



# 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 23 No. 29

April 12, 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 أن يكتب لك هذه الرسالة بلغة عربية، فيرجى الاتصال بالمدارس 587-1315.

## MESSAGE FROM MS. AGNA

**PLEASE NOTE – the time of the All-School Assembly (at which 1st graders present) is 1:30PM on THURSDAY, APRIL 25! See corrected time in the Mark Your Calendar section below!**

### IMMUNIZATIONS

I am sorry that there has been confusion and incomplete information on the status of immunizations students at JSS. Karen Jarvis Vance is working with the Gazette to hopefully to a follow-up article with more of the facts. In the meantime, if you have questions/concerns about this, please email Nurse Rebecca, [rstewart@northampton-k12.us](mailto:rstewart@northampton-k12.us), [kjarvisvance@northampton-k12.us](mailto:kjarvisvance@northampton-k12.us), and/or me, [gagna@northampton-k12.us](mailto:gagna@northampton-k12.us).

I appreciate hearing from some of you about my robo calls and the article as well as the fact that students were photographed and identified by name on the front page of the Gazette. This has been a learning situation for our district leaders including me. We haven't been asked before to illustrate articles about our school, with identified students that are potentially negative, confusing and/or alarming. My understanding is that it would be a general photo of our playground. That turned out not to be the case and I am so sorry. We have had a discussion, as principals and superintendent, about this and how to navigate it in future. We also will meet with the representatives from the Gazette and let them know that we will not OK publishing students, even if their families have said yes on the permission forms, if the content of the articles have the potential to upset families and our community.

### MCAS ELA

The week after the spring vacation week the 5th grade takes it on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 23rd and 24th. Please make sure your child gets a good night's sleep and breakfast, either at home or school. You may have heard or know already that we use stress relievers in the form of sugarless chewing gum, mints and Jolly Ranchers. And our mantra is "Just try your best and it will be fine."

#### TRANSITION

As promised, here is an update on the plan that I laid out in my letter to the community about my leaving JSS:

- **Chip Wood**, educational consultant and I have met with ESPs (twice), faculty members (twice) and School Council and PTO members (once). We will meet again with the Council and the PTO at the meeting on Wednesday, May 8. At these meetings, Chip has asked people to share their thoughts about our school in discussions and in writing.
- I have met with our 4th and 5th graders to explain my thinking and plans and how the transition will proceed. They had many excellent, thoughtful questions and contributions, which were recorded and will continue to be. Chip will meet with groups of 5th graders on May 31. I will eventually meet with all the students eventually to explain, hear their thoughts, and answer questions.
- The first meeting of the Transition Team will be on Monday, April 29, 3:30-5PM. We are looking for broad representation of staff, faculty and caregivers/parents/guardians. I have heard from some of you of your interest and invite all who are interested to come to this organizing meeting. There will be 2-3 more meetings before the end of the school year. The Transition Team will collect all of the information shared at the various meetings, look for common themes and begin to develop the description of JSS and ideas for questions for the candidates who apply for the position.
- The job posting for the new principal will be at the end of the summer or at the beginning of the school year 2019-2020.

I hope you all have a restful and safe vacation week next week and to all who celebrate, a VERY HAPPY PASSOVER AND EASTER! See you on Monday, April 22!

*Respectfully and affectionately yours,*

*Gwen Agna*  
Gwen Agna

## LOST & FOUND!

The Lost and Found is overflowing with clothing! Winter jackets, hats, gloves/mittens, sweatshirts, boots/shoes, water bottles and more! Please come check to see whether any of these items belong to your family. All unclaimed items will be donated to the Northampton Survival Center on Friday, April 26th. The school building will be open during the break next week, so you may come in then if it's convenient for you.

Thank you!

## OFFICE VOLUNTEER NEEDED ON FRIDAY MORNINGS!

Our wonderful office volunteer, Mary, will not be able to do Friday mornings for much of the rest of the school year, so we need a volunteer to help in the office on Friday mornings, starting now and likely into June.

This person would ideally come in around 9:30 and copy the newsletter and other flyers that go home in backpacks - about an hour to an hour and a half of work.

If you can help out, we would so appreciate it!

And if you can do one or some, but not all of the Fridays, please let us know, and we will work out a schedule.

Thank you so much!

