

Nottingham Knightly News

September 25, 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
5 October, Friday	Gifted Services Overview Presentation
8 October, Monday	Professional Learning Day NO SCHOOL, 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, 2:15 PM

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

Rain, rain go away! We are looking forward to some clearer weather in the coming days. We are providing towels to staff to dry off playground equipment as best we can and are sending students outside to play as much as possible. Please encourage your child(ren) to wear or have weather appropriate clothing so they can play outside.

Things are up and running smoothly. I've had the chance to go in a read to many classes and look forward to getting to them all in the next few weeks. Some of you have asked questions about "Knights Block". We have taken "Knight's Block" off the master schedule, and have given that intervention time back to

classroom teachers so that more flexible grouping and opportunities for advanced content are offered to all our learners. I'll talk more about it at the October PTA meeting.

Eileen

Kudos and Appreciation

Thank you to all of our **5th grade parent volunteers** to coming to the **Outdoor Lab!** It was a lot of fun! Also, thank you **Tanya and Kevin Campbell** for updating our bulletin boards. They look great!

Announcements, Reminders and Updates

From the **counseling department...** Our full-time school counselor, **Mark Jones**, will begin offering periodic parent coffees to discuss specific topics relating to social and emotional learning. The first will be held in the school's office conference room on **Wednesday, October 17 from 8:10-8:45 AM** the topic will be Helping Children Solve Peer Conflicts. Mr. Jones will talk for the first 10-15 minutes to offer practical tips. Parents can then ask questions and share experiences as a group share thoughts on how best to support their child. Attendance limited to 13 parents. Please sign up using the following link <https://goo.gl/forms/EzQTclDGBvw8PJFV2>. If you are interested in attending a similar event for the afternoon, please email Mr. Jones so he can gauge interest for a 5:00 p.m. tea-time discussion group. mark.jones2@apsva.us

Walk Bike to School Day is set for, Wednesday, October 10. In order to give all students the opportunity to walk or cycle to school on that day, we encourage **everyone to participate**. We are working with transportation to identify a safe drop off point for bus riders as well. Stay tuned for more information. <http://www.walkbiketoschool.org>. It should be fun. Please contact **Nora Ellison** in the main office, at 703-228-5290, if you can help us out.

Each year, Americans observe **National Hispanic Heritage Month** from **September 15 to October 15**, by celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from **Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America**. The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15 and ending on October 15. It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988, on the approval of Public Law 100-402. The day of September 15 is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively. Also, Columbus Day or Día de la Raza, which is October 12, falls within this 30-day period. (<https://hispanicheritagemonth.gov/about/>)

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.

From the PTA President

I hope everyone is doing their best to stay dry and come up with some fun and engaging rain activities...I'm all out!

A reminder that a room parent orientation will be tonight, 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.

Our next PTA meeting will be on Tuesday, October 2 at 7:00pm in the Nottingham Library. I will be there at 6:30 pm for an informal question and answer session and the meeting will start at 7:00 pm. The majority of our agenda will be devoted to Dr. Gardner, her vision and goals for her first year and future years at Nottingham. If you have not had the opportunity to meet her in person yet, please come to our meeting and learn more. A reminder that childcare is provided during PTA meetings.

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.

LAST CALL!_ 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.

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.

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

- **SEPTA Mini-Grant Applications are due Sept. 28**
Grants up to \$500 for APS teachers and staff working with students with an IEP or 504 to help enhance the education of students receiving special education services. Learn more about this opportunity at [.arlingtonsepta.org/mini-grants/](http://arlingtonsepta.org/mini-grants/).
- **Nottingham Brownie Troop Has Space for More Third Grade Girls**
Do you have a Third Grade girl who is interested in Girl Scouting? Brownie Troop 60108 has space for a few additional third grade girls. If interested, please contact [Saima Khan](#) or [Meghan Sullivan](#).

- **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.

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