



# 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. Alles's website: <https://sites.google.com/northampton-k12.us/mindfulnessatjss>

JSS Office 587-1510

Volume 23 No. 37

June 14, 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 بغرت تنك اذا 587-1315 يف ةسردملا ةرادإ لاصتالا ىجري ةيبرعلا ةغللاب ةبوتكم ةلاسرا ل هذه نم ةخسن ىلع لوصرحلا يف بغرت تنك اذا.

## MESSAGE FROM MS. AGNA – THE FINAL NEWSLETTER 2018-2019

### SUMMER MEALS MENUS/CALENDAR

Please see the attached flyer with the summer meals menus and calendar – the sites are the RKFinn/Ryan Rd. School, Florence Heights, and Meadowbrook Apartments. We hope there will be a site near JSS next summer.

### MORE GRADUATES!

📄 Nurse Rebecca's daughter **Eliza** graduated from NHS and will be going to UMASS Amherst Honors College in the Fall. Her daughter **Maggie** qualified for Nationals in Girl's Track Distance Medley and will be going to North Carolina Friday to run with her team of 3 other sophomore girls. (Maggie is also a coach at Sugarloaf Track so some JSS kids might know her there).

📄 ESP, **Karen Schipellite, aka "Ms. S."s daughter, Stephanie R. Miller** will be awarded a PhD in Biophysics from the University of Maryland College Park for work in experimental neuroscience conducted at NIH.

CONGRATULATIONS AGAIN!

### CLASS PLACEMENT PROCESS AND LETTERS

We are not exactly sure when the class placement letters will go out – we hope to have them in the mail by the end of next week or early in the following week.

And just a (other) word about the process: The classroom teachers in the "sending" grades develop the lists for the next year's grades for our students. We ask for input from all the teachers who work with them – Title I, ESL, special education, specialists (art, music, PE) – and we also read your, the caregivers', forms very carefully and include your perspectives as well. There is no one formula for this – but it is done with great care and professional skill. The "sending" teachers are very invested in getting it right for your children.

We typically "cluster" students who have individual education plans for academic services in two of three classrooms – the third classroom has the students who have "related services" only (OT, counseling, speech, etc.) as well as the students who are beginning to learn English. Of course there are exceptions to this, but these are guiding principles.

As I wrote, the input you provide is very important to us in our decision-making. Some of you express preferences for teachers and/or peers for your children. Again, we take all this into account but do not and cannot always fulfill your wishes. There are many factors to consider and, according to district policy, we reserve the right to make the final decisions. I also want to note that if you did express a preference for a teacher and/or for peers for your children and your children actually do get that teacher, it is not necessarily because of your request. Sometimes your thinking matches ours, sometimes it doesn't. I hope you can respect our decisions and our process and know that we want the best for your children.

### JSS FAMILY SURVEY RESULTS

The JSS Council is happy to provide the following results for our families. I thank them all for their careful and thoughtful work in analyzing, synthesizing and summarizing. Here's a link to the full survey – it will also be on the JSS PTO Facebook page:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1C6n4SKJiYLTDDotoWc1MsZih6LK2C8Ou5pfgLYh8k8k/edit?usp=sharing>

## Summary Points from 2019 JSS School Survey

- We had 59 responses to the survey – thank you so much to everyone who participated! Lots of positive and constructive feedback – thank you for your honesty and openness! Still, we know this doesn't represent the whole school community, and we welcome your feedback any time!
- The people who completed the survey generally would like:
  - o More communication from teachers about what students are doing in class;
  - o More communication from the administration in addition to the newsletter;
  - o More frequent one-on-one parent / teacher conferences
  - o The ability to turn on (and off) different ways of getting school wide and classroom information.
- The people who completed the survey are generally very happy with the social and emotional supports and see this as one of the school's great strengths.
- 95% of those who completed the survey said their oldest JSS student does not have a cell phone.
- People who completed the survey would like to know more about:
  - o Social dynamics in the classroom
  - o Cell phone use and social media
  - o Building social and emotional skills
  - o The role of the PTO, School Council, School Committee
- We had LOADS of comments indicated that Ms. Agna is very well loved and respected and appreciated and that we will all miss her tremendously, but know that she and the whole JSS family have built something that will continue to be strong!