Best,

Liz Horn, Volunteer Coordinator  
elhorn@mindspring.com or 646-234-8805

## HOLA

Session 4 starts Tuesday April 30th and runs 6 weeks through Thursday June 6th. Registration packets went home the beginning of this past week, and are due back Friday April 12th. If you don't get a program in your child's backpack, email or call Ms. BG. Class confirmations will go home the week we get back from vacation, and classes will start the next week. All registration forms are due before vacation.

hola@northampton-k12.us  
587-1510 ext. 3775

## HOLA is needing donations of items

Any recycled items that can be upcycled into art- such as cereal boxes, paper towel rolls, magazines and newspaper, 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! Please bring into office, marked for HOLA.

## GARDEN WORK DAY

Thursday, April 25th, from 3 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Our school community is inviting all volunteers to get the school garden and our new greenhouse ready for the season! Work that afternoon will include: weeding and raking; rebuilding and repairing the garden beds; turning the compost; refreshing garden paths with wood chips; trimming trees; cleaning the perennial gardens; and sweeping and organizing the garden shed and greenhouse. We can use many hands, including people handy with a hammer and drill. If you have questions, contact Katharine Walmsley, second grade teacher, kwalmsley@northampton-k12.us. (Rain date is Friday, April 26th, from 3:00-5:30).

Materials you might bring if you can: compost; edger's; hammers, screwdrivers, drills, nails, clippers, loppers (for tree trimming); work gloves; steel garden rakes (not leaf rakes); tape measures; and string. See you in the garden!

The JSS Garden Committee

## WORKSHOP SERIES – MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The next one in the series is:

### Exploring What It Is That Children Really Need In The Age Of Technology

Thursday, May 16, 2019

Peer and societal pressures, along with the time and energy constraints many parents face leave families without the necessary resources and reference points to more fully understand the impact that the screen technologies are having in the day to day life of their children.

Stepping beyond expert opinion and “ten-easy-step solutions,” this evening offers caretakers support and strategies for understanding the real needs of their children.

Then the Caregivers Café is back by popular demand! It will be on THURSDAY, MAY 23, 5:30-7:30PM, with pizza and childcare. Signs up on the tear-off below!

### Creating A People-Centered Home VS. A Screen-Centered Home

Thursday, June 6th

The basis for everything that children need to be successful in the world, communication skills, self-care, self-worth, team building, lifelong habits, beliefs, and more, all begin at home. Unfortunately, many of our homes focus more on our electronics

than on the real needs of people.

This evening's workshop offers parents the time and support to develop practical solutions to the dominant role that the screens occupy in our homes. That same role that often ignores and denies important things like downtime, connection, quiet, and peaceful mealtimes.

## Presenter:

**Susan McNamara**, M.A., CHHC, is a Certified Holistic Health Counselor who is trained in Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction, and holds a Masters Degree in Counseling Psychology. Susan is an adjunct professor at Westfield State University where one of the topics she explores with her students is the impact technology is having on their health and well-being.

For almost twenty-five years, Susan has been contemplating, researching, and most importantly living the questions around technology and children with her own family and others. She has just finished her first book, *Remembering What Matters Most: A Contemplative Approach To Children & Technology*.

Susan can be reached at 413-527-2230 or [thefarmatavalon@hotmail.com](mailto:thefarmatavalon@hotmail.com). Check out the article in a recent Daily Hampshire Gazette by Susan, entitled "Pandora's phone – and what to do when your child has seen something she can't unsee online". The link for this is: <https://www.gazettenet.com/Kids-and-screens-23738686>.

## IN THE NEWS

✍ Letters to the editor of the Daily Hampshire Gazette by JSS 3rd grade teacher, **Kim Gerould** and by JSS 2nd grade teacher, **Jolie Burgos Smith** about the current contract negotiations between the Northampton Association of School Employees and the Northampton School Committee were published.

✍ The Gazette published an article about Ms. Agna's retirement plans.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### SCI-TECH CAFÉ

Event location: Union Station, 125A Pleasant Street, Northampton MA. Light appetizers are available while supplies last, and food is available to order.

Time: 6:00pm

Save The Dates / Upcoming Speakers!

4/22/19: Bosiljka Glumac, Smith College (Geology)

6/3/19: TBA

## NEF - SOS Plant Sale

While it is too early to really garden outside, plans are being made for the 23rd Annual NEF Support Our Schools Plant and Garden Market.

