



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

Volume 23 No. 7

October 19, 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 في نسخة من هذه الرسالة بلغة عربية، يرجى الاتصال بالمدارس في 587-1315.

MESSAGE FROM MS. AGNA

WALKING SCHOOL BUS

If you are reading this early enough, I will be walking on the Bike Path with Jackson this morning – 8:10AM behind Stop and Shop!

ASSEMBLY NEXT THURSDAY

Our monthly assembly will be next Thursday, October 25 at 9:15AM in the gym. I will be leading it, with a moving meditation by Ms. Janet Aalfs, a story and with singing, led by Ms. O. Join us if you'd like!

FOOD ON BUSES/VANS

It's come to my attention that students are eating on our buses, causing great concern for students who have allergies to certain foods, choking dangers, as well as conflicts (some share with others and some don't). I checked with our Transportation Dept. – turns out there's a policy in the district that THERE IS NO FOOD TO BE EATEN ON SCHOOL BUSES/VANS! I will announce this to our students, include it in a future robo call and ask you to please let your children know that food must be kept in their lunchboxes/backpacks. THANKS!

IDLING

It's also come to my attention that some do not seem to know that Northampton has a "NO IDLING" (keeping cars running) for longer than FIVE MINUTES law. This is for health and environmental concerns. So please DO NOT leave your car running when waiting in the pick-up/drop-off lane, in the parking lot or on Ridgewood Terrace, where many park to avoid the school lot. I will include this in a future robo call. Thank you for your understanding if we ask you to turn off your car.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

My presentation of the JSS School Improvement Plan (SIP) has been postponed till the next School Committee meeting which is on MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5 at 7:15PM. I have included the plan at the end of the newsletter today – please email me or leave me a note if you have questions. I will speak to it at November's PTO meeting and Coffee Hours.

HALF DAYS NEXT WEEK

The all-important parent/guardian-teacher conferences are scheduled for next week, with dismissal every day at 12:20PM. If you do not have a conference date/time, please call/email your child's teacher to set it up. The 20 minutes, though relatively short, provide a critical "check-in", in person, for you and your child's teacher and we like to see 100% attendance in all classes for these conferences! We know that half-days are challenging for families. Please know that your child(ren) can come with you, and wait outside the classroom (unless teachers invite them in!).

If you would like to check in with me while you are here, please let me know!


IT'S COLD OUTSIDE

After such a warm early fall, the low temps in the past couple of days have come as a shock for some. PLEASE remember that we ALWAYS go out for recess and before school, unless it is raining or the temp is below 15 degrees Fahrenheit. Let us know if you need help

with purchasing warm outdoor clothing.

Have a lovely weekend!

With great respect and affection,


Gwen Agna

SAFETY ALERT

MESSAGE FROM A JSS PARENT: *"This morning I chased down a car on Jackson Street and screamed at the driver to put away their mobile phone, which was in their hands, a texting window open, and their eyes were on it instead of the road. Perhaps it was not my most refined or polite moment, but this driver was the third in as many minutes that I saw texting while driving past our school. From my own driveway I can see three crosswalks that hundreds of children use each day while walking to school; I can also see the drivers with their heads down and their phones in their laps as they approach these crosswalks. Texting while driving in ILLEGAL in Massachusetts. Operators cannot use any mobile telephone or handheld device capable of accessing the Internet to write, send, or read an electronic message including text messages, emails, and instant messages or to access the Internet while operating a vehicle. The law applies even if the vehicle is stopped in traffic. You are 23 times more likely to crash if you are texting, and in front of our school, that crash will most likely involve a child. I urge you to turn on the Do Not Disturb features of your phone, and to pull over if you truly need to read a message or send a text. I'll even let you use my driveway. "*

Submitted by Mollie Hartford, mom to Rowan, 2nd Grade

HOLA update

There will be no classes next week due to parent/teacher conferences. Classes will resume the following week on 10/30.

A reminder, payments were due 10/1, there are still some due. If you are unsure of your outstanding balance, please email me at: hola@northampton-k12.us or call and leave a message at 587-1510 x3775.

Also, if your child is in an outdoor class, please make sure they have warm clothing, as the days are getting colder.

