raining, we'll have it in the cafeteria). Bring a dish to share – if it has nuts in it, please provide a label! We'll provide the paper goods and utensils and water to drink. Please pass the word if you know of former students and families of Ms. Bates – we know that she'd love to see current and past students!

### FYI

Thought you might be interested in the following sign we saw when we took our granddaughter to this museum – important words for all of us grown-ups:

### RULES FOR PARENTS & CAREGIVERS (sign at the Mid-Hudson Children's Museum in Poughkeepsie, NY)

1. Help your child navigate this space.
2. Supervise your child at all times.
3. Don't “tune out” on your cell phone or mobile device.
4. Jump into the story and be a part of the adventure!

## MINDFULNESS

I received the following email from **Trish Armstrong**, the Wellness Teacher at Northampton High School:

In case you ever wonder whether your teaching mindfulness to your students has an impact on them later on, I'm letting you know that it does! I'm in my Mindfulness Unit right now and many of my students have referenced their practicing when they went to JSS and they feel that they have experience with mindfulness, a true foundation. It is easier for them to slip into the zone because of their experience. They even reflect that way back when, as one kiddo put it, "I had ants in my pants and it was hard to sit still," but he remembers it to be a positive, soothing experience for him. I appreciate this work that you do with your students.

Just thought you might like to know that. Our work has large broadcasts in unexpected and delightful ways sometimes, right?!

Have a lovely, relaxing and safe April break – see you on Monday, April 23rd!

*With great respect and affection,*

  
Gwen Agna

## Northampton Public Schools' K-8 Art Show Opening Reception

At JFK Middle School on Friday, May 4th from 4:00PM – 6:00PM

The exhibition will host a sampling of original artwork by local students from Leeds, Ryan Road, Jackson Street, Bridge Street and J.F.K. Middle Schools. There will be light refreshments served and beautiful artwork that is both 2-D and 3-D. The show will run from:

May 4th through the 25th.

Please join us for this wonderful event!

## PTO NEWS

### LAST DAY TODAY for GROCERY GIFT CARD PURCHASES!

Help finish off the Winter JSS Grocery Gift Card Fundraiser! We have \$6,000 more to sell.

This will complete a \$3,125 fundraising effort for JSS without you losing a penny

The gift cards cost & are worth their face value

-- meaning you pay NO extra money --

Buy as many as you want in \$25, \$50, or \$100 increments.

We have cards for River Valley Co-op, Big Y, and Stop & Shop.

### To purchase your gift cards ...

Stop by the table inside the main door

Before school (8:30-9:15a)

After school (2:45-3:15p)

Send an email to Julie Harvey Park, [juliebaboolie@yahoo.com](mailto:juliebaboolie@yahoo.com)

Payments can be made by cash or check (preferably) or PayPal:

- Checks should be made out to the "Jackson Street School PTO" with Grocery Card Fundraiser in the memo line. Hand the check to one of the JSS PTO Leadership Team or place it in the PTO mailbox in the office.

- Credit card payments can be made by clicking the "Donate" button at the bottom of the PTO webpage ([www.jsspto.org](http://www.jsspto.org)). Forward your PayPal receipt to [jacksonstreetpto@gmail.com](mailto:jacksonstreetpto@gmail.com) or [juliebaboolie@yahoo.com](mailto:juliebaboolie@yahoo.com) to confirm your order.

Many Thanks For Your Generous Support, The JSS PTO Leadership Team  
Alana, Gwen, Jo, Julie, Liz, Pallavi

## THE JSS VARIETY SHOW IS COMING!

Spring means one of the most fun nights of the JSS year - the JSS Variety Show! (formerly known as the Talent Show).

On this spectacular night, JSS students from all grades come out to sing, dance, play an instrument, do gymnastics, comedy, improv, magic tricks, yo-yo, roller skate, do acrobatics, martial arts, poetry, you name it - all talents welcome!

This year the show is scheduled for Friday, June 1 at 6:00 pm in the gym.

On two afternoons after break (tentatively May 1 and 2 - to be confirmed), we will be having try-out's for students to show us what they are planning to do in the show - everyone is invited to perform! We can't wait to see all the great acts our JSS students will bring to the show!

We will get you the final dates for try-out's and rehearsals shortly, but in the meantime,

- Ask your student to think about what they might want to do in the show - and talk about it with their family and friends

- Mark your calendars for June 1 for the show

- Please consider volunteering as part of the team of adults who work on the show.

**Lindsay Sadosa**, mom of 5th grader Kala, has wonderfully stepped up to lead the team, and a number of other parents are also on board, but we need all hands on deck to make this show happen! All kinds of skills and ideas welcome, with a special call out for musical and technical expertise!

If you are interested in helping (in ways small or large), or have questions about the show, please contact Liz Horn at [elhorn@mindspring.com](mailto:elhorn@mindspring.com)

## **GAGA PIT! IT IS IN THE WORKS - BUT WE NEED HELP TO MAKE IT HAPPEN!**

Do you know about Gaga ball? Your kids may have played this wildly fun and popular game from Israel - it's been called a "kinder, gentler version of dodgeball." It is played in a large, fenced area, usually an octagon, called a Gaga ball pit, and it has become a bit hit at schools and camps all over the world. Locally, kids may have experienced it at Camp Norwich, and several local schools are installing them.

