

Wed, Feb.
5th, 2025

DREAM
BIG

WORK
HARD

BE KIND

The Kennedy Express



SY 24-25
Issue #3

School's Latest News & Updates

FEBRUARY 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,

Happy New Year!! I hope you all had a happy and healthy holiday season! The New Year is a time to reflect on the past and give the best of ourselves to the future. Thanks again for your ongoing support of your child and our school community! Please review this December/January Newsletter in its entirety and contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

The snow and cold temperatures are evidence that the winter season has arrived! December and January were shorter school months due to the winter break and then a few snow days at the start of January, but we still managed to accomplish many tasks as we educated our students. Thanks so much for joining us for our annual holiday program in December and we hope that the students enjoyed all their gifts from the generosity of our staff and donors. Both our students and staff displayed their talents in the program helping to jump start our winter holiday season!

We are entering the second semester of the school year 2024-2025. This month our students did some beautiful artwork during an art session with one of our consultants; and staff had a professional development session with a consultant providing them with additional strategies and suggestions for supporting and improving student performance. We also celebrated our December and January students and staff awardees, and our birthday honorees. And next on the horizon for the month of February we will celebrate Black History Month sharing information daily with students about prominent African American historical figures and their contributions to society and the world.

Below are some important reminders:

- ✓ Attendance Matters: (review parent/student handbook) - Absences and tardiness add up and can negatively impact students' performance both academically and socially (see flyer). Students are expected to come to school on time daily (8:45 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.) If your child arrives after 8:45 they are late. Half days do count regarding attendance thus students are to attend school on half days. We understand OSSE continues to have some transportation challenges, but this is something that we can track/document and mark as excused. OSSE transportation hotline is 202-576-5000 you can call the hotline and report transportation issues. If your child is going to be absent you need to immediately provide an excuse note. Please do not send your child to school if they are ill, have fevers, constant cough, runny noses, pain, etc. And please note that we are required to follow the district's truancy policies. REMINDER: We follow DCPS for inclement weather closings
- ✓ Closely monitor and limit your child's use of computers, cell phones, social media, gaming, etc.
- ✓ Ensure that your child completes their homework and if you have questions about assignment(s) contact teacher(s)
- ✓ We are a uniform school (see flyer): All students are to wear the school uniform daily (except on Friday as this is a dress down day thus uniform is optional on Friday, but appropriate dress is still expected). Cold temperatures have arrived so please see attached uniform flyer and ensure your child has the appropriate uniform. If you need assistance with uniforms, please contact us.

Finally, as always thanks for partnering with us because Parents/Guardians + Educators working in partnership = Successful Students

Warmest Regards,

Cheryll James

Cheryll James, PhD, CSSGB, CPM



**IMPORTANT
ANNOUNCEMENT**



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dress Down Day is

**DRESS
DOWN
DAY**

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

School Closures & 1/2 Days

February

2/14: 1/2 Day
2/17: No School

March

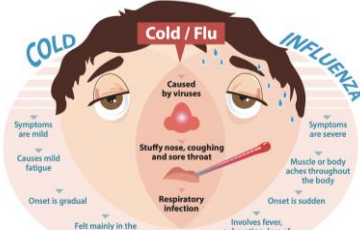
3/14: No School

April

4/14-4/21: Spring Break
4/22: No School for Students:
Parent Teacher Conference



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.



We will be utilizing



ClassDojo soon so that
you can be in the know
throughout the School
Day...More Details
Coming SOON!

Valentine's DAY DANCE
Send a Candy Gram

Friday, February 14th
Please see attached flyers for details



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



CONGRATUALATIONS TO... **GREGORY** (DECEMBER)

& **ARTWONE** (JANUARY) for meeting the Student of the Month

Criteria for the Month of October & November



CONGRATUALATIONS TO...

DECEMBER: AHMED, TOMAS, RAYVON, AKHIL, GREGORY, TYSHANN ARTWONE

JANUARY: AHMED, SUMMER, ZELVON, TOMAS, RAYVON, AKHIL, GREGORY, TYSHANN, ARTWONE

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

Shoutouts

- “Gregory is always prepared for class and ready to learn”- Mr. Pike
- Shout out to Rayvon for always being helpful to his peers and showing up to class EVERYDAY willing to learn. - Ms.Nyesha

I would like to give Zion a shoutout for his Leadership and hard work in Physical Education and also for creating a game that coincides with bowling. – Coach

“Artwone always has a great attitude and willing to help others” Mr. Pike



Staff Corner

CONGRATUALATIONS TO...

MRS. LINDA RODRIGUEZ

(CLASSROOM PARAPROFESSIONAL)

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

MS. KAILA WADDY

(CLASSROOM PARAPROFESSIONAL)

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

WELCOME ABOARD TO...

MS. ADJOWA: CLASSROOM PARAPROFESSIONAL

MR. SIMON MOORE: SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER

WE CURRENTLY HAVE 2 TEMP STAFF MEMBERS:

MS. WASHINGTON (TEACHER W/ PURPLE GROUP)

MS. BRIA (MATH TEACHER)

Shoutouts

Shoutout to Ms. Renee for consistently volunteering to help where she sees assistance is needed with students/staff. – Ms. Nyeshia

Shoutout to ALLLL the Kennedy Staff for showing up daily to make a difference in our students lives. We appreciate for all that you pour into them to make the Kennedy School the place to be. – Ms. Nicole

Shout out to Mr. Pike, Mrs. Rodriguez, and Green Group for coming up with fun ways for the students to engage in learning related to prominent people in black history. – Ms. Nyeshia

A Big THANK YOU goes out to Dr. James for leading the school in the direction that it should go, for advocating for us behind closed doors, and just all around being a great leader.



