



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. 13

November 15, 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 عربية، يرجى الاتصال بالمدارس في 587-1315.

MESSAGE FROM MS. AGNA

GIVING TREE & 2nd GRADE COLLECTION

The second grade classes are leading a drive to collect toiletries for the Northampton Survival Center. Please consider sending in toiletries such as shampoo/conditioner, lotion, toilet paper, toothpaste/toothbrushes, soap, deodorant, q-tips, mouthwash, dental floss, and other bathroom items that people might need. Please bring donations to the box right outside the front office. Second Graders will deliver all the donations collected to the survival center. Thank you for your help!

From the JSS Second Grade

The annual Giving Tree will appear in the front hallway outside the office soon – please bring canned and nonperishable foods for under the tree and gloves, hats, mittens, and scarves to decorate it. The tree will be up through January. We will bring the food collection and the hats and scarves to the Northampton Survival Center and keep the gloves and mittens for extras that we always need at our school!

SUPPORT AT THE HOLIDAYS

Tis the season of holidays and gift-giving/receiving. Needless to say, the expectations that children have often do not match what families can afford. Also, heating and other utility costs increase at this time of year – the combination makes for a perfect storm for some families. If you are in a position to help, we welcome the following:

- Monetary donations for the PTO Emergency Fund – and requests from families for aid and support. Please make tax-deductible checks to the JSS PTO, with “Emergency Fund” in the memo line and send to the office. If you need support, please contact me.
- Adopt-A-Family for gift-giving. We will match you with children (anonymous) – their ages and wishes – and ask that you purchase, wrap gifts and bring to the office. If you would like to be “adopted”, please contact me.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

UNDERSTANDING PREJUDICE

Next Friday, November 22 our annual WE ARE THANKFUL FOR Edition of the newsletter will be published – students and staff/faculty share their thoughts in this season of thanks and giving. We also are very aware of the complex nature of the holiday, Thanksgiving. We work to provide a balanced view, as with all historical events, and welcome any suggestions and/or traditions that you have as we approach Thanksgiving.

Among the many resources we have found to help with our understanding as well as sensitivity for all, we found the following letter from a website, “Understanding Prejudice”. I offer it to you, in the spirit of gratitude for the multiple perspectives we enjoy here at JSS:

Dear Families,

As a part of our anti-bias curriculum, we are taking a careful look at how we discuss and celebrate Thanksgiving with students. As you may know, many Native American images found on Thanksgiving cards, decorations, and school materials are very stereotypic. They are often based on a “composite” view of Native Americans rather than on accurate and diverse Native American lifestyles and traditions. As a consequence, Thanksgiving imagery serves to teach and reinforce children’s misinformation and stereotypic thinking

about Native Americans, laying a foundation for later prejudice.

Moreover, the story of Thanksgiving is usually told from only one side -- that of the European pilgrims who came to America. Rarely is it told from the perspective of the people who were already here. As a result, the role played by Native Americans in helping the pilgrims to survive is often downplayed or ignored. To many Native Americans today, Thanksgiving is a day of mourning because it is a reminder that in return for their help, they were repaid with the loss of their land and destruction of their people.


What, then, do we propose to do? We do not advocate the elimination of Thanksgiving from our curriculum. Instead, we strive to help children understand that Thanksgiving means different things to different people. We will explain that some families celebrate Thanksgiving and others do not, and we will explain why (in language appropriate for children). We will also discuss how Thanksgiving cards and decorations sometimes misrepresent Native Americans and lead them to feel hurt or offended.

What we teach about Thanksgiving is part of a larger effort to help students learn accurate information about Native Americans of the past and present. Our goal is to counter misleading portrayals in children's books, television shows, and movies (e.g., Westerns), so that students do not acquire stereotypes that promote racism later in life. As part of this effort, we do not permit students to role-play cowboys and Indians (the historic enemy of Indians was not cowboys, but the U.S. government -- some of the first cowboys were actually Indians). Furthermore, we want to make sure students understand that being an Indian is not a role, but part of a person's identity.

