



# 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.jsspto.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. 9

October 25, 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 سردم ال اتراداب لاصت ال اى جري، في برع ال اة ل ل ل ا ب ة ب و ت ك م ة ل ل ا ر ل ا هذ ه نم ة غ س ن ي ل ع ل و ص ر ح ال ا يف ب غ ر ت ت ن ك اذا.

## MESSAGE FROM MS. AGNA

### CAREER DAY PRESENTATION

WOW – we had a wonderful start to our plan to connect our students with jobs and life pursuits by welcoming **Jaime Broussard**, Aoife's mom and emergency medicine physician's assistant, **Youme Nyugen Ly**, Song and Tao's mom, and **Jose Bayron**, IT Support Service Coordinator for the City of Northampton to meet in class groups with all of our 3rd and 4th graders. MANY THANKS to them for taking the time out of their days and for so carefully and interestingly sharing what they do! Our students had so many great questions and comments - "What motivated you to do this job?" "How many jobs have you done in your life?" (Jose answered: "15" and began recounting them from age 16 at Burger King), "How do you get your ideas for books?" "What is blood for in our bodies?" It was a beautiful day! Let's plan on expanding this to other grades and more jobs/careers! If anyone is interested in helping me with this, please let me know.

### LOCKDOWN DRILL

We have a lockdown drill scheduled for next Wednesday, October 30 at 9:30AM. For those who are new to our school/our district, historically (since the horrific event in Sandy Hook), the public safety - Northampton Police Dept. - has taken the lead on such safety drills. The police chief and several of their officers receive training in what they deem as "best practice" in this area. Of course, as you know, there are many schools of thought and research that supports/doesn't support how school should and whether schools should prepare in the event of a shooter/someone who wants to cause physical harm. Our work with the NPD is very collaborative. We have open and honest discussions and will continue to. We will share yours and other families' when we have our annual meeting at the end of each summer to schedule both the fire and safety/lockdown/evacuation drills.

As far as what we do and say, it is very dependent on the age of the students and what is appropriate, balancing their developmental understandings and sense of seriousness. For our younger students, grades K-2, the teachers do not go into detail about scenarios and present a more general frame, putting all safety drills into one "basket" as it were. We use the labels: fire drill, lockdown and evacuation - as recommended by the NPD. In the case of a lockdown, we tell them that we need to practice, with our police officers, all coming together in one safe spot (there's a big sign in the class that says that) in case there is someone in the school who shouldn't be here. I make an all-school announcement that we are having a lockdown drill. The teachers ask them to turn off voices - they turn off lights, draw shades and sit together, looking at books. They let them know that sometimes there will be a knock on the door and they won't answer it. When they practice the drill before the actual one, teachers say that we need to do this if there is someone in our school who isn't supposed to be here. When the actual drill is over (usually 10 minutes), they tell them that someone from our school will open the door, with a police officer. When the whole school is finished, I make an announcement that the lockdown is over.

For the older students, it is similar, except that there are often students who know why we are holding such drills and who have much information about events that have occurred in other places. Sometimes there are younger students who know this as well and the teachers try to have separate conversations with them so that they don't have to have an all-class discussion, opening up information for students who have had no exposure. I defer to the teachers' judgements in how to navigate their class's discussion on this and ask them to, when possible, not go into too many details except that these drills have become necessary in schools for safety. Students have a varying degree of exposure to news, media, events, etc. Some have no exposure, some have unsupervised and total exposure and know every detail about every incident. I ask the teachers that if they are sensing a challenge in having these conversations, to please let me and the school counselors know so we can come support.

In general, we remind students of all the safety measures that we have at our school - staff carrying radios when they go out for recess, all staff having keys so that classroom and office doors can always be locked, the only entry to our school being the front door with

the bell and camera. We do not over-dramatize this - it is a matter of course in schools for safety. If any student/students/families want to talk about this, we are always open to meeting and talking.

Please let me know if you have questions/concerns. I will also speak to this at next Monday's School Council meeting, 3:30-5PM in the library. If you do not want your child to participate in this drill, you may bring him/her/them to school after 10:30AM on next Wednesday. Thank you.

