

Nottingham Knightly News

February 4, 2020

From the Principal

Check out the [PTA Newsletter](#).

Nottingham's 2019-2020 Support Employee of the Year: Please join us in congratulating **Nora Ellison** as Nottingham's Support Employee of the Year! Ms. Ellison is an asset to the Nottingham family and community and we are lucky to have her. If you'd like to contribute letters of support for Ms. Ellison as we nominate her for APS Support Employee of the Year, please submit them to Megan.Lynch@apsva.us no later than **Wednesday, February 5**.

Dismissal: We're going to try something new during dismissal as a means of relieving congestion in the halls. Walkers in grades 2-5 will be dismissed first. Bus riders will then be dismissed. Followed by all students in Extended Day (Pre-K- 5). Finally, students who are walkers in grades Pre-K- 1 will be dismissed to meet their parents at the regularly scheduled locations. This will go into effect on **Monday, February 3, 2020**.

February is Black History Month, and Arlington Public Schools is celebrating with events and activities in our schools throughout the month. Join us for the main event, ***We Are Arlington***, on February 13, at Kenmore Middle School. From music and arts, to education and family, APS will honor the trailblazers and legacies that have made and continue to make Arlington great. This year, APS will also honor Black Student Leaders chosen by high school administrators for their exceptional leadership and outstanding contributions in and out of the classroom. Please [click here](#) to RSVP. [Watch a message from Cintia Johnson here](#). Come in and check out our interactive bulletin board to learn more about the amazing contributions from key African American leaders.

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.

Thanks,

Eileen

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

Important Dates

4 February, Tuesday	PTA Meeting, 7:00PM
12 February, Wednesday	Early Release, 1:26PM
13 February, Thursday	School Information Session (new families) 12:45 PM
17 February, Monday	President's Day – No School
18 February, Tuesday	100 th Day of School (unless it snows)
24-28 February	Knights Take Note Week
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, 6:30PM
18 May- 17 June	SOL Window

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

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

Remember, second quarter **standards-based report cards** will available online on **Wednesday, February 19**. Kindergarten families will receive the first standards-based report cards on this date as well.

Reminders

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!

Middle School Transfers: 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.

Did you know we just started a relationship with a Matuwa Primary School in Uganda? **Arlington Academy of Hope** and Nottingham ES are now working together to build a relationship with student's from across the globe!

HOW DOES THIS IMPACT YOUR CHILD? Thanks to Ms. Hubbard (2nd Grade), Ms. Aronson (2nd Grade), Mark Jones (Counselor) & Mardi Moorman (Admin Front Office), we have ALREADY had hundreds of our students write letters to hundreds of Matuwa students to begin a relationship full of learning and friendships.

- We also put together a suitcase full of wonderful things to share about our kids and Nottingham (see pictures!). We sent over the handwritten letters from your children, 40 books, Math & Clock Games, Breathing Exercise Ball, Seashells from the Beach, Handouts about Nottingham ES, Nottingham T-Shirt and Recess Games.

AAH STORY: After winning a State Department diversity lottery visa, Joyce and John Wanda moved from Uganda to the U.S. in June, 1995, and settled in Arlington, VA. Witnessing the impressive learning experiences of their children in Arlington Public Schools, John and Joyce were inspired to provide a similar education for children in their native villages. Less than 1% of Ugandans graduate from a university, as John and Joyce had, and they both knew how rocky and pot-holed the road to such success was. Read more here [Arlington Academy of Hope](#).

ABOUT MATUWA PRIMARY SCHOOL: This is a brand new primary school that was recently built (continues to be built) to educate more children in the region. Please see the video that shows the raising of the 2 flags and the new school! This school will support up to 500 Students now. Ms. Aronson is visiting on Spring Break and will learn more about the school and give us a full briefing on how we can continue to make connections.

Please reach out to Megan Roe @Megan S Roe if you are interested in: **VOLUNTEERING** or **SPONSORING A CHILD**.

VERY IMPORTANT! You should have received an email about this year's **Your Voice Matters Survey**, taken every two years by parents, staff and students. We would love to hear from ALL of you. The survey will be administered **Jan. 13 through Feb. 28** to APS families, students in grades 4-12, staff and teachers to gain insight on topics such as school and community climate, well-being, and engagement. Please take a few moments to check your email and complete this very valuable survey. For more information about the survey, please visit https://www.apsva.us/engage/your-voice-matters-survey-2020/?utm_swu=5867

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 begins 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. I hope that this notice helps you plan accordingly. I also encourage you to participate in the [APS Summer Activities Fair on Friday, February 7](#). This is a great way to learn about the many academic and arts programs, sports camps and other offerings available for the summer. Additional resources are provided below. Please contact the Summer School Office by phone at 703-228-7645 or by email at summerschool@apsva.us, if you need additional assistance.

Grade 5 families will learn the results of the option program lottery on Friday, February 7. H-B Woodlawn will then host the rising 6th graders on Tuesday, February 12. Parents will need to provide their own transportation to HBW, and will drop students off at 1601 Wilson at 9:15 and pick their student up at 3:30. More details can be found on our web site at <https://hbwoodlawn.apsva.us/all-about-h-b-woodlawn/admission-to-h-b-woodlawn/information-students-accepted-lottery-2/>.

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

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/>

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.**

Do you have a teen looking for an exciting summer opportunity? The **Arlington Academy of Hope** has announced the dates of their annual teen service trip to Uganda this summer: **July 17 – August 5**. It is limited to 12 teenagers looking to volunteer abroad with AAH's impactful schools and health clinics on this chaperoned trip. It also includes the chance to cross off some amazing bucket list adventures: going on safari and visiting the source of the Nile River! If you know of any teens (aged 14 – 18) who would take this incredible opportunity seriously and want to join AAH this summer, please forward along the attached PDF to them! We welcome any and all Nottingham alum and friends to join us! Spots are beginning to fill, so act quickly. Visit AAHUganda.org for more information and to join us on January 19 for an information session of the home of AAH founders John and Joyce Wanda. See these attachments for more information as well.