

# *Nottingham Knightly News*

*February 25, 2020*

## *From the Principal*

Check out the [PTA Newsletter](#).

**Read Across America Week is Next Week!** Read Across America Week is coming March 2-March 5<sup>th</sup>, and Nottingham has some fun activities planned to celebrate our love of reading!

- **Photo Booth:** Throughout the week, students can visit the library photo booth to take their picture with some of their favorite book characters.
- **Stuffed Animal DEAR time:** On Monday at 1:45PM, students will be invited to bring in a stuffed animal to school. That day, we will have a school-wide Drop Everything and Read time. Students and staff will stop whatever they are doing and read to their stuffed animals or to themselves.
- **Nottingham's Tower of Books:** How many books can Nottingham Knights read in 1 week? We will soon find out! Nottingham classes will be tracking their reading during RAA Week to see how many books we read all together as a school. We will build our tower of books in front of the library so that everyone can see how many books we read!

The **2020 Elementary Art Exhibit** is on display at the Arlington Public Schools Syphax office. Our student artwork currently hangs beautifully! Please join us next **Wednesday, March 4 from 6:30-8:00PM for the artist's reception.**

We need your help! School begins at **9:00AM**. Students are permitted into classrooms at 8:50AM. Doors to the building open at 8:40AM for students. Please **make arrangements** for your child(ren) to be here **no sooner than 8:40AM**. We are not able to supervise students before then. Thanks for your help and cooperation.

**This is the final week!** The **Your Voice Matters** survey provides insight from APS families, students in grades 4-12, staff, and teachers. The Nottingham parent **response rate is currently 19%**. Topics include safety (school and community climate), health and well-being, voice, and engagement. APS and the [Arlington Partnership for](#)

[Children, Youth, and Families](#) (APCYF) partner on the survey to gather information on areas of mutual importance and to deepen understanding of youth and family well-being. The survey administration process is managed by [Panorama Education](#), an independent educational survey research company. The results are used to inform work across both the school division and the County. The data also provides APS with new benchmarks for measuring progress with stakeholders on the 2018-24 Strategic Plan. The survey is conducted biannually and will be administered next in January-February 2020. **Surveys are open until February 28<sup>th</sup>.**

**Where's My Survey?** If you have an email in ParentVue it was sent to the Primary Email of the parent or guardian listed first on enrollment documents. If you do not have an email in ParentVue you will receive a paper copy to your home address. **If you can't find the email with your survey link, please email** [support+arlingtonva@panoramaed.com](mailto:support+arlingtonva@panoramaed.com) **and ask Panorama Education to resend the link to your survey.**

**Spring Parent-Teacher Conferences** are being offered the afternoon of Thursday, March 5th and also all day on Friday, March 6th. Online sign-up begins on **Monday, February 24th at 12pm and will close at 3pm on Friday, February 28th.** The link to sign-up is: [nottingham.apsva.us/conferencesignup](https://nottingham.apsva.us/conferencesignup)

Thanks,

Eileen

## ***Upcoming Events and Opportunities***

### ***Important Dates***

<b>24-28 February</b>	<b>Knights Take Note Week</b>
26 February, Wednesday	School Spirit Day
5 March, Thursday	Early Release – Parent Teacher Conferences

6 March, Friday	Parent Teacher Conferences (no school for students)
11 March, Wednesday	Early Release
13 March, Friday	Math Day (more info to come)
31 March, Tuesday	STEAM Night, <b>6:00-7:30PM</b>
2 April, Thursday	School Information Session 9:15AM
18 May- 17 June	SOL Window

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

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

### ***Reminders***

In honor of **Black History Month**, we've pulled out a collection of books for students written by African American authors. Stop by and check one out.

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Each year during **STEAM night**, the library hosts a community build project. This year's project is a plastic bottle cap mural. We need your help!

**Nottingham library staff is collecting plastic bottle caps of all colors and sizes.** Please bring your WASHED CAPS (plastic only) to the library for drop-off. Then, join us on Tuesday, March 31st, to create our mural!

Relative to a rise in the number of **flu cases in the building and the Coronavirus** situation, please note the letter below that was sent by the central office to parents.

*Dear APS Staff and Families:*

*Given recent news coverage of the Novel Coronavirus, we recognize that you may have concerns about the health of your student(s) and how Arlington Public Schools (APS) protects students from becoming ill.*

*APS shares these concerns and has consulted with the Arlington County Public Health Division (PHD) regarding their recommendations to prevent students from becoming ill in schools. The following steps are being taken based on PHD recommendations:*

- *APS will continue to clean and disinfect touched objects and surfaces frequently. The cleaning materials that are used meet the criteria recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for control of coronavirus.*
- *APS will continue to reinforce the following effective behaviors in schools with students and employees:*
  - *Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.*
    - *Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer only if soap and water are not available.*
  - *Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth as much as possible.*
  - *Cover mouth and hands with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing.*
  - *Stay home when sick – and only return to school when children and staff are symptom-free for 24 hours, including the use of fever-reducing medications.*
  - *Keep their distance from people who are sick – and encourage sick people they encounter to go home and seek care as needed.*
  - *Avoid non-essential travel.*

*These practices are part of our standard procedures to promote healthy and safe environments, as outlined in the Policy Implementation Procedures (PIP), [Support for Students- Wellness I-10.30 PIP-1](#).*

*To further protect all our students, our employees, and our community, we need your help to reinforce the messages above. Have your student(s) practice these behaviors at home – it will make it easier to follow these same recommendations in school.*

*APS will continue to work with PHD and the School Health Bureau as the situation evolves. This is a rapidly developing situation and as more information is shared about this virus, we will publish updated guidance as warranted.*

*For up-to-date information about the virus, visit [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/index.html).*

*Cintia Z. Johnson  
Interim Superintendent  
Arlington Public*

*Reuben K. Varghese, MD, MPH  
Health Director and Public Health Division Chief  
Arlington County*

At the Feb. 6 meeting, the Arlington School Board approved the **2020-21 school year calendar** with a pre-Labor Day start on Aug. 31, 2020. <https://www.apsva.us/post/school-board-approves-2020-21-school-year-calendar-with-pre-labor-day-start/>

Families are currently able to register kindergarten students for the 2020-21 school year at their neighborhood elementary school. Families can determine their neighborhood elementary school by using the **[Boundary \(Attendance Area\) Locator](#)** and are encouraged to register before the end of the current school year to help schools prepare and plan for incoming kindergarten students. Families interested in attending an option school or program are currently able to apply online until Wednesday, April 15, 2020, at 4 p.m. The process for applying to pre-K and elementary 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 pre-K or elementary option school or program should complete an application through the **online application portal**. The following is the pre-K and elementary option schools and programs application process timeline: **April 15:** The application for pre-K and elementary option schools and programs closes. **April 23:** Lotteries for all elementary option schools and programs will be held at the APS Welcome Center. **April 24:** Lotteries for all pre-K programs will be held at the APS Welcome Center. **May 1:** Families will be notified of their acceptance or placement on the waitlist. **May 15:** Families must confirm or decline attendance to an option school or program. For additional information or questions about the registration process or pre-K and elementary option schools and programs, please contact the APS Welcome Center at 703-228-8000 or **[schooloptions@apsva.us](mailto:schooloptions@apsva.us)**.

**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!

**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 began 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. Please contact the Summer School Office by phone at 703-228-7645 or by email at [summerschool@apsva.us](mailto:summerschool@apsva.us), if you need additional assistance.

**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](https://bit.ly/learninglabregister)

**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](https://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.