

Nottingham Knightly News

September 11, 2018

Important Dates

12 September, Wednesday	Back to School Night, 7:00PM
12 September, Wednesday	PTA Meeting, 8:05PM
25 September, Tuesday	Room Parent Orientation, 7:00PM
26 September, Wednesday	SCA Spirit Day
2 October, Tuesday	School Picture Day
	PTA Meeting, 7:00 PM
8 October, Monday	Professional Learning Day
	(NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS)
10 October, Wednesday	ASPAN Walk-a-Thon, 8:00AM
10 October, Wednesday	Early Release, 1:26 PM
15-19 October	Book Fair, Library

2018-2019 Early Release Dates: October 10, October 25, December 12, January 16, February 13, March 7, March 13, June 5, June 12. Students will be dismissed at 1:26PM.

We are combining our newsletters! The combined newsletter will be sent from APS School Talk on Tuesdays every week. In addition to the weekly newsletter, please check the PTA website, www.nespta.org (as well as our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) feed) and Nottingham's school website <https://nottingham.apsva.us/> to stay current with what is going on at school.

From the Principal

It's week two and things are really getting started! Students are beginning reading and math assessments, notebooks are being organized and lessons have begun. New staff have been out and about meeting and getting to know our students. Students continue to work on getting to know each other and the teachers.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone tomorrow night for Back To School Night.

Announcements, Reminders and Updates

September 11...Each year, at 9:37 a.m. (the time of the attack on the Pentagon), the Arlington community observes a moment of silence in remembrance of the events of 9/11. Today marked the 17th anniversary of the terrorist attacks. Today we used our moment of silence to honor those affected by this tragedy. For the remainder of the week you'll notice our "Freedom Flag" on the flagpole in remembrance. Students heard this message this morning..

Emergency Drill Reminder...During the month of September, we will have six drills; a fire drill each week and two lockdown drills. Your child(ren) will be taught what to do in the unlikely event of either emergency.

There are some upcoming **Community Engagement Events**. Check out the link to see what's coming..

<https://www.apsva.us/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/APS-Community-Engagement-opportunities-in-September.pdf>

Allergy alert...Please be mindful when packing snacks that several classrooms are allergy safe. Students with significant food allergies can be seriously impacted if they consume, touch or breathe certain allergens. We appreciate everyone being cautious and careful when packing snacks for the classroom.

A note from Ryan Van Valen, Resource Teacher for the Gifted...At Nottingham, we take a holistic approach when identifying students for gifted services. We look at work samples, ability test scores, and teacher observations as a committee. If your child is found eligible or has already been identified for gifted services, we will be using resources aimed at gifted learners with him/her throughout the year, as well as with other learners as needed. Gifted services are provided by me, the homeroom teacher, with planning help from the RTG, Ms. Van Valen. We extend the curriculum so students have the opportunity to think abstractly, work on tasks with various levels of complexity, and pursue tasks of interest independently. **If interested, join Ms. Van Valen for a Gifted Services Overview Presentation on Friday, October 5th from 9:00-9:45am in the library.**

A Note on Attendance...We encourage everyone to be at school on time each day. As a reminder, we **begin each day at 9:00 AM and conclude at 3:41 PM**. The following are generally considered excused absences: illness, quarantine of student, doctor or dentist appointments, death in the family, observance of a religious holiday, court appointments, inclement weather emergencies, and severe family emergencies. We need to note other absences as unexcused. Finally, we will send a letter home when absences or tardies and early departures begin to accumulate.

If your child does need to miss school, please email the homeroom teacher and the main office attendance email (attendance.ntm@groups.apsva.us). Teachers will work with students to make

up any missed assignments. If there is a **last-minute change for pick-up, please call** the main office at 703-228-5290 as emailing the teacher may not get the message to your child in time.

Did you know that **October is Bully Prevention Month**? Throughout the month, our counselors, **Mark Jones and Kelynn Bisbee** will work with teachers to instruct students on several aspects of bullying. Nottingham students are taught to recognize bullying behavior and provide strategies for dealing with it, including assertively saying “no” and reporting to an adult. If you have questions about our program or our steps to prevent bullying, please contact Mark or Kelynn for more information.

