



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.jspspto.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 24 No. 3

September 13, 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 بلغة أخرى، يرجى الاتصال بالمدارس في 587-1315.

MESSAGE FROM MS. AGNA

WALKING SCHOOL BUS – through Hampshire Heights today for me – 8:10AM!

THE CARNIVAL IS ON! See details below!

NEXT WEEK:

No school for students on WEDNESDAY, September 18 – Professional Development Day for all Northampton faculty and staff.

PICTURE DAY

PICTURE DAY is on Thursday, September 19. Flyers for orders have gone home – we'll remind you early next week. You do not need to purchase school photos but all students have to be photographed for identification in school records. Every student receives a class picture, thanks to our generous PTO. If you need help purchasing a package of photos, please see me.

AFTER SCHOOL ENTRY

This is a reminder that if you need to go into school after students have been dismissed, you have to go to the front door to be let in. Then please go to the office so that the office staff will know what you need. Sometimes the classrooms are locked, sometimes, the teachers are in private meetings, sometimes it is just not possible to retrieve items until the next day. We will try to help but please understand that the staff and faculty who are dismissing students at 3 will ask you to go around to the front door if you wish to enter the school. Thank you for your understanding.

FAMILY DINNERS - Sign up!

Please sign up for the Family Dinner(s) by calling the main office, 587-1510, emailing Ms. Deirdre Johnson, dejohnson@northampton-k12.us, or filling out and returning the attached sign-up form. We need to know if you're coming so we can order enough food!

Also, the 3rd grade and 5th grade Family Dinners have "swapped" dates, due to a scheduling conflict. The 3rd grade Family Dinner will be on TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 and the 5th grade Family Dinner will be on THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26!

JSS COUNCIL – Elections!

As per MA state statute, all schools councils hold elections at Open Houses for the parents/guardian/caregiver slots on the councils. There is equal representation between caregiver slots and staff/faculty slots. We welcome newcomers to the council – please submit your name and a brief statement as to why you'd like to be on the JSS Council. The elections are never contested – we find a way to include all!

Please send your statement to me by FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 in time for the JSS Open House, on Thursday, October 3rd. The first meeting after the elections will be on Monday, October 21 Mondays, 3:30-5PM.

Part of the Council's responsibility is to write and present the JSS Improvement Plan. The current members of the council have written this – we will publish it in next week's newsletter and it will be presented to the Northampton School Committee on Thursday, September 26, at 7:15PM at JFK Middle School, along with all the schools doing the same.

MESSAGE TO THE PTO MEETING ON WEDNESDAY NIGHT

I'm so sorry that I can't be with you tonight - I look forward to seeing you at next month's meeting. In the meantime, on my last first PTO meeting of the year, I want to tell you how grateful I am for you and your participation in this worthy and long-established venture, the PTO. I began my time at JSS as the treasurer and then the PTO co-chair when my own children attended JSS back in the 80's and 90's, before I became principal, thank goodness for them. I knew then and know even more now, how critical the PTO is to the success of our school. We simply couldn't do what we do without you.

I'm sure you've heard or will hear the very long list of items that the PTO funds - essential items to our school's functioning and which cannot be funded through our school's budget. Again, we cannot provide the educational experience that your/our children deserve with this and without you.

And just as important, and sometimes more so, the non-monetary support you give, so readily and unconditionally, to us, the staff and faculty, which cannot be overestimated or even estimated. You are our cheerleaders and our mainstays - through the not-so little things, like the Staff Appreciation Luncheon, the Staff Appreciation Breakfast, The Wish List, Field Day, the notes, the smiles, and your presence and your witness in our daily lives, let alone that you trust us with your most precious treasure, your children. On behalf of all of us, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Love,
Ms. Agna

Have a great weekend!

Yours gratefully and respectfully,


Gwen Agna

The JSS Carnival is TOMORROW- Sept. 14th!

Our beloved school carnival is back to JSS this year and happening TOMORROW, Saturday, September 14th from 10am-2pm. Full of fun midway style handmade games, an inflatable obstacle course, a bake sale, and cool prizes! This year's profits from the carnival will help fund our Fifth Grade's trip to Nature's Classroom in Fall of 2020. Come join us for fun and a great cause!

