

Fri, Sept
20th, 2024

DREAM
BIG

WORK
HARD

BE KIND

The Kennedy Express



SY 24-25
Issue #1

School's Latest News & Updates

SEPTEMBER 2024

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Principally Speaking.....1
- Announcements.....2
- Scholars Corner.....3
- Staff Corner.....4
- Happy Birthday.....5
- Words of the Month.....5
- Assistant Principal Motivational
Quotes.....6
- Mental Health.....6
- Community Resources.....7

"Principally" Speaking by Dr. Cheryll James

Dear Parents/Families/Guardians & Program Supporters,

It is hard to believe that School Year 2023-2024 has ended, and summer is also soon to be in our rearview mirror. However, the start of our current School Year 2024-2025 has begun and has gotten off to a great start!

We had an exciting and fun-filled Extended School Year (ESY) learning program this summer! It included many of our students participating in the Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program which involved working, getting paid, and receiving a variety of skills in the process; and even some students who weren't old enough to participate in that program also had opportunities to gain work experiences and skills as volunteers for various community programs; several field trips and other fun activities both within the school as well as outside of the school provided a great deal of engaging opportunities for our students. And our team still provided academic and related services during ESY to ensure that students did not regress during the summer months.

We are thrilled for the School Year 2024-2025; I am confident that with your continued support and our devoted and hard-working staff who exhibits our staff mantra **"Stay Positive, Work Hard, Make it Happen"** combined with our student /schoolwide mantra of **"Dream Big, Work Hard, and Be Kind"** that this will be an amazing school year!!

This newsletter marks the return of the "Kennedy Express" and contains a great deal of vital information, so please be sure to read it in its entirety and respond accordingly.

It is imperative that you review and adhere to all policies and procedures that are outlined in the parent/student handbook including student uniforms, cell phones, attendance, maintaining current health and immunization records for your child to ensure that they remain in school, provision of emergency contacts and updating school of any changes, completion of field trip permission forms, and any other required school forms, etc. Your cooperation with these and other school matters will be greatly appreciated.

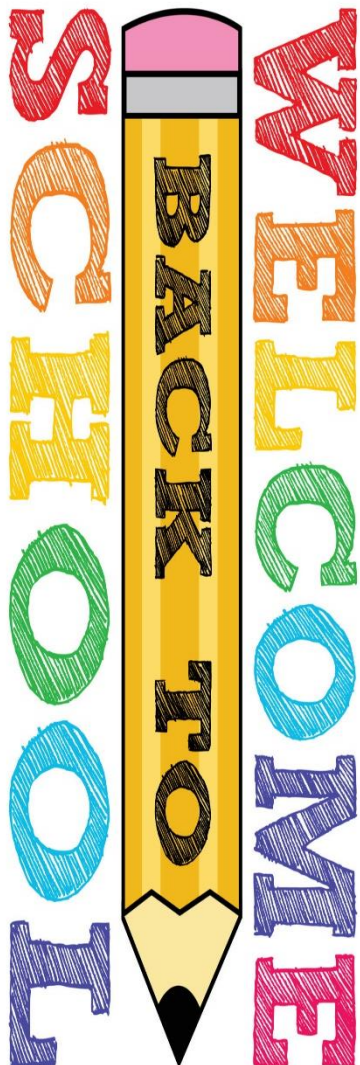
Best wishes to everyone for an enjoyable, productive, and successful 2024-2025 School Year! Thank you for your continued support and as I always say:

Parents + Educators working in Partnership = Successful Students

Warmest Regards,

Cheryll-James

Cheryll James, PhD, CSSGB, CPM





ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dress Down Day is

**DRESS
DOWN
DAY**

EVERY FRIDAY
for students that arrive
correctly in School
Uniform every day!

**School Closures for
the Month of October**

Friday 10/11:
1/2 Day for Students

Monday 10/14:
No School

Tuesday 10/15:
Parent/ Teacher Conference
No School for Students

Please ensure that all the
following paperwork is turned in
for the School Year:

- ✓ All-Purpose
Permission Slip
- ✓ Updated Emergency
Contact
- ✓ Media Consent
- ✓ Updated Health &
Oral Forms
- ✓ Special Olympics
Documents



Please check your child's
backpacks daily as
teachers, administrators,
and nurses will
periodically send
information home
requiring your attention.

NEED TO REACH A STAFF MEMBER AT
THE KENNEDY SCHOOL?



The School's Main Number
is 202-281-2700

Have TRANSPORTATION concerns or
questions, contact the **Parent Control
Center @ 202-576-5000**



Scholars Corner



STUDENT OF THE MONTH
CONGRATUALTIIONS TO...

RAYVON

for meeting the Student of the Month Criteria for the Month of September.



CONGRATUALTIIONS TO...

YOUR SCHOLAR'S NAME CAN BE HERE. PLEASE ENSURE THE FOLLOWING.

