

Thurs, Nov
30, 2023

DREAM
BIG

WORK
HARD

BE KIND

Kennedy News Today



Issue #13

School's Latest News & Updates

NOVEMBER 2023

INSIDE THIS

ISSUE:

- Principally Speaking....1
- Special Announcements....2
- Scholars Shoutouts.....3
- Staff Corner.....4
- Health Tips.....5
- Happy Birthday.....5
- Word of the Month.....6
- Community Resources.....6-7
- Social Media Awareness....7

“Principally ”Speaking by Dr. Cheryll James

Greetings Parents/Guardians,

It is November thus the end of the year is just a month away! We hope you and yours had a joyous Thanksgiving holiday. During the month of November many celebrate Thanksgiving which is a time of gratitude, family feasting gatherings, and awareness/recognitions of various things throughout the month. For example, November is Native American month thus we shared famous Native American figures and facts about their contributions to our nation daily with students. We also had our annual Thanksgiving family luncheon which also consisted of students and staff presentations – special thanks to all who attended. Here at Kennedy, we have so many things to be grateful for - as we have each other including wonderful students, staff, parents, and community. And there is a great deal of learning taking place here due to everyone’s efforts!

This month our students continued to excel in their use of the IXL Computer Program which helps them to build and strengthen their reading and mathematics skills. Our students work on this program in our computer lab, but they are also encouraged to work on this program at home too; as well as timely completion of all homework assignments that their teachers provide. Our Title I teacher Mr. Washington is also working with Title I students providing extra support to them in reading and/or mathematics. Our staff continues to provide students with a variety of arts-infused core academic subjects, related services, special classes, and outside learning experiences including various field trips, Special Olympics, and volunteer work experiences also continued this month for many of our students. Several of our community partners continue to express their gratitude regarding the excellent services that our students provide during their volunteer work. Students also began practicing this month for our annual Christmas Program which will be December 19th so mark your calendars now and plan to attend; the flyers advertising this program will be sent home soon. Also, on the horizon for next month is our awareness and recognition of the 50th year of the musical genre of Hip Hop!!

Please remember to ensure the following:

- 1) Your child’s health and immunization records are current as per the District’s mandate students whose records are not compliant will not be able to return to school beginning December 4th. Our nurses and Social Workers have been reaching out for months to parents regarding this mandate.
- 2) Limit and monitor your child’s time on computers, phones, social media sites, etc.
- 3) Your child is getting adequate rest at night, so they are not sleeping during the school day.
- 4) Your child is consistently performing daily hygiene practices such as bathing/showering, brushing teeth, grooming, wearing clean uniforms, etc.
- 5) Daily timely attendance as we are mandated to follow the District’s attendance/truancy policies which include truancy notices and/or attendance intervention plans and/or Court/Child Family Services Association referrals based on the number of absences/tardiness; and please remember half days count as a full day which still includes learning and engaging lessons and/or activities
- 6) Check your child’s backpack daily as information for you is periodically sent home.
- 7) While PRIME Sports Drinks are popular, they are not allowed at Kennedy as research has reported they are **NOT** healthy for students. If you allow your child to bring these beverages to school they will be taken and given to them at the end of the day; however, if this continues then a parent meeting will be required to discuss the matter.

Again, we are grateful to you and thank you for selecting Kennedy School and allowing us to share in the wonderful experience of educating your child; for they make us want to come to work every day. Please review this November Newsletter in its entirety. 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

Cheryll James, PhD, CSSGB, CPM





SPECIAL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dress Down Day is

**DRESS
DOWN
DAY**

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

Christmas Play is

Tuesday,
December 19th
@10am

NEED TO REACH A STAFF MEMBER AT
THE KENNEDY SCHOOL?




