



# 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. 8**

**October 26, 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 أن يكتب لك هذه الرسالة بلغة عربية، فيرجى الاتصال بالمدارس في 587-1315.

## MESSAGE FROM MS. AGNA

### WALKING SCHOOL BUS

If you are reading this early enough, I will be walking through Hampshire Heights with Jackson and probably Mr. Strouse and Ms. Cowhey this morning – 8:10AM behind Stop and Shop!

### ANOTHER CALENDER CHANGE

We're very sorry but we have to again change the date of the 1st grade Family Dinner. Because there is a Family Math Night on Tuesday, November 27, we will have the 1st grade Family Dinner on WEDNESDAY, NOV. 28! Please mark your calendars!

### CODE OF CONDUCT

As you (hopefully!) know, there is a district Code of Conduct, published in the Elementary Handbook (online on the district website and hard copies, if you'd like, in the school office). We haven't reviewed this in several years – now there is a committee of administrators, teachers, ESPs, and representatives from Schools Councils, working on updating/revamping it. We are using a model as a guide that many schools around the country are using – from the Syracuse, NY public schools. I have attached, to this newsletter, the draft philosophy statement we have put together. I will keep you posted on our progress as well as report to School Council and the PTO.

At JSS we also have monthly grade level "Code of Conduct" meetings. At these meetings we talk about growth mindset (topic for another newsletter!), the rules of our school and how things are going. The discussion is framed by a picture book on the theme – similar to our all-school assemblies. These are important meeting for me and hopefully for our students and staff – to connect how the culture and climate of the school on a regular basis.

### HALLOWEEN

Tis that time of year – plus the Daylight Saving time change – excitement in the air. We support the Trick or Treat for UNICEF project and Morning Math Club coordinates the giving out of the boxes (next Tuesday, the 30th). Believe it or not, I trick or treated with the UNICEF box when I was a young child – an important institution in our world.

As with all holidays, we do not celebrate them at school. Our approach to holidays includes family traditions, food, dress, language and all the ways that families observe their holidays and culture. So please remember that we ask that all costumes and masks STAY HOME on Halloween. As you may or may not know, Halloween is NOT celebrated by all of our students and families – it is in the same category of every other holiday that we do not expect that everyone celebrates, even though the dominant culture makes it impossible to ignore.

To those who DO celebrate – please have a very HAPPY and SAFE Halloween!

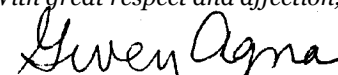
### EXAMPLE OF GROWTH MINDSET

As I wrote, I will do an article on this topic in upcoming newsletters. In the meantime, here is a report from a member of staff, who was walking into an office recently with a student:

On noticing that the office door closed itself as we walked out of it (usually it takes a little pull to complete the closing), the student said: "hey, the door closed by itself! it must be learning! The door is like a little child...everything likes to learn".

Have a lovely weekend!

With great respect and affection,



Gwen Agna

## 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: Liz Horn at [elhorn@mindspring.com](mailto:elhorn@mindspring.com) or 646-234-8805. Thanks!

Thanks!

## BAKE SALE

Morning Math Club is having a bake sale on Wednesday, October 31 to raise money for UNICEF. The bake sale is at 8:00 am in the front lobby (and may continue after school if we have enough.) Donations and baked goods are accepted.

*Submitted by Alyssa Giroux and Sol Loomis, Morning Math Club members*

## Trick or Treat for UNICEF Next Week

Morning Math Club class representatives will hand out orange UNICEF boxes in all JSS classes on Tuesday for students to bring home. If your family does Trick or Treat, please help your child put the box together, throw in a few pennies to jingle and remind them bring the box along when they go trick or treating, teaching them to say, "Trick or Treat for UNICEF!" Please remind them to bring the orange box back to school the very next day so that all the money can be counted and given to UNICEF.

If your family does not Trick or Treat but would like to participate in the campaign of "kids helping kids," here are other ways to help:

- bake something at home to donate to the October 31 bake sale
- a parent can bring the orange box to work to gather donations
- bring some change to donate on October 31

We would like to raise enough funds to purchase tents, blankets, schools supplies, vaccinations and soccer balls for children in need around the world. Thanks for your support.

## 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](mailto:ELHORN@mindspring.com)

## DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS!

### School directories went home last week.

Apologies for any errors! Please let me know if any information is incorrect and we will put it in the newsletter and can also email your child's class.

### Please note the following:

For Alona Fleisher in Room 102, please correct the phone number for Naomi Fleisher, Alona's mom. It should read: 413-584-0037

### Also,

Please add the following for Elliot Nichols in Room 101:

Nichols, Elliot

Greg Nichols & Rebecca Fletcher

14 Norwood Avenue Florence, MA 01062

413-584-6148 (home) 413-341-0099 (Rebecca's cell)

413-341-4578 (Greg's cell)

[Rebeccaji\\_@hotmail.com](mailto:Rebeccaji_@hotmail.com) [Gregnichols1@comcast.net](mailto:Gregnichols1@comcast.net)

If you do not receive a directory, 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.

Thanks!

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

# KDG REGISTRATION

As the district begins preparations for 2019 Kindergarten registration, please let Jennifer Towler, school registrar, know if you have a child who will be 5 by August 31, 2019 and will be registering them for Kindergarten. It's important that all 5 year olds who are eligible for Kindergarten be accounted for so families will receive all the necessary information about Kindergarten Info nights, Visiting Days, Buddy Days and Playground Play dates. Please email or call Ms. Towler: jtowler@northampton-k12.us or 413-587-1328.