## CONFERENCE WEEK

As always, we know that there are challenges in your lives when we have half-days. We also know that, in spite of the fact that they're only 20 minutes, having the face-to-face contact in a conference is invaluable. We wish there were a way around having to cancel school - it is a topic of conversation amongst teachers and administrators. But, again, we so value your time and our relationships with you.

Have a good weekend.

*Yours gratefully and respectfully,*



Gwen Agna

## JSS HARVEST WEEK is October 28th-November 1st!

Our school will celebrate Harvest Week this year with cooking projects in classes, read alouds, garden visits, and a Harvest Festival and Garden Work Party on Wednesday afternoon.

### Work Day

Harvest Festival and Garden Work Day, Wednesday, October 30, 3:00-5:00 p.m. We will get the garden ready for winter from 3:00 to 5:00pm while enjoying harvest foods and doing some harvest games and activities in the garden. Ms. Agna will join us to do a read aloud in the garden at around 3:30pm. Families are invited to make or bring harvest snacks or foods such as muffins, veggies and dip, fruit, cider, popcorn, roasted pumpkin seeds etc. Please use this sign up genius link to sign up to bring food to the celebration!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a044caciaa2ba13-jsshharvest>

We hope many of you can join us to work and celebrate!

## JSS Art Corner

The JSS Fourth Graders are exhibiting their artwork in a public place for the first time! Bread Euphoria has offered up their beautiful walls in their expanded room to show JSS art. The students in fourth grade learned about the famous artist, and still living at 98 years old, Wayne Theibaud. He is most famous for his delicious looking paintings of pastries, food and cakes that look so real and yummy. The students used a soft oil pastel to create a similar texture. The fourth graders also learned how to create an Atmospheric Perspective Landscape using chalk pastels. They first ripped a section of a separate paper and used it as a stencil, added chalk pastels to the stencil, creating a soft layering of colored mountains. A must see in our hallways. The show at Bread Euphoria will exhibit one piece of artwork from either one of these themes. Please remember to have your child bring in the signed permission slip so they can be a part of this show! The deadline is Monday Oct. 28th. The show will be up from November 2, through December 19, and families can view the art when the bakery is open to the public.

## Coffee Hour

The next Caregivers Coffee Hour will take place Wednesday, November 6th 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.

## Morning Math Club

-Morning Math Club meets on Tuesday mornings from 8-8:35am in Room 110. If your student is interested in attending, please complete a permission slip available from the office.

## Election Day Bake Sale Tuesday, Nov. 5th - Bakers & Volunteers Needed

There's no school for students on Election Day (Tuesday, November 5th), but the building will be open as a polling place. With so many people coming through our school, it is a great opportunity to raise money for JSS! We will be hosting a bake sale from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. Bakers and Volunteers are needed.

Do you have a favorite recipe for cookies, muffins, cupcakes or another baked treat? Please consider baking a batch to donate to our Bake Sale! We welcome vegan and allergy friendly (nut free, gluten free, dairy free, etc.) contributions. \*\*Per the City of Northampton Health Department, all baked good must be baked in a home (non-commercial) kitchen, individually packaged and stable at room temperature (no refrigeration or heating required). \*\*

Donations of baked goods may be dropped off at school on Monday, November 4th, or anytime during the bake sale.

Volunteers are needed to staff the bake sale. Children

are welcome to accompany adult volunteers.

Sign up to donate a baked good or volunteer to help during the bake sale using this link: <https://www.signupgeenius.com/go/8050b49a9ad23abf94-jssselection> or contact Beth Maurer at [jssvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:jssvolunteers@gmail.com) or 413-320-9950.

## JSS PRINCIPAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

Dear Jackson Street Community,

We are delighted to introduce the Jackson Street School Principal Search Committee. In addition to the two chairs--myself and Kathy Malynoski, they are:

Brian Rodrigues, Kristen McCue, Maria Vega, Llama Maynard, Lourdes Santiago, Ashley Miller, Mark Morrison, Rebecca Busansky, Iraida Pastor, and Mark Lacasse.

Please know that every effort has been made to balance the Committee in terms of diversity--and we have also made sure that all groups are represented including:

parents  
classroom teachers  
PTO members  
custodians  
ESPs  
Transition Team members  
NASE  
JSS School Council  
Families with Power  
administrators  
special education teachers  
specialists  
admin assistants  
SEPAC members

We worked carefully, thoroughly, and inclusively through the task of creating a Search Committee representative of the school, while working within the confines of those who applied. There was a total of 26 applicants.