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

Student's Health & Immunizations
Current Records (Updated Physicals & Dentist)
are DUE to the School Nurse. Please ensure that your
child's Health Records are CURRENT.
If you have any questions, please contact the
Kennedy School Nurses directly @
kennedyschoolnurse@ccs-dc.org
DUE BY December 3rd, 2023

Should you need information on FREE CLINICS
please contact our Social Workers

Mr. Isaac Kornegay (Isaac.kornegay@cc-dc.org)
or Ms Coleen Johnson (coleen.johnson@cc-dc.org)



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

Scholars Shoutouts



CONGRATUALTIONS TO...

MYKIA



“For her always pleasant attitude, her ability to focus on the task at hand (even in a turbulent environment at times), and her continued academic growth!” – Mr. Pike
for meeting the Student of the Month Criteria for the Month of November



CONGRATUALTIONS TO...

AHMED, TOMAS, RAYVON,
RAHIEM, ARTWONE, JULIUS,
RONNIE & TYSHANN

for meeting the Perfect Attendance Criteria for the Month of November. Thank you for always being present and ready to learn.

“I would like to shout out the WHOLE PURPLE GROUP for advancing in their academics & moving on to new things like multiplication, telling time, & reading” – Ms. Dominique

“I would like to give a shout out to Nyesha & Coach Clark) and the Athlete’s for their participation & MEDAL IN BASKETBALL & TENNIS. Jeffrey, Julius, Kayden, Rayvon, Tennis: Summer”~ Coach



Coach’s (Coach Special Olympics’ Winning A GOLD Great job Rahiem, Tavion, Artwone, Ahmed, & Calvin.



“Shout out to Zion for being eager to learn & trying his best when things are challenging/new. Keep up the good work Zion.” ~Ms. Nyesha

THANK YOU TO ALL THE STUDENTS THAT PARTICIPATED IN SPIRIT WEEK AND SHOWED THEIR SCHOOL PRIDE!



Staff Corner



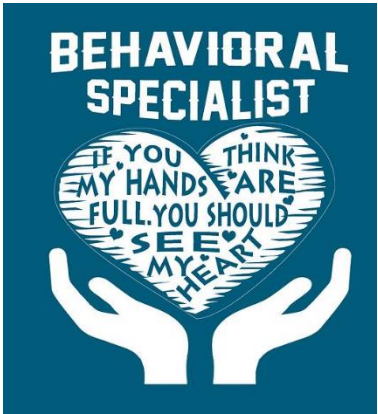
In this picture, you will find our Staff of the Month in action with the students on a field to the Pumpkin Patch.

CONGRATUALTIONS TO...

Ms. MARIEL CASTENDA

(BEHAVIORAL SPECIALIST)

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



WELCOME ABOARD TO...

DR. DEVON DEE (SPEECH PATHOLOGIST)

ANN CLECKLEY (VISION SPECIALIST)

MAKAILA WELDON

(CLASSROOM PARAPROFESSIONAL)

Shoutouts

“I would like to give a shout out to Coach’s (Coach Nyesha & Coach Clark) and the Special Olympics’ Athlete’s for their participation & Winning A GOLD MEDAL IN BASKETBALL & TENNIS.” – Coach

Shout out to Ms. Gabby, Mr. Clark, Julius, Artwone and Tomas. These students are writing sentences, reading short books and always supporting each other in a fun and cooperative learning environment. ~ Ms. Connie

We are proud to welcome Dr. Devon Dee Mbappe to our school. Dr. Devon is a Speech Language Pathologist who specializes in Assistive Technology. She has enjoyed getting to know and work with our students. (See Photo Below)



Health Tips

SYMPTOMS OF SAD

Individual experiences with SAD vary, but there are a few symptoms you can look out for if you are feeling blue:

- Negative thoughts and feelings of guilt
- Lethargy, disturbed sleep or narcoleptic symptoms
- Fatigue that is often incapacitating
- Overeating and developing a craving for carbohydrates and sweet foods
- Difficulty with concentration and memory
- Social problems, such as finding it difficult to be around others

TREATMENTS OF SAD

If you are experiencing SAD, or a case of the winter blues, consult with your doctor about the following treatments:

- SAD lamp therapy
- Try to find time each day to get outside
- Take regular, moderate exercise or physical activity
- Eat a well-balanced diet
- Learn relaxation techniques
- Sit near windows when you are inside

NOVEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL OF THE NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

AHMED

Awesome
Boys
Are Born
In November

Word of the Month

GRATITUDE NOUN.

