



# 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. 32

May 11, 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 سردملا ةرادب لاصتالا ىجري، ةببرعلا ةغللاب ةبوتكم ةلاسرا لاهذه نم ةخسن ىلع لوصحلا في ب ةرت تنك اذا!

## MESSAGE FROM MS. AGNA

### TODAY

FRIDAY, May 11, I will be walking on the Walking School Bus on the Bike Path starting at 8:10AM. Please join me!

### VOLUNTEER TEA

Please MARK YOUR CALENDARS for our annual event to celebrate our wonderful volunteers – TUESDAY, MAY 29, 2018 at 3:15PM in the library! Teachers will send invitation home to their classroom volunteers!

### PRIDE

It was another joyous and inspiring event last Saturday, as we, along with ALL the Northampton Public Schools, marched together!! What an extraordinary turnout and way to show our support for ALL families and ALL people! Thanks to everyone who was able to join us!

### JACKSON THE DOG

REMINDER:

**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 had another smooth testing week – for 4th graders, doing MATH. Next Tuesday and Wednesday, May 14 & 15, our 5th grade will do MCAS MATH. The week after that, on May 22 & 23, 5th grade will take MCAS Science/Technology.

Thank you again so much again for your support and preparation – they seemed at ease and ready to “try their best – and it will be fine.

### CONGRATULATIONS!

We are pleased and proud to announce that **Ms. Sadie Cora**, 3rd grade teacher, has been elected PRESIDENT of the Northampton Association of School Employees (NASE), the umbrella organization for ALL who work in the Northampton Schools! It is such an important position and I can't think of a better professional to do the advocating and organizing that is needed in these days of attending to the most important people, other than parents/guardians/caregivers in children's lives! Hooray for NASE, hooray for Ms. Cora, hooray for our children!

### CLASSROOM USE OF VIDEOS

The JSS Council was asked to look at the issue of video use in classrooms at our school. We decided the best way to do that would be to survey all the teachers. Here is the survey we used:

#### USE OF VIDEO SURVEY

A question came to the JSS Council about using videos in classrooms and if there are guidelines/policies in the school. The Council members know that teachers are the first to ask about this – and before we can answer, we need to know the following info:

- 1. Your grade Level/Dept.: \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Do you show videos in your classroom? \_\_\_\_\_  
If so, are the videos part of the curriculum? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Are there times that you show videos that are not (necessarily) part of the curriculum? \_\_\_\_\_  
If so, what types of videos? \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. How often?  
1x per week \_\_\_\_\_ 1x per month \_\_\_\_\_ Less frequent? \_\_\_\_\_

Comments/Thoughts:

RESULTS OF THE USE OF VIDEO SURVEY BY GRADE/DEPT.

1. 1st grade 2. Sometimes. Only as part of the curriculum. 3. No/maybe once a year as a special day. COMMENTS: We watch the YouTube “Power of Yet”, the bald eagle cam, to hear songs/tunes we are learning, science curriculum

1. 2nd grade 2. Yes/sometimes. 3. Only part of the curriculum/educational, last day of school, “crazy day”. 4. 1-2 times per year, examples: Paddington, Inside Out.

1. 3rd grade 2. Yes. 3. Mostly part of the curriculum – raptor cams, Mystery Science. 4. Frequency: 1 x/week COMMENTS: For students who have had less experiences outside of school, visual examples linked to the curriculum, only use high quality curriculum-related materials, infrequently.

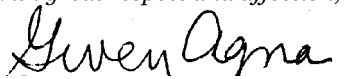
1. 4th grade 2. Yes. 3. Clips/Mystery Science, National Geo. Teachers College Readers/Writers Workshop. 4. 1x/week. COMMENTS: Clips vary from 1 min-10min. Sometimes literacy related, science/social studies/math. Example: For non-fiction reading unit, we watched brief video on Celebrating International Women’s Day to examine 4 common non-fiction text structures to show that they are common in all types of non-fiction (not just books).

1. 5th grade 2. Yes 3. Part of curriculum - Go Noodle, sample debates, science/social studies, Upworthy, NY Times/The Atlantic news videos, crash course kids 4. Frequency: 1-2x/week. COMMENTS: This needs to be part of a larger conversation, I’m happy to be transparent about my use of videos to supplement my teaching, but let’s make it a grade-wide/school-wide conversation. It would be helpful if there were guidelines around this. I think we need to have some thoughtful discussion about both screen time and content.

1. Specialists 2. Almost never, yes, short clips – always part of the curriculum 3. Examples: Power of Yet, health and fitness, artist interview.