As with all school events the success of our carnival is dependent on people power! Volunteers are needed to help make the carnival a success! Please use this link sign up to volunteer for a shift: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050B49A9AD23ABF94-jsscarnival>, or email Beth Maurer: jssvolunteers@gmail.com

FARM SHARE AT JSS!

It's not too late to sign up for a farm share from Grow Food's Neighborhood Market at JSS on Wednesdays at 3:00. Just show up in front of the school to get more information. Also, you don't need to buy a share - you can also buy whatever delicious fruits and vegetables you want! (more information on tables inside the school lobby)

Todavía se puede registrar para comprar frutas y vegetales del Mercado de Grow Food todos los miércoles a las 3:00 en frente de la escuela. Si llegas a la mesa, puede informarse sobre el programa. También se puede comprar lo que quiera, sin registrarse. ¡Los productos son frescos, locales y deliciosos! (Hay más información en la entrada de la escuela)

FIRST COFFEE & TEA ORDERS OF THE YEAR!

We will place our first coffee, tea & hot chocolate order for this school year on Monday, September 16th. All coffee is fair-trade, and locally-roasted - and every purchase benefit JSS! Orders may be placed as needed, or placed as standing monthly orders. Many of you have already placed an order - thank you! If you have not already placed an order, and would like to, there's still time! Order forms were included in the back-to-school folders, and may be sent in to the office. You can also email orders to me, and I'm happy to email order forms to those that may need one. Please place orders by 9am on Monday, September 16th. Orders will be delivered to your student's classroom on Friday September 20th.

If you have any questions, to get an order form or to place an order, please contact Beth Maurer at jssvolunteers@gmail.com.

Thank you for supporting JSS!

Email List and School Directory

If you have not already done so, please complete and return the email communication and school directory forms that were sent home in the back-to-school folders. A new all school email list and directory are being compiled. The updated email list will be completed soon. Thank you for your continued patience as this list is updated!

If you would like for your family to be listed in the directory, please be sure to return the form to school ASAP. Draft copies of the directory will be available at Open House for families to check their contact information before the directory is published.

If you have any questions, or need another copy of these forms, please contact Beth Maurer at jssvolunteers@gmail.com.

HOLA!

HOLA (Hands On Learning Afterschool) is an after school enrichment program that runs for 4 six week sessions throughout the school year. Classes meet once a week on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday, from 3- 4:30. Classes cost \$60/session, \$30 for free and reduced lunch, and there are some scholarships for families who qualify for free and reduced lunch. Session 1 starts 10/8 and runs through 11/26. Registration packets will go home the week of 9/23, and will be due back Friday 9/27.

Any questions, call Ms. BG at 587-1510 ext 3775 or email hola@northampton-k12.us

HOLA is needing donations of items

Any recycled items that can be upcycled into art- such as cereal boxes, paper towel rolls, magazines, 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 (you name it)! Please bring into office, marked for HOLA.

JSS WALKING PROGRAM

We are looking for volunteers for our beloved Walking Program this Fall & Spring. During recess, a parent volunteer sets up cones for any interested 1st-5th grade students to walk (or run, skip, hop, stroll, etc.) laps. Each participant has a card which gets punches for laps, and their milestones are marked with trinkets, announcements on the PA system and stickers! Kids absolutely love it, and we are excited to offer it as often as we can.

Recess is scheduled with two breaks between 3 groupings, stretching from 11:00 to 1:05. It often works well to have a volunteer do the first half (set up just before 11:00 and continue to 12:00ish) and another do the second (12:00 to 1:05, with quick clean up), so really any amount of time you have to give helps! We have wonderful parent volunteers starting up shortly on Tuesdays and Fridays, and another who is available Mondays for the 2nd half ... might you be available the first half?

We certainly welcome volunteers to do the Walking Program on another weekday as well. If you are interested and available for any of this, we would be thrilled and would love to hear from you. Even if you're not available this Fall (until it gets too cold for us adults to stand outside), please let us know if you might be available in the Spring, once things warm a bit and we start again.

