

Fri, Jun 11th, 25

DREAM BIG

WORK
HARD

BE KIND

The Kennedy Express



SY 24-25
Issue #5

School's Latest News & Updates

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,

The end of school year 2024-2025 is just around the corner. It has been a memorable school year full of accomplishments as well as excitement of future possibilities. Of course, like any school year we also had challenges but working together as a team including your partnership with us, we were able to overcome them. Additionally, this end of the school year we continued to provide academics and related services as well as numerous outside learning experiences including visits to several Smithsonian Museums, Panamanian Restaurant, National Harbor, neighborhood walks, metro rides, life skills trips to stores and other businesses; and representatives visiting students from Rehabilitative Services Administration and Department of Disabilities Services; students volunteering in the community; continued participation in Special Olympics with many of our students winning medals for the events they participated in; and the list goes on and on. In March, each day we profiled a trailblazing history making woman for National Women's Month; and while there is technically no official day for men, we did the same in April for trailblazing history making men. During the month of May we alternated days recognizing history making persons of Asian Pacific Islander Heritage and Haitian Heritage. And although for us June is a short school month, it is also Black Music Month, so daily we will recognize African American music icons. Also, mandated end of year school testing was also completed. On the horizon for our summer Extended School Year Program (ESY) we will have academic enrichment, related services, summer youth employment, volunteerism, field trips, etc.

Please make note of the following reminders as we prepare to wrap up the school year as we head into the ESY period and prepare for SY 2026-2027: School uniforms remain in effect; daily/timely attendance; ensure you complete re-enrollment registration processes at your child's LEA; ensure health and immunization documents are submitted timely

I would like to shout out the entire Kennedy team for their dedication, resilience, hard work, perseverance and collective success and individual contributions made for school year 2024-2025! Exhibition of our staff mantra ("Stay Positive, Work Hard & Make It Happen") as well as their outstanding work on several projects, events, lessons, services, outside learning experiences, etc. throughout the year have contributed to the success of our students and program; and has been greatly appreciated!

I would like to shout out and thank all students who consistently exhibited our student mantra (Dream Big, Work Hard & Be Kind) throughout the school year 2024-2025. Doing this has had a positive impact on our classrooms and school overall; and has been appreciated! Thus, I am encouraging all students to continue to do so throughout the summer months and beyond.

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





ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dress Down Day is

**DRESS
DOWN
DAY**

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

School Closures & ½ Days

June

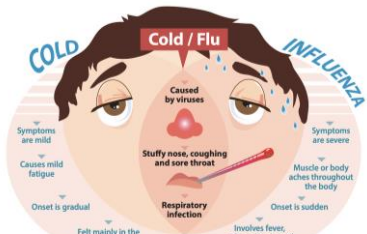
6/13: Last Day & ½ Day

6/16~6/20: Mini Summer
Break

6/23: Summer Program
Starts



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.



Please Complete Re-
Enrollment Documents.
Please complete it
ONLINE or Paper Copy.



Please complete all ESY
Permission Slips and Forms.
We have an exciting summer
planned and we do not want
our students to miss out.

Summer Theme is
"Exploring Music"

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



CONGRATUALTIONS TO... **TYSHANN**^(APRIL) & **KALYNN**^(MAY) for meeting the Student of the Month Criteria for the Month of April & May.

SUMMER (STUDENT OF THE YEAR)