In this day of media saturation, I was very pleased to hear from our teachers about their careful, professional practices as well as their desire to have more conversations. I will check with my principal/administrative colleagues about practices in other schools and leave time/space for further discussion in future faculty meetings. If you would like to speak at the JSS Council and/or with me, please contact me [gagna@northampton-k12.us](mailto:gagna@northampton-k12.us).

Have a good weekend! Perhaps I’ll see you at the SOS Plant and Garden Sale tomorrow!

*With great respect and affection,*  
  
 Gwen Agna

## **SCHOOL DANCE PARTY - TONIGHT! FRIDAY, MAY 11**

Tonight, Friday, May 11, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, all JSS students are invited to come dance, play and have fun at the JSS Dance Party!

It's free and fun!

We will be selling snacks, baked goods and pizza slices - and all proceeds benefit Nature's Classroom for rising 5th graders.

## **ROOFED BALLS!!**

Mr. Mark, Ms. Vivian, and Ms. BG went up on the roof to collect all the roofed balls. Can you imagine how many we found?! Put your name and guess on a piece of paper, and put it in the basket in the office this next week, and we will find the person with the closest guess. Winner gets a brand new wall ball!!

## **RIDING BIKES TO SCHOOL**

Now that Spring is really here, there are more bikes (scooters, skateboards, etc.) coming to school. Please remember to walk your bike (kids and grown ups) when on school grounds.

Also, it's the LAW – all children, 12 years and under, MUST WEAR HELMETS when riding bikes (scooters, skate boards, roller blades)!! If your child needs one, please stop by the office.

Also, unfortunately we have had some bikes, scooters, etc. taken from the bike racks during school hours (and after). PLEASE make sure all are LOCKED! If you forget your lock, you may walk your bike/scooter into the front hall and leave it near the Lost & Found. IF you need a lock, please check with the office.

THANK YOU!

## **GARDEN NEWS**

Thank You Gardeners!!!

You HAVE to check out the JSS school garden! We had an amazing group of volunteers for our Garden Work Day. About 40 teachers, parents and children worked together (mostly in the rain!) to get our garden ready for spring planting. We weeded and raked; added wood chips to garden paths; built a raised bed in the greenhouse cleared out the butterfly and pollinator garden; set up hoses and rain barrels; and more. Our garden is now ready for spring planting.

## **Ninth Annual JSS Student Farmers' Market – Wed., May 23rd, 2:45-3:30 p.m.**

Our ninth annual Farmers' Market will take place Wednesday May 23rd. **Katharine Walmsley** (second grade teacher) is organizing this event, and we need helping hands to set up (2:15 p.m.) and clean up (3:30 p.m.). Let Ms. Walmsley know if you are available. Also, if you have extra plants in your own gardens and want to donate them to sell, please bring them to school the morning of May 23rd. All proceeds support our garden program!

*The JSS Garden Committee*

## **HOLA**

I want to send out a giant thank you to the many families who donated money for scholarships for families who could not afford an HOLA class. We were able to give out classes to 17 students thanks to their generosity. If any one would like to donate money toward the scholarship fund, we can always accept donations. Just make checks out to 'City of Northampton', and put 'HOLA donation' in the memo line.

*Thank you,*

*Ms. BG*

## **Want a River Valley Co-Op grocery gift card?**

Recently there has been quite a bit of interest in River Valley Co-Op gift cards. We are well on our way to raise more money for JSS, but we need your support. And remember, you don't lose a penny - cards are sold at face value! If we can sell one hundred \$100 cards we will raise another \$1,000 for JSS!!!

We are selling \$100 River Valley Co-op grocery gift cards ONLY this time around AND you must pre-order. PLEASE email [juliebaboolie@yahoo.com](mailto:juliebaboolie@yahoo.com) by Saturday May 12th to place your order.

And please keep an eye out for a Google survey regarding the 2018-2019 JSS PTO Grocery Gift Card Fundraising Program.

*Forever Grateful,*

*The JSS PTO Leadership Team*

*Alana, Alyssa, Gwen, Jo, Julie, Liz and Pallavi*

## **MAY COFFEE ORDERS DUE!**

May orders for delicious Jackson Street School coffee, tea and hot chocolate are due this Monday, May 14 by 9:00 am.

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 to get an order form or place an order. If you have a standing monthly order, thank you and you are all set.

Orders will be delivered on Friday morning, May 18..

Thanks so much. - Liz Horn, [elhorn@mindspring.com](mailto:elhorn@mindspring.com)

## **FREE BOOK FAIR - JUNE 4 & 5**

The JSS PTO is planning the annual FREE BOOK FAIR, which will be held on Monday, June 4th and Tuesday June 5th. Students will go with their teacher and classmates during one of those two days. Each child will be able to select at least one book (perhaps more based on how many books we receive) for FREE so that all students can start their summer with books in hand.

