



LE CARDINAL

LE BULLETIN OFFICIEL DU PTA DE
DORA KENNEDY FRENCH IMMERSION SCHOOL

JAMES A. SPENCE II, PRINCIPAL

BIENVENUE! WELCOME TO OUR INAUGURAL NEWSLETTER!

BONJOUR and L'shana tova to our families observing Yom Kippur! My name is Lyssa Hargrove and I am your PTA President. On behalf of the entire PTA Board, we would like to say Welcome Back! For many of us, this will be a huge transition. Some of us haven't been in the school building in about 1.5 years, so it will be an adjustment for us all. At this time, let us remind one another to give ourselves, our children and the school grace as we work out the kinks the first few weeks of school.

In the meantime, we hope you find this inaugural newsletter, Le Cardinal, both informative and insightful. One of the first things we will cover is School Pick-Up and Drop-Off!



LYSSA HARGROVE, PRESIDENT OF PTA

PICK UP/DROP OFF

Yes, the start of the school year has traditionally been challenging, but the pandemic, a school bus driver shortage (approximately 200) and a delayed opening of before and aftercare has certainly added to an already fragile situation. Last week, you probably saw me and a few other parents helping out. We have received some inquiries regarding how you can help mitigate this community challenge. If you are interested in helping, please fill out the following Google form <https://forms.gle/YCXgdwElqorXa6QV9>.

Our goal is to have a Parking Lot committee made up of volunteer parents who can help out throughout the year.



DKFI STAFF, ADMINISTRATION, PTA BOARD AND PTA VOLUNTEERS WITH TOUSSAINT LE CARDINAL ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL SY 2021 -2022

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

1) Become a Class Parent - In the next couple of weeks, we will have a virtual Back to School Night and your teacher may ask if someone is interested in becoming a Class Parent. As a class parent, your job is to help communicate the teacher's needs to the parents in your child's class and serve as a resource and Liaison to PTA. Transition years (K, 5th, & 8th) are critical years to have a strong class parent group to partner with the school to plan promotion activities and other needed communications. If you have already been selected for the job, please send us an email at dkfipta@gmail.com and cc: your main homeroom teacher! It's always great to have this role filled early in the school year!

2) Join a PTA Committee - Our community of parents have many talents and we ask that you share some of those talents with our school community. Do you like engaging on social media? Then, join our Communications committee. Are you into logistics and planning events? Then join our Events Committee! Pretty savvy with your advocacy game? The Legislative Committee may be a good fit. (It's actually where I got started, as a co-chair).

NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS



**PARENT PRESENTATION DURING
TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK 2020**



**PARENT VOLUNTEER SETTING UP DURING
DKFI PUMPKIN PATCH 2019**

Finally, I want to highlight a couple of the topics you can expect to see in our bi-monthly newsletter. First, we will always try to have a section on resources for our French Immersion families - whether it be a website or parent-recommended tutors or programs. Second, we will also, regularly, go back and seek out the wisdom from past DKFI parents and alumni. This week, I'm featuring a DKFI parent who is considered a legend in the DKFI community. Halima Aziza Jenkins served as PTA President, and is mom to three wonderful DKFI graduates (we will feature some of their work in an upcoming newsletter), and lifetime education advocate. I briefly worked with her during her tenure as PTA President when I volunteered at the EuroStore. I'm thankful to have so many DKFI parents who still serve as great resources, even when their children have matriculated out of the school.

PTA MEETING

On October 6th, we will hold our first PTA meeting. PTA's mission is to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children. As a recent recipient of this year's National PTA School of Excellence award, we need you to help us continue the work today. You can join the meeting here: <https://dorakennedyfrenchimmersionpta.my.webex.com/dorakennedyfrenchimmersionpta.my/j.php?MTID=mf62e07ff7bd7b69ab4e5ef2d85af4dfb>

HALIMA'S HELPFUL HINTS

Welcome back Cardinals! Bon courage à tous et à toutes. Good luck to everyone as we embark on a new academic journey in this new kind of normal.

(1) Have a dedicated workspace and time where your child can re-establish homework and study routines.. the shift from virtual to in-person learning is both physical and mental. Routines are different. Be sure to have a dropbox, bin, or shelf where all books, pencils, and supplies stay in easy reach.

(2) Change the language setting on personal electronic devices (cell phones, gaming consoles, etc.) to French. Make entertaining screen time count for something. Kids will pick up a surprising amount of extra vocabulary. Just take note of how you did it, in case you need to switch back to English.

(3) Watch shows and movies in French with French subtitles. Whether it's a DVD or an animated show on Netflix, you can usually choose a French language track, as well as French subtitles. It's all there for you in the audio/language options. Learners build vocabulary easily when they can see and hear words at the same time.

(4) Check out Il etai un histoire: This site has tons of stories, fables, poems, and articles. For many of the titles, you can choose to read, read with help, listen to, or watch the story. Try Jojo collectionneur, for example and choose your reading preference from the bottom.

(5) Do you know about WordReference? Google translate may be convenient (especially for parents), but when kids do the thinking work of looking up words they don't know in French, it helps build fluency. For an online dictionary, try WordReference, which is complete with verb conjugations, grammar tips, language forums, and more.

