

Nottingham Knightly News

February 2, 2021

Dear Nottingham Families,

Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow this morning. Let's hunker down for six more weeks of winter! I hope you all have had some time to play in the snow. Please be careful when sledding at Nottingham. Parks and Recreation has fenced off a large section of the field in order to plant grass seeds. To the best of your ability, please avoid that area. Thank you!

Let's celebrate APS school counselors this week during **National School Counseling Week 2021**. The week's theme, "School Counselors: All in for All Students," focuses attention on the important contribution of school counselors in helping students achieve success. APS has 128 school counselors working across the division to support and advise students in the areas of academics, social-emotional learning and career planning. **Thank you, Mark Jones, counselor extraordinaire**, for all you do to support staff, students and families. We'd be lost without you.

Music and Art Supplies: Students in grades **K-2** need to pick up their Rhythm Sticks for music class. These will be available in a bin outside during library distribution from 3:30-6 on Thursdays. Students in grades **Pre-K through 5** need to pick up their oil pastels for art. These will also be available in a bin outside during library distribution. If you are unable to come on Thursdays to get these items, you can stop by the school Tuesday through Friday and we'll help you get what you need. [\[GE1\]](#)

Be sure to visit our Nottingham PTA website for updates, [newsletters](#) and other information. Our next **PTA meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 2 at 7:00PM**. Use this link to join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89995922706>

Some upcoming dates:

- February 2, Tuesday PTA Meeting – Presenter, Mark Jones
- February 5, Friday **Early early release (11:25AM)**
- February 12, Friday Virtual Dance Party
- February 15, Monday President's Day – No School for Students
- February 22, Monday Nottingham School Information Session
- February 25, Thursday Early Release – Parent-Teacher Conferences
- February 26, Friday Parent-Teacher Conferences

Thanks,

Eileen

Reminders

Directories are here! Please stop by and grab your Nottingham PTA Directory from the **bin in the front of the school.**

Please see the January 18 email from the assistant superintendent of teaching and learning for information on the concurrent model for grades 3-5. Based on that message, students in grade 3-5 will participate in the **concurrent instructional model**, similar to the model adopted for secondary students. In the concurrent model, teachers will instruct both groups of students – those attending school in person, and those participating online – simultaneously. To accommodate training for this model and other professional learning for elementary teachers and staff, **Friday, February 5 will be an early release day for all elementary students.** Thank you for your continued patience and cooperation as we work to navigate these changes. We will **communicate any changes to teacher assignments two weeks prior to student return dates**, once they are announced. Again, it is our ultimate goal to limit changes to our classroom groups and to keep learners with their current teachers. I apologize in advance if this does not work for every student.

Our **Nottingham School Information Session for Kindergarten and New Families will be held on Monday, February 22 at 9:00AM** (virtually). Please encourage our new families to attend. We welcome anyone who would like to hear more about our typical instructional program to attend. We will not address return to school questions at this time.

Winter Weather Procedures. In the event of a change in our operating status due to weather, APS will alert all staff and families by 6 p.m. the evening before, with any morning updates communicated by 5 a.m. **Distance Learning will continue for all students during inclement weather events providing there is no interruption in power or network connectivity. In the event schools and facilities need to close due to an inclement weather event, Level 1 students attending school in-person would temporarily revert to Distance Learning.** Distance Learning will follow the normal schedule during inclement weather, with asynchronous instruction on Mondays and synchronous instruction on Tuesday through Friday. It is possible that a major storm causing a power or network outage may require us to cancel distance learning and call an official “snow day.” APS will follow our inclement weather protocols on deciding if other school-based activities, such as meal services, in-person learning support or athletic practices can continue, and will keep you updated through School Talk messages, social media, text alerts, local media, and our website.

Teachers will take attendance each day. As a reminder, we begin each day at 9:00 AM and conclude at 2:20 PM. Additionally, you are encouraged to email our **Attendance Line** (**attendance.ntm@groups.apsva.us**) when an absence is unexpected and prearranged

notification was not possible. 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, connection issues while in virtual learning, and severe family emergencies. We need to note other absences as unexcused. Finally, we will contact families when a student has two absences or when absences, tardiness and early departures begin to accumulate.