

Nottingham Knightly News

May 5, 2020

Dear Nottingham Families,

Please join me in thanking our staff during **Teacher Appreciation Week!** The PTA generously gave our teachers online gift cards. I honestly could not imagine getting through these challenging months without their care, collaboration and dedication to making the most of it. We have an outstanding staff and I am truly grateful for each and every one of them. Thank you!

The **OPEN National Field Day is this Friday, May 8!** Don't forget to join us for a fun, physically active program. Thanks Mr. Giusto and Ms. Pugh for helping us link up with this fantastic event.

Remember, you can thank our teachers in lots of ways, including our webpage, Twitter and email. Another way to appreciate our staff is to **Thank A Teacher!** For the fifth year, the Virginia Lottery is encouraging students, parents and the general public to send [thank you notes](#) to Virginia's deserving public school teachers during National Teacher Appreciation Week, May 4 – 8. Your favorite teacher could win a Virginia vacation and prizes for your school! Make your favorite teacher smile with a digital thank-you note featuring custom artwork by the three student art contest winners.

We have reason to celebrate! Please read the following message from the amazingly kind and wonderful **Bobbie Pugh.**

[Nottingham Families \(1\).pdf](#)

Each week APS is broadcasting K-2 lessons called **"At Home with APS"** which include Social Emotional Learning, as well. These lessons can be watched on Comcast Xfinity Channel 70/1090 and Verizon FiOS Channel 41. They will air Monday through Friday from 10-10:30,

2-2:30, 5-5:30, and 7-7:30.

VA TV Classroom will air

"Learn to Grow with WHRO" for students in grades K-2. They will broadcast on WETA PBS kids via antenna 26.3, Comcast 266, Cox 801, Verizon FiOS 472, and RCN 38 each day from 1 to 2.

First, APS

Department of Teaching and Learning staff are in the midst of contingency planning for the rest of the school year, the possibility of summer school, and the return to school and meeting the emotional needs of our students when they do. Additionally, they are looking at coverage of content when we do return. The Nottingham staff awaits guidance from these folks and we look forward to students returning. Relative to this, information will follow on our Rising Grade Level Parent Orientations. Also, the teacher selection process is complicated and classroom teachers will make sure appropriate placement decisions take place. Please refrain from making teacher requests.

The School Board will hold a Work Session and a Public Hearing on the School Board's Proposed **FY**

2021 Budget tonight from 5-7 PM. It can be [viewed live online](#). The Public Hearing will begin at 7 PM, right after the Work Session, and can be [viewed live online](#). There are several ways for community members to [share their input with the School Board](#). The School Board is scheduled to take action on the FY 2021 budget at its May 7 meeting, which will begin at 7 PM, and can be [viewed live online](#) and on Comcast Cable Channel 70 and Verizon FiOS Channel 41. For up-to-date information on School Board meetings and work sessions, visit www.apsva.us/school-board-meetings/. We hope you have continued good health! Please continue to reach out as needed.

Thanks,

Eileen

From Our Student Support Staff

We are all trying to find ways to cope with these new challenges of being home so much. Hopefully, one benefit of time at home is being able to share conversations at family meals. To spark dialogues that focus on strengths, assets and skills, consider having everyone at the table answer some of these questions:

- What quality would you like to be known for when schools reopen?
- What is the best compliment you have received?
- When you are having a hard day, what 3 things help you?
- Imagine you are talking to your 5 year-old self. What is the best advice you could give about handling difficulties?
- What strength of yours helps you get through this spring?

- What is something new you would like to learn?
- What is your favorite family memory?
- Imagine you wake up tomorrow and things start to go really well for you. What will you notice?
- Suppose you received an award for one of your best qualities. What would it be for?
- What would your friends say is the best thing about you?
- Whom do you admire? Why? How are you like them?

Let's imagine we all go in a time machine and travel one year into the future. Looking back to this present time, what is something you are proud of in

- how you handled yourself? What is a new skill you are glad you put the effort into learning?

