

January 7, 2020

From the Principal

Check out the [PTA Newsletter](#).

Happy New Year to All,

We welcome you back to Nottingham with hopes and dreams for a healthy, happy, and productive 2020. Consider asking your child(ren) about the **hopes and dreams** they wrote back in September. January is a great time to revisit those hopes and dreams to ensure we are on track for a great second half of the year.

Our teachers will spend some time talking with our students about our **Responsive Classroom CARES** characteristics. I encourage all of you to talk about what "CARES" means and how it can apply in school, at home and in the community. Some suggestions may include:

Cooperation: set a goal around helping others, working within a group or doing a better job following directions.

Assertiveness: set a goal to be bold, speak up for what you need and assert yourself in helping others in need.

Responsibility: set a goal to remember materials, complete all your work on time or make a to-do list and finish it.

Empathy: set a goal about getting to know someone new, understanding differently abled students or how your behavior may impact other's feelings.

Self-control: set a goal to think before your act, take breaks when you need them and use kind words and actions in everything you do.

Odyssey of the Mind team seeks judge for fun, creative competition! We are **looking for someone to serve as a judge** for the regional tournament on behalf of our Odyssey of the Mind team this year. The Odyssey of the Mind (OotM) judge is an essential part of the volunteer staff that makes an OotM tournament a success. Judges can be parents, teachers, aunts, uncles, grandparents, neighbors, or anyone who has a love for children. We need to have our judge register before January 13, attend judges' training on February 29 and spend all day on March 14 judging other

teams for our region. If you have any questions or are interested, please contact Molly at McCracken.molly@gmail.com

Kindergarten Information Night is set for January 27, 7:00 PM, at W-L. This serves as a great opportunity for rising kindergarten families to learn about the programs and opportunities students who will enter APS next year. Please spread the word to folks who may not be aware of this opportunity.

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!

With the coming weather situation, I thought I would share this again. 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.**

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.

Thanks,

Eileen

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

Important Dates

14 January, Tuesday	Geography Bee, 2:15 PM
15 January, Wednesday	Early Release, 1:26PM

20 January, Monday	MLK Jr. Day, No School
24 January, Friday	Sock Hop
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
18 May- 17 June	SOL Window

2019-20 Early Release Dates: January 15, February 12, March 11, June 3, June 10. Students will be dismissed at **1:26PM**.

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

Reminders

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 of 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/TjEdEf5DUEumfiM3A>

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/>