

Nottingham Knightly News

January 28, 2020

From the Principal

Check out the [PTA Newsletter](#).

What a great turn out and fun time we had at Friday's Sock Hop! Thank you **Laurie Sinton, Amy Balkema** and all our volunteers for helping make it a great success.

Congratulations to all our Reflections winners who were honored at W-L last week.

Dismissal: We're going to try something new during dismissal as a means of relieving congestion in the halls. Walkers in grades 3-5 will be dismissed first. Bus riders will then be dismissed. Followed by all students in Extended Day (Pre-K- 5). Finally, students who are walkers in grades Pre-K- 2 will be dismissed to meet their parents at the regularly scheduled locations. This will go into effect on **Monday, February 3, 2020**.

This week, Nottingham kicked off its school-wide **Random Acts of Kindness Week** that continues through **Thursday, January 30**. All students will be challenged to go above and beyond their usual kindness and perform various random acts of kindness throughout the week. There will be class discussions about what kindness means and how kindness impacts us all. Some classes will read books on the topic. The lower grades (K-2nd) will get bingo boards with suggestions for how to be kind. The upper grades will get a paper with a list of ideas to inspire them. We also encourage you to participate as a family and the link below provides you with ideas. There are no prizes, it is not a competition. It is just for fun and to help us all to be a little bit more focused and purposeful in being kind to one another. Link: <https://nottingham.apsva.us/kindness-challenge-for-families/>

Did you know we just started a relationship with a Matuwa Primary School in Uganda? **Arlington Academy of Hope** and Nottingham ES are now working together to build a relationship with student's from across the globe!

HOW DOES THIS IMPACT YOUR CHILD? Thanks to Ms. Hubbard (2nd Grade), Ms. Aronson (2nd Grade), Mark Jones (Counselor) & Mardi Moorman (Admin Front Office), we have ALREADY had hundreds of our students write letters to hundreds of Matuwa students to begin a relationship full of learning and friendships.

- We also put together a suitcase full of wonderful things to share about our kids and Nottingham (see pictures!). We sent over the handwritten letters from your children, 40 books, Math & Clock Games, Breathing Exercise Ball, Seashells from the Beach, Handouts about Nottingham ES, Nottingham T-Shirt and Recess Games.

AAH STORY: After winning a State Department diversity lottery visa, Joyce and John Wanda moved from Uganda to the U.S. in June, 1995, and settled in Arlington, VA. Witnessing the impressive learning experiences of their children in Arlington Public Schools, John and Joyce were inspired to provide a similar education for children in their native villages. Less than 1% of Ugandans graduate from a university, as John and Joyce had, and they both knew how rocky and pot-holed the road to such success was. Read more here [Arlington Academy of Hope](#).

ABOUT MATUWA PRIMARY SCHOOL: This is a brand new primary school that was recently built (continues to be built) to educate more children in the region. Please see the video that shows the raising of the 2 flags and the new school! This school will support up to 500 Students now. Ms. Aronson is visiting on Spring Break and will learn more about the school and give us a full briefing on how we can continue to make connections.

Please reach out to Megan Roe @Megan S Roe if you are interested in: **VOLUNTEERING** or **SPONSORING A CHILD**.

VERY IMPORTANT! You should have received an email about this year's **Your Voice Matters Survey**, taken every two years by parents, staff and students. We would love to hear from ALL of you. The survey will be administered **Jan. 13 through Feb. 28** to APS families, students in grades 4-12, staff and teachers to gain insight on topics such as school and community climate, well-being, and engagement. Please take a few moments to check your email and complete this very valuable survey. For more information about the survey, please visit https://www.apsva.us/engage/your-voice-matters-survey-2020/?utm_swu=5867

As you begin to make plans for this summer, please note the changes that have been made to the APS Summer School Program for 2020. This year, in order to make the best use of available staff and resources, and to serve the students of greatest need, APS will no longer be able to offer elementary summer enrichment programs, including: Global Village Summit, Fun with Coding, Math Academy and Summer Laureate. Outdoor Lab sessions will continue for elementary and middle school students. APS is working closely with the Arlington County Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to identify similar offerings and will communicate comparable camp providers through a follow-up School Talk message in early February, prior to the DPR summer camp registration. Arlington County offers fee reductions for eligible students, making these options comparable in price to APS offerings. DPR summer camp registration begins on February 12 at 7 a.m. Lots of fun and enriching experiences for your student, with reduced fees as needed. Don't wait to sign up for a camp until you hear if your student is referred to APS summer school. Spots fill quickly. Students who are referred to APS Summer School and must cancel a camp in conflict with APS Summer School can notify DPR by Monday, March 16 to get a full refund. All other cancelations follow DPR Cancellation Policy. The APS Summer Strengthening Program, which runs July 6-31, will continue to be offered for elementary students who meet specific eligibility requirements