- ✓ ON-TIME & PRESENT FOR SCHOOL EVERY DAY. STUDENTS ARE ALLOWED IN AT 8:30AM.
- ✓ IF YOUR SCHOLAR IS ABSENT, PLEASE PROVIDE AND EXCUSE NOTE OR COMMUNICATE WITH DR. JAMES, MS. NICOLE AND/OR MR. KEON



Please make sure your meets the Perfect Attendance Criteria month. Please refer to the Attendance our Parent/Student Thank you in advance your part to ensure scholar is present and on time.



scholar every Policy in Handbook. for doing your

Shoutouts

- Shout out to Demarcus for always being ready to learn and enthusiastic about everything we do in life skills- Ms. Nyesha
- The science team notices and appreciates the effort, excitement, and motivation Zion is putting into his schoolwork. He's thoughtfulness completes his schoolwork and assists others in his class. Zion is maturing and showing leadership among his peers. This is driven by his desire to become a "good student." -Mr. Washington
- Shout to ALLLL of right way and our scholars are warms my heart. Nicole
- Shoutout to being a helping his peers in life skills class. He is always willing and volunteers to help others if he finishes his work early- Ms. Nyesha



OUR SCHOLARS for being eager to start the school year off the ready to learn new things. A lot of being helpful to their peers and that Keep doing great things. - Ms.



Staff Corner



Mrs. Lindsey (Speech Pathologist) and Mr. Ronald (Classroom Paraprofessional) engaging in a fun activity with students in Science Class.

Shoutouts

SHOUT OUT to Ms. Davis for always being a helping hand and stepping up to take initiative when we are short staffed. -Ms. Nyesha & Mrs. Holland

SHOUT OUT to Mr. Ronald for doing an **AMAZING** Job! You are appreciated & continue to let your light shine. - Ms. Nicole

SHOUT OUT to Mr. Washington for always bringing creative and fun games/task to morning meeting to wake up both students and staff brains in the morning!! -Ms.Nyesha

SHOUT OUT to Mrs. Lindsey for her consistent engagement with students. Along with the creative and fun activities she does. -Ms. Nyesha

CONGRATUALATIONS TO...

Ms. NICOLE MEADOWS

(ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL)

for meeting the Staff of the Month Criteria for the Month of September!

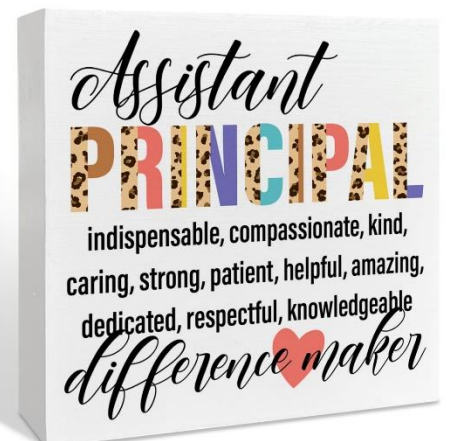
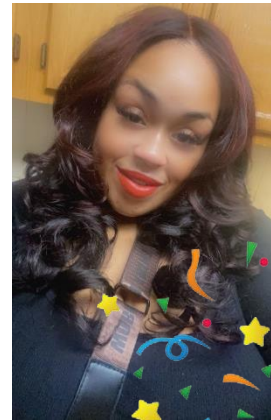
Ms. Nicole Meadows is a dynamic person who is a valuable asset to the Kennedy School!! In her current role as Assistant Principal as well as in her previous roles she consistently delivers 100+% in all that she does. Most recently her efforts in planning and executing our Extended School Year (ESY) program, Back to School preparations, Student Groups, Daily schedules, all things IEP related, etc. are just a small representation of why she is our September Staff of the Month!!

WELCOME TO THE KENNEDY FAMILY.....

MR. CHARLES WASHINGTON

(SCIENCE TEACHER)

WE ARE GLAD TO HAVE YOU'RE HERE AT THE KENNEDY SCHOOL WITH US. YOU ARE ALREADY MAKING AN IMPACT. YOUR PASSION FOR THE STUDENT'S EDUCATION IS APPRECIATED. - MS. NICOLE



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL
OF THE SEPTEMBER
BIRTHDAYS!

MS. RENEE, MS. MARIEL,
ZION, MR. KEON, KALYNN,
& MRS. BUTLER



If you were **BORN**
in **SEPTEMBER**,
That means
you are **INTUITIVE**,
CREATIVE,
WISE *thoughtful*,
BEYOND your **YEARS**,
FUN-LOVING, And **HAVE A**
BIG HEART.



Words of the Month

Practice Makes
Perfect


PLEASE PRACTICE (SAYING,
WRITING, & SPELLING) THESE
WORDS WITH YOUR SCHOLAR.

