

Fri, Nov.  
22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024

DREAM  
BIG

WORK  
HARD

BE KIND

# The Kennedy Express



SY 24-25  
Issue #2

School's Latest News & Updates

NOVEMBER 2024

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*“Principally” Speaking* by Dr. Cheryl James

**Dear Parents/Families/Guardians & Program Supporters,**

The fall season has arrived, including the changing temperatures resulting in some warm and chilly days; as well as the beautiful colorful tree leaves! As we look forward to the Thanksgiving break, all are encouraged to stop for a moment and reflect upon all that you are thankful for. October and November have been busy months for us as you will see as you review this publication of our bi-monthly newsletter. I am thankful for our dedicated staff who commit themselves daily to the mission and vision, for our students who embody it, and for our parents and family members who trust us and partners with us to support and promote their students' achievements.

Here at Kennedy School October and November have been busy months for us. During both months our students and staff attended a variety of field trips, volunteer experiences, various Special Olympic events; we honored and celebrated our monthly student and staff award recipients and birthday honorees. During October we celebrated National Hispanic Heritage month and in November Native American Heritage month. We profiled a different person each day educating students about the contributions and impact the person has had on society and the world; and displayed their photo and name on our recognition wall. During October we also had a groundbreaking ceremony for the new school building (The Conway Educational Center); and we did our annual neighborhood walk for Breast Cancer Awareness month and wore pink and made posters. We also had our Annual Spirit Week Celebration and dressed to represent each of the days. We are winding down November with our annual Thanksgiving Luncheon. Some photos of our fun-filled engaging and learning October and November events are featured in this newsletter.

Below are some important reminders to keep in mind regarding Kennedy School Expectations:

- ✓ Effective December 9<sup>th</sup>, any students whose health and immunization records are not current will not be admitted to school. Please ensure all requested information so that your child does not have to miss any school days. Notification has been provided by our nurses. This district mandate must be followed. Should you need information about free clinics, please let a staff member know so we may provide you that information.
- ✓ Students must be on time daily (8:45 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.) If your child arrives after 8:45 they are late. Half days count as well, students should be present. Please communicate with us regarding Transportation, etc., we can assist with tracking/documentation and mark missed days as excused. Report all issues/complaints to the OSSE transportation hotline at 202-5760-5000. Excuse notes must be provided immediately following a student's absence. We are mandated to follow the district's truancy policies.
- ✓ Please closely monitor your students social media involvement outside of school, incidents are occurring which are entering the school environment and are continuing to cause issues. This is why we do not allow our students to carry their phones during the school day and why they are closely monitored when using school computers. Inappropriate use of cell phones, computers, and social media are a safety issue, and we encourage home rules and monitoring at home.
- ✓ Ensure that students complete their homework and if you have questions about assignment(s) contact teacher(s)
- ✓ Temperatures are changing so please see attached uniform flyer and ensure your child has the appropriate uniform. If you need assistance with uniforms, please contact us.

The 2nd quarter of the school year has begun. Schoolwide expectations are set every day, to promote good decision making and exhibition of our school mantra from all students; we ask that you too promote this. Do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns. As always thanks for partnering with us because Parents/Guardians + Educators working in partnership = Successful Students

Warmest Regards,

*Cheryll James*





# 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 November**

- ~ Wednesday 11/27- Friday 11/29: No School: Thanksgiving Break

**School Closures for the Month of  
December:**

- ~ Friday 12/20: Half Day
- ~ Friday 12/20-Monday 1/6/25: Christmas Break

School will resume on Wednesday 1/8/25

Please ensure that all the following paperwork is update to date by December 9<sup>th</sup>:

- ✓ Updated Health & Oral Forms

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

**COLD & FLU Season is upon is...**  
Please do not send students to school if they are sick, have a runny nose, severe/constant cough, fever, etc.

COLD	Cold / Flu	INFLUENZA
Symptoms are mild	Caused by viruses	Symptoms are severe
Causes mild fatigue	Stuffy nose, coughing and sore throat	Muscle or body aches throughout the body
Onset is gradual	Respiratory infection	Onset is sudden
Felt mainly in the		Involves fever,

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 CONGRATUALTIONS TO...