## THANK YOU'S – PART II

♥ **4th grader, Justin's mom, Heather Vinskey**, is the person in charge of the JSS sign message – and she does a wonderful job listing all that's happening! THANK YOU so much, Heather for doing this – especially when it's snowy and hard to get to the sign itself!

♥ **Community member, Jim Levey**, has been the desktop publisher of our newsletter, our attendance and our 5th grade graduation certificates since my first year as JSS principal. THANK YOU, Jim, for making me/us all look so professional and for being on call to do this so often!!

♥ **Ms. Janet Aalfs** has been leading our Moving Meditation before assemblies for many years now. Janet is also director of Valley Women's Martial Arts, a published poet (former Poet Laureate for Northampton) and the wife of Ms. Totty. THANK YOU, Janet, for bringing us together peacefully and joyfully.

♥ **THANK YOU SO MUCH, Ms. B-G**, for the FINE FINE HOLA program that we have at JSS. It is truly a wonderful after school program, serving so many in our school and providing such amazing enrichment!

## RETIREMENT MESSAGES

I wrote and spoke the following, at our staff party, to our retirees and said some of this at our Fine Fine School assembly this week. I am sharing this with you now:

### Pat Russell, Library ESP

*Pat, I met you as Chris's mom – as a newbie principal, you reached out in kindness and support, with the wisdom gained in your life as a grounded and compassionate person. You took on the role of ESP librarian after the "official" one was eliminated through budget cuts – you did not skip a beat and became the librarian we needed so that our library has one of the finest collections in the city. You listen to the teachers about what they want in the library. You listen, watch and remember what the children want and point out to them what new books you get in. Recent JSS/NHS grad, Anna Stiles' mother gratefully recalled that you alerted her to every Newbury Award book when it arrived. You gracefully transitioned to being the only ESP who had to do a "prep period" for the teachers. You organized the first Nature's Classroom trip at our school – we'd never done it and thought we couldn't but you knew better. You held and comforted me in my office on 9/11 when the news hit of the planes, as I was crying, alone, filled with terror that my daughter and my sister were right there. You changed the pictures on the overhead projector and then when we went high-tech at the assemblies, you did that too. You honored our book collections and shepherded the families through the change from awards in their kids' names to books in their memories.*

*Thank you, on behalf of us all, Pat from the bottom of our hearts, mine especially and all my love too.*

### **Kathy Malynoski, ESL teacher**

*Kathy, oh my what a journey we've been on. There is no one I'd rather have been on it with than you. In that weird and lonely place of being a sole administrator in a school, you found a way, without compromising or breaching, to be my colleague and I am forever grateful. You also were at JSS when I started and it was a rocky start, I know. Your kindness, humanity and forgiveness sustained me in those dark days. And Ben came into your life and all of ours at JSS and we watched him grow and you too, as a loving and incredibly wise parent. And your profound wisdom - about EL's, about all children, and about the grown-ups too, has, in large part, made JSS the school that it is. Your quiet yet determined advocacy for those who often do not have a voice has saved many lives. I cherish your bigger-than-us perspective and your extraordinarily grounded and good-sense approach to our work. And your sense of humor, your uke and your voice - the singing one and the one for standing up and out. I cannot imagine doing this job without you. My gratitude and love for you is deep and profound.*

### **Mary Cowhey, former classroom teacher and Title I Math teacher**

*Mary, fierce student teacher - Holly Ghazey knew not what she was about to embark on as your supervisor. It was my first year and some of the parents in the class you and Holly had were wary of me. I was able to give a strong message to the JSS community when I hired you the next year, the radical that you were and are - and it's been an extraordinarily wild ride with you. We weathered many conflicts and storms together through change in our school - we stood together through it all. I have learned and grown as a principal as you learned and grew as a teacher. I've watched you raise your beautiful children in the loving and principled way that you approach everything. You have made good and lasting change in our world at JSS and in the big world too. We don't kill ants. - well maybe not all. I know that you will do more of that hope and change stuff and I thank you for the time we had and that you gave to JSS. I give you all my love and deepest thanks.*

These three professionals leave an irreplaceable legacy. They'll not be forgotten.

