

Fri, Sept 26<sup>th</sup>, 25

DREAM BIG

WORK HARD

BE KIND

# The Kennedy Express



SY 25-26  
Issue #1

School's Latest News & Updates

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## *"Principally Speaking" by Dr. Cheryl James*

Dear Parents/Families/Guardians & Program Supporters,

**Welcome to the 2025–2026 school year at the Kennedy School!** We are thrilled to begin another year of learning, growth, and partnering with you our parents/guardians and outside supporters to promote students' overall success! Our committed staff have created engaging fun-filled and challenging lessons including outside learning experiences aimed at getting students excited about learning, meeting students' academic and behavioral goals, and preparing them for life's journeys after Kennedy School.

We remain driven to continue building a respectful and strong school community focused on the overall success of every student. Staffers have completed our initial back to school periods of getting to know students, conducting student assessments, and connecting with parents/guardians/outside resources; and have jumped head on into delivering lessons designed to meet students where they are and take them to the next levels. And for the month of September, we have been informing our students about trailblazing youth ages 6 - 22 who are doing and accomplishing phenomenal things; and during Hispanic Heritage month which is September 15th thru October 15th we are also educating students with information about Hispanic Heritage Month!

Additionally, the new Kennedy School building (Conway Education Center) has been coming along and is now fully above ground and hopefully soon we will be relocating to our new spaces within the building!

If you haven't completed and submitted all of the mandated new school year 2025-2026 forms (previously sent home) for your child please ensure that you do so immediately; as we do not want your child missing out on things due to us not having the necessary forms on file (and this includes any missing health and immunization forms that our nurses have contacted you about).

Also included in this newsletter are some engaging fun and educational suggestions for families during the months of September and October. Our back-to-school day will be September 26th from 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and we hope that you will join us.

Finally, enjoy the quickly approaching end of the summer season and jump start of the Fall! Thanks for your continued support and as always "Parents + Educators working in Partnership = Successful Students"

Warmest Regards,

*Cheryl James*

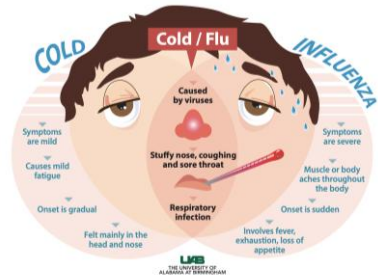
Cheryl James, PhD, CSSGB, CPM





# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.



School Closures/ ½ Days

- 10/10: ½ Day Dismissal @ 12pm
- 10/13: No School for Students/ Staff PD
- 10/14: Parent Teacher Conference



Student's *MUST* be in *Uniform Monday- Thursday*. Student can earn *Dress Down Friday* by ensuring they are in uniform everyday and on their best behavior. Student's must have a DRESS DOWN PASS to participate. Student's not in uniform will lose their recess for the day and/or possibly Fun Friday.



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





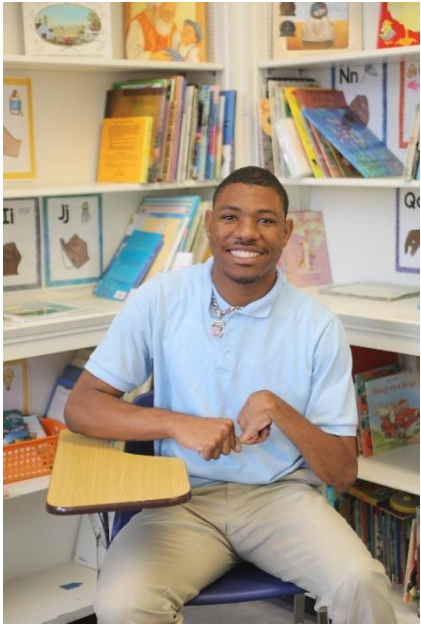
# Scholars Corner



## CONGRATUALTIONS TO...

**TYSHANN FOR** meeting the Student of the Month Criteria for the Month of September.

*This month student Tyshann has been a role model who consistently exhibited our student mantra (Dream Big, Work Hard, Be Kind). Additionally, he has been very supportive of students and staff as he constantly volunteered to help with a variety of things including cafeteria clean up following breakfast and lunch; encouraging and reminding other students to be positive and to do their best; and he has been advocating for students for various things – i.e. extended recess, trips, specific additions to lunch menu, additional activities for our bi-weekly Fun Fridays, etc. And he has also had perfect attendance thus far for the start of School Year 25 ~ 26!- Dr. James*