For Thanksgiving, you might also consider giving a multicultural book about Native Americans or other groups. As we give thanks this season, we hope you will find ways within your family to reinforce these lessons and help instill in our children an appreciation and accurate understanding of all cultures.

Have a restful weekend.

Yours gratefully and respectfully,


Gwen Agna

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear JSS Community:

I am pleased to share the names of the finalists selected by the JSS Principal Search Committee. The two finalists are **MaryAnn Bartlett**, Assistant Director and Grade 5 Teacher of Nantucket Lighthouse School and **Walter Huston**, a principal in the South Hampton (New Hampshire) School District/SAU 21. We have scheduled a series of forums for the two finalists. These will take place next Monday. Please see the attached itinerary.

Your impressions of the candidates are important to me. After each forum, participants will be invited to submit written feedback concerning the candidates. I will read and carefully consider each comment before making my final decision.

I look forward to our time together next week.

Sincerely,
John Provost, Ed.D.

Join Us on Monday the 18th to Meet the Principal Candidates!

This Monday our school community has the opportunity to meet the semi-finalists in our principal search. We encourage all school community members who can to attend the Community Forum on Monday evening in the JSS gymnasium. Students are welcome (and encouraged!) to come. Students wishing to attend the forum are welcome to join in, ask questions, and share their JSS experience. Childcare will be available for students wishing to opt out while their caregivers participate in the forum. The forum will have a facilitator appointed by the district office and

a Spanish translator will be present. Each candidate will have their own time with the community to answer questions and share information about themselves. The facilitator will open each session by summarizing the candidate's resume. Anonymous feedback forms will be available at the forum and collected at the end of each session to be shared with our Superintendent, Dr. Provost. Should anyone feel the need to reach out after the evening of the forum with feedback for Dr. Provost, he can be reached at: jprovost@northampton-k12.us or 413.587.1331, ext. 7

This is a great opportunity to get to know the candidates, ask questions, and provide feedback to our Superintendent. Please join us in showing our potential Principal that we care deeply about the future of our school community and our students' education!

Coffee Hour

The next Caregivers Coffee Hour will take place Wednesday, November 20th from 9-10am in the Family Center. All caregivers and younger siblings are welcome to attend. Join other caregivers for coffee and snacks. Ms. Agna usually joins the conversation.

Can't make it that day? Coffee Hour occurs on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month.

JSS Holiday Store - Donations Needed!

The annual JSS Holiday Store will take place in early December. Donations of new, unwrapped items (such as toys, books, craft items, mugs, candles, games and more!) are welcome and greatly appreciated. Caregivers and students will be welcome to shop. The store will once again feature a \$0.25 "Kids Only" shopping table. There is a donation box in the office. Thank you for your support!

Save the Date for Giving Tuesday!

Giving Tuesday, a global day of giving, is Tuesday December 3. This year the PTO will be raising money for our Wish List Fund. Our Wish List Fund grants "wishes" for teachers and staff for their classrooms, programs, or other needs in support of the students. We granted our first round of wishes this fall from rugs for classrooms, headphones for listening centers, alternative seating, games, art supplies, hooks for the music classroom ukulele wall, yoga mats, books, and more. Mark your calendars for Giving Tuesday on December 3 and help support the PTO Wish List Fund for teachers and staff! More details on how to donate will be shared in next week's newsletter!

School Community Dance: Friday, December 6th

Missing the opportunity to catch up with community members on the playground now that winter is rolling in? Join us next month in the gym for a community dance. Free for all JSS students, siblings, and caregivers. Look for a song request box soon in the library where students can share their favorite songs for the dance playlist!

Please note, all students need an adult chaperone. Please do not drop off a child unattended.

REAL

Racial Equity and Learning (REAL) is hosting our first conversation group of the 2019-2020 school year!

Please join us on Monday, November 18 from 6:00-7:30pm at Kristen's home, 41 Chestnut Ave. in Leeds.

We will discuss and explore the impacts of race, racism and whiteness in our lives and in our school district.

All are welcome! Contact your school REAL rep below if transportation and/or childcare would be helpful.