established by the Department of Teaching and Learning. Enrollment is by teacher and principal recommendation only for students who are at least one grade-level below in reading and/or math. Eligible students will be notified during Parent-Teacher conferences on March 5-6. A letter will also be mailed to families indicating student eligibility. Lastly, the make-up and strengthening fee for all programs, PreK-12, will be \$150. Students who currently receive free or reduced-price meals will continue to pay \$56 for summer classes, and students who receive Extended School Year services, may attend free of charge. The 2020 Secondary Enrichment fees and New Work for Credit fees will remain the same as in 2019. These changes were presented by APS staff and approved by the School Board at the December 19 meeting. The full presentation is available online on BoardDocs. I hope that this notice helps you plan accordingly. I also encourage you to participate in the [APS Summer Activities Fair on Friday, February 7](#). This is a great way to learn about the many academic and arts programs, sports camps and other offerings available for the summer. Additional resources are provided below. Please contact the Summer School Office by phone at 703-228-7645 or by email at summerschool@apsva.us, if you need additional assistance.

Mark your calendar for **SEPTA's Summer Camp and Activities Fair!** It will take place on Saturday, January 25, from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM, at the Walter Reed Community Center, 2909 16th Street, South, Arlington VA. Please RSVP at <https://forms.gle/f1Gr8PbuBxX9U6Ju7>. The 2020 Summer Camp and Activities Fair will feature many vendors from the VA/MD/DC area who provide summer camps, inclusion and adapted activities, therapies, groups, and special events. Refreshments and activities will be available for the kids.

The Arlington School Board is **seeking community input** through an online survey to help shape search criteria for the **next superintendent**. The survey is now open on the [APS Engage webpage](#). To participate, select one of the languages below:

- English - [click here](#)
- Amharic - [click here](#)
- Arabic - [click here](#)
- Mongolian - [click here](#)
- Spanish - [click here](#)

The brief, anonymous survey is **open through midnight on Sunday, Feb. 2**, for all members of the school community, including parents, staff, teachers, students, business partners and residents. The survey is being conducted in partnership with BWP & Associates (BWP), the executive search firm selected to advise the School Board on the search. To ensure the integrity and validity of the insights collected, BWP will:

- Thoroughly review responses to ensure participants have taken the survey one time only.

- Provide a means within the survey for participants to express additional, candid feedback for inclusion in the final report.

Information received will be presented to the Board, along with a draft profile of leadership characteristics for the next superintendent, by BWP at the February 6 School Board meeting.

Those interested in contributing to the search may complete the survey in any one of five available languages, either online or by hard copy, by requesting a paper copy from their school or the School Board Office (Syphax Education Building, 2110 Washington Blvd).

Community Forums and Focus Groups Additionally, BWP will conduct a series of meetings and open Community Forums this week. All members of the school community are encouraged to participate in one of the following:

- Wednesday, January 22 at 7 p.m. (Spanish), Kenmore Middle School, 200 S. Carlin Springs Road, Black Box Theater
- Wednesday, January 22 at 7 p.m., Washington-Liberty High School, 1301 N. Stafford Street, Cafeteria
- Saturday, January 25 at 10 a.m., Wakefield High School, 1325 S. Dinwiddie Street, Cafeteria
- Saturday January 25 at 10 a.m., Dorothy Hamm Middle School, 4100 Vacation Lane, Cafeteria

The School Board's goal is to have the next superintendent in place by this spring. A full search timeline and other details can be also be found [here](#).

Grade 5 families will learn the results of the option program lottery on Friday, February 7. H-B Woodlawn will then host the rising McKinley 6th graders on Tuesday, February 12. Parents will need to provide their own transportation to HBW, and will drop students off at 1601 Wilson at 9:15 and pick their student up at 3:30. More details can be found on our web site at <https://hbwoodlawn.apsva.us/all-about-h-b-woodlawn/admission-to-h-b-woodlawn/information-students-accepted-lottery-2/>.

Thanks,

Eileen

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

Important Dates

27 January, Monday	Kindergarten Information Night, 7:00PM
30 January, Thursday	Instrumental Music Concert, 7:00PM
31 January, Friday	Grade Prep Day, No School for Students
4 February, Tuesday	PTA Meeting, 7:00PM
12 February, Wednesday	Early Release, 1:26PM
13 February, Thursday	School Information Session (new families) 12:45 PM
17 February, Monday	President's Day – No School
18 May- 17 June	SOL Window

2019-20 Early Release Dates: February 12, March 11, June 3, June 10. Students will be dismissed at **1:26PM**.

2019-20 Parent Teacher Conference Dates: March 5-6

Remember, second quarter **standards-based report cards** will be available online on **Wednesday, February 19**. Kindergarten families will receive the first standards-based report cards on this date as well.

Reminders

We will kick-off our **African American History Month** on February 1. Come in and check out our interactive bulletin board to learn more about the amazing contributions from key African American leaders.