# Shoutouts



➤ **TYSHANN THOMPSON SHOWS KINDNESS AS HE HELPS CLASSMATES TRANSITION TO CLASSES. HE WORKS HARD IN CLASS AND ALWAYS ASKS FOR HELP WHEN NEEDED- MRS. HOLLAND**



HIS



➤ **SHOUT OUT SILVER & YELLOW GROUPS FOR THE PROGRESS THEY ARE MAKING AND WORKING HARD THEY ARE PUTTING IN THUS FAR THIS SCHOOL YEAR — MR. PIKE**

➤ **SHOUTOUT TO KENDRIC FOR BEING MOTIVATED AND PERSISTENT WITH LEARNING NEW THINGS EVEN IF IT'S CHALLENGING. — MS. NYESHA**

➤ **SHOUTOUT TO CALVIN FOR SHOWING UP AS A LEADER TO HIS PEERS WHILE ENGAGING IN VOCATIONAL TASK. - MS. NYESHA**

➤ **SHOUTOUT TO ALL THE STUDENTS FOR ROCKING THE BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR, CONTINUE TO PUT YOUR BEST FOOT FORWARD THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE SCHOOL YEAR. — MS.**

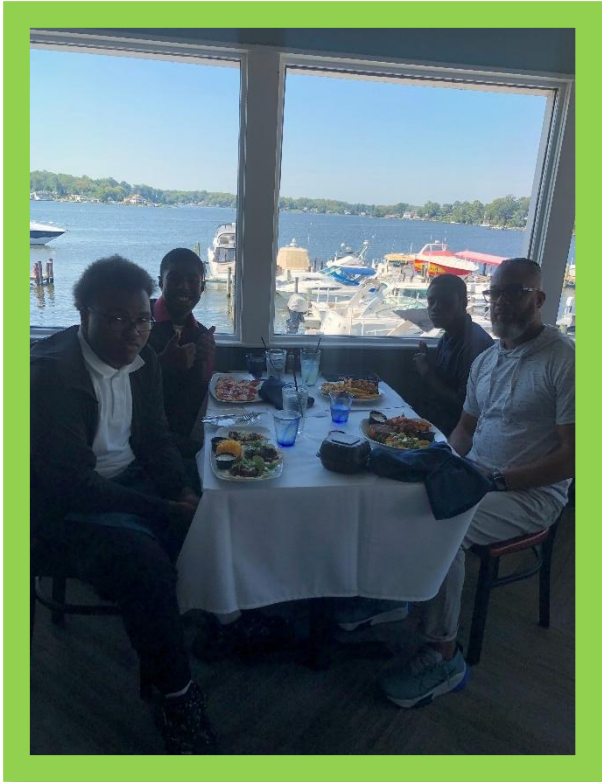
**NICOLE**

➤ **ZION REED — FOR VOLUNTEERING TO ASSIST BOTH STAFF AND STUDENTS WITH A VARIETY OF TASKS; AND MENTORING/ASSISTING A NEW STUDENT- DR. JAMES**





# Staff Corner



SHOUTOUT TO COACH YOUNG FOR JUMPSTARTING OUR FIELD TRIPS FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR WITH A TRIP TO YELLOWFIN STEAK & FISH HOUSE. STUDENTS WERE ABLE TO ENJOY A NICE MEAL ON THE WATER WHILE LEARNING HOW TO ORDER MEALS, READ A MENU, AND SOCIALIZE WITH EACH OTHER IN A DIFFERENT SETTING.