Bridge Street Elementary School—Annie Salsich, salsichannie@gmail.com

Jackson Street Elementary School—Jenny Bender, jenny.bender@comcast.net

Leeds Elementary School—Kristen Elde, elde.kristen@gmail.com

RK Finn Ryan Road School—Lindsay Koshgarian, lkoshgarian@gmail.com

JFK Middle School—Noel Raley, noelralley@yahoo.com

Northampton High School—Jen Berneche, jenberneche@gmail.com

Florence Bank Customer Choice Community Grants

Vote for the JSS PTO for the Customer Choice Community Grant!

Florence Bank customers can vote for Jackson Street School for the Customers' Choice Community Grants. Deadline to vote is December 31. Anyone who has an account gets a vote, even kids! Please share with friends, family, and neighbors who bank at Florence Savings bank and ask them to vote for Jackson Street PTO! You can vote online at <https://www.florencebank.com/vote> and enter "Jackson Street School PTO" in the organization name! Ballots are also available at every Florence Savings Bank branch and in the JSS office!

The money we receive from the Community Choice Grants help fund all the amazing community activities the PTO supports like ice cream socials, school dances, science night, and so much more!

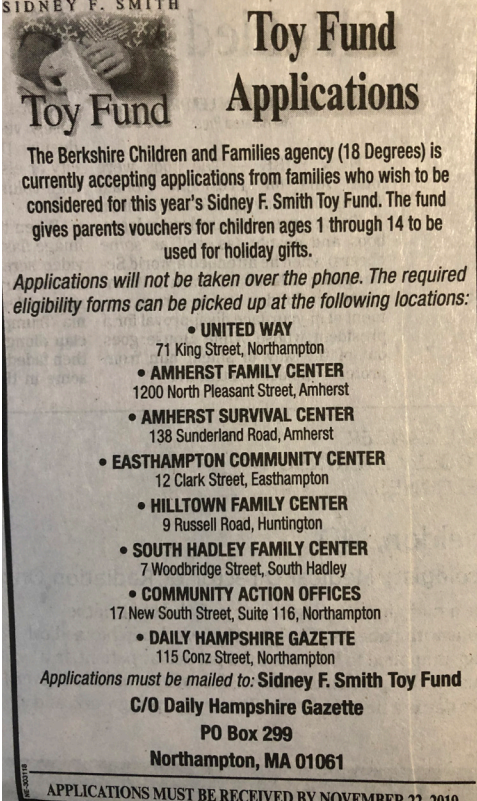
Lost & Found – AGAIN!

The Lost & Found is overflowing with shirts, sweatshirts, jackets, water bottles and more! Please stop by to see if you recognize items that belong to your student.

NEF "Small Change Leads to Big Change" Coin Drive

Northampton Education Foundation is in the home stretch of its Endowment campaign - we are working hard to raise \$1 million by the end of 2019 for bigger grants for all the schools!

In November NEF is doing a "Small Change Leads to Big Change" coin drive in all six Northampton public schools. All money raised will go directly to the NEF Endowment. NEF will announce the total and thank all NPS students publicly on Dec. 3 (Giving Tuesday). See the attached flyers for more information about how your family can help!



SIDNEY F. SMITH

Toy Fund Applications

The Berkshire Children and Families agency (18 Degrees) is currently accepting applications from families who wish to be considered for this year's Sidney F. Smith Toy Fund. The fund gives parents vouchers for children ages 1 through 14 to be used for holiday gifts.

Applications will not be taken over the phone. The required eligibility forms can be picked up at the following locations:

- UNITED WAY
71 King Street, Northampton
- AMHERST FAMILY CENTER
1200 North Pleasant Street, Amherst
- AMHERST SURVIVAL CENTER
138 Sunderland Road, Amherst
- EASTHAMPTON COMMUNITY CENTER
12 Clark Street, Easthampton
- HILLTOWN FAMILY CENTER
9 Russell Road, Huntington
- SOUTH HADLEY FAMILY CENTER
7 Woodbridge Street, South Hadley
- COMMUNITY ACTION OFFICES
17 New South Street, Suite 116, Northampton
- DAILY HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE
115 Conz Street, Northampton

*Applications must be mailed to: Sidney F. Smith Toy Fund
C/O Daily Hampshire Gazette
PO Box 299
Northampton, MA 01061*

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY NOVEMBER 22, 2019

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.