### SUMMER (OCTOBER) & ZION (NOVEMBER)



for meeting the Student of the Month Criteria for the Month of October & November

## CONGRATUALTIONS TO...



**OCTOBER:** AHMED, SUMMER, ZELVON, TOMAS, ARTWONE, AKHIL, EMANUEL, & TYSHANN

**NOVEMBER:** AHMED, SUMMER, ZELVON, TOMAS, RAYVON, GREGORY, ARTWONE,

**JULIUS, ZION, ARMANI & KALYNN**



For meeting the Perfect Attendance Criteria for the month of October & November. Thank you in advance for doing your part to ensure your scholar is present and on time.

# Shoutouts

- “Summer helps her classmates out when they need help; and she demonstrates the school’s motto – Dream Big, Work Hard, and Be Kind”- Ms. Renee
- “Zion for positive energy and being prepared for class daily”- Mr. Pike
- Akhil has been very friendly with his classmates. He follows the School Motto of Dream Big, Work Hard, & Be Kind. Akhil is a very happy and friendly person. – Ms. Renee





# Staff Corner



Students visiting the Air & Space Museum with our Staff of the Month. Mr. Washington & Ms. Davis

# Shoutouts

SHOUT OUT to Mr. Ronald for stepping in when I ask or before I ask. You are appreciated & your growth is admirable- Ms. Nicole

SHOUT OUT to Ms. Makaila for ALLLways filling in and volunteering to cover classes. You such an Amazing Woman & continue to be positive. – Dr. James & Ms. Nicole

## CONGRATUALATIONS TO...

### MR. CHARLES WASHINGTON

(SCIENCE TEACHER)

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

Mr. Washington was our former amazing Title I Teacher and since becoming our Science Teacher he continues to do even more amazing work with our students. He consistently engages and challenges his students, provides a great deal of hands-on learning experiences, and takes them on numerous field trips to enhance his lessons as well as exposing the students to outdoor learning experiences to support broadening their horizons! And for these and many other reasons, too numerous to mention, he is our staff of the month for October. – Dr. James

### MS. ADENRELE DAVIS

(CLASSROOM PARAPROFESSIONAL)

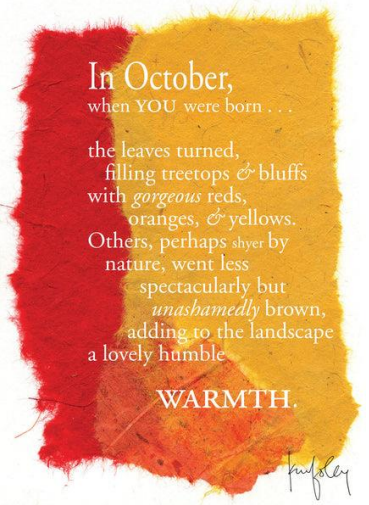
for meeting the Staff of the Month Criteria for the Month of November!

Ms. Davis is one of our Classroom Paraprofessionals who consistently and willingly takes on other tasks; as well as constantly volunteering to support students, other staffers, and the program overall. She takes our students out for their volunteer work experiences and encourages them to always do their best. And for these and other reasons she is our staff of the month for November. – Dr. James





**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL  
OF THE OCTOBER &  
NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS!  
MS. DAVIS, TANIA, MRS.  
RODRIGUEZ, ARTWONE,  
AHMED**



# Words of the Month



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

- ✓ CELL
- ✓ TISSUE
- ✓ ORGAN
- ✓ ORGAN SYSTEM
- ✓ ORGANISM
- ✓ MAPS
- ✓ COLONIES
- ✓ TEN COMMANDMENTS
- ✓ NORTH
- ✓ SOUTH
- ✓ EAST
- ✓ WEST
- ✓ VIKINGS
- ✓ SFVERBS
- ✓ COMPREHENSION

- ✓ BEGINNING SOUNDS
- ✓ DOB: DATE OF BIRTH
- ✓ SSN: SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER
- ✓ ADDRESS
- ✓ CELL PHONE NUMBER
- ✓ EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION
- ✓ RESUME
- ✓ MEAN
- ✓ MEDIAN
- ✓ MODE
- ✓ DATA
- ✓ RANGE
- ✓ SCHEDULE
- ✓ BUDGET
- ✓ ADDITION
- ✓ MULTIPLY

# Assistant Principal Motivational Quote

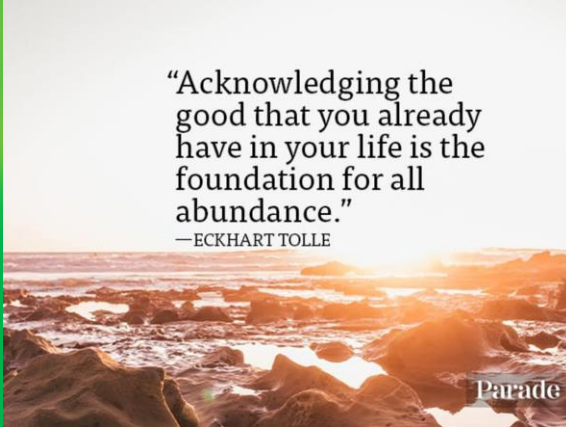
Learn from yesterday,  
live for today,  
hope for tomorrow.