How can you help? We need your donations of gently used children's books. You can bring them in bags or boxes and leave them in the lobby. Please donate only books appropriate for K-5

reading. If you have older children, we can always use more advanced reading material for our 4th and 5th graders. We are also especially looking graphic novels and bilingual books. Gracias! Merci! Arigato! Danke! Shukran!

If you have books that you'd like to off-load that are not appropriate or in good enough condition for our fair, please consider donating them to other organizations or recycling them.

Call for volunteers - if you'd like to help with the book sorting or the fair, please contact Gavin Grant at [gjgrant@gmail.com](mailto:gjgrant@gmail.com) or Elizabeth Horn at [elhorn@mindspring.com](mailto:elhorn@mindspring.com). Thank you!

## **FERIA DE LIBROS GRATUITA**

La PTO de JSS está planeando una FERIA DE LIBROS GRATUITA anual, que toma lugar lunes, el 4 de junio y martes, el 5 de junio. Los estudiantes van a asistirlos con sus maestros/as y sus compañeros/as durante uno de estos dos días. Cada niño/a podrá escoger por lo menos un libro (quizás más basado en la cantidad de libros que recibimos) GRATUITO, de manera que todos los estudiantes pueden empezar su verano con libros en mano.

Cómo puede usted ayudar? Necesitamos sus donaciones de libros suavemente usados para niños. Usted puede llevarlos en bolsas o cartones y dejarlos en el vestíbulo. Favor de donar sólo libros apropiados para la lectura K-5. Si usted tiene niños mayores, siempre podemos utilizar materia de lectura más avanzada para nuestros estudiantes en los grados 4 y 5. También buscamos en particular novelas gráficas y libros bilingüos. Gracias! Merci! Arigato! Danke! Shukran!

Si usted tiene libros que quisiera descargar que no son apropiados o en condición bastante buena para nuestra feria, favor de considerar donarlos a otras organizaciones o reciclarlos.

Llamada para voluntarios/as – si usted quisiera ayudar con la clasificación de libros o con la feria, favor de ponerse en contacto con Gavin Grant a [ggrant@gmail.com](mailto:ggrant@gmail.com) o Elizabeth Horn a [elhorn@mindspring.com](mailto:elhorn@mindspring.com). Muchas gracias!!!!

## **SOS PLANT SALE THIS SATURDAY, MAY 12 at SMITH VOC - RAIN or SHINE!!**

This Saturday, May 12 is the SOS (Support Our Schools) annual Plant & Flower Sale at Smith Vocational High School from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Great plants and flowers for sale, proceeds buy books for all our schools!

## **ELECTRONICS RECYCLING IS COMING ON SAT., MAY 19**

Saturday, May 19 is one of JSS's biggest fundraisers - Electronics Recycling! If you've been before, you know it is a fun, fast-paced morning as tons of people pay to recycle their computers, printers, old appliances, etc., all in the parking lot at Smith Voc. Fees for recycling these electronics go to support JSS - it is a win-win!

We are looking for volunteers from 9:00 am to just after noon

to help direct people, unload their items from their cars, take their money, etc.

We will be sending a SignUp Genius email soon - and flyers will be going home - but just wanted to give you a heads-up - and hopefully have you mark your calendar for this important event!

*Thank you so much!*

*- Liz Horn, Volunteer Coordinator, [ELHORN@mindspring.com](mailto:ELHORN@mindspring.com)*

## **VARIETY SHOW! KEEP PRACTICING - AND REHEARSALS COMING UP!**

Thanks so much to all the students (and parents) who came to Show-Us-Your-Talent last week. And many thanks to our amazing director, Lindsay Sabadosa, our great MC Mosie Senn McNally, and all the great parent volunteers All the students did wonderfully, and we look forward to seeing everyone again at the upcoming rehearsals :

**Monday, May 21 from 3:00 to 5:00 in the gym**

**Wednesday, May 30 from 3:00 to 5:00 in the gym**

**And of course, the big show is on Fri., June 1 at 6pm**

Please keep practicing your acts! And if you have any questions, please let us know!

*Lindsay Sabadosa, Variety Show director: [lsabadosa@gmail.com](mailto:lsabadosa@gmail.com)*

*Liz Horn, JSS Volunteer Coordinator: [elhorn@mindspring.com](mailto:elhorn@mindspring.com)*

## **THE STUDENT ARTWORK SLIDESHOW RETURNS!**

The variety show organizers would again like to showcase the varied artistic talents of students by including a slideshow of student artwork in the evening's events. If your child would like to have a piece in the slideshow, please send a digital image (.jpg or .jpeg format) and your child's name and grade to Jordan Abbott at [jordangelabbott@yahoo.com](mailto:jordangelabbott@yahoo.com).

