

Wed, Nov 12th, 25

DREAM BIG

WORK HARD

BE KIND

The

Kennedy
Express



SY 25-26

Issue #2

School's Latest News & Updates

INSIDE OF THIS ISSUE:

Principally Speaking.....	1
Announcements.....	2
Scholars Corner.....	3
Staff Corner.....	4
Student Recognitions.....	5
Happy Birthday.....	5
Assistant Principal Motivational Quotes.....	6
Community Resources.....	7

"Principally "Speaking" by Dr. Cheryl James

Dear Parents/Families/Guardians & Program Supporters,

The colors of the Fall season continue to surround us and have become even more brilliant during the month of October. This has been an amazing month full of wonderful events and enriching internal and external lessons and learning opportunities focused on providing our scholars with both academic and social experiences aimed at strengthening their knowledge and skills sets. Special thanks to the parents/guardians who attended our Back-to-School luncheon at the end of September. Also, the new school building the Conway Educational Center is coming along and additional information will be provided in next month's newsletter regarding building updates as well as move in date.

During October several of our scholars continued participation in Special Olympics including winning medals for events; several field trips, volunteer work experiences, transition fairs focused on preparing students for opportunities for those preparing to graduate from Kennedy School; Spirit Week; recognition of trailblazing persons for Hispanic Heritage month; school visit by staff members from a local fire department including opportunities for students to explore their firetruck; library time with our volunteer library staffer Mr. Rousseau; etc. etc. Please ensure that students complete assignments teachers send home as well as allowing and encouraging them to work on computers using IXL computer program to support enriching their math and reading skills.

Daily and timely student attendance is very important and please note that we are mandated to follow the District's truancy policy which can be found at: SY25-26 Attendance Policy Updates Final - English.pdf. Thus, we are required to report chronic absences to Child and Family Services or the Courts. Please note that constantly missing school, coming late, leaving early will have a negative impact on your child's learning, achievement, and grades. Thus, if your child MUST be absent, be sure to notify us of the reason for absence(s). For absences, related to illness or appointments, please provide excuse notes from doctors/providers. It is imperative that your child engage in the learning process and complete all assignments; and be present and on time daily to ensure that they can progress and advance to next levels and have a successful school year.

Our cell phone policy remains in effect. Students are required to turn their cell phones in upon arrival, and they get them back when departing at the end of the day. Again, we are asking that you closely monitor their use of cell phones and computers while at home, as we are experiencing some in school issues with students stemming from inappropriate use outside of school with technology and unfortunately it is having a negative impact in school

Please review this October Newsletter in its entirety as it is chock full of information and resources. Hope you enjoyed the first full month of Fall! And remember "Parents + Educators working in Partnership = Successful Students"

Warmest Regards,

Cheryll James

Cheryll James, PhD, CSSGB, CPM





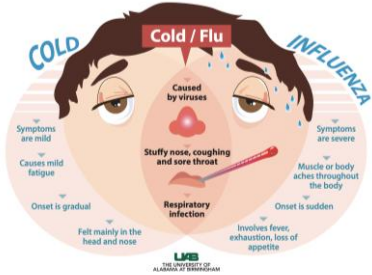
ANNOUNCEMENTS

School Closures/ ½ Days

- 11/26-28:
Thanksgiving Break
Holiday



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.



Thanksgiving Luncheon
11/21 @ 12pm



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...

ZION FOR meeting the Student of the Month Criteria for the Month of October.



In addition to his daily and timely attendance he has been thriving academically, behaviorally, and socially in his classes, during service time with related providers, and interactions with students and staff. Additionally, he is a schoolwide helper who assist with numerous tasks including volunteering to help his peers and often encouraging them to “do the right thing” and assisting staff regularly. Let’s just say he has been a shining example of our school mantra. ~ Dr. James



Shoutouts



➤ SHOUT OUT TO THE TEAL GROUP (SUMMER, MYKIA, RAYVON, TAVION, ANDREW AND KENDRIC) FOR ALWAYS COMING TO SCHOOL READY TO LEARN AND BEING FLEXIBLE WHEN PLANS CHANGE. -MS. NYESHA



Staff Corner



Mrs. Rodriguez, Mrs. Butler and Ms. Nicole were recognized by Catholic Charities for their Years of Service.

Mrs. Rodrogoez: 35 Years (Now Retired)

Mrs. Butler: 26 Years

Ms. Nicole: 11 Years



Shoutouts

I want a shout out Mr. Ronald and Ms. Holland for always stepping in to cover classes and lend a helping hand without hesitation. Your reliability and teamwork never goes unnoticed.

-Ms. Nyesha

Shout out to Mr. K for his openness to take on new challenges and help while doing it so humbly - especially at Special Olympics.