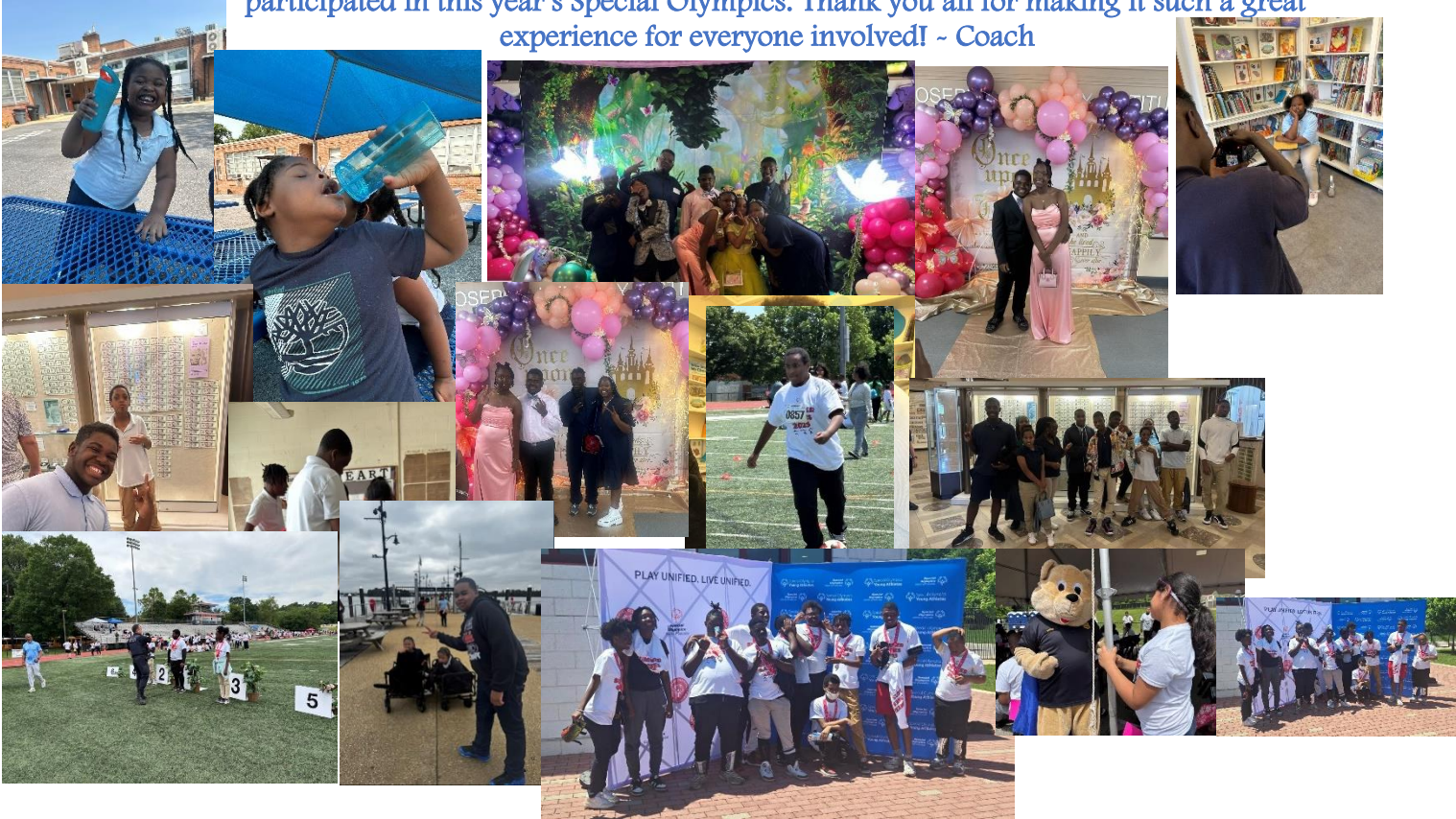
CONGRATUALTIONS TO...

THE STUDENTS THAT HAVE MADE PERFECT ATTENDANCE
FOR **APRIL**: JULIUS, ZELVON, TYSHANN, CARTER, AKHIL, TOMAS, ARTWONE, SUMMER, KAYDEN, & ZION
MAY: ZELVON, MYKIA, EMANUEL, CARTER, DEMARCUS, & ZION

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

Shoutouts

I'd like to give a big shoutout to both the staff and students who supported and participated in this year's Special Olympics. Thank you all for making it such a great experience for everyone involved! ~ Coach



Staff Corner



SPECIAL THANK YOU TO MRS. RODRIGUEZ AND HER TEAM FOR ORGANIZING AND DECORATING PROM 2025 “ONCE UPON A TIME”

CONGRATUALTIONS TO...

MR. RONALD MCGHEE

(CLASSROOM PARAPROFESSIONAL)

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

MS. NYESHA CAIN

(TRANSITION SPECIALIST)

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

MS. NICOLE MEADOWS

(ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL)

for being STAFF MEMBER OF THE YEAR!

WELCOME ABOARD TO...

MS. MARIA FLANDERS

(SELF-CONTAINED TEACHER)

MR. ALLEN PENN (MATH TEACHER)



Shoutouts

I want to shout out Ms Maria . She’s doing an incredible job with purple group! She’s very patient and consistent! Kudos to her -Ms. Davis

Shout outs: shouting out Mrs. Butler and Mr. Pike for helping me create the beautiful decorations for Prom. It was a lot of hard work, I could not have got it done without their support. I would like to thank Ms. Trencece and Ms. Nicole for the beautiful rental pieces and balloon creations. I would also like to thank Coach for his covering of the gym wall, it's the back drop of our beautiful art work. I would like to thank Ms. Makalia and Ms. Kalia for helping create a few of our wonderful butterfly's. they really put love into the creations. A new member to the team Mr. Ronald for supporting me with the climbing the ladder and placing the ceiling decoration and chandeliers up where I could not reach, you were there for me and can't thank you enough. To all of our male staff who moved tables and chairs you are a bless thanks for your muscles. This Prom theme meant a lot to me. You all helped my dream come true. To one of the lovingness, kindest, woman I know Dr. James, for trusting in me, to manifest my vision I thank you. ONCE UPON A TIME there was a school named KENNEDY and we all lived Happily Ever After. love you guys forever! - Ms. Rodriguez

I’d like to shout out Ms. Nicole and Dr. James steering us down the road to another successful school year and being the best leaders to both staff and students.

"Your hard work and commitment make a world of difference." — Unknown

THANK YOU FOR BEING A WONDERFUL

teacher

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL
OF THE APRIL, MAY & JUNE
BIRTHDAYS!