Albert Einstein

@weareteachers

"Acknowledging the good that you already have in your life is the foundation for all abundance."

—ECKHART TOLLE



"The way we talk to our children becomes their inner voice."

Peggy O'Mara



HELPING FAMILIES THRIVE

mental health



# Mental Health

## 8 Ways to Protect Yourself from Cold and Flu



Get a flu shot annually



Wash your hands often throughout the day



Get 7-8 hours of sleep nightly



Practice daily meditation



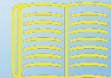
Exercise regularly



Spend time outdoors every day



Eat lots of brightly colored veggies and fruit daily (ROYGBIV)



Manage stress in healthy ways

IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR WAYS TO RELIEVE STRESS, TRY OUT THESE TIPS!

TAKE A BREAK



LEARN SOMETHING NEW



GO FOR A WALK



CALL A FRIEND



ASK FOR HELP



# Community Resources

## FAMILY FUN THINGS TO DO IN DC FOR SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

Fall is here and winter is on the horizon thus there are many Fall/Winter Festivals/Activities scheduled. Below are some events both indoors and outdoors that you, your children, and family might want to participate in:

- ✓ District of Columbia Parks and Recs - a variety of programs/activities for youth and adults throughout the fall/winter months: [www.dpr.dc.gov](http://www.dpr.dc.gov)
- ✓ Smithsonian Museums throughout DC: Fall/Winter are great times to visit various Smithsonian Museums; [www.washington.org/smithsonian](http://www.washington.org/smithsonian)
- ✓ Zoo Lights at the National Zoo; Fri Nov 22, 2024 - Sat Jan 4, 2025; Repeating every week – Sundays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays through January 4, 2025; Except November 28, 2024; December 5, 2024; December 12, 2024; January 2, 2025; Also on December 23, 2024; December 30, 2024; 5:00pm ET; Age: All Ages; Price: \$6; 2 and under Free;
- ✓ Downtown DC Holiday Market at Gallery Place/Chinatown Fri Nov 22, 2024 - Mon Dec 23, 2024; Repeating every days through December 23, 2024; Except November 28, 2024; 12:00pm to 8:00pm ET; All Ages; Free
- ✓ U.S. Botanic Garden (Nov. 28 - Jan. 5): The 2024 edition features five G-gauge model trains circulating through oversized animal pollinators made from plant parts. Indoors, see thousands of poinsettias as well as 22 plant-based landmarks of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial and the National Gallery of Art's East Building.
- ✓ DC Holiday Hunt: This holiday season, DC's "main streets" come alive with DC Holiday Hunt, a festive scavenger hunt launching Nov. 29 through Jan. 5. From historic sites to modern marvels, explore Columbia Heights, Mount Pleasant, Logan Circle and U Street, among other locales, while completing holiday missions and supporting local businesses to win prizes.
- ✓ Groove to the rhythms of Step Afrika!'s Magical Musical Holiday Step Show (Dec. 13-22); DC's Step Afrika!, the first professional company dedicated to the tradition of stepping, puts on a holiday extravaganza every year. Get your tickets to see the incredibly rhythmic, family-friendly show light up the illustrious Arena Stage.
- ✓ Holliday Tree Light Show and Firework: Now - December 30 (Saturdays) National Plaza; National Harbor, MD; Families can enjoy a custom light show on a 60-foot holiday tree at National Harbor every night through December 30th. The lights will dance to the sounds of a holiday medley recorded by the United States Air Force Band. The light show will begin every half hour from sunset until 9pm. The FREE festivities amp up on Saturdays, however, when the 5:30pm show will be followed by a spectacular fireworks display. While you are at National Harbor, enjoy dinner at one of the many restaurants in the area and perhaps a ride on the Ferris wheels.
- ✓ District of Columbia Public Library - numerous events/ programs/activities for youth and adults throughout the fall/winter months: [www.dclibrary.org](http://www.dclibrary.org)