

# Nottingham Knightly News

October 2, 2018

## Important Dates

2 October, Tuesday	PTA Meeting, 7:00 PM
5 October, Friday	Gifted Services Overview Presentation
8 October, Monday	Professional Learning Day <b>NO SCHOOL, STUDENTS</b>
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
19 October, Friday	Principal's Coffee, Special Education, 9:15AM
25 October, Thursday	Parent /Teacher Conferences, <b>Early Release</b>
26 October, Friday	Parent Teacher Conferences, <b>NO SCHOOL</b>
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](http://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

Tonight is our **PTA meeting at 7PM**. I'm looking forward to sharing with you my vision and some goals for the year. And, I'm looking forward to meeting some parents whom I've not had the chance to meet yet.

Please note an additional event on the calendar for October. We will host a Principal's Coffee for parents of children with special education needs on **Friday, October 19 at 9:15AM**. This will include my plan for addressing special education at Nottingham, the formation of a **Special Education Collaborative Committee** and will be followed by an informal Q&A about special education in general. Parents who wish to ask questions specific to their child are asked to call or email me directly.

Eileen

## ***Kudos and Appreciation***

Thanks to **Lisa Solinger, Nicki Creech, Courtney Portner, and Elissa Ghosh** for helping with picture day and making sure our beautiful smiles are captured! Also, thank you to all our **room parents** for coming to orientation the other night. We look forward to working with you this year.

## ***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, and 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](mailto:mark.jones2@apsva.us)

**Walk and Bike to School Day is set for, Wednesday, October 10.** Our **buses will drop off at N. Lexington and Little Falls.** We encourage **everyone to participate.** <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.

Immediately following Walk/Bike to School Day will be our **ASPAN Walk-a-Thon.** Nottingham will be doing the ASPAN Walkathon on October 10th. **Starting at 9am**, students and teachers will be walking around the block to support ending homelessness in Arlington. Parents are invited to line the grass along our route and cheer on our students as we walk.

K and 1st will be starting from the Kindergarten playground, 2nd and 5th will be coming out the front of the building, and 3rd and 4th will be exiting through door 3.

Families can sponsor our walk. Fill out the attached form and bring it to school or complete the form online to donate. If we beat our goal from our last walk, we will have a school wide dance party before dismissal on October 12th!

[Preview attachment Nottingham Registration Form.pdf](#)

[Nottingham Registration Form.pdf](#)

[92 KB](#)

**Please Sign-Up - NTM Knights Parent Community Text Message Group** New this year, we are starting a **Remind text message group** for dissemination of critical, time-sensitive information for our parent and guardian community. We envision sending text messages that relate to delayed or disabled buses, weather delays or emergency school closings, notice of lock-down and safety drills, and any other urgent notifications that relate to school operations and the safety of our students.

To join this alert group, please send a text message to the number **81010** with the message **@ntmparents**, or you can also sign-up through the web at: <http://www.remind.com/join/ntmparents>

**Reminder...**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](mailto:attendance.ntm@groups.apsva.us)). Teachers will work with students to make up any missed assignments. If there is **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

### SCHOOL NEWS & EVENTS

**Sign Up to Volunteer at the Book Fair**

The Nottingham Book Fair will take place from October 15-19 and volunteers are needed throughout the week. Check out the [Book Fair Sign Up Genius](#) and select the time slots that work with your schedule. Please send questions to [bookfair@nespta.org](mailto:bookfair@nespta.org).

## **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](mailto: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](mailto:reflections@nespta.org) with any questions.

## FROM THE PTA PRESIDENT

Our next PTA meeting will be on **Tuesday, October 2** at 7:00 pm 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 in the multi-purpose room during PTA meetings.

As always, I welcome your comments, questions and feedback at [president@nespta.org](mailto:president@nespta.org).

Thank you,

Stacy Rosenthal  
PTA President 2018-19

## COMMUNITY NEWS

- **Discover how your family can become a Girl Scout family!**  
Learn about troop opportunities and newly forming troops at Nottingham for girls in grades K-5th.  
Attend the Nottingham Troop Formation Night: **Monday, October 22, 2018** at 7:00 pm in the Nottingham Elementary School Library. For more information or questions contact: [nottingham.gs.troops@gmail.com](mailto:nottingham.gs.troops@gmail.com)
- **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](mailto: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](mailto:newsletter@nespta.org) by 7pm on Sundays.***