



# 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 24 No. 4

September 20, 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 تترك اذا 587-1315 يف ةسردملا ةرادإ لاصتالا ىجري ةيبرعلا ةغللاب ةبوتكم ةلاسرا هذه نم ةخسن ىلع لوصرحلا يف بقرت تنك اذا.

## MESSAGE FROM MS. AGNA

**WALKING SCHOOL BUS – on the Bike Path today for me – 8:10AM!**

**FAMILY DINNERS - Sign up!**

We have 3 dinners to go – Tuesday September 24 is 3rd grade, Wednesday, September 25 is 4th grade, and Thursday, September 26 is 5th grade. Please sign up by calling the main office, 587-1510, emailing Ms. Deirdre Johnson, [dejohnson@northampton-k12.us](mailto: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!

A reminder that the JSS PTO sponsors these dinners and we have a donation basket for anyone who can give to help with this. Thanks so much for the generous donations we received in our first week of dinners!

**JSS COUNCIL – Elections!**

Don't forget – if you want to be on the JSS Council, send a statement saying who you are, who your child/children are and why you're interested - to me by next 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.

**The JSS School Improvement Plan is attached to this week's newsletter, as promised!**

**WELCOME!**

Our new Occupational Therapist, **Rhonda Brooks**, will start on Monday, September 23 – welcome to you, Ms. Brooks!

**UPDATE ON PRINCIPAL'S SEARCH**

Message from Dr. Provost, Superintendent:

*Dear JSS Community:*

*Karen Jarvis Vance notified me earlier today that she has accepted a prestigious appointment as Director of the School Health Unit at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. This is a well-deserved appointment, and we are all very happy for her. Unfortunately, her resignation date comes during the JSS principal search process, so she has stepped down from her position as co-chair of the search committee.*

*In Karen's place, I have appointed Kathy Malynoski, who chaired the search process that brought Ms. Agna to the district. We discussed the search timelines earlier today, and she graciously agreed to step in as Nancy's co-chair.*

*They will meet with the transition team in near future to receive the information you have prepared to assist them in their process of evaluating candidates and preparing an interview protocol.*

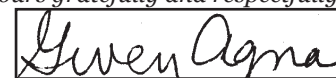
*Sincerely,*

*John Provost, Ed.D.*

*Superintendent of Northampton Schools*

Have a great weekend!

*Yours gratefully and respectfully,*



*Gwen Agna*

## **CARNIVAL!**

Despite the rain, the carnival was very successful! MANY thanks to all who volunteered and all who came – as well as ALL who donated over \$1,000!

## **GUESS THE WALLBALL CONTEST**

The winner of the Guess the Wallball contest is fourth grader Aiden Hodges! Mr. Mark collected 167 wall balls on the roofs and Aiden's guess of 105 was the closest. Thanks to everyone who sent in their guesses. Aiden will have a special visit with Jackson!

THANK YOU, Ms. B-G for organizing the contest and Mr. Mark for collecting all the wall balls!!

## **IMPORTANT MEETING!**

Derechos Básicos en la Educación Especial – en español / Basic Rights in Special Education October 22 at JFK starting at 6:30 p.m.

## **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 and are unable to afford the \$30. Session 1 starts 10/8 and runs through 11/26. Registration packets will go home at the beginning of next week, and will be due back Friday 9/27.

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

## **Seeking Class Representatives!**

Interested in being a class representative? This is an easy, fun way to get to know the other families and the teacher in your

child's class better. Class representatives maintain a class e-mail list, serve as a liaison between the teacher and the families to make sure everyone is aware of classroom needs and special events, and encourage and organize class and grade-wide meet ups (like an afternoon at the playground!). If you're interested in being a class rep, please contact Beth Maurer, Volunteer Coordinator, at [jssvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:jssvolunteers@gmail.com).

## **Nature's Classroom Informational Meeting for 5th Grade Caregivers**

Nature's Classroom 2019 is just around the corner on October 15-18. There will be an informational meeting about Nature's Classroom on Tuesday October 1 from 6pm - 7pm in the Library for caregivers of current 5th graders. This is an opportunity for caregivers to come together in advance of the trip to learn more about what Nature's Classroom is all about and ask any questions you may have about the trip. Childcare will be provided.