# JSS SWAG

Hello JSS community,

The 2018-2019 JSS items are here! Order forms will be going home this week in backpacks for these amazing items designed and produced by a talented JSS family.

The deadline for orders is Friday, November 2.

Please note that this year each child at JSS will be gifted a t-shirt by the PTO; if you did not have a chance to note the size your child needs at Open House, please do so at your conference this week.

Thanks,

The PTO leadership team

# IN THE NEWS

🌀 In a recent article, "Wonder & Play – Making Math Fun" by Andy Castillo of the Daily Hampshire Gazette, JSS's Title I Math teacher, **Mary Cowhey**, was quoted and the Morning Math Club that she organizes was featured.

🌀 **Mollie Hartford**, 2nd grader, Rowan Chamberland's mom's letter to the editor of the Gazette was published, expressing her concerns about texting while driving.

# 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!

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.

<b>TODAY, Friday, October 26</b>	<b>WALKING SCHOOL BUS – Ms. Agna, Mr. Strouse, Ms. Cowhey and Jackson walk through Hampshire Heights – 8:10AM</b>
<b>Wed. Oct. 31</b>	<b>Math Club Bake Sale for UNICEF 8AM in the front hall lobby</b>
<b>Thurs. Nov. 1</b>	<b>5th grade Family Dinner</b>
<b>Mon. Nov. 5</b>	<b>4th grade Family Dinner</b>
<b>Tues. Nov. 6</b>	<b>NO SCHOOL – ELECTION DAY</b>
<b>Wed.. Nov. 7</b>	<b>3rd grade Family Dinner</b>
<b>Thurs. Nov. 8</b>	<b>2nd grade Family Dinner</b>
<b>Mon. Nov. 12</b>	<b>NO SCHOOL – Veterans Day</b>
<b>Tues. Nov. 13</b>	<b>PICTURE RETAKE DAY</b>
<b>Thurs. Nov. 15</b>	<b>KDG Family Dinner</b>
<b>Wed. Nov. 21</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Break begins at 12:20PM</b>
<b>Mon. Nov. 26</b>	<b>Welcome back to school!</b>
<b>Tues. Nov. 28</b>	<b>1st grade Family Dinner</b>
<b>Wed. Dec. 5</b>	<b>Teacher Work (Half) Day</b>
<b>Fri. Dec. 22-Tues. Jan. 2 (first day back)</b>	<b>NO SCHOOL – December Holiday Break</b>
<b>Fri. Jan. 25</b>	<b>NO SCHOOL for students – Teacher Work Day</b>
<b>Fri. Mar. 15</b>	<b>GRADES 3,4 &amp; 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!)</b>
<b>Fri. May 3</b>	<b>GRADES K, 1 &amp; 2 CONCERT 1:30PM in the gym</b>

**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](mailto:hola@northampton-k12.us)

#### ASSEMBLY DATES

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

# Philosophy of Student Conduct and Support

The Northampton Public Schools believe that all students have the right to be educated in an environment where they are safe, respected, and are accepted for who they are. We believe that by teaching students strategies to manage conflict and to problem solve together, relationships will be nurtured and repaired as needed and students will be able to gain the skills and knowledge they need to be engaged citizens in a global society.

## Guiding Principles

The following guiding principles from our core social and emotional learning curricula inform all Code policies and practices.

1. Teaching social and emotional skills is as important as teaching academic content.
2. How we teach is as important as what we teach.
3. Great cognitive growth occurs through social interaction.
4. How we work together as adults to create a safe, joyful, and inclusive school environment is as important as our individual contribution or competence.
5. What we know and believe about our students—individually, culturally, developmentally—informs our expectations, reactions, and attitudes about those students.
6. Partnering with families—knowing them and valuing their contributions—is as important as knowing the children we teach.

## Essential Cognitive, Affective, and Behavioral Competencies

Our core social and emotional learning curricula incorporate seek to promote the following five essential cognitive, affective, and behavioral competencies identified by the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL).

### 1. Self Awareness

The ability to accurately recognize one's own emotions, thoughts, and values and how they influence behavior. The ability to accurately assess one's strengths and limitations, with a well-grounded sense of confidence, optimism, and a "growth mindset." Self awareness skills include:

- Identifying emotions
- Accurate self-perception
- Recognizing strengths
- Self-confidence
- Self-efficacy

### 2. Self Management

The ability to successfully regulate one's emotions, thoughts, and behaviors in different situations — effectively managing stress, controlling impulses, and motivating oneself. The ability to set and work toward personal and academic goals. Self management skills include:

- Impulse control
- Stress management
- Self-discipline
- Self-motivation
- Goal-setting
- Organizational skills

### 3. Social Awareness

The ability to take the perspective of and empathize with others, including those from diverse backgrounds and cultures. The ability to understand social and ethical norms for behavior and to recognize family, school, and community resources and supports. Social awareness skills include:

- Perspective-taking
- Empathy

- Appreciating diversity
  - Respect for others
4. Relationship Skills

The ability to establish and maintain healthy and rewarding relationships with diverse individuals and groups. The ability to communicate clearly, listen well, cooperate with others, resist inappropriate social pressure, negotiate conflict constructively, and seek and offer help when needed. Relationship skills include:

- Communication
- Social engagement
- Relationship-building
- Teamwork

5. Responsible Decision Making

The ability to make constructive choices about personal behavior and social interactions based on ethical standards, safety concerns, and social norms. The realistic evaluation of consequences of various actions, and a consideration of the well-being of oneself and others. Responsible decision making skills include:

- Identifying problems
- Analyzing situations
- Solving problems
- Evaluating
- Reflecting
- Ethical responsibility