This is a call for entries to Arlington Student FilmFest 2020. If you have students making short films in your school, help them submit to ASFF 2020. Submission is free. Students must be enrolled in an Arlington Public School to enter. Submission deadline is April 1, 2020 at 11:59pm. Here is a link to the Google Site with FAQs and the SUBMIT FILMS BUTTON: <https://sites.google.com/view/arlingtonstudentfilmfest/home> Keep Making Films!

Middle School Information...For information about middle school options and transfers, and to access the video and PowerPoint presentation from Middle School Information Night (held on October 28th), visit the following webpage: [Middle School Information](#). The School Board timeframe to apply for a different middle school option: **November 4th - January 17th**

Middle School Information Sessions:

Williamsburg: January 13th, 7 pm

Swanson: January 16th, 7 pm

Kenmore: January 8th, 7 pm

Jefferson: January 9th, 7 pm

Gunston: January 15th, 7pm (English); January 21st, 7 pm (Spanish)

Dorothy Hamm: January 23rd, 7 pm

Arlington Public Schools is now accepting applications for secondary option schools and programs until Friday, January 17, 2020, at 4 p.m. The process for applying to secondary option schools and programs is available on the [school options webpage](#). As a reminder, all families will need to apply for the option schools or programs they are interested in every year to be included in the lottery because waitlists reset annually after the lottery occurs. Families interested in applying to a secondary option school or program should complete an application through the [online application portal](#).

The following is the option schools and programs application process timeline:

January 17, 2020: The Secondary Options application closes.

January 29, 2020: Lotteries for all secondary options and transfers applications will be held at the APS Welcome Center.

February 7, 2020: Families will be notified of their acceptance or placement on the waitlist.

February 21, 2020: Families must confirm or decline attendance to a school or program.

As a reminder, the availability of secondary neighborhood transfers will be announced to families on Feb. 3, 2020. If there is availability for neighborhood transfers, families will be able to apply for a neighborhood transfer to another neighborhood secondary school between Feb. 24, 2020 – March 16, 2020.

For additional information or questions about secondary option schools or programs, please contact the APS Welcome Center at 703-228-8000 or schooloptions@apsva.us.

Learning Lab is here! On **Tuesdays from 3:45-4:45** in the library, students who need some extra support or homework help can drop by and work with our teachers. If you would like to enroll your child in this drop-in support program, please use the link below to register. bit.ly/learninglabregister

Nottingham's **counseling department** will be starting a new round of counseling groups in January. If you would like to have your child/student in a group, please complete the google form below. Groups are for K through 5 students, with meetings during lunch once a week for 3rd - 5th graders, and other times of the day for K-2nd students. Additional information and potential counseling topics are included in the form. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Jones at mark.jones2@apsva.us.
<https://forms.gle/TjEdEf5DUUmfilM3A>

Read To Succeed is a free program that allows students in grades K-6 to earn tickets to **Six Flags America** just by reading six hours for fun. Get ahead by reading over the winter break! **All Entries are due by April 14, 2020.**

Here is how your child can earn a free ticket to Six Flags:

1) Register this fall using this link: Visit: sixflags.com/books

Use Nottingham Elementary's code: **CVQG1**

2) Your child may read any books they choose.

3) Keep track of your child's reading using the form below.

4) Record your child's reading at our website.

5) Receive a free Six Flags America ticket from Nottingham Elementary in May.

PLEASE REMEMBER... **There's no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothing.**

We go out for recess unless it's really raining or if there's a weather advisory. **We do not have staffing to accommodate students who are underprepared to go outside.**

Please ensure your child is dressed for all kinds of weather. The APS Winter Weather Procedures can be found here

<https://www.apsva.us/post/get-ready-for-winter-weather-2/>

APS encourages families, staff and students to review the APS Winter Weather Procedures for closings, delayed openings and early dismissals. **Visit the "Emergency Alerts" page** on the APS website to learn more about how decisions are made, when they are announced, what each decision means and how decisions impact school activities and services. Information includes Frequently Asked Questions and two quick-reference

guides. If you would like to receive text messages and alerts, you can opt-in by texting YES to 67587. **More details can be found online.**

Do you have a teen looking for an exciting summer opportunity? The **Arlington Academy of Hope** has announced the dates of their annual teen service trip to Uganda this summer: **July 17 – August 5**. It is limited to 12 teenagers looking to volunteer abroad with AAH's impactful schools and health clinics on this chaperoned trip. It also includes the chance to cross off some amazing bucket list adventures: going on safari and visiting the source of the Nile River! If you know of any teens (aged 14 – 18) who would take this incredible opportunity seriously and want to join AAH this summer, please forward along the attached PDF to them! We welcome any and all Nottingham alum and friends to join us! Spots are beginning to fill, so act quickly. Visit AAHUganda.org for more information and to join us on January 19 for an information session of the home of AAH founders John and Joyce Wanda. See these attachments for more information as well.