Wed. Nov. 27 Thanksgiving Break begins at 12:20PM - the newsletter will not be published.

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

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

Fri. Dec. 6 School Community Dance 6pm-8pm

Wed. Dec. 11 PTO Meeting 6:30-8pm JSS Library

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

Fri. Dec. 20 1:30PM All- school Assembly: Winter Solstice Celebration

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

Wed. Jan. 8 PTO Meeting 6:30-8pm JSS Library

Thurs. Jan. 16 2:15PM All-school Assembly: Honoring MLK, Jr.

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

Mon. Jan. 20 NO SCHOOL – MLK, Jr. Day

Sat. Jan. 25 JSS Variety Show

Fri. Jan. 31 KDG Progress Report Cards go home

Fri. Feb. 7 9:10AM All-school assembly – TBA

Wed. Feb. 12 PTO Meeting 6:30-8pm JSS Library

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

Thurs. Mar. 6 9:50AM – TBA

Wed. Mar. 11 PTO Meeting 6:30-8pm JSS Library

Thurs. Mar. 12 JSS Annual Film Festival 6pm

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

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

Fri. Mar. 27 Annual Swing Into Spring School Auction

Fri. Apr. -3 10:30AM All-school Assembly: JFK Jazz Band performance
JSS Annual Science Night

Wed. Apr. 8 PTO Meeting 6:30-8pm JSS Library

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

Wed. May 13 PTO Meeting 6:30-8pm JSS Library

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

Mon. May 25 NO SCHOOL – Memorial Day

Thurs. May 28 2:00PM KDG students host our JSS Grads (tentative date)

Wed. Jun. 10 PTO Meeting 6:30-8pm JSS Library

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





What is *FIRST*® LEGO® League Jr.?

A non-competitive, hands-on program which builds interest in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Teams of up to six students explore a new and exciting Challenge based on a real-world theme each year.

Guided by adult coaches and *FIRST*® Core Values, students on a team build a model using LEGO® Education WeDo 2.0 and create a team *Show Me* poster to present what they learned.

FIRST Core Values

We express the *FIRST* philosophies of *Gracious Professionalism*® and *Coopertition*® through our Core Values:

- **Discovery:** We explore new skills and ideas.
- **Innovation:** We use creativity and persistence to solve problems.
- **Impact:** We apply what we learn to improve our world.
- **Inclusion:** We respect each other and embrace our differences.
- **Teamwork:** We are stronger when we work together.
- **Fun:** We enjoy and celebrate what we do!

Thanks to the generous financial support of Malvern Panalytical and the Northampton Education Foundation, we are excited to offer *FIRST*® LEGO® League Jr. as an afterschool program at JSS. To learn more about *FIRST* LEGO League Jr., visit: <https://www.firstinspires.org/robotics/fljr>.

The program will run for 12 weeks, on Friday afternoons for 1 hour, after the normal 3pm dismissal. We have enough funding to allow for 3 teams, with 6 children from grades 1-4 on each team.

Each team, however, requires 2 adult “coaches” and currently we have only 2 volunteers*. Also, due to the limited number of team spaces, interested students will be chosen to participate through a lottery.

If your child is interested in participating or you or someone you know is interested in volunteering so that we can add the 2nd and 3rd teams, please contact Keith Miller at keith.w.miler@gmail.com, (413) 923-7115 or Mark Arsenault at arsenault1@gmail.com, 413-588-4841 by **November 29, 2019**.

*Students of volunteer coaches will automatically be placed on a team.



Que es *FIRST* LEGO League Jr.?

Un programa práctico no competitivo que genera interés en ciencia, tecnología, ingeniería y matemáticas. Equipos de hasta seis estudiantes exploran un nuevo y emocionante desafío basado en un tema del mundo real cada año. Guiados por entrenadores adultos y *First* Valores Fundamentales, los estudiantes en un equipo construyen un modelo usando LEGO y crean un póster Show Me del equipo para presentar lo que han aprendido.