The date is Saturday, May 11 (just before Mother's Day) 9-1, on the lawn of the Smith Vocational School.

This event raises \$ for each of the Northampton Public School libraries.

Right now we are soliciting donations of plants from neighborhood gardens. Please set something aside for us if you are dividing or moving perennials.

ALSO- we are raffling off a solid cedar arbor/trellis/bench and a beautiful quilt. Tickets are available in the Jackson St. office.

At the event there will be lots of plants, shrubs, vegetable starts, berries to choose from along with hanging planters and art work.

## 1st Annual Northampton Public Arts Festival

The Northampton Arts Council is excited to present our First Annual Northampton Public Arts Festival. The festival will take place on Saturday May 11, 2019 and Sunday May 12, 2019 in the plaza behind Thornes Market at 99 Armory Street in Northampton.

The Northampton Public Arts Festival is a unique 2-day event aimed at promoting public arts through live mural painting and workshops for young artists and youth interested in the arts. The festival will bring local and nationally recognized street artists and muralists to convene and create beautiful public art for the city of Northampton and the Pioneer Valley. Local Djays will be spinning vinyl from noon-5pm, Laughing Tomato Pizza will be on hand as well as, 10 curated locally based art vendors.

On Saturday, May 11 from 9am to 7pm, our team will run an open painting session to paint four mural cubes with eight selected artists, with two artists painting each cube. The fifth cube will be painted in collaboration between Jonathan Neville of Dripped On Productions and the public in attendance. This day of collaborative art making will include three scheduled workshops at 10:00am, 12:00pm, and 3:00pm. The workshops offer a hands-on opportunity for youth and adults to work directly with street artists to learn how to use spray paint to create art under professional guidance. The workshops break down barriers and pre-existing notions about spray paint and street art, and gives the public a chance to become their own artist! All the aerosol used is kid friendly and paints are water based non toxic.

Brian Foote, Executive Director  
Northampton Arts Council

# 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.

Mon. Apr. 15-Fri. Apr. 19 – NO SCHOOL! It's April vacation!

Thurs. Apr. 25 All-school assembly 1st grade presents 1:30PM  
GARDEN WORK DAY 3:30-5:30PM (rain date is Fri. Apr. 26)

Tues. Apr. 30 HOLA starts!

## ASSEMBLY DATES

Apr. 25 – 1:30PM 1st grade

May 30– 2:00PM KDG - JSS Grads

June 12 – 10:30AM Ms. Agna Fine Fine School

Thurs. May 2 JSS Library Celebration and Ice Cream Social

Fri. May 3 GRADES K, 1 & 2 CONCERT 1:30PM in the gym

Wed. May 8 JSS COUNCIL & PTO meeting with Chip Wood, consultant – Details TBA

Fri. May 10 Alex Smith Trio RETURN ENGAGEMENT – stay tuned for details!

Thurs. May 16 Exploring What It Is That Children Really Need In The Age Of Technology – workshop 6:30-8PM

Thurs. May 23 Caregivers' Café 5:30-7:30PM

Thurs. May 30 All-school assembly WELCOME BACK JSS/HIGH SCHOOL GRADS – KDGners are hosts 2PM

Thurs. June 6 HOLA ends!

Creating A People-Centered Home VS. A Screen-Centered Home – workshop 6:30-8PM

Fri, June 7 FIELD DAY!

Mon., June 10 RAIN DATE for Field Day

Wed. June 12 All-school assembly FINE FINE SCHOOL

JSS FAMILY PICNIC and GOODBYE to Mrs. Malynoski, Ms. Cowley, and Ms. Russell

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

Fri. June 14 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL – dismissal at 12:20PM (unless we have another snow day!)

## Jackson Street School MCAS Schedule

## MATH

### ELA

5th Grade      Tues April 23      Wed April 24      Make Up Apr 25

4th Grade    Tues April 30      Wed May 1      Make Up May 2

5th Grade    Tues May 7      Wed May 8      Make Up May 9

3rd Grade    Tues May 14      Wed May 15      Make Up May 16

## YES I/we would like to attend the following:

3. Exploring What It Is That Children Really Need In The Age Of Technology -  
Thursday, May 16, 2019 6:30-8PM \_\_\_\_\_

4. Creating A People-Centered Home VS. A Screen-Centered Home,  
Thursday, June 6th 6:30-8PM \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of adults: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of children who need childcare \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to the school office or your child's teacher.

