



Newsletter

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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

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June 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 في نسخة من هذه الرسالة بلغة أخرى، يرجى الاتصال بالمدارس في 587-1315.

MESSAGE FROM MS. AGNA

FINAL NEWSLETTER NEXT FRIDAY, JUNE 14th – the last day of school for the 2018-2019 school year!

ATTENDANCE RECOGNITION

As I announced last year, starting this year, at the final assembly each year, we will announce that there will be certificates for all students who were absent 5 times OR FEWER, which is called EXCELLENT attendance. We won't announce all their names, as in the past, but every student who achieves EXCELLENT attendance will be given a certificate in their classroom by their teacher.

1st GRADE LEAVE REPLACEMENT TEACHER

I am very pleased to announce that **Anna Martinez** has accepted my offer to be the 1st grade leave replacement teacher next year. Some of you know her as Anna Hallman, her name before she took her husband's. Anna did her student teaching from Smith with Mary Bates in 1st grade and taught 5th grade for one year at JSS, the year that Paula Welchman could not due to illness. After JSS, she moved to CT., married, had two babies and taught 2nd grade. She is currently an Academic Coach with Project Coach, a program out of Smith College working with high schoolers in Springfield, MA.

Thank you to the teachers who served on the interview committee. As always, it is important to have the various perspectives on applicants and their performance in interviews. We, as usual, had very strong candidates and a large pool.

GRADUATES!

Annually I share with our community the graduates among our staff and faculty and here they are for this year:

- **Ms. Flinker's daughter, Alexa**, graduated from Ithaca College
- **Ms. Millie Lopez and Mr. Brian Rodrigues's daughter, Marissa and Vanessa** graduated from Smith Vocational High School
- **Ms. Linda Barca's daughter, Angela**, graduated from Amherst Regional High School
- **Ms. Vivian Flores' #1 grandson, Nelson Anthony Alicea**, graduated from Easthampton High School
- **Ms. Rebecca Stewart's daughter, Eliza**, graduated from Northampton High School
- **Ms. Brigitta Sebesta's son, Kai Bailin**, graduated from Amherst Regional High School

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!!

BIKE/SCOOTER/SKATING

I know that it's close to the end of school, but I have noticed increased bike/scooter/skate riding lately, perhaps due to the better weather (finally!). So here's a reminder that I ask you share with your child – and I will announce:

If you ride, scoot or skate to school, please remember to GET OFF and walk your bike, scooter or skateboard at the WHITE LINES

that are painted in two places: 1. Just before the driveway to the dumpsters and 2. Just beyond the greenhouse, before the basketball court. There are racks on both sides and the front of the building. PLEASE make sure to lock your bike, scooter, etc. If you don't have a lock, check in the office! By getting off your bike/scooter/skateboard at the white lines, before and after school, there should be no one riding their bikes or scoot or skate in the back of the school. We cannot enforce this in the off hours but certainly right after school, you should not ride your bike until all students have been dismissed. If there are problems, please see me! Thanks!

CHECK LOST & FOUND!!

When you have a chance, please stop by to check this overflowing table! After June 14th, we will bag it up and give it away.

ONCE MORE – A REMINDER - PBJTM – PLEASE BRING IN DONATIONS

Our annual collection of peanut butter, jam/jelly, tuna and mac & cheese goes till next Wednesday, June 12. The food collected is given to the Northampton Survival Center for its summer food program. It is critical that the Survival Center's shelves are well stocked in the summer for families whose children do not have the breakfasts and lunches provided by schools.

PRINCIPAL TRANSITION

 First, just to clarify a couple of things:

1. **Chip Wood** is an educational consultant working with our school to help with the process. He is NOT our new principal!
2. The Superintendent will do the posting/ad for the new JSS principal in the first week of October. He will form a representative interview committee and interviews will begin around the end of October.
3. Finalists (1-3 will be selected) for the job will participate in community forums – for parents/guardians/caregivers, staff and faculty and students.

The final meeting of the Transition Team for this school year will be on Tuesday, June 11, 3:30-5PM with Chip Wood. At this meeting we will review ALL the data, feedback, and writings that students, staff and families have contributed and then organize it all into themes. We'll practice drafting questions out of that data to give to the Superintendent to use in interviewing candidates. We will continue our work when we return in late August. ALL are welcome to attend!

Additionally, we will review the recommendations from a report that the district Civil Rights Committee drafted entitled: "Policies and Procedures for Hiring A More Diverse Teaching (and Administrative) Staff in the Northampton Schools". We hope this report will inform the upcoming process for hiring a new principal for JSS.

THANK YOU'S

At this time of year, we pause and reflect on all we are grateful to in our community. This, of course, includes our students and their families – our purpose for being here and the privilege we have of being a part of your lives! And I LOVE our staff and faculty and am profoundly grateful for the chance to work with and learn from them every day.

There are others that I'd like to name who touch all our students lives – they are:

♥ **Liz Horn** – our extraordinary Volunteer Coordinator, who "graduates" because her daughter, Charlotte does this year. Liz submitted a beautiful thank-you published below. We want to say RIGHT BACK AT YOU, Liz – JSS is the better for having you a part of our community.

♥ Our wonderful Crossing Guards, **Doug** (at Barrett St.) and **Jerry**, at the entrance to our driveway. Your skill and good cheer help us all start the day safely and happily!

♥ Our amazing Cafeteria Workers, **Pat, Lynn, Sandy, and Eileen**. We thank you for attending to all the dietary needs as well as every other need our students have!