## **Volunteers Needed for Nature's Classroom 2019**

We are hoping for two male identified and two female identified caregivers to come along on the trip to Nature's Classroom with us. Ideally, the volunteers would spend the entire time with us, including the overnight portion. We are looking for volunteers who are comfortable explaining boundaries and rules to kids, and who will enforce them as necessary. Volunteers will also do trip related tasks, manage small groups of kids, eat meals with the kids, join in on some of the day time activities, help with late-night homesickness, and just generally be willing to help out wherever needed. If you'd like to join us, please email Mr. Slattery at [kieranslattery@northampton-k12.us](mailto:kieranslattery@northampton-k12.us). Thank you!

## **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](mailto:jssvolunteers@gmail.com).

## **JSS WALKING PROGRAM – ONE MORE TIME!**

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

## **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)

## **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.

- Fri. Sept. 20** Walking School Bus – on the Bike Path with Ms. Agna, 8:10AM behind Stop and Shop
- Tues. Sept 24** 3rd grade Family Dinner 5:30-7PM
- Wed. Sept.25** 4th grade Family Dinner 5:30-7PM
- Thurs. Sept.26** 5th grade 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.

Thank you!

# Jackson Street Elementary School

## School Improvement Plan – 2018-2020

*“A true revolution of values will soon look uneasily on the glaring contrast of poverty and wealth.”* Martin Luther King, Jr.

### Ongoing goals and activities:

- At Jackson St. School we will continue to participate in the modified district Universal Screening Plan for all students, grades K-5 – screening for math and for reading. We will continue to fully implement the RTI plan by maintaining the model of Title I Math and Reading service delivery in pullout groups of no more than 3 students, 30 minutes per day, 5 days per week.
- With the JSS Support Team (the Tiered Support Specialist, the School Adjustment Counselors, the BCBA, and the principal) we will continue to support students in need and work proactively to prevent behavior and/or academic challenges.
- Faculty will participate in district-wide 2nd faculty meetings of the month for grade levels and departments.
- Faculty will work collaboratively with elementary schools in the Elementary Schools Garden Project. Teachers will continue to write curriculum units for Rubicon Atlas as part of the district’s science curriculum development.
- We will RENEW our school-wide theme (6th year) of “Growth Mindset”, implemented through our all-school monthly assemblies, monthly Code of Conduct meetings for each grade, Family Dinners and our classroom work.
- We will hold our 6th Annual Family Science Night, based on the Next Generation Science Standards, which will be coordinated by JSS teachers and caregivers. We will implement the new district standards-based science curriculum.
- Our goal is to revive the International Night, based on the highly successful first one held in 2017-18. Many families and staff shared their cultures and heritages through photo and artifact displays, native costume and food.
- We will continue our all-school Morning Meditation/Mindfulness practice to twice per week, mindfulness sessions with our Tired Support Specialist, integrating this practice into classrooms, our assemblies and our monthly Code of Conduct meetings.
- LIBRARY & FOUND OBJECT MURAL PROJECTS are in the planning stages....

### Two-Year Plan for 2018-2020

District Theory of Action: We will continue to develop and successfully implement a comprehensive plan that addresses the following from the District Improvement Plan:

1. Vertically align expectations of skills and habits of mind students should have at each grade level. (Social/emotional skills and transfer goals)
  - Respond to the JSS Family Survey to address issues of caregiving in the social/emotional realm – to include personal safety, social media, cyber bullying, cell phone use, and trauma support as well as increase lines of communication between families and school.
  - Continue to incorporate and document the presence and use of the school therapy dog. Develop a pre and post survey to measure the impact and success.
  - Support faculty and staff in Year 3 of the elementary restructuring plan (Mod WINS) with the JSS Support Team (counselors, floater special education teacher, tiered-support specialist, school psychologist, fulltime BCBA and principal), provide support for behaviorally-challenged students and time in faculty meetings and in ESP meetings to focus on problem-solving and validation of concerns, as well as enlisting district personnel (outreach social worker, special education administrators).
2. Consider standards-based grading and reporting K-12 (homework practices are embedded in this work)
  - As a faculty, we will examine our values and practices in assessment and evaluation of our students’ progress – both in standardized, criterion-referenced, curriculum-based and narrative forms.
  - Representatives from our faculty will join the Standards-Based Grading and Reporting Committee.
  - We will report on the progress of the committee’s work, including the review of homework practices to the faculty and to the JSS Council.
3. Jackson St. - specific goal: To reflect on and document the vision and mission of our school, through our culture, climate, traditions and rituals. This will include articulating the legacy of the retiring principal.

- Faculty and staff will contribute to the documentation in written and visual/video format.
- Students and families will similarly contribute, overseen by the School Council, through surveys and focus groups.
- A community-wide culminating exhibit and celebration will be held in the spring 2020.