-Ms. Nyesha



CONGRATUALTIONS TO...

MR. CHARLES WASHINGTON

(SPED SCIENCE TEACHER)
for meeting the Staff of the Month Criteria for the Month of October!



Mr. Washington has been stepping in a great deal serving as bus monitor both in the mornings and afternoons; and he just stepped up and does this when there is a need without being asked to do so. His science lessons have been very hands-on with engaging projects for students to enhance and reinforce the topic(s) he is covering; and additionally, he has incorporated a few outside learning experiences for students to also aid with enhancing his planned lessons. In other words, he is using a variety of creative strategies to support the execution of his lessons and keep students excited and engaged in learning. We all are anxiously waiting to see the students' upcoming presentations on his latest science lessons that has the students making dioramas!~ Dr. James

Student Recognition

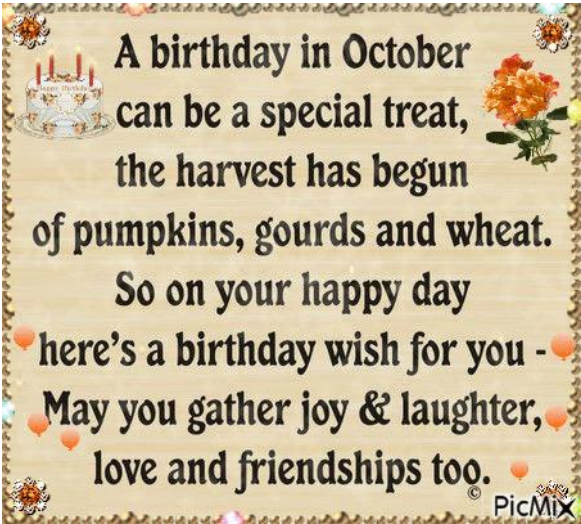
- ✓ ARTWONE
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- ✓ RAYVON
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- ✓ JULIUS
- ✓ ZELVON
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- ✓ GREGORY
- ✓ ARTWONE
- ✓ DEMARCUS
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- ✓ SUMMER
- ✓ ZION



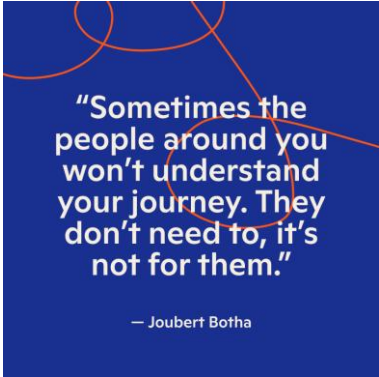
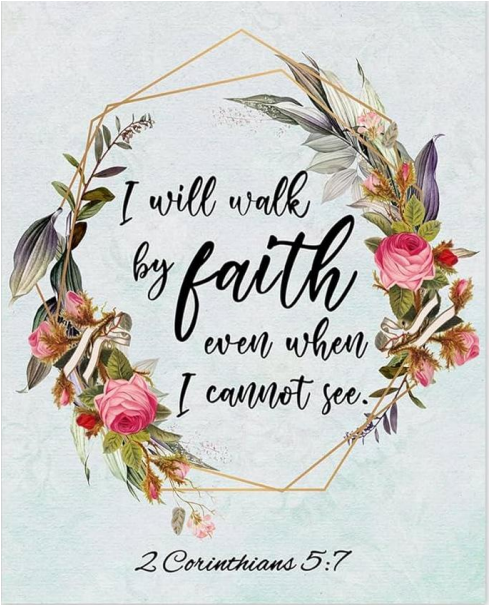
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL
OF OUR OCTOBER
BIRTHDAYS!



October Born Are

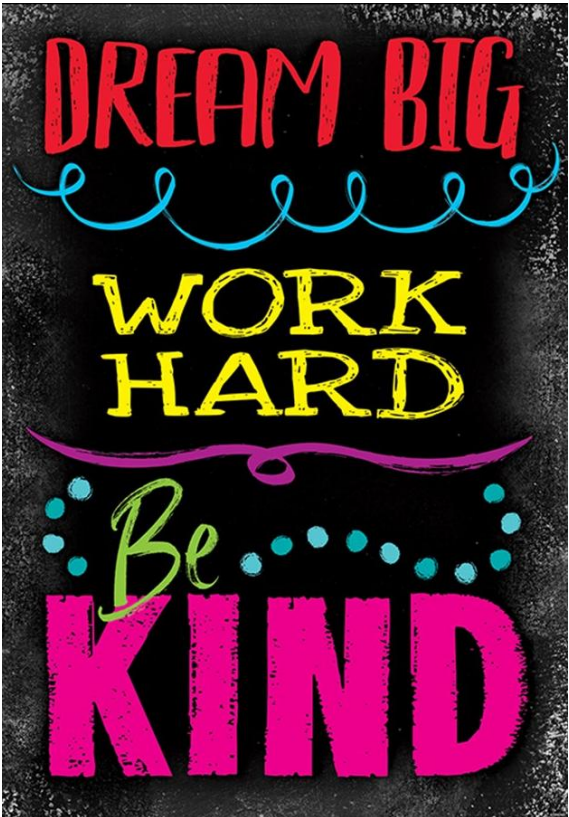
- ☾ Charming ☾
- ★ Fun ★
- ✦ Daring ✦
- ♥ Trustworthy ♥
- ◆ Awesome ◆
- ✓ Intuitive ✓
- ▲ Strong ▲