For their class gift, last year's 5th grade class chose to give money towards a Gaga pit for Jackson Street! Our wonderful P.E. teacher Ms. Totty has been researching Gaga ball pit construction companies, and JSS parent Jenna Lanterman is helping to coordinate this. With funding from the PTO, we are planning to purchase the materials for an ADA-compliant Gaga pit!

This is wonderful and exciting, and we hope to have it by the end of this school year. To make that happen, we need parent volunteers to help - we are first looking for parents who can help us determine the best spot to place the pit and the right materials to ensure its drainage and durability.

Once the materials arrive, probably in late May, we will need a team of volunteers to put it together and in place, including installing the ADA accessible door. This will mean either a couple of afternoons or one weekend day of work, probably in late May or early June.

If you can help with any of this, please let us know - we will be so appreciative and you will be a hero to so many excited kids!

Thank you!

- Liz Horn, Volunteer Coordinator, elhorn@mindspring.com

## **GARDEN WORK DAY!**

**Sunday, April 29th, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.** Our school community is inviting all volunteers to get the school garden, our outdoor classroom, and our new greenhouse, ready for spring planting! Work that day will include: weeding and raking; rebuilding and repairing the garden beds; rebuilding the compost bins; building raised garden beds for our new greenhouse; preparing the pumpkin patch; refreshing garden paths with wood chips; fixing benches; and sweeping and organizing the garden shed. We can use many hands, including people handy with a hammer and drill. If you have questions, contact Katharine Walmsley, second grade teacher, [kwalmsley@northampton-k12.us](mailto:kwalmsley@northampton-k12.us) or Mary Bates, first grade teacher, [mbates@northampton-k12.us](mailto:mbates@northampton-k12.us). (Rain date is Monday, April 30th, from 3:30-5:30).

**Materials needed:** lots of small pots, and small and large yogurt containers (for transplanting sprouts); compost; edgers; saw horses; hammers, screwdrivers, drills, sledgehammers, nails, clippers, & other tools; loppers; work gloves; steel garden rakes (not leaf rakes); tape measures; and string. See you in the garden!

The JSS Garden Committee

## **IN THE NEWS**

### **WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD Artwork 2018**

Next week is the local/national celebration of the WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD! In celebration of young children and their teachers/caregivers, Northampton/Florence businesses display art work in their windows. Please check out our Kindergartners artwork as well as that of the young children in Northampton early childhood settings!

Jen Reed	Green Bean
Maria Garcia	GoBerry
Maryellen Reed	Broadside
Arcadia Nature Nursery	Guild Art
Campus School	State St. Fruit
Clarke School	Northampton Wools
Cloverdale	Florence Post Office
Fort Hill	Ode
Gan Keshet	Woodstar
Hill Institute	Florence Hardware
LGA	Hannoush
Montessori	A CHILD'S GARDEN
Nonotuck	Bruegger's
Northampton Parents Center	Fly by Night
Mayor's Office	PCDC FCC
Paradise Copies	People's Institute #1
Serios Pharmacy	People's Institute #2
GAZEBO	Sunnyside #1
HERRELLS	Sunnyside #2
Superintendent's Office	

## **Free Yoga Class**

Please come to Karuna

on Friday, April 27th -

4:00 - 5:00

To practice with Ms. Alessi

And your whole family!

# **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. Apr. 13**      **WALKING SCHOOL BUS STARTS AGAIN!!** Ms. Agna will walk on the Bike Path, behind Stop and Shop starting at 8:10AM!

**NO SCHOOL – APRIL VACATION April 16-20, 2018**

**Tues. Apr. 16**              **NEF grant deadline**

**Monday April 23**        **WELCOME BACK FROM SPRING BREAK!**

**Tues. April 24**            **5th graders take MCAS – see schedule below!**

**Fri. Apr. 27**              **Walking School Bus – Ms. Agna will walk through Hampshire Hts. starting at 8:10AM**

**Sun. Apr. 29**              **GARDEN WORK DAY 10AM-2PM**

**Mon. Apr. 30**              **JSS Council meeting 3:30-5PM**

**Wed. May 2**                **International Walk to School Day – Ms. Agna will walk on the Bike Path starting at 8:10AM**

**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 1**                **JSS VARIETY SHOW (formerly the Talent Show)**

**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**  
**GARDEN RETIREMENT POTLUCK for Ms. Bates!! 5:30-7:30PM in the JSS School Garden**

## **MCAS DATES**

### **April**

**Tuesday April 24, 2018 MCAS 5th Grade ELA**

**Wednesday April 25, 2018 MCAS 5th Grade ELA**

**Thursday April 26, 2018 MCAS 5th Grade ELA (MAKE UP DAY)**

### **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 (MAKE UP DAY)**

**Tuesday May 8, 2018 MCAS 4th Grade Math**

**Wednesday May 9, 2018 MCAS 4th Grade Math**

**Thursday May 10, 2018 MCAS 4th Grade Math (MAKE UP DAY)**

**Tuesday May 15, 2018 MCAS 5th Grade Math**

**Wednesday May 16, 2018 MCAS 5th Grade Math**

**Thursday May 17, 2018 MCAS 5th Grade Math (MAKE UP DAY)**

**Monday May 21, 2018 MCAS 5th Grade Science**

**Tuesday May 22, 2018 MCAS 5th Grade Science**

**Wednesday May 23, 2018 MCAS 5th Grade Science**

**Thursday May 24 (MAKE UP DAY)**