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

Happy Birthday
June born
Birthdays
are not a reminder
of age but a reminder
that you had all these
years to transform and
bring the change

In April
when YOU were born . . .
oh, how the world
came alive!
The smell of wet, musky
earth *filled the air*
& even in the rain,
the songs of birds
made music that
seemed somehow *new*.
Colors arranged
themselves in the shapes
of *flowers*, inviting
EXUBERANCE.

Words of the Month

Practice Makes
Perfect

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

summer Words		
sun	beach	picnic
ball	shell	umbrella
popsicle	sand	hot dog
ice cream	sandcastle	fireworks
sunscreen	pool	vacation
flip flops	sprinkler	hot
water	lemonade	shadow
sunglasses	tent	park
swimsuit	campfire	bucket
watermelon	shorts	barbecue
hat	sandals	

Assistant Principal Motivational Quote

always remember:
**YOU *are* BRAVER
THAN YOU BELIEVE
STRONGER
THAN YOU SEEM *and*
SMARTER
THAN YOU THINK.** *-a.a.milne*

**"You get the best out of others
when you give the best of
yourself."**

Harvey S. Firestone

**"Happiness is not
something readymade;
it comes from
your own actions."**

DALAI LAMA

GH



Mental Health

TIPS FOR PARENTS

A HAPPY AND HEALTHY SUMMER



Protect against
the heat.



Find ways to
stay active.



Prevent
summertime
injuries.



Be safe in
and around
water.



Schedule a check-up with your doctor for
age-specific and routine vaccinations.



5 Tips for Summertime Mental Health:

1. Don't compare your summer to others'
2. Do the things you love, not the things you think you 'should' love
3. Wear what feels most comfortable
4. Realize it's okay to be happy and it's okay to be sad
5. Remember: summer is just a season

Community Resources

FAMILY FUN THINGS TO DO IN WASHINGTON DC METRO AREA FOR SUMMER 2025

Summer Season is on the horizon. Below are some events both indoors and outdoors that you, your children, and family might want to participate in:

- ✓ **The DC Wharf Summer Series** June thru August: Join The Wharf this summer for a fantastic lineup of free special events, community activities, live music, movies, and more along the waterfront - WHARFDC.COM @THEWHARFDC
- ✓ **Smithsonian Museums and Zoo**: www.si.edu/visit/museums
- ✓ **DC Department of Parks and Recreation**: Several summer and year-round programs: <https://dprprograms.splashthat.com>
- ✓ **Outdoor Activities Guide for DC Kids** | Mommy Poppins - Things To Do with Kids Families can enjoy Washington DC's great outdoors all year round, with outdoor adventures and activities from hiking to drive-in movies, camping to swimming.
- ✓ **Free Summer Outdoor Movies**: Free Outdoor Movies in DC in Summer 2025 for Kids
- ✓ **Farmers Markets**: Nearly 30 markets across DC, Maryland, and Virginia are inclusive community spaces to enjoy local food, improve health, and support local farmers and food producers; www.freshfarm.org/markets
- ✓ **DC Library**: Event Discover Summer is an all-ages city-wide celebration of reading and learning. Everything you need to Discover Summer can be found at your neighborhood library. Families can sign up for Discover Summer and enjoy some crafts and STEAM projects! June 5th 3:30 to 5:00 @Northeast Neighborhood Branch; and other events throughout the summer at other community branches
- ✓ **Georgetown Waterfront**: The series kicks off with an African and Latin dance night on June 10th There are free instructions from 6 - 7 p.m., followed by social dancing.
- ✓ **Universe Soul Circus**: will be in the D.C. metro area from June 20 to July 28 at the National Harbor in Oxon Hill, MD. The circus offers a spectacle of sight, sound, and soul for the entire family to enjoy
- ✓ **Home Rule Music Fest**: This free outdoor music festival at The Parks at Walter Reed celebrates D.C. music and culture with over a dozen performers in genres ranging from jazz to go-go. Grab food from the vendors and stop to chat with community organizations to make for the perfect wholesome D.C. day. It goes down from 1 - 9 p.m. on June 21st
- ✓ The **33rd annual Giant National Capital Barbecue Battle** will take place in downtown DC on June 21-22. The event will feature dozens of pitmasters from across the country, serving up competition-worthy BBQ in the hopes of winning one of the competition's top titles. One-day passes start at \$20 and weekend passes start at \$30
- ✓ **Smithsonian Folk Life Festival**: Will take place July 2nd - July 7th along the National Mall. Admission is free, and activities will run daily from 11:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The festival will focus on the theme "Youth and the Future of Culture", showcasing various cultural expressions and innovations; <https://festival.si.edu>
- ✓ **Fireworks on the National Mall** (and many other areas in the DC Metro area) - July 4th
- ✓ **Summer Restaurant Week**: Aug 18 - 24
- ✓ **DC Jazz Fest**: It brings national and local musicians to a range of venues all over the city, including The Wharf. Some concerts are free; most are ticketed. A lineup stacked with talent and free performances are just some of the many reasons why you should check it out. August 27 - 31
- ✓ **National Book Festival**: The Walter E. Washington Convention Center hosts a beloved annual celebration of books of all kinds, from children's stories to epic novels, curated by the Library of Congress. Authors will speak and answer questions about their work throughout the day. The festival is always free to attend; September 6