

Nottingham Knightly News

September 18, 2018

Important Dates

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	Bike and Walk to School Day
10 October, Wednesday	Early Release, 1:26 PM
15-19 October	Book Fair, Library
25 October, Thursday	Parent Teacher Conferences, Early Release
26 October, Friday	Parent Teacher Conferences, NO SCHOOL
31 October, Wednesday	Halloween Parade

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.

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

I hope everyone is looking forward to the sunny weather. Today we completed our Naglieri testing in grade 2. Schoolwide we completed our first lockdown drill with much success. Four APD officers were here to help support the drill. We will have two more fire drills and one more lockdown drill before the end of the month.

Announcements, Reminders and Updates

Reminder... 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>

Reminder...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.

Reminder...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.**

Reminder...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.

Reminder... Did you know that **October is Bully Prevention Month**? Throughout the month, our counselors, **Mark Jones and Kellynne 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 Kellynne for more information.

Reminder...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:

- This 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.

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. 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

It was very nice to see so many parents last week at Back to School Night. I, like you, met my children’s teachers, learned about their classrooms and have a general understanding of what to expect in the year ahead.

Thank you to those who attended our first PTA meeting and approved our budget. Now we can get this show on the road!

A room parent orientation will be on Tuesday, September 25 at 7:00 pm in the Nottingham Library. If you have volunteered (or plan to volunteer) to be a room parent or are curious about the responsibilities of becoming a room parent, please come to learn more.

There are a few volunteers holes we are trying to fill...namely yearbook and ASSISTANT WEBMASTER. Apologies for shouting, but The Other Stacey could really use some company maintaining our website. This is something you can do from the quiet of your own home or office and on your own schedule. You can reach out to her at communications@nespta.org with any questions about time commitment and/or the level of expertise needed (slim to none) to help her. Pretty, please....

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

Thank you,

Stacy Rosenthal
PTA President 2018-19

SCHOOL NEWS & EVENTS

Odyssey of the Mind Team

October 2: Information Session at the PTA meeting

October 19: Sign-Up Deadline

[ODYSSEY OF THE MIND](#) is an international educational program that provides creative problem-solving opportunities for students from kindergarten through college. Teams of 5-7 students apply their creativity and work together to solve problems that range from building mechanical devices to presenting their own interpretation of literary classics. They then bring Their “solutions” (devices and performances) to competition at the regional, state, and world level. Team members must generate all ideas and carry out those ideas themselves without parental help.

To sign up for one of Nottingham's Odyssey teams, please click [here](#). You can find the 2019 problem synopses [here](#).

****Before you register your student and/or volunteer to be a coach/judge make sure you are available on Saturday, March 9, 2019 to participate in the Regional Meet!***

QUESTIONS? Please come to the PTA meeting on October 2, 2018, or contact Rena Cutlip-Mason, and Jim Wisniewski, Nottingham's Odyssey of the Mind Co-Chairs, at odyssey@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.

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!

Remember, events and programs without chairs will NOT occur this year.

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!

Committee Vacancies

There are committees behind each of the [Nottingham PTA programs, activities and events](#). There's something for every interest and level of commitment. **Please [register](#) or [renew](#) your NESPTA account at nespta.org and sign up as a volunteer for any combination of activities.** Make sure you have completed the [volunteer preference survey](#) for this year.

Room Parents

Please join us for Room Parent Orientation on **Tuesday, September 25 at 7:00pm** in the Nottingham library if you have volunteered (or would like to learn more before volunteering) to be a room parent.

If you have questions about volunteering in any capacity, please contact Rena Cutlip-Mason at vp2@nespta.org.

COMMUNITY NEWS

- Cub Scouts Info Session @ Discovery Elementary on Thurs., Sept 20**
 Cub Scout Pack 2473 is recruiting boys currently in grades 1-5, offering exciting, outdoor-oriented parent-son activities that engage boys in a positive and active way. Pack 2473 covers all of the Nottingham attendance zone, as well as 50% of the Discovery attendance zone. **There will be 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 at 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 20, 2018**. 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.
- SOS: Suicide Prevention Parent Session**
 Join us and be part of our community's suicide prevention efforts on **Thursday, September 27 from 7:00-9:00PM** (*Syphax Education Center, 2110 Washington Boulevard, 4th Floor, Room 454*). Together we will learn about the **SOS Signs of Suicide** program that will be introduced in our middle and high schools this year, and watch *Training Trusted Adults*— a companion video designed to engage staff, parents and community members in the program's objectives and prevention efforts. Participants will learn about protective factors that keep kids safe, and will have an opportunity to interact with panelists to learn more about school, community and county resources.
Language interpretation is available upon request. Please submit requests by September 21 via the registration link below, or by contacting the Parent Resource Center at 703-228-7239. **Registration is required.** [Register online](#), or contact the Parent Resource Center at 703-228-7239.

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