



# 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>

Ms Agna's Stories: <http://www.northampton-schools.org/category/news/jackson-street-school/>

JSS Office 587-1510

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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. 587-1315. 587-1315. 587-1315.

## MESSAGE FROM MS. AGNA

### GOOD-BYE AND WELCOME!

As you may have heard, Associate Director of Student Service, **Josh Dickson**, has resigned to assume the position of Special Education Director for the Hoosic Valley school district. We wish him all the best in his new position and thank him for all that he did for the Northampton Schools!

**Ms. Marianne Lockwood** has been appointed to the interim position vacated by Mr. Dickson. She is an experienced special educator and has been working at Northampton High School and with the Student Services Dept. this year. WELCOME to you, Ms. Lockwood!

### A (FINAL?) REMINDER

I have been sharing "Story Time" videos well as a Meditation for students and families to enjoy during our time away from school. The videos have been posted by the JSS PTO on Facebook, and can be found on the Northampton Public Schools website at:

<http://www.northampton-schools.org/category/news/jackson-street-school/>

I will include the link above in the list of links in the mast head of our newsletter.

### FOOD AND CONTACT

For now, the best way is to email me –[gagna@northampton-k12.us](mailto:gagna@northampton-k12.us). I can check messages on my office phone, though that's not done on a regular basis.

A reminder that the lunch/breakfast distributions are now only on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11AM-Noon.

The Northampton Survival Center is open on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, Noon-3PM at Jackson St. School. Food boxes are available on Tuesdays and Thursdays at sites in town – please check out the flyer attached for details as well as info on fresh food provided by Grow Food.

### SUPPORT

The need for families to find support in our community continue. Please let your child's teacher if you or someone you know needs help. Teachers are asked to let Ms. King, Mr. Justin, and me know if families are in need and we will work to make referrals to community agencies and funding. The District Outreach Social Workers, Kelley Knight and Nelly Carmona, have also been providing support. If you know of anyone who needs support, please let me know.

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A MONTH MAKES...

As I hope you heard, in the robo call from Dr. Provost, our superintendent, this week, as well as from your child's teacher, the "official" remote learning plan was rolled out earlier this week. I know you have heard from the teachers since the school's closing – this official plan puts a frame around it all and hopefully allows you and the teachers to have a mutual understanding of expectations moving forward in this uncharted land of distance learning. Needless to say (I hope!) we are all figuring this out as we go and are likely to make mistakes, experience bumps and dips, and need one another to keep the communication channels open – all in the interests of your child's continued engagement in learning. I know that many of you have already developed plans for your time at home. I also know that many of you have not. There is no uniform way that your child learns and also that your child's teacher teaches. We are committed to providing

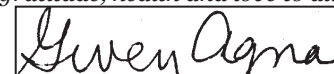
all students with enriching and learning-filled activities and experiences while we are not in school.

As challenging (and stressful and frightening and traumatic) as this time is, I wonder, when it is behind us, whether we could together reflect on the experience of remote/distance learning – identify elements of it that worked, what didn't work, and include some of the successes in developing plans for the return to school. Perhaps this will allow for, I think, needed adjustment and change in the way we "do school". While I may not be your principal in this process, I will share my ideas with our staff/faculty and our district administration before I leave.

I so appreciate everyone's words, messages, emails, cards of support in this time of corona. As many of you have noted, this is indeed an "unexpected" way to take my leave of being the JSS principal – but then, that is life for sure. For now, I continue to be honored and grateful to be your principal and will endeavor to do my best in the time we have left together.

TO ALL WHO ARE OBSERVING AND CELEBRATING BEST WISHES FOR SAFE AND HAPPY PASSOVER, GOOD FRIDAY, AND EASTER.

*Sending respect, gratitude, health and love to all,*



*Gwen Agna*

## IN THE NEWS

- 2nd grade, **Hazel Lin** and her mom, children's book author, **Grace Lin**, were featured/photographed, along with **Mo Willems**, in an article in the Washington Post about their virtual offerings to children in these days of COVID 19 – google their names and find the sites if you haven't already!
- **Ella Payne**, JSS grad and daughter of 3rd grade teacher, **Joan Cameron**, was captured in a Daily Hampshire Gazette photo appropriately social-distancing from a friend in conversation in Childs Park.
- **4th grader, Jayden and 1st graders, Bodi Gulla and their parents** were photographed by the Gazette making wishes with coins in the fountain at the entrance of Look Park. They had discovered that Look Park is now closed.

## 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. 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) – We will let you know if we can hold this
- Wed. Jun. 10** PTO Meeting 6:30-8pm JSS Library
- Fri. June 12th** 9:15AM All-school Assembly: Ms. Agna reads "A Fine Fine School" – We will let you know if we can hold this.

**ALL GRADES PROGRESS REPORT CARDS GO HOME ON THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL – LAST DAY STILL TO BE DETERMINED. 5th GRADE GRADUATION IS SCHEDULED THE DAY BEFORE THE LAST (HALF) DAY OF SCHOOL.**



# Emergency Food Distribution Program

## Your options for healthy food during the COVID-19 pandemic

**Starting Monday, April 6th**, two new food distribution systems are being put in place in the midst of the Northampton Survival Center's temporary closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Together with community partners Grow Food Northampton and Community Action Pioneer Valley, we will continue to provide healthy food to those in need in new and creative ways. Read on to learn about your options:

### **What is available and where can I get it?**

Pre-bagged packages of food will be made for you by staff and volunteers using rigorous health precautions. Bags will include shelf-stable pantry items and fresh produce, much purchased from local farms with dairy and meat options to be included as soon as possible.

Your two options for getting this food:

1. **'Drive-up' at Jackson Street School, 120 Jackson Street, Northampton**

**BEST FOR** people who don't live at one of the housing sites listed below, including Northampton Survival Center clients from outside of Northampton.

Bags will be distributed to clients directly outside the school cafeteria Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm.

2. **Pick-up in Northampton at Hampshire Heights, Florence Heights, Meadowbrook Apartments, and 236 Pleasant St. (The Lumber Yard building)**

**BEST FOR** those who live in or near these housing communities.

Bags will be available for pickup at the school meal distribution site Tuesdays from 11:00 am - 12:00 pm. Doorstep delivery is also available at Hampshire Heights, Florence Heights and Meadowbrook. Signup is required for doorstep delivery. Please fill out this form or call your resident services coordinator: <https://cutt.ly/growfoodshares>