Please also send a photo of the artist to be included with the image (optional).

## **DAY OF CLASSICAL MUSIC AT JSS!**

Does your child play an instrument or have a special love of music?

Two Northampton Community Music Center faculty members who will perform at JSS throughout the morning of June 1 as part of Play On! A day of classical music at Jackson Street School.

### **More about Play On!**

Two Northampton Community Music faculty members will

visit Jackson Street School on Friday, June 1, to offer live performances in the library.

Play On! is made possible by a generous grant from the Northampton Education Foundation, support from the Jackson Street PTO, and with special thanks to JSS Music Educator, Kim O'Connell.

For more information, email or text Jo Comerford (jo.comerford186@gmail.com / 413-559.1649

### **What will the musicians play?**

Classical favorites like Mozart's Eine Kleine Nachtmusik, Bach's Prelude for cello, Beethoven's Ode to Joy, and more! We can also expect a smattering of popular favorites like the theme songs from Harry Potter and Star Wars. Ms. O'Connell, JSS music teacher, will introduce the composers during music in the next couple of weeks and Ms. Agna will play samples of their pieces during morning announcements in the week before.

### **FIELD DAY!**

Field Day 2018 is racing towards us, June 8th!! I want to relay to you (all care givers) that this will be a fun day for our students. The only obstacle, of course, is that

we need your help. Parachute in for the morning! Waterslide down for the afternoon! Pop(corn) in all day! If you are interested in (hula)-helping or have any questions please contact Vanessa Keillor (vkeillor@gmail.com), or sign up here (<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10coa4ea9a629a2fdo-jssfield>) Thank you!

## **COMMUNITY EVENTS**

- The Unitarian Society of Northampton and Florence is offering sanctuary to a mother of three young children from Russia who has lived in this area for many years. Volunteers are needed to join the community-wide effort to help her and her family by providing accompaniment in the building, rides for her family, grocery shopping, etc. If interested, please sign up for one of the short training sessions scheduled for May 8,15,29, or June 12 at 6pm at USNF. See [www.uunorthampton.org/sanctuary/volunteer](http://www.uunorthampton.org/sanctuary/volunteer), or Kathie Bredin for any questions you may have.

- The Annual Northampton Garden Tour to benefit the Forbes Library will be held Saturday, June 9 from 10-2. Volunteers are needed to pass out flyers, staff the refreshment table, etc. You work half a shift and get a free ticket for the tour. If interested, please contact Kathie Bredin.

### **Support Our Schools Plant Sale Sat. May 12 9am-1pm RAIN or SHINE!!**

If you have plants from your garden to donate please bring them The Smith Vocational School lawn Friday afternoon/evening after 3.

We will be selling compost, hanging plants, annuals and perennials, and vegetable starts. Plus there will be vendors with art and other garden items.

2 great raffle prizes: a cedar arbor/trellis/bench and a quilt.

# **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 – 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.

- Fri. May 11** JSS FAMILY DANCE 6-8PM!
- Sat. May 12** SOS PLANT & GARDEN MARKET 9-1PM at Smith Vocational/Agricultural School
- Tues. May 15** MCAS MATH for 5th grade
- Wed. May 16** MCAS MATH for 5th grade
- Tues. May 22** MCAS SCIENCE/TECH for 5th grade
- Wed. May 23** MCAS SCIENCE/TECH for 5th grade  
9th Annual JSS Student Farmers Market 2:45-3:30PM
- Wed. May 30** all-school assembly honoring our JSS/High School Grads – with KDGners at 2PM
- Fri. June 1** DAY OF CLASSICAL MUSIC AT JSS – SEE DETAILS ABOVE!  
JSS VARIETY SHOW (formerly the Talent Show)
- Thurs. June 7** LAST DAY OF HOLA
- Fri. June 8** FIELD DAY (rain date on Friday, June 15)
- Wed. June 13** GARDEN RETIREMENT POTLUCK for Ms. Bates!! 5:30-7:30PM in the JSS School Garden
- Thurs. June 14** all school assembly “FINE FINE SCHOOL” led by Ms. Agna at 10:00AM
- Tues. June 19** 5th GRADE GRADUATION 1:30PM
- Wed. June 20** LAST DAY OF SCHOOL! It’s a half-day – dismissal at 12:20PM and bag lunches will be available

## **MCAS DATES**

**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)**