## *Northampton Public Schools' K-8 Art Show 2019*

*The art teachers from the elementary schools and the middle school  
would like to invite the community to:*

*JFK Middle School on Friday, May 10th from 4:00 - 6:00PM*

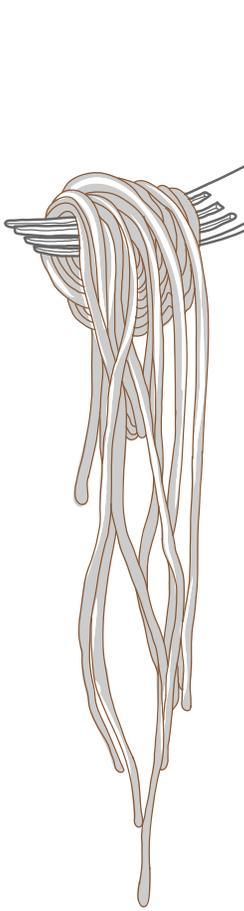
*for an opening reception. The exhibition will host a sampling of  
original artwork by local students from Leeds, Ryan Road, Jackson Street,  
Bridge Street and JFK Middle School.*

*There will be light refreshments served by the Jackson Street PTO!*

*The show will run from:*

*May 10<sup>th</sup> through May 31<sup>st</sup>*

*We look forward to seeing you there!*



# SPAGHETTI DINNER

*to benefit Nature's Classroom 2019!*

Please join us for a JSS community dinner open to all families! Delicious food, great company, and raffle prizes!

## Tuesday April 30th

### 5:30-7:00pm

*dinner served continuously*

Raffle prizes include  
Legos + local gifts  
cards!

**Sponsored by the Florence Elks Club**  
**17 Spring Street, Florence**

**\$10/adult \$5/child**

**Please return your RSVP below to school by Monday, April 22**

**Advance ticket sales receive a FREE RAFFLE TICKET!**

**Tickets also on sale at the door.**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

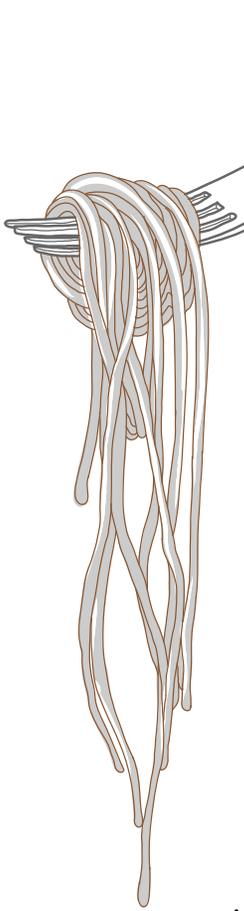
**Phone number/email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of Tickets:** \_\_\_\_\_ adult \_\_\_\_\_ child **Total enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Interested in carpooling from JSS? YES NO**

make checks payable to JSS PTO

Please email [jacksonstreetpto@gmail.com](mailto:jacksonstreetpto@gmail.com) with questions



# CENA DE ESPAGUETTI

*a beneficio de Nature's Classroom 2019*

Se les invita a todos a una cena comunitaria de JSS a beneficio de Nature's Classroom. Disfrute de la comida deliciosa junto a otras familias de JSS.

¡Tambien habrá una rifa!

**martes, 30 de abril de 2019**

**5:30-7:00 pm**

*Se servirá la cena continuamente*

**La cena es auspiciada por el:**

**Florence Elks Club**

**17 Spring St, Florence**

**\$10/adulto, \$5 por niño**

**Favor de entregar la siguiente información a la escuela con su pago en efectivo o por cheque antes del 22 de abril de 2019.**

**¡Si pide sus taquillas por avanzado, recibirá un boleto gratis para la rifa!**

**También se venderán taquillas en la entrada.**

**Nombre:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Número de teléfono/email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Número de taquillas:** \_\_\_\_ **adulto(s)** \_\_\_\_ **niño/a(s)** \_\_\_\_

**Pago incluido:** \_\_\_\_ **Me gustaria conducir al Elks Club con otra familia en un "carpool"** \_\_\_\_

Se aceptan cheques personales a nombre de JSS PTO

¿Preguntas? [jsspto@gmail.com](mailto:jsspto@gmail.com)

*¡Los premios de la rifa incluyen Legos y certificados de regalo locales!*