



# 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. 28

April 7, 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 من أن يكتب لك هذه الرسالة في اللغة العربية، يرجى الاتصال بالمدارس في 587-1315.

## MESSAGE FROM MS. AGNA

### MCAS ELA

Next week the 4th grade takes it on Monday and Tuesday, April 8th and 9th. Please make sure your child gets a good night's sleep and breakfast, either at home or school. You may have heard or know already that we use stress relievers in the form of sugarless chewing gum, mints and Jolly Ranchers. And our mantra is "Just try your best and it will be fine."

### AGENDA

The Jackson Street School Council will meet on Tuesday, April 9, 3:30-5:00 pm. The following is the agenda for the meeting. All are welcome to attend.

- 1 Get settled, Approve March Minutes
2. What is the impact of a 9:20AM start time on elementary schools? \*\*\*
3. Look at the Survey results
4. School Improvement Plan (SIP)

\*\*\* Several have noticed this agenda item – the Superintendent has asked all schools councils to give him feedback on this – as a way to have a no-cost late-start at Northampton High School, by pushing all schools' start times ahead by 30 minutes. If you have thoughts/opinions on this, please forward to me or come to the meeting next Tuesday!

### IMPORTANT DATES – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- \* PTO meeting 6:30-8 - April 10
- JSS Library Celebration and Ice Cream Social - May 2nd
- \* PTO meeting 6:30-8 - May 8th
- Field Day – Friday, June 7 (rain date Monday, June 10)
- JSS Family Picnic – and GOODBYE to Kathy Malynoski, Mary Cowhey, and Pat Russell – Wednesday, June 12 – details to follow
- 5th GRADE GRADUATION – Thursday, June 13 1:30PM in the gym
- LAST DAY OF SCHOOL – Friday, June 14!! It's a half-day – dismissal at 12:20PM (unless we have another snow day!)

### FLAGS A' FLYIN' – PART II

You may have noticed the pink, light blue and white striped flag flying for the past week – in observance of the Transgender Day of Visibility. An Earth Day flag will be flying next week.

### VACATION COMING!

Belatedly I have put the April vacation dates in the MARK YOUR CALENDAR section – it's coming soon!

## NEXT WEEK

I will write about what is happening regarding my transition from JSS and the welcoming of a new principal.

*Respectfully and affectionately yours,*

  
Gwen Agna

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## JSS FILM FESTIVAL

A reminder that the JSS Film Festival will be next Thursday, April 11th, 6:30-7:30pm in the JSS Library!

## OFFICE VOLUNTEER NEEDED ON FRIDAY MORNINGS!

Our wonderful office volunteer, Mary, will not be able to do Friday mornings for much of the rest of the school year, so we need a volunteer to help in the office on Friday mornings, starting now and likely into June.

This person would ideally come in around 9:30 and copy the newsletter and other flyers that go home in backpacks - about an hour to an hour and a half of work.

If you can help out, we would so appreciate it!

And if you can do one or some, but not all of the Fridays, please let us know, and we will work out a schedule.

Thank you so much!

Best, Liz Horn, Volunteer Coordinator  
elhorn@mindspring.com or 646-234-8805

## APRIL COFFEE, TEA AND HOT CHOCOLATE ORDERS DUE MONDAY, APRIL 8

Just a reminder that orders for delicious JSS coffee, tea and hot chocolate are due this Monday, April 8 by 9:00 am.

Please submit your paper orders in the office or email them anytime until Monday morning.

Orders will be delivered on Friday, April 12.

If you have any questions, need an order form or want to place an order, please contact Liz Horn at elhorn@mindspring.com or 646-234-8805

Thank you for supporting JSS!

## HOLA

Session 4 starts Tuesday April 30th and runs 6 weeks through Thursday June 6th. Registration packets are going home the beginning of next week, and are due back Friday April 12th. If you don't get a program in your child's backpack, email or call Ms. BG. Class confirmations will go home the week we get back from vacation, and classes will start the next week. All registration forms are due before vacation.

## HOLA needs donations of items

Any recycled items that can be up cycled into art- such as cereal boxes, paper towel rolls, magazines and newspaper, corks, thread spools, egg cartons, jars with lids, milk, water bottle, coffee cans and yogurt containers and lids, tissue boxes, old CDs and DVDs, string and twine and more! Please bring into office, marked for HOLA.

Thank you!

