



# Newsletter

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You may also connect with us on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/#!/NPSDistrict>

JSS Office 587-1510

Volume 23 No. 4

September 21, 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 رغبت تترك اذا 587-1315 يف سردم لةرادب لاصتالا يجري، بيبرخال لة لالاب ةبوتكم ةلاسرا لة هذ نم ةخسن يلع لوصح لة يف ب غرت تنك اذا

## MESSAGE FROM MS. AGNA

### ASSEMBLIES

We have all-school monthly assemblies at JSS. They are at different times of the day so that no one grade loses a special (art, music, PE or library) every month. We have no open periods in our day – it's a tight schedule!

Each grade is assigned to present at one assembly per year – they love doing it and we invite families to join us if they'd like. The assemblies begin with a Moving Meditation by Janet Aalfs, includes a story/read-aloud by me and a song led by Ms. O'. They usually last about 30 minutes.

#### Here is this year's schedule:

- Oct. 25 – 9:10AM – Ms. Agna
- Nov. 30 9:50AM – 4th grade
- Dec. 20 – 2:15PM 2nd grade Winter Solstice
- Jan. 11 – 10:30AM 3rd grade MLK, Jr.
- Feb. 27 – 1:30PM 1st grade
- Mar. 29 – 9:50AM – Ms. Agna
- Apr. -25 – 9:10AM 5th grade
- May 30– 2:00PM KDG - JSS Grads
- June 12 – 10:30AM Ms. Agna Fine Fine School

### LOCKDOWN DRILL NEXT WEEK

We have a lockdown drill next Wednesday, September 26 at 9:30AM. Such drills are required by our city and are included as part of our district's safety plan. We, the educators, use a very careful, sensitive and appropriate-for-the-age approach in preparing students for this drill. We minimize the "fear factor" and empathize how we can be safe. The Northampton Police Department conducts the drill, accompanied by members of our safety team, Nurse Rebecca, Sarah King, counselor, Jasmine Sicotte, school psychologist, Rebeca Alessi, Tiered Support Specialist and Mindfulness teacher, Ms. Maria Vega, Administrative Assistant, Ms. Deirdre Johnson, Secretary and Mr. Mark Lacasse, head custodian. If you have questions or concerns, please email or call me. 587-1512 or [gagna@northampton-k12.us](mailto:gagna@northampton-k12.us).

### JSS School Council

OOPS AGAIN – SO SORRY BUT WE HAVE HAD TO CHANGE THE DATE AGAIN! The meeting will be on TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2nd from 3:30-5PM. All are invited to attend.

If you are interested in being on the JSS Council, please try to come to the meeting on OCTOBER 2nd – it's the best way to find out if it's something you want to do! If you decide you would like to be on the JSS Council, please email or call me! 413-587-1512 or [gagna@northampton-k12.us](mailto:gagna@northampton-k12.us).

Hope to see you at the CARNIVAL on Sunday (see below for details)!

*With great respect and affection,*

*Gwen Agna*  
Gwen Agna

# HOLA NEWS

HOLA class confirmation forms will be going home next week. Some classes are over registered, and placements will be chosen by lottery. Second and third choices will be given if provided. Classes will begin Tuesday October 2nd. These are the dates of classes, please keep them for future reference. There are days HOLA doesn't meet due to teacher workdays, parent teacher conferences, and holidays.

Tues. 10/2, 10/9, 10/16, 10/30, 11/13, 11/20

Wed. 10/10, 10/17, 10/31, 11/7, 11/14, 11/28

Thur. 10/4, 10/11, 10/18, 11/1, 11/8, 11/15

Questions? [hola@northampton-k12.us](mailto:hola@northampton-k12.us)

587-1510. x3775

PS- There are slots open in the following classes-

Tuesday Fitness & Games for 3-5 graders

Wednesday Legos for 2-5 graders

Thursday Storybook Art for k-2 graders

Please email or call if you are interested in any of those slots, they will be filled first come first serve.

# VINS

What is VINS? VINS is a non-profit founded in 1981, and our mission is to provide volunteers in Northampton's public schools. VINS volunteers are community members, students, parents, and grandparents. We encourage people of all ages to volunteer! Volunteer participation enriches the offerings of our Northampton teachers and significantly increases the quality of education in our schools.

Candice Tauscher, Coordinator

Volunteers in Northampton Schools, Inc.  
c/o RK Finn Ryan Road School  
498 Ryan Road Florence, MA 01062

Office Hours are M-Th 8:30am-2:00pm

413-587-1332

Visit our website      Find us on Facebook

# REMINDER FOR GARDEN EVENTS

**Here is the JSS Garden plan for the fall:**

JSS Harvest Week, Oct. 15 – Oct. 19. We will celebrate the fall and harvest season as a school:

- Farmer Day (Tues., Oct. 16)– staff and children dress up as farmers to celebrate the school garden and local farming (hats, bandanas, overalls/blue jeans, etc.).
- “Whole foods for a whole week” - teachers promote healthy

snacks in classrooms, and offer snacks from our garden for students.