Thank you to all who applied--and we look forward to the work ahead.

Most sincerely,

Nancy Cheevers and Kathy Malynoski

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS

Message from JSS Council member, **Rebecca Osorio**: On this upcoming election day, November 5th, we will have the opportunity to vote for members of the Northampton School Committee, which is the governing body for the Northampton Public Schools. In an effort to help all of us get to know the candidates for office this year

we have invited them to submit approximately 300 words to this newsletter introducing themselves and their campaigns. Regardless of which ward they are running for or whether they are running unopposed, these are the people who are asking to make decisions on behalf of our babies so I am grateful for the opportunity to get to know them in this way.

AT LARGE CANDIDATES (There are three candidates running for the two open spots that represent the whole city.)

### Kate Cardoso

My name is Kate Bouthilette Cardoso and I'm a Northampton native and current parent of two children at Leeds Elementary School (2nd& 4th grades). I'm running for School Committee At-Large because last year was a difficult year for one of my children. Going to school became one of the hardest things for her due to anxiety, and the teachers and support staff went above and beyond to both make her feel safe and challenge her to overcome her worries. At around the same time I became aware of what was happening with the contract negotiations and I, along with many other members of the community, realized how unfairly our teachers and school employees were being paid. I decided then that I needed to get involved.

What do I want to do on the school committee?

- I want to make sure that resources are distributed fairly between the schools – taking into account enrollment and student population data
- I want to make sure that the classroom environment is conducive to learning and that it isn't causing unnecessary stress on students and teachers
- I want to make the teachers and school employees feel heard and respected because they are such a critical part of the success of our schools
- I want to make the school committee more collaborative, proactive, effective, and efficient through relationship building and a focus on creating change and positive outcomes
- I want to increase diversity within the school employee population and on the school committee

I have so much love for this town and I want it to be a better place, in particular for all of the children we have the incredible honor and very serious responsibility of taking care of and educating in our public schools.

### Roni Gold

Hi, I am Roni Gold and I am asking for 1 of your 2 At-Large votes because our School Committee needs someone with first-hand experience in public schools and a deep understanding of the complex issues facing our district. I look to contribute my experience as a public school teacher, advocate, and collaborative leader in our community towards strengthening our school system to meet the needs of all our students.

As a public school teacher for 17 years - including as a classroom teacher and instructional coach in Springfield since 2008, member for my school leadership team, and a school building union representative - I have a strong understanding of the following priorities facing our district: (1) Strengthening district-wide structures and resources to support the changing social, emotional, and academic needs of all students; (2) Ensuring NPS retains and attracts both teachers and families; and (3) Advocating for funding to support these and other priorities.

As a Bridge Street School Council parent representative since 2017 I've advocated on behalf of teachers, parents, school administration, and district leadership. During the challenging 2017 transition to a new inclusion model, our council's strong advocacy led to BSS receiving much needed additional support and resources. In this role I also initiated reallocating nearly \$10,000 of the school-based budget towards teacher-pay for afterschool planning.

Since 2014 I've served as a board member of the Ward 3 Neighborhood Association. This year I led an effort with the W3NA, BSS PTO, School Council, and Northampton's planning department to win a \$1,000,000 state grant to improve pedestrian travel around Bridge Street School. This grant will also improve the highly successful BSS Walking School Bus which I helped start in 2017.

To learn more about my campaign please visit and reach out to me at [www.ronigold.com](http://www.ronigold.com). I hope to earn your vote on November 5th, and I look forward to representing all wards and working together to continue building a school district we are all proud of.

## **Susan Voss**

Dear Jackson Street School Community,

I am thrilled to be running for a second term as one of your two At-Large School Committee Members. I moved to Northampton 19 years ago as a founding faculty member of Smith College's engineering program, and Northampton has become my hometown. My daughter Erin graduated from Northampton High School in 2016, and my son Jasper is currently a junior there.

I am proud of my work during my first term, which has been driven by listening to constituents and promoting transparency. I proposed and am a member of the newly formed district screen-time committee, which is working to develop guidelines for usage of screens in our schools. During recent contract negotiations, I provided strong support for our NASE members' compensation to be commensurate with that in surrounding communities. I have also enjoyed serving as the school committee's liaison to Northampton's Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC).