Personalized Learning iPad Device Information

GRADES K, 1, 2:

- This week, each 1st and 2nd grade classroom will be getting a set of iPads that is a ratio of 2 students to each device. These devices will stay at school overnight and be shared by all students.
- Grade K classrooms should get their allocated devices later in the year, likely mid-October.
- Students will initial/sign a classroom poster this year in the classroom that discusses some of the basic points of the APS Acceptable Use Policies.
- APS is in the process of creating a list of apps that are available for student instruction and those will be posted soon on the APS Digital Devices central page.
- Digital Citizenship lessons will occur again this year at all grade levels and are conducted by our school librarian, in conjunction with Mr. Crouse, our instructional technology coordinator.

GRADES 3, 4, 5:

- Next week, each student in grades 3, 4 and 5 will be issued an APS provided Apple iPad that is individually assigned to them.
- iPads will only be assigned to students who have signed the APS Acceptable Use & Responsibility Agreement and also had their parents sign the same form.
- Just as we did last year, the devices can come home each academic day to be used as an extension of their learning.
- All classrooms will be provided with charging stations that will allow the devices to be charged at school when not used during the day. This will allow the devices to be charged to at least 40-50% before coming home each day. Therefore, charging cables and blocks will not be sent home this year.
- iPads are an extension tool for learning, just as a ruler, highlighter or book. There is no expectation for assignments to be completed on the iPad specifically. However, device use and integration may be suggested by teachers.

- Students are asked to follow your family's values when using devices you should decide and monitor how and when your device is used at home.
- APS is in the process of creating a list of apps that are available for student instruction and those will be posted soon on the APS Digital Devices central page.
- Digital Citizenship lessons will occur again this year at all grade levels and are conducted by our school librarian, in conjunction with Mr. Crouse, our instructional technology coordinator.

Reminders...

- The Halloween Parade will be on Halloween! More details will be forthcoming once Halloween is closer, but since this is a BIG change, we wanted to alert you sooner rather than later.
- 4th and 5th grade is departmentalizing (switching classes) for content. Our students will be ready for middle school and all the transitions they will face in grade 6
- We will be spending a great deal of time experimenting and evaluating what works to build our exemplary project "STEAMing Ahead" and look forward to seeing where Kristin Muller, Exemplary Project Coordinator takes us.
- Recess is now 30 minutes at every grade level (more if they finish lunch a little early).
- Dismissal changes have been implemented and I apologize for not getting the information to you sooner. See below for specifics.

Reminder.. TOMORROW September 12 at 7:00PM is Back to School Night . This is the perfect opportunity for you to meet your child's teacher, if you haven't already, and to learn about the great things happening at Nottingham. First, you will view a short video from your principal and PTA President, Stacy Rosenthal. Parent-teacher conference sign-ups will also be available. There will be two sessions for parents to attend. Specials teachers and specialists will be in the library should you have any questions.

Finally, please join us for the PTA Meeting at 8:05AM for some important information and to establish plans for the year.

Reminder about arrival and dismissal....School begins at **9:00AM** and students are welcome to arrive at about **8:40AM**. Students should sit outside the classroom (MaryBeth Johnson's students should sit outside the art room near the back door). Students in grades 3 and 4 who have classrooms on the lower level can also sit outside classrooms with 2 exceptions. Ms. Ready's class should sit across from the library by Mr. Jones' counseling office. Students in Ms. Foeckler's class should sit outside the art room storage closet. Signs will be posted and staff will be available to assist. Breakfast will be served to any student who would like to have some.

We've adjusted the dismissal process to streamline and build student independence. You may have already received my note, but just in case...

- Walkers in grades K/1 will meet a parent or designee on the front blacktop.

- Walkers in grades 2-5 will dismiss through the door closest to their classroom or near a point of pickup that families have agreed upon.
- Bus riders will line up in the hallway or on the front steps to await arrival of the bus.
- Extended day students in K/1 will be escorted to Extended Day.
- Extended day students in grades 2-5 will be dismissed directly to Extended Day.

Reminder...Safety is of the upmost concern and children and families should obey and follow all posted signs, staff and crossing guards. If you are driving your child to school, please follow directions from Ms. Pugh, Mr. Giusto and the patrols for kiss and ride. Please make sure you are **parking legally** around the neighborhood if you plan to walk your child in to the building. At the end of the day, please be mindful of the parking signs and do not park illegally around the school. This presents safety hazards and confusion. Thanks for your cooperation on this.

VERY IMPORTANT... Please **“Opt-In”** and grant APS permission to share your student information with the PTA. If you want to be included in the student directory, please check “yes” in Part I on the 2018-19 Release of Student Information Form included in your child’s APS first day packet.

