



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. 26

March 22, 2019

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 كتابة هذه الرسالة بلغة عربية، يرجى الاتصال بالمدارس 587-1315.

MESSAGE FROM MS. AGNA

JSS COUNCIL SURVEY – PLEASE DO IT!!

The JSS Council WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!! Please use the following link to fill it out! We will check in with families about filling it out if you don't have at home Internet – stay tuned! I am sorry that the link is not “live” – there has been an email blast with it as well as on the JSS PTO Facebook page. The few responses we have received so far have been reviewed by council members – thank you so much for filling this out!! <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/THM6ZJB>

The deadline for filling it out has been extended to today, FRIDAY MARCH 22, 2019!!

MCAS

MCAS stands for Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment Systems. When the concept was first introduced, as part of the Education Reform Act, in 1993, it was intended to be systemS, plural. It was envisioned to include a test but also portfolios, exhibits, teacher assessment and more – recognizing that one test does NOT give a full picture of students' performances as well as what they know. Somehow all but the test was lost or put aside.

So we have been giving the tests since then. It is based on the MA State Standards of Education and has changed over time, based on student performance and test experts' analysis. In my opinion the idea of “accountability” and assessing what students know and do is a great idea. Expecting that we can capture that in one test is the problem. Also, a test does not/cannot take into account those students who learning disabilities, native language other than English and the general challenges for test taking. We are allowed to and do have accommodations for students, through the special education process AND now, through what are called UNIVERSAL ACCOMMODATIONS (you can look these up on the MA Dept. of Secondary and Elementary Education (DESE). Having those accommodations are critical and do allow for greater success for the students taking them.

We do not “teach to the test” per se, but we do teach the curriculum which is based on the MA Standards. Our district and state curriculum and materials are good ones and are viewed as best practice nationwide. We are happy to be teaching these. We also help student learn how to take tests – practice, practice, and practice. And reassure, reassure, reassure – our mantra is “Just do your best and it will be fine”. We tell our students that the test is just one way that we measure their growth and are also important for us, as their teachers, to figure out better ways to teach them.

This year ALL students will take the MCAS online, unless they have an accommodation for paper-based tests. Teachers have been practicing with the chrome books (little laptops) so students feel comfortable when it comes time to take the test. In my many years here at JSS, I have observed how wonderfully the teachers set the stage for taking the MCAS and help students really do try their best. Again, it is just one measure and we know that your children have much more that they can do, show and be proud of. If you have questions/concerns, please let your child's teacher or me know.

CLASSROOM PLACEMENT FORM

Don't forget – if you haven't done so already, fill this out and return to school by next Friday, the 29th! Thank you.

Hope to see you at Science night!!

Respectfully and affectionately yours,

Gwen Agna
Gwen Agna

SCIENCE NIGHT IS COMING – TONIGHT!!

TONIGHT, March 22nd is our wonderful 5th Annual JSS Science Night!

Please join us from 5:30 - 7:30pm for a night of fun and discovery. Please find the attached invitation at the bottom of this newsletter.

If you can volunteer to during the event, please sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040b48a5af29a75-jssfamily>

While many activities take place inside the school, if weather permits, there are also couple of outdoor activities to enjoy! Be sure to wear comfortable shoes, clothing, and a jacket.

We look forward to seeing you all!!!

Sincerely,

Science Night Committee

Swing Into Spring 2019!

Mark your calendars for our school's biggest fundraiser of the year- March 29th! This adult only event will be at the Look Park Garden House from 6:30-10:30 pm. Come join us for live music, door prizes, and a silent auction! Light hor d'oeuvres will be served and a cash bar available. New this year will be a \$10 raffle where you can enter to win a pool party at Ms. Agna's house for your student and some friends. That's right, one of the most coveted items can be yours for just \$10!! Raffle tickets will be sold at school prior to the auction at all school events + occasionally on the playground. The raffle winner will be drawn at the auction, but you do not need to be present to win!

Questions about the auction?

Email: jacksonstreetauction@gmail.com

SWING INTO SPRING CLASS BASKETS

It has become a tradition for each grade to compile a themed gift basket to auction off at Swing into Spring, the wonderful annual JSS event taking place on Friday, March 29 at the Garden House in Look Park.

We have put a box for each grade in the school office to collect items donated by families. All donations are greatly appreciated and nothing needs to be expensive! Many of the best items come from dollar

stores, or perhaps from a stash of small gifts, party favors and craft items you may have at home. Please bring in any donated items (new or like-new) by Wednesday, March 27. Families have been wonderfully creative in collecting gift basket items and the baskets have raised great funds for our school.

Thank you so much, and please let me know if you have any questions.- Beth Maurer, bethmaurer4@icloud.com or 413-320-9950.