[the quality of being thankful; the readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness.]

BE **GRATEFUL!**

Community Resources

December 2023 Family Fun Events in the Washington, DC Metropolitan Area

- **Take in lights on the water at the District Holiday Boat Parade:** Kick off the holiday season with this stunning light display on the water! The Wharf is hosting its annual District Holiday Boat Parade on Saturday, Dec. 2, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. The free event features more than 60 boats, decked to the bow with holiday lights, setting sail down the Washington Channel. You can watch the boats and then head to The Wharf to roast s'mores, get pictures with Santa, and even skate at the ice rink!
- **Step Afrika's Magical Holiday Step Show:** December 8th thru 17th at Arena Stage Washington, DC - Audiences will stomp their feet, clap their hands, and dance along with the talented performers in this holiday show highlighting the African American tradition of stepping. It is toe-tapping fun for the whole family! The production's exciting movement, captivating rhythms, and the sounds of DJ Nutcracker wow audiences every year.
- **Dinos Alive:** An Immersive Experience (throughout December and January). It is a dinosaur exhibition featuring life-size animated replicas in an immersive Jurassic venue. Walk alongside the massive creatures that roamed our world millions of years ago! Location: Rhode Island Center 524 Rhode Island Ave, NE Washington, DC 20002-1231
- **Polar Palooza Hip Hop Dance Party:** December 16th at Atlas Theatre Washington DC. This family-friendly event celebrates the joy of the winter season with dance. Enjoy dance performances and dance to a live DJ. Other fun activities will be available including a Frosty Funk Cypher and the Chilly Willy Hip Hop Creation Station. Kids snacks, hot chocolate, and more
- **Smithsonian's National Zoo to experience the fun of ZooLights** continues thru December 30th – 3001 Connecticut Ave, NW Washington, DC

- **DC’s Area Holiday Markets & Festive Lights:** Nall’s Winter Market at Union Market; City Cener DC; Holidays at the National Harbor including the winter wonderland of ICE at the Gaylord National; Enchant at Nationals Park including ice skating; Georgetown Glow with stunning light art installations throughout the area; Silver Spring Christmas Market and Holiday Craft Fair December 3rd noon to 4 pm at Veterans Plaza
- **Botanical Gardens:** Special holiday exhibits from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00p.m.
- **Kwanzaa & Watch Night:** Visions of Freedom – December 30th National Museum of African American History & Culture; This program cloebrat4es the cultural holidays of Watch Night and Kwanzaa. Visitors will be able to create a scrapbook with images from the Museum’s collection. Additionally, activities will be available that honor the last three principles of Kwanzaa: Kumba (creativity), Imani (faith), and Nia (purpose).

Social Media Awareness



These are extraordinary times for students, families and educators. Social media can be tricky; it’s more important than ever to be professional and positive.

1

**KEEP IT POSITIVE**

It can be tempting to use social media to complain and vent. Don’t. Comments about colleagues, community members, parents or students that may be negative in tone can be misconstrued or taken out of context.

2

**BE SENSITIVE**

Many families are struggling. Seeing educators complain about how we are working or changes to our planned time off could be insulting to some and create resentment.

3

**USE HUMOR CAREFULLY**

People handle stress differently. Humor can be a way to relieve stress, but it can also come off as offensive or insensitive.

4

**FACT-CHECK**

Misinformation is everywhere. Take extra precautions when posting, especially on education issues. Know your employer’s policies. Check out [NYSUT.org/Coronavirus](https://www.nysut.org/Coronavirus).

5

**BE A GOOD DIGITAL CITIZEN**

Be respectful. Protect student privacy. These are difficult times for everyone, consider other perspectives before posting.

