

# Nottingham Knightly News

May 20, 2020

Dear Nottingham Families,

Stay tuned for more information about our **June 2 Virtual PTA meeting**. Remember, our fabulous **SCA and PTA are partnering** to help the greater Arlington community. Please stay tuned for updates and information about a drive to gather needed materials for families during the closure. Thanks!

Our SCA met last week and are pleased to announce **virtual spirit days**. Our next spirit day will be **May 27 "Nature Day"**. Details to come.

While we are still unsure about what school will look like for the 20-21 school year, plans are underway for groupings for next school year. 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.

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/](http://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.

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.

Please join us in welcoming **Dr. Francisco Durán** as the new Superintendent of APS, following a five-month search process. Dr. Durán has an extensive background in education spanning 26 years, including superintendent and top-level leadership experience. Dr. Durán will formally assume the role of Superintendent on June 1. Read the [full release](#) and watch Dr. Durán’s remarks from the meeting [here](#).

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.

If you have questions about APS operations during the closure or about the learning plans? Please email **[engage@apsva.us](mailto:engage@apsva.us)**.