Here are the themes for each grade and a few suggestions of the kind of items that might fit the theme – let your imagination go!

The Kindergarten theme is Day at the Beach

Suggestions: inflatable beach balls, sunglasses, flip flops, pail & shovel, sunscreen, Frisbees, bubbles, hats, beach tote, lemonade mix...

The First Grade theme is Craft Corner

Suggestions: anything and everything to get crafty: beads, popsicle sticks, paper, markers, glitter glue, stickers, paints, Play Dough, clay, wiki sticks, crayons, craft kits...

The Second Grade theme is Home Chef

Suggestions: anything related to cooking/eating! How about pot holders, cookie cutters, chopsticks, cookbooks, recipe cards, baking mixes, barbeque or hot sauces, spices, apron, whisk, spatula, toy food ...

The Third Grade theme is Road Trip

Suggestions: backseat toys and games, markers, travel mug, sunglasses, camping things, thermoses, travel bingo, bug spray, guide book, book on tape, s'mores ingredients, books, music, dvd's, coffee, mini cooler, wet wipes, coloring books, duffel bag, dashboard decorations, sunscreen, flashlight., car wash gift card, disposable camera...

The Fourth Grade theme is Family Game Night

Suggestions: classic board games (Monopoly, Scrabble, Sorry...), decks of cards, Mad Libs, crosswords, Sudoku, Twister, dice, snacks, Rubik's Cube, new favorites...

The Fifth Grade theme is Movie Night

Suggestions: dvd's of classic and new favorites, popcorn, candy, movie-time snacks, comfy blanket, movie trivia book, movie posters....

JSS FILM FESTIVAL

A reminder that the JSS Film Festival has been re-scheduled for Thursday, April 11th, 6:30-7:30pm in the JSS Library!

We still have room for entries! Please contact Stan and Halle's mom Jodi Shaw (jodishaw@mac.com) for more info on how to submit.

WORKSHOP SERIES – MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The JSS Council is partnering with the Caregiver Cafes to provide more info and support for families in the age of tech. The following series is offered as "stand alone" or a continuation – all begin at 6:30 and end by 8PM. Childcare will be provided so we need sign-ups (below the calendar).

Balancing The Use Of The Screen Technologies With Your Family Values

Thursday, April 4, 2019 (NOTE DATE CHANGE!)

Navigating choices around the ever-changing world of the screen technologies and our children can be extremely confusing and overwhelming. This leaves many parents uncertain about what to say yes and no to regarding the use of the devices with their children.

When we have the time to get clear about what matters most to us, the issues of if, when and where around the devices and our children becomes easier to decide on. This evening is an opportunity for parents to explore getting clearer using the practice of mindfulness to help identify personal values and common sense solutions and strategies that you may have the family life you always dreamed of.

Exploring What It Is That Children Really Need In The Age Of Technology

Thursday, May 16, 2019

Peer and societal pressures, along with the time and energy constraints many parents face leave families without the necessary resources and reference points to more fully understand the impact that the screen technologies are having in the day to day life of their children.

Stepping beyond expert opinion and “ten-easy-step solutions,” this evening offers caretakers support and strategies for understanding the real needs of their children.

Creating A People-Centered Home VS. A Screen-Centered Home

Thursday, June 6th

The basis for everything that children need to be successful in the world, communication skills, self-care, self-worth, team building, lifelong habits, beliefs, and more, all begin at home. Unfortunately, many of our homes focus more on our electronics than on the real needs of people.

This evening’s workshop offers parents the time and support to develop practical solutions to the dominant role that the screens occupy in our homes. That same role that often ignores and denies important things like downtime, connection, quiet, and peaceful mealtimes.

Presenter:

Susan McNamara, M.A., CHHC, is a Certified Holistic Health Counselor who is trained in Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction, and holds a Masters Degree in Counseling Psychology. Susan is an adjunct professor at Westfield State University where one of the topics she explores with her students is the impact technology is having on their health and well-being.

For almost twenty-five years, Susan has been contemplating, researching, and most importantly living the questions around technology and children with her own family and others. She has

just finished her first book, Remembering What Matters Most: A Contemplative Approach To Children & Technology.

Susan can be reached at 413-527-2230 or thefarmatavalon@hotmail.com. Check out the article in a recent Daily Hampshire Gazette by Susan, entitled “Pandora’s phone – and what to do when your child has seen something she can’t unsee online”. The link for this is: <https://www.gazettenet.com/Kids-and-screens-23738686>.

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!

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

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

6/3/19: TBA

Northampton Education Foundation ADULT SPELLING BEE - Wednesday, March 27

This fun event starts up at 5PM at JFK Middle School.