Ms. B-G hola@northampton-k12.us  
587-1510 ext. 3775

## Join Funding Fridays

Northampton Association of School Employees invites all staff, families and students to join us on Funding Fridays in letting the state know that we demand an increase in state funding to our public schools, from pre-school up through university. We are asking them to pass the Promise Act (to fund PK-12) and the Cherish Act (to fund community colleges, state colleges and universities). Here are two ways to participate:

Wear Red for Public Ed every Friday. Show your colors and your support for public schools!

Standout with us in front of JSS with signs on Fridays before school, 8:15-8:45. Our April dates are April 5, 12 and 26.

For more info, contact Mary Cowhey.

## WORKSHOP SERIES – MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The next one in the series is:

### 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.

Then the Caregivers Café is back by popular demand! It will be on THURSDAY, MAY 23, 5:30-7:30PM, with pizza and childcare. Sign up on the tear-off below!

## 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](mailto: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>.

## JSS GARDEN NEWS

GARDEN WORK DAY

Thursday, April 25th, from 3 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Our school community is inviting all

volunteers to get the school garden and our new greenhouse ready for the season! Work that afternoon will include: weeding and raking; rebuilding and repairing the garden beds; turning the compost; refreshing garden paths with wood chips; trimming trees; cleaning the perennial gardens; and sweeping and organizing the garden shed and greenhouse. We can use many hands, including people handy with a hammer and drill. If you have questions, contact Katharine Walmsley, second grade teacher, [kwalmsley@northampton-k12.us](mailto:kwalmsley@northampton-k12.us). (Rain date is Friday, April 26th, from 3:00-5:30).

Materials you might bring if you can: compost; edger's; hammers, screwdrivers, drills, nails, clippers,; loppers (for tree trimming); work gloves; steel garden rakes (not leaf rakes); tape measures; and string. See you in the garden!

*The JSS Garden Committee*

## News From Nurse Rebecca

After April vacation, I will be teaching a short lesson to each 4th and 5th grade class about the developmental changes related to puberty and hygiene. This is something I look forward to doing each year. I use a district wide, co-ed curriculum developed by teachers and nurses here in Northampton. There are plenty of chances for students to participate and ask questions. Please contact me if you have questions. Thanks, Nurse Rebecca

## JUST TRYAN IT is Kids Helping Kids - KIDS TRIATHLON


PIONEER VALLEY, MA - SEPT 29, 2019


Ages 6-14. All abilities welcome! Funds raised to benefit families battling childhood cancer in our local area.

Racers will have an opportunity to race in honor (or memory) of individuals with cancer. For more information: (<https://justtryanit.com/pioneervalley/>),

- Rachel Currie-Rubin, parent of 2nd grader Lea

## IN THE NEWS

 Message from our own **Ms. Flinker**, 3rd grade special education teacher: The Show I am in is "Blithe Spirit" - it opens Thursday night April 4 and has 4 performances Th Fr Sa April 4,5,6 at 7pm and Sunday April 7 at 2 pm South Hadley High School. Tickets available at the door.

 2nd grader, **Zadie Silver**, was captured by a Daily Hampshire Gazette photographer, at a demonstration with her aunt, Mara Silver – they want to "save the swallows" habitat. <https://www.gazettenet.com/Save-Our-Swallows-protest-in-Hadley-24490844>

## 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!

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

Tues. Apr. 9 JSS Council (agenda above) 3:30-5PM

Wed. Apr. 10 PTO MEETING 6:30-8PM

Thurs. Apr. 11 HOLA ENDS!  
JSS Film Festival – new date!! 6:30PM JSS Library

Mon. Apr. 15-Fri. Apr. 19 – NO SCHOOL! It's April vacation!

Thurs. Apr. 25 All-school assembly 1st grade presents 9:10AM  
GARDEN WORK DAY 3:30-5:30PM (rain date is Fri. Apr. 26)

Tues. Apr. 30 HOLA starts!

Thurs. May 2 JSS Library Celebration and Ice Cream Social

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 – workshop 6:30-8PM

Thurs. May 23 Caregivers' Café 5:30-7:30PM

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

Thurs. June 6 HOLA ends!  
Creating A People-Centered Home VS. A Screen-Centered Home – workshop 6:30-8PM

Fri, June 7 FIELD DAY!

Wed. June 12 All-school assembly FINE FINE SCHOOL  
JSS FAMILY PICNIC and GOODBYE to Mrs. Malynoski, Ms. Cowley, and Ms. Russell

Thurs. June 13 5th GRADE GRADUATION 1:30PM in the gym

Fri. June 14 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL – dismissal at 12:20PM (unless we have another snow day!)

## 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

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:

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.