Harvest Festival and Garden Work Day, Thursday Oct. 18, 3:15-6:00 p.m. (rain date Friday Oct. 19th 3:15-6:00 p.m.). We will get the garden ready for winter from 3:15 to 6:00 while enjoying harvest foods, including soup, salads, breads, drinks and desserts. Classes are invited to make soup, muffins, etc. for the potluck.

Class visits with School Sprouts. Garden outings with Hope Guardianer will continue again this year. Each visit is 40 minutes per class, three times in the fall and four times in the spring!

# JSS WALKING PROGRAM!

The JSS Walking Program is about to start up for the new school year!


This is a wonderful program that takes place during recess - students (1st through 5th grade) can choose to walk (or hop, skip, etc.) a course during their outdoor recess time, and each student receives a card to mark their progress. As the miles build up, students may receive special trinkets - and even a shout-out over the morning announcements! Some students participate regularly, some occasionally, but all are welcome, and many students find it fun, relaxing and good exercise.

We rely on our great parent volunteers to make this program run. If you are interested in helping, please email Liz below to let us know what day(s) you are available - we will show you everything you need to do. This is so much fun, and such a great part of our school - please consider helping, even if you can't do every week.

Thank you!

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

# IN THE NEWS

 Toren Grosso-Siebecke and his mom, July Siebecke's chalk drawing of the Parking Meter Angel was a feature of the downtown Northampton Chalk Drawing event!

 4th grader Farah Khodari's drawing was featured on the front page of the Daily Hampshire Gazette's weather report!

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## COMMUNITY CARNIVAL THIS SUNDAY!!

Please join all six Northampton public schools' parent teacher organizations and School Local Northampton for a community carnival celebrating our public schools! The carnival will be held Sunday, Sept. 23 from 12 pm - 4 pm at John F. Kennedy Middle School (100 Bridge Road, Florence). There is a free bus loop available throughout the day (see schedule below).

The carnival, which originated at Jackson Street School, will feature 24 handmade, midway-style games, inflatable obstacle courses, bounce houses, poetry on demand and life advice from El Oso Azul (Attack Bear Press), delicious food for sale, and oh-so-many prizes to be won!

The event is free to enter. Tickets for the games/attractions are \$.25 each or 100 tickets for \$20.00. Special pre-event ticket packs

will be available for purchase- \$20.00 for 100 tickets plus a bonus coupon for five extra prize points. That's a \$7.50 savings! Pre-event ticket packs are only available until 8/22. If you would like to purchase a pack but can't make the PTO meeting, email Summer at summercable@gmail.com.

### **Bus Schedule**

Pick up - 11:45 (approximate)

Leeds School, Ryan Road School, Florence Heights

Drop off at JFK

Pick up - 12:30 (approximate)

Bridge Street School, Jackson Street School, Meadowbrook Apartments

Drop off at JFK

Pick up - 1:00 (approximate)

Leeds School, Ryan Road School, Florence Heights

Drop off at JFK

Pick up - 1:30 (approximate)

Bridge Street School, Jackson Street School, Meadowbrook Apartments

Drop off at JFK

Depart JFK - 2:15

Stops at: Leeds School, Ryan Road School, Florence Heights

Depart JFK - 3:00

Stops at: Meadowbrook Apartments, Jackson Street School, and Bridge Street School

Depart JFK - 3:45 for all stops - this is the last bus of the day.

### **LOCAL CHORUS**

Nerissa Nields, mom of Johnny Nields-Duffy, has been leading children's choruses since 2015. She now has two. Local Chorus is for kids aged 5-13 whose repertoire includes folk, pop, rock and classical songs. Our mission is to bring joy to the community through music and performance. Starting September 25 at the Montessori School of Northampton. We meet for 10-week sessions, skipping holidays and vacations. Each session will include at least one performance. We have performed with Sarah Lee Guthrie and Johnny Irion, The Nields, and served as

the musical welcome for Senator Ed Markey's 2017 Town Hall in Northampton.

Meeting Tuesdays 4-4:45, cost is \$150.

For older kids (10-14), she offers Focus Chorus, which meets on Tuesdays 7-8pm out of her Little Blue Studio in Northampton. This group is more advanced, singing close harmonies and almost always 3 parts. Cost for Focus Chorus is \$175.

Sibling discount and scholarship available.

For more information, or to sign up, email Nerissand@gmail.com. Space is limited to 25 kids per chorus.