Moving forward, and simply stated, I want our Northampton Public Schools to be both excellent and inclusive. We must do a better job of engaging the range of learners throughout our schools, which is essential in a district that aspires to educate all. We also need to complete and adopt our district-wide code of conduct which addresses bullying and all forms of bigotry so that clearly articulated plans are in place to address these unacceptable behaviors.

I rely on feedback from community members who share their experiences and offer suggestions about how we can do better. Currently I have weekly listening sessions at local libraries (times at [VoteSusanVoss.org](http://VoteSusanVoss.org)), and I invite you to come speak with me in person or to email me anytime.

Sincerely, Susan Voss she/her/hers Northampton School Committee Member, At-Large [voss.susan.e@gmail.com](mailto:voss.susan.e@gmail.com)

## **WARD 1 Rebecca Busansky**

I am running for a third term on the School Committee from Ward 1 because I feel strongly about the importance of public education and want to continue to work to make Northampton Public Schools even better. I have learned so much since joining the School Committee in 2016 and want to continue to apply that learning to benefit our students, teachers, and caregivers. I have two children currently at Northampton High School plus a recent graduate. While I have volunteered in my children's schools over the years, I ran for School Committee in order to help all children succeed.

As such, I have worked to make improvements in our schools in many ways, including working to strengthen the farm to school connections with an eye towards our students' health and well-being, as well as the quality of our school food system. I have advocated strongly for limits on and oversight of our Chromebook program. I have lobbied for increased funding and improved education policy at the State House and with our local legislators. I have worked against the expansion of the Chinese Immersion Charter School and to defeat the charter school referendum. Most importantly, I feel strongly that our teachers need to be paid salaries that are commensurate with our surrounding school districts in order to attract and retain the best educators.

I have advocated for a more activist role of members of the School Committee on policy and administrative decision making, and will continue to do so. I am an open listener and communicator within Ward 1 and the city around school issues. I have appreciated meeting with constituents and hearing their perspective on issues, always enriching my own. To this end, feel free to reach out to me with questions or concerns at [rbusansky@northampton-k12.us](mailto:rbusansky@northampton-k12.us).

## **WARD 2 Laura Fallon**

I'm Laura Fallon and I have had the honor of representing Ward 2 since 2014. My four children are all students in the Northampton Public Schools and are currently attending Jackson Street School, JFK, and NHS. My professional background is in education. I have experience teaching third and fourth grade Spanish; Language Arts, Reading and Spanish at the middle and high school levels and worked seven years teaching Spanish language, literature and culture courses at the university level.

As Chair of the Rules and Policy Subcommittee, I have worked hard to ensure that our district policies embody best practices and promote equity and inclusion. I have also served as liaison to the Northampton Prevention Coalition and the NEF. I am currently serving on the Board of Directors of the Collaborative for Educational Services and was recently elected to its Executive Committee.

I am very actively involved with the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC), serving on its Legislative Committee, Resolutions Committee, and as a representative to the MIAA Basketball Committee and the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Council. I also serve as the Vice-Chair for Division V of the MASC.

I work hard to stay informed of issues affecting education at the local, state, and national levels. I have been a fierce advocate for education funding bills and for charter school funding reform and fought back against charter school expansion requests. More recently, I have been

appointed to the Federal Relations Network of the National School Boards Association and traveled to DC to lobby for federal legislative priorities such as the reauthorization and full funding of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve on the Northampton School Committee and am always available to meet with constituents. Please don't hesitate to contact me at [lfallon@northampton-k12.us](mailto:lfallon@northampton-k12.us)!

## **WARD 3**

### **Howard Moore**

I grew up in Lawrence, Kansas, and graduated from the university there. I was a farm hand, factory worker, camp counselor, crew coach, baker and substitute teacher until I became a lawyer, representing parents or children after the state removes the children from their home, and kids who are truant or have run away. I am married to Stephanie Moore, who runs the community boathouse in Holyoke, and we have four children, all of whom went to Bridge Street, the youngest now a junior at Smith Voc. We have lived at 56 Cross Path Road since 1992, and over the years you may have seen me on my bicycle commuting to work or doing my errands, or for the past few years in a high-vis vest driving the walking school bus to Bridge Street.