From the PTA President

I hope everyone had a successful first week – from our students and staff to our parents, bus drivers and community members.

Our first PTA meeting will be on Wednesday, September 12 in the multi-purpose room at 8:05 pm (immediately following Back to School Night). This will be a brief meeting and the main purpose is to pass the 2018-19 PTA budget. A meeting agenda will be sent out separately. Please join us – I promise we will be finished by 8:30 (if not earlier).

We are continuing to look for volunteer help in various areas (scroll down for specifics from Rena and others). However, I would like to highlight the request for an assistant webmaster. Stacey Stump (warmly referred to as “The Other Stacey”) has done an amazing job updating and maintaining the PTA website (www.nespta.org) but she can use some assistance. This is something you can do from the quiet of your own home or office and on your own schedule. I know she would love the virtual (or real-life) company.

Some additional reminders:

- If you have volunteered (or plan to volunteer) to be a room parent, please plan to attend a room parent orientation on Tuesday, September 25 at 7:00 pm in the Nottingham library.
- Please go to www.nespta.org and update or create your PTA account with your child’s class assignment. While you are there, you can join the PTA, pay the bulk supply fee, make a donation and/or let us know where you are interested in helping out

- Please “Opt In” and grant APS permission to share your student information with the PTA. If you want to be included in the student directory, please check “yes” in Part I on the 2018-19 Release of Student Information Form included in your child’s APS first day packet.

As always, I welcome your comments, questions and feedback at president@nespta.org.

Thank you,

Stacy Rosenthal
PTA President 2018-19

SCHOOL NEWS & EVENTS

Register for Fall 2018 Enrichment!

After School Enrichment Registration continues through midnight on September 17. A few classes have already filled, but several need additional registrations to ensure that the class will take place this session. Classes that need additional sign-ups include: Debate, Eco-Friendly Kids, Ignite Sports, Robotics and Lego Minecraft.

Visit <https://em-nottingham.jumbula.com/#/fall-2018> for class descriptions, program info and registration details. If you have questions, please contact the Nottingham Enrichment Committee at enrichment@nespta.org.

2018 Reflections Art Contest

The National PTA Reflections program is PTA’s cornerstone arts program. The program offers students the opportunity to earn local, state and even national recognition for original artwork they create in response to a specific theme. This year's theme is "Heroes Around Me."

Students must create their own original work inspired by the theme. Art will be accepted in the following six categories:

*Dance Choreography

*Film Production

*Literature

*Music Composition

*Photography

*Visual Arts.

The submission bin will be located in the PTA office and entry forms available in the front office. **The Deadline for turning in entries is Wednesday, October 24.** Many Knights participated in the Reflections program last year and created wonderful art. More information about the program, including rules for each category can be found at <http://www.vapta.org/arts-in-education/reflections.html>.

Contact Ashley McNair at reflections@nespta.org with any questions.

Parent Coaches Needed – Girls on the Run

We are STILL in need of parent coaches able to regularly attend twice a week, before-school practices (Wed/Fri 7:45-8:50 am) for a ten week period (late Sept through early-Dec). **Registration for coaches and participants runs through Monday, September 17.** Please go to www.gotrnova.org to register.

The time commitment is limited to practices and about an hour a week in prep time. GOTR provides a full curriculum and materials. More information can be found at www.girlsontherun.org.

Nottingham has a long standing tradition of active participation in GOTR. We have two community coaches from GOTR but need Nottingham volunteer coaches to ensure a successful season. Without additional coaches, we will likely be limited to only 20 participants selected by lottery. For the last three years, we have had 30-40 girls each season. That requires 6 coaches at a minimum and is most effectively managed with about 10 to allow the coaches some flexibility.

Please help us continue to provide this great program at Nottingham. Contact Sue Budd at suebudd19@gmail.com with any questions about volunteering to coach.

Update Your PTA Account!

You've already got a PTA account (or you wouldn't have received this newsletter). Please go to www.nespta.org and update your PTA account with your child's class assignment for the new school year. While you are there, you can join the PTA, pay the bulk supply fee, make a donation and/or let us know where you are interested in helping out this school year.

If you're having trouble logging in, contact the [webmaster](#) for assistance.

Order Nottingham Spiritwear thru September 30!

The Nottingham spiritwear web store will only be open thru through September 30. Visit the [Nottingham Spiritwear Web Store](#) to check out all of the options and place your order now!