Wacky Costumes, Team Competition, Words you have never heard before!!!!

Dinner Food provided by Coopers Corner is available for purchase. There is also a bake sale and Herrell’s ice cream.

There is also a fun auction with great prizes.

SPRING IS HERE

While it is too early to garden outside, plans are being made for the 23rd Annual Support Our Schools Plant and Garden Market.

The date is Saturday, May 11 (just before Mother’s Day)

More news to come.

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 – on the first and third Wednesday of the month, 9-10AM.

TODAY - Fri. Mar. 15 GRADES 3, 4 & 5 CONCERT 9:30AM in the gym

Half-Day in the Northampton Public Schools – dismissal at the elementary schools is 12:20PM

Fri. Mar. 22 FAMILY SCIENCE NIGHT!

Fri. Mar. 29 JSS SWING INTO SPRING AUCTION!

Thurs. Apr. 4 Balancing The Use Of The Screen Technologies With Your Family Values 6:30-8PM

Thurs. Apr. 11 HOLA ENDS!

JSS Film Festival – new date!! 6:30PM JSS Library

Thurs. Apr. 25 All-school assembly 1st grade presents 9:10AM

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

Wed. May 8 JSS COUNCIL & PTO meeting with Chip Wood, consultant – Details TBA

Fri. May 10 Alex Smith Trio RETURN ENGAGEMENT – stay tuned for details!

Thurs. May 16 Exploring What It Is That Children Really Need In The Age Of Technology

Thurs. May 30 All-school assembly WELCOME BACK JSS/HIGH SHOOOL GRADS – KDGners are hosts 2PM

Thurs. June 6 Creating A People-Centered Home VS. A Screen-Centered Home

Wed. June 12 All-school assembly FINE FINE SCHOOL

ASSEMBLY DATES

Apr. 25 – 1:30PM 1st grade

May 30– 2:00PM KDG - JSS Grads

June 12 – 10:30AM Ms. Agna Fine Fine School

Jackson Street School MCAS Schedule

ELA

3rd Grade	Tues April 2	Wed April 3	Make Up Apr 4
4th Grade	Mon April 8	Tue April 9	Make Up Apr 10
5th Grade	Tues April 23	Wed April 24	Make Up Apr 25

MATH

4th Grade	Tues April 30	Wed May 1	Make Up May 2
5th Grade	Tues May 7	Wed May 8	Make Up May 9
3rd Grade	Tues May 14	Wed May 15	Make Up May 16

YES I/we would like to attend the following:

1. Caregiver Café – Thursday, April 4 5:30-7:30PM _____
2. Balancing The Use Of The Screen Technologies With Your Family Values-
Thursday, April 11, 2019 6:30-8PM _____
3. Exploring What It Is That Children Really Need In The Age Of Technology -
Thursday, May 16, 2019 6:30-8PM _____
4. Creating A People-Centered Home VS. A Screen-Centered Home,
Thursday, June 6th 6:30-8PM _____

Name: _____

Number of adults: _____ Number of children who need childcare _____

Please return to the school office or your child's teacher.

Class Placement Information

Please return by **FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 2019**

Child's Name _____ Teacher _____

My Child _____ will, _____ will not, be attending Jackson Street School next year.

1. Describe the characteristics of the most effective learning environment for your child.

2. Describe some of your child's strengths and special interests outside of school.

3. List any special programs or services that your child receives outside of school. (examples-piano lessons, tutoring, counseling, karate, etc...)

4. Check any of the following that apply to your child:

_____ works well independently

_____ is well organized

_____ enjoys creative activities

_____ needs a more structured approach and environment

_____ gets along well with other same-age children

_____ enjoys school

Please provide any additional information that you feel will assist us in making the most appropriate placement for your child. This information sheet will be shredded at the end of next year and is not part of your child's school record.

Signature(s) of Parent/Guardian _____

Información Para Colocación en Clase

Favor de devolver esta forma no mas tarde del viernes de marzo 29 del 2019

Nombre del Estudiante _____ Maestra/o _____

Mi Hijo/a _____ estará _____ no estará, asistiendo a la Escuela Jackson Street el próximo año.

1. Describa las características del ámbito de aprendizaje mas efectivo para su hijo/a.

2. Describa algunas de las áreas fuertes de su hijo/a y los intereses especiales fuera de la escuela.

3. Mencione algunos programas o servicios que su hijo recibe fuera de la escuela. (por ejemplo, clases de piano, tutoría, consejería, karate, etc....)