- ✓ **SEPTEMBER** [the ninth month of the Gregorian calendar: Sep·tem·ber]
- ✓ **OCTOBER** [the 10th month of the Gregorian calendar: Oc·to·ber]
- ✓ **MONDAY** [The second day of the week: Mon·day]
- ✓ **TUESDAY** [the third day of the week: Tues·day]
- ✓ **ENGLISH** [of, relating to, or characteristic of [England](#), the English people, or the English language: En·glish]
- ✓ **MATH** [the science of numbers and their operations: math]
- ✓ **SCIENCE** [knowledge or a system of knowledge covering general truths or the operation of general laws especially as obtained and tested through [scientific method](#): sci·ence]
- ✓ **HISTORY** [a chronological record of significant events (such as those affecting a nation or institution) often including an explanation of their causes: his·to·ry]
- ✓ **PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PE)** [instruction in the development and care of the body ranging from simple calisthenic exercises to a course of study providing training in hygiene, gymnastics, and the performance and management of athletic games]
- ✓ **MUSIC** [the science or art of ordering tones or sounds in succession, in combination, and in temporal relationships to produce a composition having unity and continuity: mu·sic]
- ✓ **LIFE SKILLS**
- ✓ **TITLE I**

Assistant Principal Motivational Quote

The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you.

B.B. King



Parents are the ultimate role models for children. Every word, movement and action has an effect. No other person or outside force has a greater influence on a child than the parent.

- Bob Keeshan



Mental Health

HOW TO PROMOTE POSITIVE MENTAL HEALTH IN YOUR CHILD

BE A ROLE MODEL
How you handle your challenges and uncomfortable feelings influences how your child learns to respond to their own.

LIMIT SCREEN TIME
Don't let electronics get in the way of developing a deep connection with your kids. Limit screen time for your kids and for yourself.

STOP HELICOPTERING
Hovering too closely limits your child's development by not letting them learn how to handle disappointments or overcome struggles.

TALK TO YOUR CHILD ABOUT THEIR FEELINGS
Being able to share their feelings in a healthy, productive way is essential for kids' good mental health.

FOCUS ON THEIR PHYSICAL HEALTH
Diet and sleep can contribute to children's mood, attention span, anxiety levels and general behavior.

ACCENTUATE THE POSITIVE
Praise your child for their efforts, not only their successes, so they develop a positive sense of self even when they're struggling.

LET THEM KNOW MISTAKES ARE NORMAL
Let your kids see your own errors so they realize everyone makes mistakes sometimes and it doesn't define a person's worth.

the **BUMP**

Community Resources

FAMILY FUN THINGS TO DO IN DC FOR SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

Fall is on the horizon and its currently Hispanic Heritage month thus below are some events both indoors and outdoors that you might want to participate in:

- ✓ Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept 15th thru Oct 15th) Celebrations Around the DC Area www.washingtonian.com/2024/09/05/hispanic-heritage-month-celebrations-around-dc/
- ✓ H Street Festival (located on H Street, NE between 3rd and 15th Streets) - September 21, 2024; Featuring activity stations, music of different genres, dance, youth based performances, interactive children's programs, fashion, heritage arts, poetry, and more - www.hstreetfestival.org
- ✓ Pan African Festival (Pana Fest) Civic Center Silver Spring MD September 21st noon to 10:00 pm; variety of activities/vendors, live performances, African cuisine, fashion show, arts and crafts, Zumba, etc.: www.panafestusa.org
- ✓ Community Day - Smithsonian National Museum of African Art (Celebrating 60 years of African Art) Enjoy art making, dance performances, fashion show, spoken word, concert, and more: September 27th 6:30 p.m.- 9:00 p.m. and September 28th 12 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- ✓ Wheaton Arts Parade & Festival - September 29, 2024; performances, bands, dance companies, art vendors, food vendors, etc.: www.wheatonartsparade.org
- ✓ Takoma Park Street Festival - October 6th 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Carroll Ave, Takoma Park to Carroll St, NW DC; 185 vendors, food trucks, live music, arts/crafts, etc.
- ✓ Hiking in and around DC (before the cold temperatures settle in) to take in some of the beautiful scenic views including the transition from Summer to Fall: 10 Stunning Trails To Go Hiking Around D.C. (secretdc.com)
- ✓ Eastern Market Halloween - October 25, 2024 at 225 Seventh St, SE Washington, DC 5pm to 8pm; Enjoy trick-or-treating, face painting, games, pumpkin decorating, a photo booth, refreshments, and more.
- ✓ District of Columbia Public Library - numerous events/ programs/activities for youth and adults www.dclibrary.org
- ✓ Smithsonian National Museums and Zoo (The world's largest museum complex): There are several museums in DC to visit, engage, and learn a variety of historical information/facts; check out the specific spaces in these museums for younger visitors: www.si.edu/about/museums
- ✓ In addition to the Smithsonian Museums there are numerous other museums across the DMV area with a great deal of informative information so spend the summer visiting some of them