Assistant Principal Motivational Quote



School Mantras

STUDENT MANTRA



STAFF MANTRA



Community Resources

NOVEMBER THRU DECEMBER FAMILY FUN EVENTS IN WASHINGTON DC, MD AND VA

- ✓ **The National Mall:** This is America's most-visited national park located right here in Washington, DC: Great trip to take in the beautiful Fall foliage: Explore the National Mall in Washington, DC | Washington DC
- ✓ **DC Public Libraries:** Hosting numerous events for youth and families throughout November and December
- ✓ **Smithsonian Museums:** (if shut down ends) make for fantastic fall excursions. Your options in DC include the National Museum of African American History and Culture, the National Portrait Gallery, the Smithsonian American Art Museum and the Renwick Gallery, the National Museum of the American Indian and the National Museum of American History. Visit Smithsonian's website for even more detailed info.
- ✓ **Holiday Kickoff at Tyssons Corner Center** on Friday, November 14th: Tysons Corner will kick off the holiday season with Santa, fireworks and special performances on the plaza. There will be kids crafts, community performances, complimentary s'mores and hot chocolate, free giveaways, and more
- ✓ **DC Holiday Market** at Dupont Circle: 1500 block of 19th St, NW; Friday, November 14th – Tuesday December 23, 2025
- ✓ **ICE! Featuring the Polar Express** (at Gaylord National Resort 201 Waterfront St, National Harbor, MD): Friday, Nov 14 thru Sunday January 4, 2026 · Wheaton Family Theatre Series welcomes - Happy Theater: The Light House: An interactive storytelling show with shadow puppets; Wheaton, MD - Saturday & Sunday, November 15-16 · Garden of Lights: Brookside Gardens | Wheaton, MD; ~ When: November 21 – January 4
- ✓ **Zoo Lights (if shut down ends)** – National Zoo, Woodley Park, DC: November 21 – January 3rd
- ✓ **BZB International Holiday Gift & Art Show** – Shiloh Baptist Church 1510 9th St, NW Washington, DC: BZB International, Inc. | Celebrating 35 years of shop til you drop! November 28th and 29th; December 6th, 13th, 20th, 23rd, and 24th from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00

RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES IN WASHINGTON DC DUE TO FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

- ✓ **Capital Area Food Bank:** Provides food to federal employees and their families
- ✓ **Federal Employee Education & Assistance Fund (FEEA):** Offers Emergency Hardship Loans and Shutdown Grants
- ✓ **WSSC Water:** Temporarily suspends water turnoff services and waives late fees for federal employees
- ✓ **Pepco:** Offers payment plans to help federal workers pay their bills

FOOD RESOURCES FOR ALL

- ✓ **Reduced Thanksgiving Food Packages from the following:**
 - Target: \$20 for 4 people
 - Lidl: \$36 for 10 people
 - Aldi: \$40 for 10 people

➤ Walmart \$40 for 10 people

- ✓ **Costco:** \$25 per person for 8 people · Capital Area Food Bank: The Capital Area Food Bank is the largest food bank in the Washington, D.C. area. They provide food to over half a million area residents every year. They are prepared to provide groceries at pop-up locations for federal employees as soon as next week (week of 10/1). · Bread for the City: Bread for the City is a non-profit organization that provides fresh fruits, vegetables, meat, and shelf-stable items every week to families in need. They also make an extra effort to help furloughed employees during government shutdowns. · Martha's Table: Martha's Table, a non-profit that provides produce and pantry items to people in need in the DC area, may extend food donation policies and hours during a government shutdown, as they have done in the past.
- ✓ **Giant Food:** Giving away 1,000 Holiday Meal Kits - Federal workers and SNAP recipients can reserve a holiday meal kit beginning Friday 11/7/25 through this sign-up form (you can also contact Giant and/or visit www.wusa9.com) Once the reservation is confirmed, workers will be able to pick up the turkeys in person on Nov. 25 at the Giant Food at 1400 Seventh St., NW.

*****See Flyers included with this newsletter for other resources in DC communities**