4. Coteje cualquiera de las siguientes opciones que apliquen a su hijo/a:

_____ trabaja bien independientemente

_____ es bien organizado

_____ disfrutas de actividades creativas

_____ necesita un ambiente mas estructurado

_____ se lleva bien con otros niños de su edad

_____ le gusta la escuela

Al dorso de esta carta, por favor provea cualquier información adicional que usted sienta que nos ayudara a decidir la mejor colocación para su hijo/a. Esta información sera destruida al final del año escolar y no será parte del expediente escolar de su hijo/a.

Firma(s) del/los Padre(s)/Encargado(s) _____

Northampton's Week of the Young Child

CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

Celebrate Children and All the People Who Help Them Grow!



Saturday morning, April 6, 2019!

9:30—11:30 am

FREE! * Rain or Shine!
Jackson Street School gymnasium!

Brain Building Games and Activities for young children and their families

**Visit a police car, school bus, fire engine and dump truck! Create art! Live music!
Play on the playground! Tumble on mats! Information for parents!
Car seat checks by the Northampton Police Department!**

For more information: contact 587-1471 or earlychildhood@northampton-k12.us



Sponsored by the Northampton Public Schools, CFCE, and Parents Center, through a grant from the MA Department of Early Education and Care.

La Semana de los Niños Pequeños en Northampton

FESTIVAL INFANTIL

¡Celebren a los Niños y a Todas las Personas que los Ayudan a Crecer!



6 de Abril de 2019

9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

¡GRATIS! * ¡Con lluvia o con sol!
Gimnasio de la Escuela Jackson Street

Juegos y Actividades que Estimulan el Cerebro

para los niños pequeños y sus familias

¡Visite un auto de policía, un autobús escolar, un camión de bomberos y un camión de volteo!

¡Cree arte! ¡Juegue en el patio de recreo! ¡De volteretas sobre las esteras! La musica!

¡Información para los padres! ¡Inspeccionar los asientos de seguridad para niños!



Para más información: llame al 587-1471 o escriba a: earlychildhood@northampton-k12.us

Patrocinado por las Escuelas Públicas de Northampton, el CFCE, y el Centro de Padres, a través de una subvención del Departamento de Educación Temprana y Cuidados de MA.

JSS NOCHE FAMILIAR DE CIENCIA



**Viernes, 22 marzo
6:00 - 7:30 pm**

**Cena de pizza pedido
en avance disponible
de las 5:30 hasta 6:00pm
en la cafetería.**

Habr  rodajas vendidas
tambi n, pero se venden
r pidamente...

Cambiamos como "hacemos" basura.   Favor de llevar
su botella renovable de agua para guardarse
hidratado!   La noche familiar de ciencia de
JSS es comitable a reducir La basura!
   Gracias!!!

Exhibiciones, demos y actividades pr cticas para todas las edades:

Carrera de m rmol
Hidrodesslizadores
Explosi n de nitr geno l quido
Codificaci n y rob ticas
Tonoscopio Oobleck
Ciencia de Yo-Yo Burbujas
Dinamismo angular
Torre de malvavisco Origami
Braceletes Planetarium
Mirar las estrellas con tel scopo
Y m s...

**Ordenar en avance pizza para
tu familia de Pizza Factory
con nuestra forma de orden
en el bolet n de noticias o
email a Liz orn, hasta 3/18.
elhorn@mindspring.com
El pago se debe al entregar
la pizza. Dinero en efectivo o
cheque solamente.**

JSS FAMILY SCIENCE NIGHT PIZZA ORDER

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

Cost per pizza: \$10

_____ Number of cheese pizzas

_____ Number of pepperoni pizzas

_____ Total pizzas _____ Total cost

JSS FAMILY SCIENCE NIGHT



Friday, March 22
6:00-7:30 pm

Pre-ordered Pizza Dinner available from
5:30-6:00 pm in Cafeteria.

There will be slices sold as well, but they
sell quickly...

We kindly ask to bring your own water
bottle or cup to fill at the fountains!!! JSS
Science Night is committed to reduce
trash! Thank you!!!

Displays, demos and hands-
on activities for all ages!

Marble Run Hovercrafts
Liquid Nitrogen Explosion
Coding and Robotics
Tonoscope Oobleck
Science of Yo-Yo Bubbles
Angular Momentum
Marshmallow Tower Origami
Bracelets Planetarium
Stargazing with a Telescope
and more ...

Pre-order your family's pizza from
Pizza Factory below!
Return order form to school office or
email your order to Liz Horn,
elhorn@mindspring.com by 3/18.

Payment due at Pizza pick-up.
Cash or Check only.

JSS Science Night 2019 Pizza Order Form

Name

Phone Number

Email

Cost per Pizza: \$10

_____ Number of Cheese Pizza

_____ Number of Pepperoni Pizza

\$ _____ Total Cost