Visit <http://www.selectspiritwear.com/> and click on Nottingham in the left column. If online ordering is a problem, please contact webmaster@nespta.org.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Get More Involved at Nottingham This Year!

Current Committee Chair Vacancies:

Yearbook: Are you a photographer? Do you simply just take a lot of pictures? Are you interested in making sure your Knight has the most memorable yearbook possible? Then this is the committee to chair. Be a part of the yearbook and help make sure our Knights have memories to last a lifetime!

Room Parents Needed:

Volunteers are needed to be room parents in each classroom. We need one or two volunteers per classroom. The responsibilities of room parents vary slightly from class to class, however room parents are typically responsible for helping both the teacher and PTA communicate with families, helping teachers plan class parties and celebrations, and coordinating class t-shirts, classroom help and class gift giving. Plan to attend the room parent orientation on September 25.

Please [register](#) or [renew](#) your NESPTA account at www.nespta.org and sign up as a volunteer for any combination of activities. If you have questions please contact Rena Cutlip-Mason at vp2@nespta.org.

COMMUNITY NEWS

- **SEPTA Ice Cream Social and Extra-Curricular Activities Fair**

Arlington Special Education PTA (SEPTA) serves students, families and staff across all of Arlington Public Schools. SEPTA helps parents of children with special needs learn how to work with the special education teachers and other specialists who educate their children, understand the system of special education and their rights under the law, connect with, and support other parents.

All interested families are invited to attend the upcoming SEPTA Ice Cream Social and Extra-Curricular Activities Fair on September 16, 2018 from 3-5pm at the [Arlington Mill Community Center](#). [Families need to RSVP for this event](#). For additional information, visit www.arlingtonsepta.org or contact info@arlingtonsepta.org.

- **Tackling Arlington's Child Care Challenges**

The Arlington County Child Care Initiative is working to promote the development of an inclusive, integrated child care system that effectively serves all Arlington County families, with a priority focus on vulnerable populations. The CCI would like community feedback on possible changes to the local child care codes and Zoning Ordinance. CCI is also looking for input on a variety of topics, including increasing the maximum number of children from

nine to 12 in family day care homes and eliminating or adjusting the use permit requirement.

The meeting will be held at the Department of Human Services Building (2100 Washington Blvd.) on September 17 at 7pm. Plan to arrive at 6:30pm to review materials. Child Care is available, but those with childcare needs must RSVP to to cci@arlingtonva.usby September 13 for this free service for kids 3 and older.

- Contact cci@arlingtonva.us with questions. More information is available at <https://commissions.arlingtonva.us/child-care-initiative/>
- **Join Cub Scouts**
Cub Scout Pack 2473 is recruiting boys currently in grades 1-5. We offer exciting, outdoor-oriented parent-son activities that engage boys in a positive and active way. We are holding an information session for potential new scouts on Thursday, September 20, at 7pm at Discovery Elementary School (Dining Commons). Sign up online: <https://my.bsa.us/082paa2473mb>. For more information, please contact Brian O'Leary (pb.ol@verizon.net).
- **Parent Resource Center Presents 2nd Annual Dyslexia Conference**
The 2nd Annual Dyslexia Conference will be held on Saturday, October 13, 2018 from 8:15am–2pm at Kenmore Middle School. Staff, families and students will be able to attend hour-long sessions on a variety of topics related to Dyslexia as well as ADHD. For more information contact the [Parent Resource Center](#) at 703-228-7239 or email emma.parralsanchez@apsva.us.
- **The 4th Annual Boys and Girls Basketball Clinic at Yorktown**
The clinic is for 2nd-8th grade boys and girls, ages 7-14, and is being held on Saturday, October 20th. This is an APS school-approved fundraiser, all the money goes back into the YHS Boys and Girls Basketball Program to help pay for equipment, apparel, food, and team building activities. Both the boys and girls basketball players will be volunteering their time in order to continue to build the basketball program at YHS. [Register online](#) and pay the day of the event.
 - Boys Clinic 9am-12pm
 - Girls Clinic 12pm-3pm
 - Cost: \$40 per player or \$35 sibling/team discount
 - T-shirt included
 - 45 minute coaching session with YHS Varsity Basketball Coaches, Joe Reed and Devaughn Drayton.

Please send newsletter submissions to newsletter@nespta.org by 7pm on Sundays.