

Nottingham Knightly News

May 27, 2020

Dear Nottingham Families,

Please join us for on **Tuesday, June 2 Virtual PTA meeting at 7:00PM**. In an effort to be fair to everyone and to be able to moderate with the most success, we are asking that you submit your questions in advance to Jim Wisniewski at president@nespta.org by **FRIDAY, MAY 29th**. We hope to see you then. Please take a look at the [PTA newsletter](#). We will provide additional information about close out procedures, staffing updates and other odds and ends.

We hope you will also join us for our **rising grade level orientations** to learn more about our typical program at each grade. We will send out the specific schedule soon. Please let any of our new families know. We are working with School and Community Relations to advertise as well. We will share information on how to **register new students** for next year as soon as it becomes available.

- Thursday, June 4, 9:00AM Kindergarten; 11:00AM First Grade
- Friday, June 5, 9:00AM Second Grade; 9:30AM Third Grade
- Monday, June 8, 9:00AM Fourth grade; 9:30AM Fifth Grade

The Nottingham staff will provide the opportunity for you to **drive through to retrieve student items and drop off**. Specific information will be shared very soon.

Tomorrow is our **virtual spirit day "Nature Day"**. This spirit day encourages all our fellow knights to go do something outside. Whether it's reading a book on your deck, eating a picnic lunch in your yard or going for a social distanced walk around your neighborhood - take time out of your day on Wednesday to enjoy some fresh air and springtime weather. **It's easy these days to get cooped up inside our homes, so share your Nature Day adventure on Twitter mentioning @NottinghamSCA and #DaysAndKnights.**

We extend a very special thank you to **Andrea Lindquist Kaplowitz** and family for planting a tree in honor of our 5th graders. Stay tuned for more ways we plan to honor them all before they head off to middle school.

Last week the school board approved a school year-end date of June 12. As for next year, **APS is planning for three possible scenarios to start the fall:** Starting the school year with distance learning, should public health officials advise us it is

not safe to reopen. Based on current conditions, this is a likely scenario, and we are preparing for a distance learning model that includes synchronous instruction of new content; reopening schools with a hybrid of in-person and online instruction, including multiple contingencies to meet class size limits and social distancing requirements; and, reopening schools as normal with in-person instruction, if social distancing requirements have been lifted and conditions are met to open school buildings safely. Based on current conditions, this is the least likely scenario. More information will follow on these possibilities. A team of staff work collaboratively to ensure the proper classroom placement for each student based on numerous academic and social emotional factors. Please refrain from making specific teacher requests and thank you for your trust as we work through the details.

APS will provide summer learning programs and resources via distance learning this summer. Summer distance learning will begin July 20 and conclude on August 14. APS will provide an online secondary summer strengthening program and selected new work social studies classes for students in grades 6-12. APS will provide every elementary student who was identified for summer school prior to the closure with access to online resources and school-based instructional and social-emotional support. For more information, you can visit the [summer school website](#).

The community is invited to a series of virtual town halls (schedule below) to ask new Superintendent, Dr. Durán questions and learn a little about him. Click here for more information, [the community](#). Community members can submit questions in advance by filling out the online feedback form below, or emailing engage@apsva.us. Details on how to participate will be announced at a later date. Additional virtual town halls are being scheduled for students and staff.

- Fri, June 12 from 4-5 PM
- Sat, June 13 from 10-11 AM (Spanish)
- Tue, June 23 from 7-8 PM

Thanks,

Eileen

From Our Student Support Staff

As we continue adjusting and learning about how to live during a period of prolonged change, we want to keep providing you with support and encouragement. Here are some resources that will hopefully help with talking to children about how to cope after a disaster as well as some fun activities to do at home.

- Discuss ways we can help children feel safe and secure by providing comfort in routines and predictability through pointing out what stays the same.
- Discuss ways we can help children feel safe and secure

- A child-friendly interactive [activity book](#) to talk to kids about how to cope after a disaster. It provides opportunities to talk about their feelings after a disaster and learn positive ways to express their emotions in uncertain times.
- Provide fun and also relaxing activities for children
 - Take a virtual field trip - See the Grand Canyon or take a [train ride in the Alps](#) and have your kids make a postcard from their online adventures.
 - Visit the zoo online - Visit furry, scaly, and swimmy friends with live streams from zoos and aquariums. The Georgia Aquarium has a live webcam of their [Ocean Voyager tank](#) and the Cincinnati Zoo offers "Home Safaris" for meeting the zoo's residents on YouTube.
 - Enjoy story time - Oliver Jeffers reads one of his stories each day on his Instagram. [StoryLine Online](#) is offering children's books read by famous celebrities.
- Place emphasis on self-care for kids and parents

Specific strategies for keeping young children happy, engaged and emotionally supported during Covid-19 can be found here at:

<https://www.apsva.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Strategies-Parents-Covid-19-1.pdf>.

More [resources for families](#) can be found on the APS site.

Reminders

Remember to check out our updated [Nottingham Remote Learning Page!](#) [Frequently Asked Questions](#), and [meal service information](#) are available there. If you have additional questions, please feel free to reach out directly. Information about how to find out what our art, music, FLES and PE staff are up to can also be found there.

Make sure Arlington gets the funding and critical resources it needs to thrive day-to-day, by [getting counted in the 2020 Census](#). Arlington County currently has only a 66.5% response rate, so we still have work to do. In light of the COVID-19 outbreak, the Census Bureau has extended the response deadline until Oct. 31. [Watch this video to learn more](#).

Each week APS is broadcasting K-2 lessons called ["At Home with APS"](#) which include Social Emotional Learning, as well. These lessons can be watched on Comcast Xfinity Channel 70/1090 and Verizon FiOS Channel 41. They will air **Monday through Friday from 10-10:30, 2-2:30, 5-5:30, and 7-7:30.**

VA TV Classroom will air ["Learn to Grow with WHRO"](#) for students in grades K-2. They will broadcast on WETA PBS kids via antenna 26.3, Comcast 266, Cox 801, Verizon FiOS 472, and RCN 38 each day from 1 to 2.

At last week's School Board meeting, APS announced a proposed modification to the end of year calendar for 2019-20, [ending instruction on June 12](#). APS also outlined contingency plans for Summer School which vary based on multiple factors, including

guidance from state officials and social distancing requirements. For more information and the new end-of-year dates and summer school plans, [visit the APS website](#).

If you are looking for a way to help the Arlington community, please consider food, cleaning supplies, toilet paper or monetary donations to [AFAC](#), which is supporting many families during this time. You can donate in person or online and they are looking for additional support.

On April 15, the School Board launched a [new public comment process](#) to seek feedback from the community on policy drafts and revisions. After the internal policy process is complete, [policy drafts are available for 30 days](#) on the APS Engage site with community input forms to ensure that all interested stakeholders have an opportunity to provide input. Staff will review comments and any suggestions submitted during the comment period before completing and presenting the final draft as an information item to the School Board. For more information and a list of policies currently open for public comment, visit

www.apsva.us/engage/policies-for-revision-amendment/

The School Board is currently seeking individuals to serve as members of School Board advisory councils, including the 2020-21 Advisory Council on Teaching and Learning (formerly Advisory Council on Instruction), the Budget Advisory Council and the Advisory Council on School Facilities and Capital Programs. More information can be found on the APS website.

If you have questions about APS operations during the closure or about the learning plans? Please email engage@apsva.us.