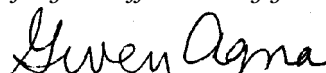
♥ **Nurse Rebecca** (Stewart), a significant member of our community in the support, NOT just for medical needs, but also for the WHOLE person – child and adult!

• **Ms. Maria (Vega) and Ms. Deirdre (Johnson)**, our OUTSTANDING Administrative Assistant and Secretary – you tend to every aspect of our school, juggling it all, minute by minute! We don't know how you do it but we THANK YOU for is all!

• Our team of custodians, **Mr. Mark, Ms. Carol, and Mr. Bob** (who just started!) are everywhere, doing every little thing necessary to keep our school sparkling and running – we thank you for all that you do!

I hope everyone has a great weekend and look forward to a lovely last week of school.

Respectfully and affectionately yours,


Gwen Agna

TODAY! FRIDAY, June 7!

Field Day 2019 is TODAY! There's still time to sign-up to volunteer for the gaga pit, parachute, hula-hooping. Stay for the whole day or stay for part, enjoy a pizza lunch provided by the fabulous JSS PTO.

Sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10CoA4EA9A629A2FDO-jssfield1> or email Vanessa Keillor at vkeillor@gmail.com - or JUST COME!! Hope to see you there!"

Garden Build Day at Hampshire Heights!

The build day was a success-- all 12 raised beds were built, which included 3 double high for people who need something more at their height. Communal raised beds are in the works, as the kids finish decorating!

A garden tool drive is being launched at JSS to support our neighborhood gardeners. If you can donate any new or gently used tools from the list below please add them to our collection box in the lobby by Friday, June 7th!

- Trowels- 12
- Adult gardening gloves- 12
- Kid gardening gloves- 12
- Full size digging shovel- 4 <https://www.homedepot.com/p/Razor-Back-25-75-in-Wood-Handle-Super-Socket-Digging-Shovel-2594200/204476137>
- 100 ft hose -1
- Hose sprayer - 1
- Small hand rakes
- Kid-specific gardening tools

Questions? Email: jacksonstreetpto@gmail.com

♥ Farewell and thank you from **Liz Horn**, Volunteer Coordinator - and welcome **Beth Maurer**, wonderful new Volunteer Coordinator!

With my daughter Charlotte graduating from JSS next week, I will be ending my time as Volunteer Coordinator here. It has been such a wonderful experience being part of the JSS community – the best teachers, staff, students and families we could ask for – and I will miss it very much. Our two daughters received such an excellent education here, not only academically but in the values that JSS instills. I am so thankful for this fine, fine school and for everyone here's help along the way.

Although I am emotional about leaving JSS, I am so happy that Beth Maurer (mom of kindergartener Brady and 4th grader Ronan, as well as JSS alums Kerrigan and Rory) will be Volunteer Coordinator starting in August! She is already an incredible volunteer who knows JSS so well, and she will be an amazing Volunteer Coordinator.

Thank you, JSS from our whole family - Shawn, Lily (JSS grad and NHS freshman), Charlotte and me. This will always be a very special and important place for all of us.

I look forward to seeing many of you at JFK, NHS and in the neighborhood.

Warmly,
Liz

“JSS GIVES” SUCCESS AND THANK YOU!

The first JSS Gives raised \$1360 for Nature's classroom, the equivalent of 4 scholarships! Thanks to all who participated and helped make the first JSS Gives a success and thanks to all our donors who have supported such a wonderful experience for next years' fifth graders during JSS Gives and our previous fundraisers this year. Congratulations to the winners of the donor prize drawings for JSS Be Kind Pennants, Johanna Hammer, Leonore Palladino, Nicole Bourdin, and Luke Ryan! And congratulations to the 4th grade for receiving an extra recess for most donor representation!

RETIREE RECOGNITION

Dear JSS Community,

Next Wednesday, June 12th will be the first mediation session for the ongoing teacher contract negotiation. The staff and faculty at our school and around Northampton will be standing out in the afternoon up until this meeting, as they have been doing before and after school. In light of this, we have made the difficult decision to cancel our planned all school end of year picnic for that evening. Our school employees are the backbone of our community, and we do not wish to plan a celebration that they are not able to enjoy with our students and their families. We hope to come together as a community at the start of the 2019-2020 school year for a similar event, when everyone at Jackson Street will be able to participate.

The 3 retiring employees, **Ms. Pat Russell, Ms. Mary Cowhey, and Mrs. Kathy Malynoski**, will be acknowledged and celebrated by the students, teachers, and any families that wish to attend at the Fine, Fine School assembly on June 12th at 10:30AM.

The PTO Leadership Team

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

IN THE NEWS

🌀 2nd grader, **Quinn Lewis**'s "The Outer Space Visit" was published in the Daily Hampshire Gazette's "Weekly Writing Corner"!

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.

Fri, June 7 **FIELD DAY!**

Sat. June 8 **Planting the community garden in Hampshire Heights – 10AM-Noon**

Tues. June 11 **Transition Team meeting – wrap-up with Chip Wood 3:30-5PM**

Wed. June 12 **All-school assembly FINE FINE SCHOOL – honoring our retirees and new books for the library 10:30AM**

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

District Retiree Recognition – 5:45PM at JFK Middle School, before the School Committee meeting at 6:45PM

Special Education Parent Advisory Committee Awards Ceremony 6:30-7:30PM

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.