Reminders

Remember to check out our updated

[Nottingham](#)

[Remote Learning Page!](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#), and [meal service information](#) are available there. If you have additional questions, please feel free to reach out directly. Information about how to find out what our art, music, FLES and PE staff are up to can also be found there.

From Ms. Pugh and Mr. Giusto

We're excited to announce that our school community will be participating in the

OPEN National Field Day event on **Friday, May 8th!**

Field Day is an important tradition at our school. It is a significant day for our students and our staff, and we feel that in these incredibly challenging

times this national event is a unique way that we can stay connected as a community and support one another in a fun and meaningful way.

OPEN (Online Physical Education Network) is a national public service organization that provides curriculum and training support to more than 90,000 teachers in all 50 states. We will be using their resources and social media network to help us organize our school's participation in #NationalFieldDay.

All #NationalFieldDay events are designed to be done indoors or outdoors using common household items. You won't be asked to purchase any specialized equipment or supplies.

Here's how it will work:

- Our school is now registered as a participant in this event. Families can choose to register as well, **but it's not a requirement.**
- All info will be sent out on the **Physical Education Department Seesaw account** for each class.

If you are having difficulty accessing it on Seesaw, the event website is

- www.openphysed.org/nationalfieldday.

As a part of registration, we will receive Field Day Friday email updates each week with new resources that we will share with you.

-
- You can also find updates via social media using #NationalFieldDay.

From May 3 thru 7, we will follow #NationalFieldDay and watch the Field Day Torch travel across the country in preparation for the main

- event.

On May 8, our entire school will participate in events, complete an official score card,

- share photos and videos through twitter (@nottinghampe), and participate nationally on social media using #NationalFieldDay.

After the event, your student can submit their scorecard via Physical Education Seesaw account, or you can email it to Mr. Giusto and

- Ms. Pugh.

We will continue to send you weekly updates on this fun and festive event. We appreciate your cooperation and are hopeful that your entire family will

use it as a fun and meaningful way to be physically active together and with our entire school community.

Stay well,

Ms. Pugh and Mr. Giusto

Elementary Option Deadline: APS has extended the timeline for Elementary Options and Primary Montessori Options by one week to ensure that all interested families have the opportunity to apply.

- May 6: Lottery
- May 13 (after 4pm): Notification to families
- May 22 (11:59pm): Families must accept/ decline spot

If you are looking for a way to help the Arlington community, please consider food, cleaning supplies, toilet paper or

monetary donations to [AFAC](#), which is supporting many families during this time. You can donate in person or online and they are looking for additional support.

If you have questions about APS operations during the closure or about the learning plans? Please email

engage@apsva.us.

For our 5th Grade Families

I have been in touch with Renee Harber, Principal at Swanson and Bryan Boykin, Principal at Williamsburg.

Rising 6th graders at both schools will be scheduled on one of three 6th grade teams. The teams will provide students a smaller, sheltered environment to aid in the adjustment to the

middle school model. The team model provides 5 core teachers. As well, a grade level administrator and counselor will transition with students through their three years. They find this positively supports students' academic and social adjustment throughout

the middle school years. They understand that our 5th grade orientation visits were canceled with the closure of schools. Depending upon facility availability and operations, they still plan to hold three summer orientation sessions in July and August. They also plan to hold the Open House the Thursday (TBD) prior to the opening of school this fall. They are not addressing placement questions (Math) at this time, as they are awaiting further guidance from the Department of Teaching and Learning. I encourage you to visit the respective school websites more information on the school and all its bells and whistles. Finally, both Williamsburg and Swanson recognize the anxiety that the middle school transition can present, especially given our present circumstances. Please reach out as needed with anything you may need.

Swanson:

- Renee Harber, Principal
- Rana Luthra, Director of Counseling

- Swanson website: <https://swanson.apsva.us/>

Williamsburg:

- Bryan Boykin, Principal
- Dr. Latisha Ellis, 6th Grade Assistant Principal
- Gretchen Brenckle, 6th Grade Counselor
- Williamsburg website: <https://williamsburg.apsva.us/>

Here's the

[Williamsburg Student Services Newsletter](#) for those who are interested.