Finally, if there is a day your child will not be attending class, please send a note in, call the office, or send me an email.

Thank you,

Ms. BG

DISTRICT REVIEW

Please Participate in the District Review Parent Survey

The Northampton Public School District is scheduled to participate in a District Review this year. The Office of District Reviews and Monitoring (ODRM) at the Massachusetts Depart-

ment of Elementary and Secondary Education (ESE) conducts district reviews on a regular basis to provide all districts with an assessment of district systems, enabling district leaders to reflect on progress and strengthen performance.

The District Review is intended to add value to the improvement cycle by providing an experienced team of district leaders who will provide an objective analysis and suggestions for improvement. The value of the district review is measured: first, by the reflection preparing and participating in the review promotes; second, by the usefulness of the findings and recommendations to district leaders and stakeholders; third, by the effectiveness of the resulting action steps and goals that the process generates; and, ultimately, by improved results.

As part of our preparation for the District Review, we have developed a set of standards-linked questionnaires for various stakeholder groups including parents. English and Spanish versions are posted on the district homepage <http://www.northamptonschools.org/>

Please take a few minutes to share your thoughts by responding to this survey.

SCHOOL DIRECTORIES WENT HOME THIS WEEK!

School directories went home in backpacks on Wednesday!

Every family receives a copy of the directory, even if you did not choose to have your information listed. We hope it will be a good way to stay in touch with your child's classmates, friends and other families. There is a staff index in the front and student and parent name indexes in the back.

If you do not receive a directory by Monday, please let me know so I can get you one.

If you are a two-household family and would like a second copy, please let me know and I will get you one.

If your information is incorrect (apologies for misinterpreting handwriting or just plain making a mistake!), please let me know and I can put corrections in a future newsletter, as well as email the corrected version to families in your child's grade.

Thanks!

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

ELECTION DAY BAKE SALE COMING UP ON TUESDAY, NOV. 6 - CAN YOU BAKE OR VOLUNTEER?

On Tuesday, Nov. 6 there will be no school at Jackson Street, but the building will be open as a polling place. With so many people coming through our school, it is a great opportunity to raise money for JSS! We will be hosting a bake sale from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. Can you bake or buy something to sell at our bake sale? We also need volunteers to staff the bake sale. Children are welcome to accompany you, and if you can only come for part of a shift, that's fine too! Please specify if you are donating a dish, volunteering a shift or both. Food donations are welcome anytime during the day (or can be dropped at school the day before). Thanks for any help you can provide... - Liz Horn, ELHORN@mindspring.com

PLEASE COME HELP AT THE GIRLS ON THE RUN PRACTICE 5K ON TUESDAY, OCT. 30

Girls on the Run is looking for volunteers for our practice 5k! Our hard-working JSS girls in the program - 3rd through 5th grade -- will be walking/running a 5k on Tuesday, October 30 in preparation for their final 5K in November. We need volunteers from 3-4:4:30 pm to help cheer the girls on, provide support along the route, take pictures as they each break the tape at the finish line, and join in the after party. If you're interested, please contact Thanks!

IN THE NEWS

👩 4th grader, **Ursula Grant's mom, Kelly Link**, local writer is a recipient of a MacArthur grant – an incredibly prestigious honor! Congratulations to you, Kelly!

COMMUNITY NEWS

SCI-TECH CAFÉ

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!

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, October 19 WALKING SCHOOL BUS – Ms. Agna and Jackson walk on the Bike Path – 8:10AM

Mon-Fri. Oct. 23-27 Parent/Teacher Conferences – half-days in the elementary schools (Evening conferences on Oct. 23 & 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

Thurs. Nov. 15 KDG Family Dinner

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

Tues. Nov. 27 1st grade Family Dinner

Wed. Dec. 5 Teacher Work (Half) Day

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

Fri. Jan. 25 NO SCHOOL for students – Teacher Work Day

Fri. Mar. 15 GRADES 3,4 & 5 CONCERT 9:30AM in the gym (YES, we know it's a half-day –dismissal is at 12:20PM, plenty of time for the concert!)