As a student, parent and school committee member, I have experienced the good and the bad of public education, and I remain committed to and enthused by its ideas and values and the people who make those ideas and values real. For the things we need that cannot be bought, we depend on the creativity, generosity, kindness, persistence, expertise and humanity of every member of our community. We need to continue to build the school councils into the daily work of the schools and continue to get better at engaging in conversations about where we are and where we are going, because that is how we will get there whole and well.

Next year there will be at least four new members of the committee. I look forward to contributing what I can from my life, work and experience on the committee. Please contact me if you would like to talk about any of this.

[howardmoore@comcast.net](mailto:howardmoore@comcast.net) 413-237-4880 56 Cross Path Road

### **Emily Sarafy-Cox**

My name is Emily Sarafy-Cox. I am running for School Committee in Ward 3 because I want to bring a fresh vision for Northampton Public Schools.

I am a Bridge Street School parent, a community organizer, and a dedicated civic volunteer. For the past 15 years, I have been working with communities to advocate for things like better education and more transparent government.

I was inspired to run after a hard experience that turned into something beautiful. Two years ago, my daughter's first grade classrooms were in such chaos they ended up all over the pages of the Gazette. Many of you likely remember how a less than thoughtful implementation of the WINS program wreaked havoc on the most vulnerable students—the very students it was trying to help.

But remember, I said something beautiful happened too. Parents worked together to advocate for our kids and found that we were not alone in our struggle. After much research and advocacy, we were able to bring additional resources to our school.

It was too late to help the students who had to leave the school and by the end of the year, we had lost more than a third of that first grade class. But, here's the thing. I know we can do better.

I believe our kids deserve innovative curriculum, like dual immersion Spanish programs.

I believe we must fund fair wages to retain excellent educators and staff.

I believe we must demand the Commonwealth pay its fair share and update our outdated funding formula.

And I believe we must work together with educators, families, and students to create intentional plans for inclusion and equity.

As a school community member, I will be committed to listening to the community and working with them to make Northampton schools better for all children.

## **WARD 4 Sean Condon**

Greetings! My name is Sean Condon and I'm running to represent Ward 4 on the School Committee. I'm a relatively new arrival to the city (my family moved to Fort Hill Terrace in August, 2018), but have been looking for ways to get actively involved in my new community. When I discovered that our representative was not seeking reelection I thought that joining the committee was a wonderful opportunity to do so.

I've been a middle school teacher for eighteen years now, so I bring with me an educator's perspective on education and experience in the classroom. In fact, another reason that I stepped forward to run was the recent contract negotiations that took place last year with the districts' employees. In addition, I have a daughter who is currently a sophomore at Northampton High School.

Should I be elected to be Ward 4's voice on the committee, I hope to bring a balanced perspective as a taxpayer, a parent, and as an educator. Being new to the community, I'll be open and receptive to connecting with community members and hearing not only about the wonderful things that are going on in the district's classrooms, but also areas of potential growth and improvement. I've already started meeting with individuals and small groups, and look forward to meeting more of you moving forward.

## **WARD 5 Dina Levi**

Three years ago, my wife and I moved to Northampton seeking a community with strong public schools that would offer a progressive network of people and a tight-knit, community feel. I have worked as an educator for over 15 years, serving as a counselor, teacher and administrator, always with a focus on diversity and inclusion. I have two children, the oldest of whom will be in kindergarten next fall. I am driven to ensure she, and all students,

can learn in environments that truly see and support them for who they are as opposed to who we expect them to be.

I've knocked on over 500 doors in Ward 5 and heard too many stories of bullying in our schools. In Northampton, our students of color are disciplined at a rate three times that of white students. I will bring a focus on diversity and inclusion to the policy decisions made on the school committee.

I am also driven by my desire to support teachers. They must be given the resources they need to support all students, and we need a long term solution to salaries that will attract and retain the best educators. This means working closely with our state representatives to fix the charter school funding formula.