## Shoutouts

- MS. ADENRELE DAVIS – FOR READING OUR SEPTEMBER BIOGRAPHIES OF TRAILBLAZING YOUTH MAKING GREAT CONTRIBUTIONS- DR. JAMES
- MR. CHARLES WASHINGTON – FOR STEPPING IN AND DOING STUDENT BUS ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE DUTY- DR. JAMES



## CONGRATUALTIONS TO...

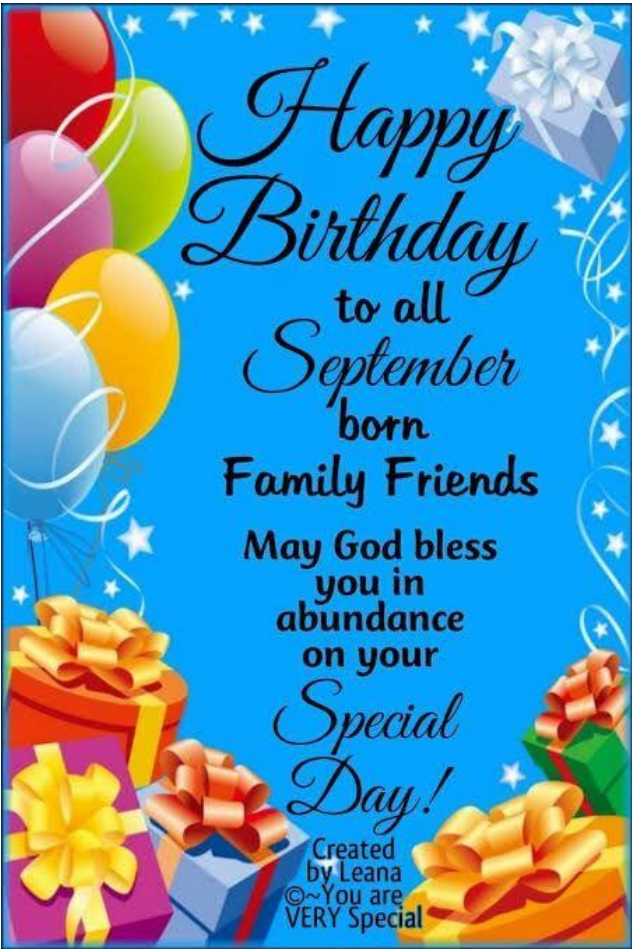
**MR. KEON YOUNG**

(OFFICE COORDINATOR)  
for meeting the Staff of the Month Criteria for the Month of September!

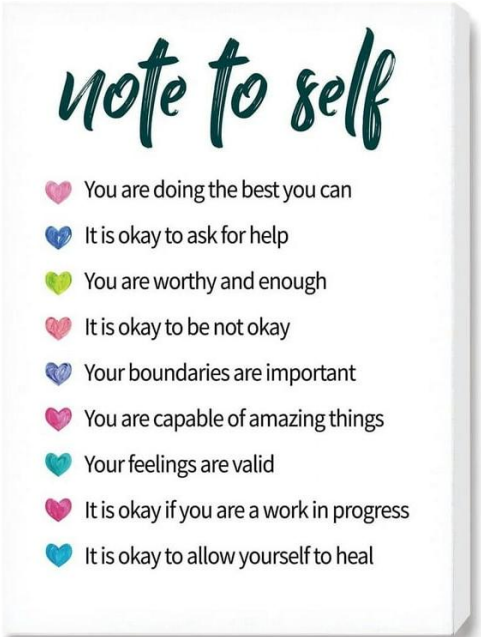


This month it was Mr. Keon who had the idea for us to recognize trailblazing youth ages 6 to 22 (same ages as our students) for the month of September. This was a great idea, and it made both our students and staff aware of the accomplishments and major contributions that young people are making to our country and world; as well as the milestones they are setting! Additionally, Mr. Keon retrieved another van for program, and despite many other tasks he was presented with this month as well as those he volunteered to do (such as spending time in classrooms, assisting both students and staff, etc.) he delivered 100%+ effort in getting things done!- Dr. James