Thanks so much.

Beth Maurer

Jssvolunteers@gmail.com

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 the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, from 9-10AM, beginning Wed. Sept. 4. The JSS PTO meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

The Walking School Bus (Fall & Spring) – 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.

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| TODAY - Fri. Sept. 13 | Ms. Agna on the Walking School Bus through Hampshire Heights at 8:10AM |
| Sat. Sept.14 | PTO Carnival |
| Tues. Sept 17 | 2nd grade Family Dinner 5:30-7PM |
| Wed. Sept. 18 | NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS – Professional Development Day 1st grade Family Dinner 5:30-7PM |
| Thurs. Sept. 19 | PICTURE DAY! KDG Family Dinner 5:30-7PM |
| Tues. Sept 24 | 3rd grade Family Dinner 5:30-7PM |
| Wed. Sept.25 | 4th grade Family Dinner 5:30-7PM |
| Thurs. Sept.26 | 5thgrade Family Dinner 5:30-7PM |
| Wed. Oct. 2 | Coffee Hour in the Family Center 9-10AM |
| Thurs. Oct. 3 | JSS OPEN HOUSE 5:30 Doors open for Family Photos and displays in cafeteria, School Council election, among other things! 6-7PM Classrooms are open |

Fri. Oct. 4 Half-Day – Staff/Faculty Work Day – dismissal for students at 12:20PM in the elementary schools

Mon. Oct. 14 NO SCHOOL – Columbus Day/Indigenous People’s Day Holiday

Tues. Oct. 15 **Fri. Oct. 18 NATURE’S CLASSROOM** for 5th graders – details to follow...
Coffee Hour in the Family Center 9-10AM

Mon-Fri. Oct. Parent/Teacher Conferences – half-days in the elementary schools

Wed. Oct. 24 Coffee Hour in the Family Center 9-10AM

Mon. Oct. 21-Fri. Oct. 25 Family/Teacher Conferences – half-days in the elementary schools (Evening conferences on Oct. 22 & 24). Dismissal every day at 12:20PM

Tues. Nov. 5 Election Day – NO SCHOOL/Faculty & Staff Professional Development Day
PTO ELECTION DAY BAKE SALE!

Mon. Nov. 11 NO SCHOOL – Veterans Day (observed) Holiday

Wed. Nov. 27 Thanksgiving Break begins at 12:20PM

Thurs. & Fri. Nov. 28 & 29 NO SCHOOL

Wed. Dec. 4 Staff/Faculty Work (Half) Day dismissal at 12:20PM

Fri. Dec. 13 Grades 1-5 Progress Report Cards go home in backpacks/folders

Mon. Dec. 23 -Wed. Jan. 2 (first day back) NO SCHOOL – December Holiday Break

Fri. Jan. 17 NO SCHOOL for students – Staff/Faculty Work Day

Mon. Jan. 20 NO SCHOOL – MLK, Jr. Day

Fri. Jan. 31 KDG Progress Report Cards go home

Mon. Feb. 17-Fri. Feb. 21 NO SCHOOL – WINTER RECESS

Fri. Mar. 13 Staff/Faculty Work (1/2) Day – dismissal at 12:20PM

Fri. Mar. 20 Grade 1-5 Progress Report Cards go home

Mon. Apr. 20-Fri. Apr. 24 – NO SCHOOL – SPRING RECESS

Fri. May 15 Staff/Faculty Work (1/2) Day – dismissal at 12:20PM

Mon. May 25 NO SCHOOL – Memorial Day

Fri. June 12 180th Day – potential last day of school unless there are no snow days to make up

ALL GRADES PROGRESS REPORT CARDS GO HOME ON THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL



My family will attend the _____ (grade level) Family Dinner on _____.

The number of adults is _____

The number of children is _____

NAME: _____

Please return to the school office by the day before the Family Dinner of your grade. If you are attending more than one Family Dinner, please make a note of that. You can also call the main office, 587-1510 or email Ms. Deirdre Johnson, secretary, dejohnson@northampton-k12.us.