*Respectfully and affectionately yours,*

*Gwen Agna*  
Gwen Agna

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## **HOLA NEWS**

Thank you to all the staff, parents, high school students and community members who taught the 73 classes this past year in HOLA (Hands On Learning Afterschool). HOLA had 476 students over the four sessions take a total of 685 classes. And a very big thank you goes out to all the families who donated to the scholarship fund. Because of their generous donations we were able to give out 142 classes in scholarships to 50 students and 40 students at the reduced rate.

Thank you, Ms. B-G

## **FIELD DAY**

Thanks to all for SUCH a fun Field Day. It would not have been possible without all of the children, all of the teachers and staff, **Mr. Mark**, everyone in the kitchen, parent volunteers, everyone who came early, those that stayed and played, everyone who helped pick up afterward, **Liz Horn, The Northampton Fire Department, The PTO, Ms. Owen, Ms. Totty, and Vanessa Keillor!**

And also thank you to **Marc Lussier** who coordinated it all with Vanessa!!

## **FREE BOOK FAIR**

The PTO would like to thank all the families and friends (and the Odyssey Bookshop and Broadside Books) for donating books for last week's annual Free Book Fair. More than a thousand books were distributed and the remaining number were passed on to a school in Holyoke. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped, without you these things don't happen. It was very much appreciated,

*Gavin J. Grant*

And thank you, **Gavin J. Grant**, for coordinating this wonderfully important event at our school!

## **NEW VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR EMAIL**

Hello JSS Community! I am honored to follow in the amazing Liz Horn's footsteps as the incoming JSS Volunteer Coordinator. Thank you, Liz, for your years of leadership and support, and for ensuring the success of so many JSS events. We have all benefitted from your dedication and will miss you!

I will begin to take on this role during the summer. As we make this transition, you may continue to receive emails from Liz, as well as some from the new JSS Volunteer Coordinator email address: [jssvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:jssvolunteers@gmail.com). We will send occasional messages during the summer regarding important events, such as Transperformance and the back to school folder stuffing event. Be on the look out for messages from the new email address, and please be in touch if you have any questions, or would like to be involved in any of our JSS events. Happy Summer! ~Beth Maurer

## **JSS Summer Garden Care**

It's that time of year where we need to think about caring for the JSS Garden during the summer! Each week there are slots for three families/people to sign up to water and (as much as possible) weed in the garden. Helping care for our school garden is a good opportunity to connect with other families and their children! I will be available to meet you in the garden before/during your week to help you get oriented and know what to do! If you have any questions feel free to ask! Thanks for keeping our garden growing all summer long so the students can return in the fall to harvest and explore! Here's the link to sign up if you didn't already receive it:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090C4CACA92BA5FC1-jssgarden2>

*Kat Walmsley*

*Summer Garden Coordinator & Second Grade Teacher*

## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**Fri. June 14**     **LAST DAY OF SCHOOL – dismissal at 12:20PM**