Fri. May 3 GRADES K, 1 & 2 CONCERT 1:30PM in the gym

HOLA DATES!

Tues. 10/30, 11/13, 11/20

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

Thur. 11/1, 11/8, 11/15

Questions? hola@northampton-k12.us

ASSEMBLY DATES

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

Jackson Street Elementary School

School Improvement Plan – 2018-2020

“A true revolution of values will soon look uneasily on the glaring contrast of poverty and wealth.” Martin Luther King, Jr.

Continuation of goals/activities from 2017-2018 SIP:

- At Jackson St. School we will continue to participate in the modified district Universal Screening Plan for all students, grades K-5 – with a “pilot” screening for math. We will use the AVMR screening and assessment and evaluate the pilot at the end of the year. We will continue to fully implement the RTI plan by maintaining the model of Title I Math and Reading service delivery in pullout groups of no more than 3 students, 30 minutes per day, 5 days per week.
- With the full-time Tiered Support Specialist, we will continue to support students in need and work proactively to prevent behavior and/or academic issues.
- Faculty will participate in district-wide 2nd faculty meetings of the month for grade levels and departments.
- Faculty will work collaboratively with elementary schools in the Elementary Schools Garden Project. Writing curriculum units for Rubicon Atlas will continue to be a part of this. The construction of the greenhouse was completed and will greatly expanding the school garden program throughout the school year as soon as the electrical connections are made to provide heat and cooling.
- We will RENEW our school-wide theme (5th year) of “Growth Mindset”, implemented through our all-school monthly assemblies, monthly Code of Conduct meetings for each grade, Family Dinners and our classroom work.
- We will hold our 5th Annual Family Science Night, based on the Next Generation Science Standards, which will be coordinated by JSS teachers and caregivers. We will implement the new district standards-based science curriculum.
- We will hold our 3rd annual International Night, based on the highly successful 1st one held in 2016-17. Many families and staff shared their cultures and heritages through photo and artifact displays, native costume and food.
- We will continue our all-school Morning Meditation/Mindfulness practice to twice per week, mindfulness for every class in every grade (with Tiered Instruction Specialist, Rebeca Alessi) and incorporate mindfulness into our classrooms, our assemblies and our monthly Code of Conduct meetings.
- We will complete the first phase of the library renovation, thanks to our PTO for it all.

Two-Year Plan for 2018-2020

District Theory of Action: We will continue to develop and successfully implement a comprehensive plan that addresses the following from the District Improvement Plan:

1. Vertically align expectations of skills and habits of mind students should have at each grade level. (Social/emotional skills and transfer goals)
 - Develop and administer a new JSS Family Survey to address issues of caregiving in the social/emotional realm – to include personal safety, social media, cyber bullying, cell phone use, and trauma support.
 - Based on survey results, plan family supports and partnerships in social/emotional learning for our students
 - Incorporate and document the presence and use of the school therapy dog. Develop a pre and post survey to measure the impact and success.
 - Support faculty and staff in Year 2 of the elementary restructuring plan (Mod WINS) with the JSS Support Team (counselors, floater special education teacher, tiered-support specialist, school psychologist and principal), The Hub as Tier 3 support for behaviorally-challenged students and time in faculty meetings and in ESP meetings to focus on problem-solving and validation of concerns, as well as enlisting district personnel (outreach social worker, special education administrators, BCBA).
2. Consider standards-based grading and reporting K-12 (homework practices are embedded in this work)
 - As a faculty, we will examine our values and practices in assessment and evaluation of our students’ progress – both in standardized, criterion-referenced, curriculum-based and narrative forms.
 - As a school council, we will engage in collaborative discussions about assessment and evaluation. We will share knowledge and best practices in standards-based reporting, in parallel with the district’s work in this area.
 - Homework practices will be reviewed as well as research in the area. Input to the district committee will be given upon invitation.

3. Jackson St. - specific goal: To reflect on and document the vision and mission of our school, through our culture, climate, traditions and rituals.

- Faculty and staff will contribute to the documentation in written and visual/video format.
- Students and families will similarly contribute, overseen by the School Council, through surveys and focus groups.
- A community-wide culminating exhibit and celebration will be held in the spring 2020.