PARAPROFESSIONALS
ARE THE HEART OF
THE CLASSROOM



THANK YOU
FOR MAKING
OUR SCHOOL
A HAPPY
PLACE

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL
OF THE DECEMBER &
JANUARY BIRTHDAYS!**

**MR. ISAAC, MS. SHERELL,
MYKIA, MS. KAILA, T'KEYAH,
JULIUS, MR. RONALD, AND
DR. JAMES**



Words of the Month



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

- ✓ CELL
- ✓ TISSUE
- ✓ ORGAN
- ✓ MAPS
- ✓ NORTH
- ✓ SOUTH
- ✓ EAST
- ✓ WEST
- ✓ DOB: DATE OF BIRTH
- ✓ SSN: SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

- ✓ ADDRESS
- ✓ CELL PHONE
- ✓ NUMBER
- ✓ RESUME
- ✓ MEAN
- ✓ MEDIAN
- ✓ MODE
- ✓ DATA
- ✓ RANGE
- ✓ SCHEDULE
- ✓ BUDGET
- ✓ ADDITION
- ✓ MULTIPLY

Assistant Principal Motivational Quote

miStAkEs
are proof
that you are
TRYING

“

**Nothing is
impossible, the
word itself says
'I'm possible!'**

AUDREY HEPBURN

Parents

“You don't always
need a plan.
Sometimes you just
need to breathe,
trust, let go, and see
what happens.”

MANDY HALE

mental
health



Mental Health

Questions to Ask Your Kids After School Instead of “How Was Your Day?”

- What made you smile today?
- Can you tell me an example of kindness you saw/showed?
- What did you do that was creative?
- Who did you sit with at lunch?
- Was anyone in your class gone today?
- Tell me something you know today that you didn't know yesterday.
- Did you like your lunch?
- What was the hardest rule to follow today?
- If you could change one thing about your day, what would it be?
- What made your teacher smile?
What made her frown?
- If you could switch seats with anyone in class, who would it be? And why?
- What kind of person were you today?

Community Resources

FAMILY FUN THINGS TO DO IN DC FOR SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

Family Fun Things to Do in Washington DC Metro Area for February, and early March. The Winter Season is in full effect. Below are some events both indoors and outdoors that you, your children, and family might want to participate in:

- ✓ **Smithsonian National Zoo:** The two new giant pandas, Bao Li and Xing Bao, are scheduled to debut to the public on January 24th and there are numerous other animals and activities at the zoo.
- ✓ **The Washington Auto Show** January 31st - February 9th: This is DC's largest annual indoor event which will take place at the Walter Washington Convention Center - discount tickets available and a section just for children.
- ✓ **Honor and celebrate Black History Month in DC:** Black history and culture are essential part of DC's identity, which means that there's an abundance of ways to celebrate Black History Month in the city such as visiting any of the following: The Smithsonian National Museum of History and Culture, The Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, The African American Civil War Memorial, The Frederick Douglas Home, The Howard Theatre Walk of Fame, The Mary McLeod Bethune Council Home, Visit the numerous black owned businesses and/or black owned restaurants, etc.
- ✓ **Step Afrika! Step Classic** - February 14-16 at the Warner Theatre: This Step Classic performance is inspired by the legacy of HBCU Classics. This performance will highlight the powerful artform of stepping, bringing together community, culture, and celebration in a way only Step Afrika can.
- ✓ **Go-Go Museum and Café Opens February 19th:** DC's newest museum attraction opens for special events and showcases the official music of the nation's capital. It's the official site for the appreciation and study of go-go music as well as its history, impact and vitality
- ✓ **Attend a Capital, Wizards, or Go-Go Game:** Discounted tickets are available for all
- ✓ **Ice Skate in DC:** Some of the popular ice-skating rinks include the National Gallery of Art's Sculpture Garden, Washington Harbor in Georgetown, Canal Park in Capital Riverfront and the Wharf
- ✓ **A Bold and Beautiful Vision:** A Century of Black Arts Education in Washington, DC, 1900 - 2000 at the Anacostia Community Museum through March 2nd: The museum sheds light on fascinating local history with an exhibit featuring captivating original artworks, rare video footage and other can't miss artifacts
- ✓ **We Gather at the Edge:** Contemporary Quilts by Black Women Artists - Feb 21 - June 22 - Smithsonian American Art Museum: The scope of the quilts featured is remarkable and groundbreaking in its representation of Black history and culture
- ✓ **District of Columbia Public Library** - numerous events/ programs/activities for youth and adults throughout the winter months: www.dclibrary.org
- ✓ **DC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR):** Black history and culture are an essential part of DC's identity, which means that there's an abundance of ways to celebrate Black History Month in the city.- a variety of programs/activities for youth and adults throughout the winter months: www.dpr.dc.gov