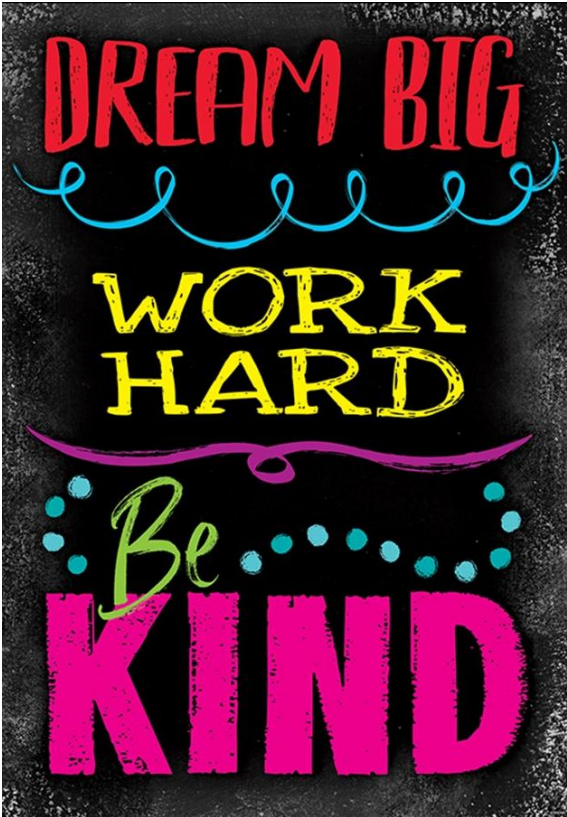


# Assistant Principal Motivational Quote



# School Mantras

## STUDENT MANTRA



## STAFF MANTRA



# Community Resources

## FAMILY FUN AND EDUCATIONAL THINGS TO DO IN DC, MARYLAND & VIRGINIA (DMV) FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2025

- ✓ **Hispanic Heritage Month** is celebrated September 15 thru October 15. This month honors the histories, cultures, and contributions of Hispanic and LatinX communities across the Americas: Several Smithsonian Museums have a variety of exhibits during this time period to honor the contributions of Hispanics; and the National Museum of the American Latino has exhibits year round and not just during the official months celebration; and there are numerous community events throughout the DMV scheduled to honor and celebrate the Hispanic Heritage month.
- ✓ **Fiesta DC** – The Nation’s Largest Latino Festival - September 27th and 28th 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Pennsylvania Ave NW between 7th NW & 3rd St, NW, Washington, DC
- ✓ **National Museum of American History** – NW, Washington, DC exhibit Corazon y vida: Lowrider Culture – Opens Oct 3rd - the exhibit examines the 80-year history of lowrider tradition which has become a source of Mexican American pride
- ✓ **National Gallery of Art’s East Building Mezzanine**: With Passion and Purpose: Gifts from the Collection of Larry D and Brenda A. Thompson – A collection that spans 100 years of Black creativity – NW Washington DC now through October 5th
- ✓ **Pumpkin Patch and Farm** Visit Activities now thru October – enjoy pumpkin picking, petting farm animals, and exploring corn mazes at local farms in the DMV
- ✓ **Fall Festivals**: Participate in fall festivals that feature crafts, food trucks, and folk artists around the DMV such as the free Folk Festival in Takoma Park MD. These activities provide a perfect opportunity for families to bond and create lasting memories during the fall season
- ✓ Join the LEGO Monsters for the ultimate Brick-or-Treat Monster Party from September 25th through October 31st at Lego Discovery Center Washington, DC! Enjoy fun games, LEGO activities and interactive potion kitchen
- ✓ **National Air & Space Museum**: 5 new Galleries open - SW, Washington, DC

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- ✓ Boo at the Zoo, Smithsonian National Zoo Washington, DC – October 17 – 19
  - ✓ Pumpkin Palooza Celebrates Halloween featuring trick or treating, live entertainment, scavenger hunts, food, music, and pick your own pumpkin patch – Alethia Tanner Park, NE Washington, DC
  - ✓ Experience the spooky side of air and space with the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center’s Air & Scare; 14390 Air & Space Museum Parkway – Chantilly, VA; Come in costume to this free event and enjoy creepy crafts, spooky experiments and other Halloween themed activities for the whole family.
  - ✓ Octopus: Blue Planet II 4 D Experience (now thru December 31st) – Baltimore National Aquarium \$5 per person - Octopus: Blue Planet II 4D Experience | Washington DC