### **NEF FUNDRAISER**

Building Better Brains: A NEF Fundraiser with Dr. Sharon Saline on next Wed., Sept. 26 at 7:00 pm in the Little Theatre at Northampton High School

In this workshop for parents and educators, Dr. Sharon Saline will help you understand what executive functioning skills are and why nurturing them contributes to academic success and happier home lives. Using current research on the developing brain and examples from students themselves, Dr. Saline will show you how and why executive functioning skills are critical to the learning process. With a deeper understanding of these skills, you'll be able to create more effective strategies that nurture cognitive strengths and overcome daily challenges. You'll walk away with practical tools for improving organization, planning and follow through. Donations to benefit NEF (Northampton Education Foundation) .

### **SCI-TECH CAFÉ**

It's that time of year again and we are excited to kick off this season's SciTech Cafe series on September 24th with Dr. Jennifer Ross of UMass.

Event location: Union Station, 125A Pleasant Street, Northampton MA. Light appetizers are available while supplies last, and food is available to order.

Time: 6:00pm

#### **Save The Dates / Upcoming Speakers!**

9/24/18: "Futuristic Materials From Biological Fundamentals" presented by Prof. Jennifer Ross, UMass Amherst

10/22/18: Megan Dobro, Hampshire College (Biology)

12/3/18: Ken Colodner, Mount Holyoke College (Neuroscience)

1/28/19: Katie Mack, NC State University (Astrophysics)

2/25/19: Kaca Bradonjic, Hampshire College (Physics)

3/25/19: Jesse Mager, UMass Amherst (Vet Science)

4/22/19: Bosiljka Glumac, Smith College (Geology)

6/3/19: TBA

# **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.

**TODAY, Friday, September 21 WALKING SCHOOL BUS – Ms. Agna and Jackson walk on the Bike Path – 8:10AM behind Stop and Shop!**

**Tues. Oct. 2 PICTURE DAY - School Pictures taken – OPTIONAL individual photos can be purchased for families but we will have class photos for all, thanks to our amazing PTO!  
JSS COUNCIL MEETING – 1st of the year! 3:30-5PM in the library. All are welcome!**

**Wed. Oct. 3 International Walk (Bike, Scoot, Skate) to School Day – meet at the flagpole for cider and trinkets!  
Coffee Hour in the Family Center 9-10AM  
Teacher Work (Half) Day**

**Thurs. Oct. 4 JSS OPEN HOUSE 5:30 Doors open for Family Photos and displays in cafeteria, School Council election, among other things! 6-7PM Classrooms are open**

**Mon. Oct. 8 NO SCHOOL – Columbus Day/Indigenous People's Day Holiday**

**Tues. Oct. 9-Fri. Oct. 12 NATURE'S CLASSROOM for 5th graders – details to follow...**

**Wed. Oct. 10 International Walk to School Day  
Coffee Hour in the Family Center 9-10AM**

**Mon. Oct. 15-Fri. Oct. 19 HARVEST WEEK in the JSS Garden**

**Wed. Oct. 17 Coffee Hour in the Family Center 9-10AM**

**Thurs. Oct. 18 Garden Work Day 3:15-6PM (rain date is Friday, Oct. 19)**

**Mon-Fri. Oct. 23-27 Parent/Teacher Conferences – half-days in the elementary schools  
(Evening conferences on Oct. 24 & 25). Dismissal every day at 12:20PM**

**Thurs. Nov. 1 5th grade Family Dinner**

**Mon. Nov. 5 4th grade Family Dinner**

**Tues. Nov. 6 NO SCHOOL – ELECTION DAY**

**Wed., Nov. 7 3rd grade Family Dinner**

**Thurs. Nov. 8 2nd grade Family Dinner**

**Mon. Nov. 12 NO SCHOOL – Veterans Day**

**Tues. Nov. 13 PICTURE RETAKE DAY  
1st grade Family Dinner**

**Thurs. Nov. 15 KDG Family Dinner**

**Wed. Nov. 21 Thanksgiving Break begins at 12:20PM**

**Wed. Dec. 5 Teacher Work (Half) Day**

**Fri. Dec. 22-Tues. Jan. 2 (first day back) NO SCHOOL – December Holiday Break**

**Fri. Mar. 15 ALL-SCHOOL CONCERT – Stomp(ish) Part II 9:30AM in the gym (YES, we know it's a half-day –dismissal is at 12:20PM, plenty of time for the concert!)**

## **HOLA DATES!**

Tues. 10/2, 10/9, 10/16, 10/30, 11/13, 11/20

Wed. 10/10, 10/17, 10/31, 11/7, 11/14, 11/28

Thur. 10/4, 10/11, 10/18, 11/1, 11/8, 11/15

Questions? [hola@northampton-k12.us](mailto:hola@northampton-k12.us)

# GIANT BOOK SALE

**Smith Vocational & Agricultural School**  
**80 Locust St., Northampton**

**September 29, 2018**  
**9 am - 4 pm**

*1st pick of books  
8 - 9 am  
\$10 donation*



**Many  
rare and un-  
usual books,  
moderately  
priced.**

**Exceptional numbers of  
books in categories:**

**History**  
**Children's Books**  
**Classics**

**LWV** LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS®  
Northampton Area