FIRST Valores Fundamentales

Expresamos las *PRIMERAS* filosofías de *Graciosa Profesionalidad* y *Cooperación* a través de nuestros valores fundamentales.

- * Descubrimiento: exploramos nuevas habilidades e ideas.
- * Innovación: utilizamos la creatividad y la persistencia para resolver problemas.
- * Impacto: aplicamos lo que aprendemos para mejorar nuestro mundo.
- * Inclusión: nos respetamos y aceptamos nuestras diferencias.
- * Trabajo en Equipo: somos más fuertes juntos.
- * Diversión: disfrutamos y celebramos lo que hacemos.

Gracias al generoso apoyo financiero de Malvern Panalytical y la Northampton Education Foundation, nos complace ofrecer *FIRST*® *LEGO*® League Jr. como un programa extracurricular en JSS. Para obtener más información sobre *FIRST* *LEGO* League Jr., visite: <https://www.firstinspires.org/robotics/fljr>.

El programa tendrá una duración de 12 semanas, los viernes por la tarde durante 1 hora, después del despido normal de las 3pm. Tenemos fondos suficientes para permitir 3 equipos, con 6 niños de los grados 1-4 en cada equipo.

Sin embargo, cada equipo requiere 2 "entrenadores" adultos y actualmente solo tenemos 2 voluntarios *. Además, debido al número limitado de espacios de equipo, los estudiantes interesados serán elegidos para participar a través de una lotería.

Si su hijo está interesado en participar o usted o alguien que usted conoce está interesado en ser voluntario para que podamos agregar los equipos segundo y tercero, comuníquese con Keith Miller en keith.w.miler@gmail.com, (413) 923-7115 o Mark Arsenault en arsenault1@gmail.com, 413-588-4841 antes del **29 de noviembre de 2019**.

* Los estudiantes de entrenadores voluntarios serán ubicados automáticamente en un equipo.

Jackson Street Elementary School Itinerary
Monday, November 18, 2019

<p>Finalist 1 Name: MaryAnn Bartlett</p> <p>2:15-2:45 School Tour Led by PTO: Alana Kaczmarek & Nicole Walsh</p> <p>2:45-3:15 Interview with superintendent-focus on core values (Conference Room)</p> <p>3:15-3:45 Break (Gwen's Office)</p> <p>3:45-4:15 Faculty/Staff Forum (Library) Facilitated by Celeste Malvezzi</p> <p>4:15-5:00 Interview with superintendent-focus on core competencies (Conference Room)</p> <p>5:00-5:30 Snack with PTO/School Council (Cafeteria)</p> <p>5:30-6:00 Meeting with SEPAC/REAL-focus on equity (Room 110)</p> <p>6:00-6:30 Meeting with ALT Team-focus on collaboration (Music Room)</p> <p>6:30-7:00 Caregiver/Community Forum (Cafeteria) Facilitated by Albert Mussad</p>	<p>Finalist 2 Name: Walter Huston</p> <p>2:45-3:15 School Tour Led by PTO: Alana Kaczmarek & Nicole Walsh</p> <p>3:15-3:45 Faculty/Staff Forum (Library) Facilitated by Celeste Malvezzi</p> <p>3:45-4:15 Interview with superintendent-focus on core values (Conference Room)</p> <p>4:15-4:30 Break (Gwen's Office)</p> <p>4:30-5:00 Snack with PTO/School Council (Cafeteria)</p> <p>5:00-5:30 Meeting with SEPAC/REAL-focus on equity (Room 110)</p> <p>5:30-6:00 Meeting with ALT Team-focus on collaboration (Music Room)</p> <p>6:15-7:00 Interview with superintendent-focus on core competencies (Conference Room)</p> <p>7:00-7:30 Caregiver/Community Forum (Cafeteria) Facilitated by Albert Mussad</p>
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A Spanish Interpreter will be present for the Caregiver/Community Forums

Childcare will be provided by NHS students in the Yoga Room # 115 during the Caregiver/Community Forums.

There will be JSS Principal Questionnaires available in English & Spanish at all forums to fill out. Tracy Harranty will collect all documents for Superintendent Provost's review.