**NEF Creativity in the Classroom Showcase 5-6:30PM at the Northampton Center for the Arts, Hawley St.**

# SUMMER MEALS! ALL KIDS EAT FREE!



**No paperwork necessary.  
Must be 18 or under for free meals.**

**Meals available July 1st through August 9th, Monday-Friday!**

Week of	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7/1 7/15 & 7/29  <i>No meals 7/4</i>	Hummus & Veggie Wrap Cheesestick 100% Fruit Juice Milk	Burger Day! Carrot with Dip Fruit Milk	Chicken Salad Sandwich Cucumbers and Dip Fruit Milk	Crispy Chicken Sandwich Broccoli Salad Fruit Milk	Pizza Friday Farm Fresh Fruit or Veggie Milk
7/8 7/22 & 8/5	Grilled Chicken Sandwich 100% Fruit Juice Strawberry Cup Milk	Hot Dog on a WG Bun Bean & Corn Salad Fruit Milk	Ham & Cheese on a Croissant Cucumber-Apple Salad Fruit Milk	Popcorn Chicken & Dip Pasta Salad Fruit Milk	Pizza Stick with Marinara Dip Farm Fresh Fruit or Veggie Milk
<b>Events</b>	<b>Garden Party!</b> <i>Monday's at RKF Ryan Road site at lunch</i>		<b>Summer Reading Programs</b> <i>Florence Heights: 7/2 Meadowbrook: 7/5 RKF Ryan Road: 7/12</i>		<b>Farm Fresh Friday's</b> Menu will feature local farm fresh fruit or veggie every Friday! 

All meals include fruit, vegetable and milk  
Menu subject to change without notice  
*This institution is an equal opportunity employer, April 2019*

**Meals Sites and Times:**

**Florence Heights Apartments**  
Lunch Served Tues & Thurs:  
11:30-12:00pm

**Meadowbrook Apartments  
Community Room**  
491 Bridge Road, Florence, MA  
Lunch Served 12:00-1:00pm  
Snack Served 3:00-3:30pm

**RKF Ryan Road School**  
498 Ryan Road, Florence, MA  
Lunch Served Monday,  
Wednesday & Friday:  
11:30-12:00pm

# ¡COMIDAS DE VERANO! ¡GRATUITAS PARA TODOS LOS NIÑOS!



Northampton Public Schools

**No se necesitan papeles. Deben ser menores de 18 años.**

**Comidas disponibles del 1 de julio al 9 de agosto, de lunes a viernes**

Semana de	lunes	martes	miércoles	jueves	viernes
7/1 7/15 & 7/29  <i>Sin comidas 7/4</i>	Envoltura de hummus y verduras Palitos de queso Jugo de frutas 100% Leche	Día de la hamburguesa Zanahorias con salsa Frutas Leche	Sandwich de ensalada de pollo Pepinos con salsa Frutas Leche	Sandwich de pollo crujiente Ensalada de brocoli Frutas Leche	Pizza Granja de frutas o vegetales frescos Leche
7/8 7/22 & 8/5	Sandwich de pollo a la parrilla Jugo de frutas 100% Taza de fresa Leche	Perrito caliente en un hun Ensalada de frijoles y maiz Frutas Leche	Sandwich de jamon y queso en un croissant Ensalada de pepino y manzana Frutas Leche	Palomitas de pollo y salsa Ensalad de pasta Frutas Leche	Palo de pizza y marinara Granja de frutas o vegetales frescos Leche
<b>eventos</b>	<b>Fiesta De jardin</b> <i>Lunes en sitio de RKF Ryan Road</i>		<b>Programas de lectura de verano</b> <i>Florence Heights: 7/2</i> <i>Meadowbrook: 7/5</i> <i>RKF Ryan Road: 7/12</i>		<b>Granja Fresca viernes</b> El menu contara con frutas o verduraas frescas de la granja local

Todas las comidas incluyen frutas, verduras y leche  
Menu sujeto a cambio sin previo aviso

*Esta institucion es un empleador de igualdad de oportunidades, abril 2019*

**Sitios de comida y horarios:**

**Florence Heights Apartments**  
Almuerzo servido martes y jueves:  
11:30-12:00pm

**Meadowbrook Apartments**  
**Community Room**  
491 Bridge Road, Florence, MA  
Almuerzo servido: 12:00-1:00pm  
Merienda servida 3:00-3:30pm  
De lunes a viernes

**RKF Ryan Road School**  
498 Ryan Road, Florence, MA  
Almuerzo servido lunes, miercoles y Viernes:  
11:30-12:00pm