I commit to ensuring greater levels of communication and transparency, and to policies that work for working families. I've spoken with parents whose kids can't get the help they need from teachers after school because they have to catch the one school bus home. I've heard how frustrated many have felt that there hasn't been a better mechanism to stay more informed about school committee discussions or share concerns and insights. Once elected, I plan to host forums for residents in Ward 5. In the meantime, please contact me at [electdinalevi@gmail.com](mailto:electdinalevi@gmail.com).

## **WARD 6 Lonnie Kaufman**

Thank you for the opportunity to share with you why I am interested in continuing to serve as Northampton's Ward 6 school committee representative.

I began my career in public education over 30 years ago and am as deeply committed to helping young people reach their academic and leadership potential as I was on day one. Through the countless opportunities I've had to work for and support public schools throughout New England as a teacher, counselor, program coordinator, researcher, and volunteer, I have witnessed marvelous teaching and learning taking place. I'm proud of our school system and am committed to celebrating our success and ensuring our educators are recognized for their hard work and accomplishments.

Looking forward, here are three of my personal goals to work toward as a member of our school committee:

- First, I will continue to work my hardest to eliminate the significant gaps in student achievement while ensuring our children are well prepared for life after high school.
- Second, I'd like for us to become more strategic in our planning and decision-making processes. By establishing and communicating more definitive educational goals, identifying appropriate ways of measuring our progress, and sustaining reasonable timelines to implement our strategies, we can build momentum for a more cohesive approach to our work around curriculum, policies, and budget.
- Third, I am interested in expanding and strengthening our lines of communication with all stakeholders as we each share a role in ensuring all of our children are achieving high social and academic growth.

It is my sincere honor to work on our school committee, and I look forward to seeing the progress we will make together!

# **News From Audubon**

## **Family Night Hike**

November 2, 2019 (Saturday) 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Location: Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, Easthampton MA

Audience: Family (suitable for children 5 - 12 years)

Members: Adult \$8.00, Child \$8.00

Nonmembers: Adult \$10.00, Child \$10.00

The forest seems like a different place at night. Join us on this evening hike, acclimate your eyes to the darkness, and discover that you can really see without a flashlight. We'll play a game inside before going outdoors. Once outside, we will listen for owls and other night sounds, make sparks with rocks, and discuss the survival strategies of nocturnal animals. At the end we will have a "sparkle party."

Instructions and Directions: Please dress to be outdoors.

Registration is required.

Register online or call 413-584-3009 to register by phone.

For more information, contact:

Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary  
127 Combs Road  
Easthampton, MA 01027  
[arcadia@massaudubon.org](mailto:arcadia@massaudubon.org)

## **Holiday Craft Workshop**

December 7, 2019 (Saturday) 9:00am - 12:00pm

Location: Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, Easthampton MA

Audience: Family (suitable for children 4 - 16 years)

Members: Adult free, Child \$10.00

Nonmembers: Adult free, Child \$12.00

Join us for a morning of holiday gift making. Children, accompanied by an adult, will make two nature crafts that will make ideal gifts for parents, siblings, grandparents or friends. All materials included and we try to use as many recycled, non-plastic materials as possible. Bring your imagination and we'll supply the rest!

Registration is required.

Register online or call 413-584-3009 to register by phone.

## **Winter Solstice Celebration**

December 21, 2019 (Saturday) 5:30pm - 8:30pm

Location: Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, Easthampton MA

Audience: All (suitable for children 0 & up)

Fee: Free

People have celebrated the shortest day of the year and the start of longer days for ages. In the Valley, people have celebrated the winter solstice at Arcadia for decades. Join us for candle-lit trails, music, fire, kids' crafts and community togetherness.

Registration is required.

Register online or call 413-584-3009 to register by phone.

# **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.

October 28-Nov. 1st      HARVEST WEEK at JSS! See article above!

Mon. Nov. 4 10:30AM      All-school assembly: Special service dog presentation – with a guest reader and owner!

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

Wed. Nov. 6      Caregivers Coffee Hour in the Family Center 9-10AM

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

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

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

Fri. Jan. 31      KDG Progress Report Cards go home

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

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

Thurs. Mar. 6 9:50AM      TBA

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. Apr. -3 –10:30AM      All-school Assembly: JFK Jazz Band performance

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

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

Fri. June 12      180th Day – potential last day of school unless there are no snow days to make up  
9:15AM All-school Assembly: Ms. Agna reads “A Fine Fine School”

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