(6) Make Khan Academy your best friend. This free online resource is available in both French and English. Your kids can find tutorials for most core content K-12. In English, visit <https://www.khanacademy.org> For French, visit <https://fr.khanacademy.org>

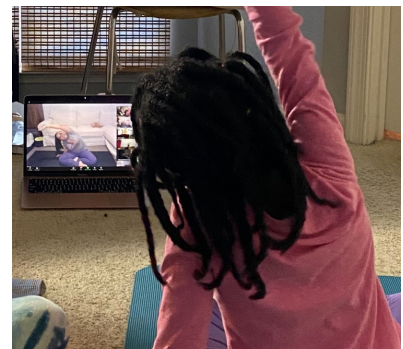
**Halima is a past president of PTA. She is the proud parent of 3 graduates of Dora Kennedy French Immersion and is an advocate for education.*



FALL HARVEST BINGO 2019



END OF YEAR MEET & GREET 2021



VIRTUAL YOGA - WELLNESS WEDNESDAYS 2021



PTA LEGISLATIVE CO-CHAIRS ADVOCATE FOR BLUE PRINT FOR MARYLAND SCHOOLS AT MD STATE CAPITOL BUILDING IN 2019

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

- 1 - CGR Academic Learning Center - <https://www.cgracademy.org>
- 2 - My French Classes - <https://myfrenchclasses.org>
- 3 - French Academy DMV - <https://www.frenchacademy.us/french-for-kids-and-teens/index.html>
- 4 - Alliance Francaise - <https://francedc.org/index>
- 5 - Bonjour Books DC (French Bookstore - Librairie Francaise) - <https://bonjourbooksdc.com/>

NAVIGATING COVID: MITIGATION STARTS AT HOME

BY: PILAR SNOWDEN

DKFI has now experienced its first *documented case of COVID. *Asymptomatic cases often go undiagnosed unless people are proactively being tested- an approach being taken by some of our families! In fact, one of the primary challenges with the coronavirus is that it can be transmitted by people who never develop symptoms. According to the CDC, evidence suggests that as many as half of pediatric infections are asymptomatic. In other words, even if your child's not coughing or running a fever, your scholar could still be infected with COVID. And if you're exposed, this makes it possible for you to spread the virus to others (being vaccinated does not prevent the spread of the virus!). What does this mean for those who are close contacts? How do the rest of us navigate this uncharted territory?

Before discussing what to do after receiving a COVID notification from the school, let's first discuss how to prevent COVID from showing up at DKFI's doorstep to begin with. If you think the school bears more responsibility for preventing COVID in your children than you do at home, then you are sorely mistaken, because COVID mitigation begins in the home FIRST. In fact, studies show that schools who are actively taking steps to mitigate COVID see lower transmission rates than in other settings.

Being vaccinated is the most effective way to prevent the spread of COVID. Because the majority of DKFI scholars are NOT eligible for vaccination, in general, the risk of becoming infected with COVID remains high. This means that hand washing, social distancing, masking in public spaces and around persons who are not vaccinated, whose vaccine status is unknown or whose social habits are unknown is vitally important for our families. Your vaccination status does not protect your learners from COVID! You can still spread the virus even when vaccinated!

Masking at school is not enough:

Q: For personal, religious or medical reasons, my household does not feel the need to be vaccinated, mask or take other precautions recommended by the CDC and government officials in our private lives; however, we do have our children abide by the COVID guidelines implemented by PGCPs. Are we being responsible members of the DKFI community and doing our part to mitigate COVID?

A: No. Your actions in your private life directly impact the lives of the students, staff and families of DKFI. These types of actions or inactions will lead to more COVID cases at DKFI and inevitably be the direct cause of unvaccinated students developing COVID with unpredictable outcomes. 99.5% of COVID deaths occur in the unvaccinated.

Q. My older child and I are fully vaccinated. What can we do to protect our unvaccinated family members (younger children/siblings)?

A. Be sure to get everyone in your family who is 12 years or older vaccinated against COVID-19. Wear a mask. To maximize protection from COVID and prevent possibly spreading it to others, have everyone in your family, even those who are vaccinated, wear a mask indoors in public. Practice good hand washing technique and model it for your children. Now, let's look at what PGCPs guidance is for those who test positive and close contacts of those who test positive.



Per PGCPs:

"Schools will provide written notification to staff or families following exposure to a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case. If there is a confirmed COVID-19 case at a school or in a classroom, the infected individual will be required to quarantine at home for at least 10 days and be symptom-free before returning to a PGCPs building. Employees or students who were in close contact with the COVID-19 positive individual must quarantine for at least 10 days if not fully vaccinated; fully vaccinated individuals do not need to quarantine following exposure to a person with confirmed or probable COVID-19 but should monitor for symptoms for 14 days.

In the event a single positive case of COVID-19 is confirmed, PGCPs will close the exposed area of the facility. If multiple positive cases of COVID-19 are confirmed in one site within three days (minimum), PGCPs will close the entire facility to clean and sanitize all areas."

While this guidance does provide direct actions that should be taken, it does not address the countless questions that will likely arise once your scholar has been exposed to COVID-19. Does the whole family need to quarantine? What happens if a parent or other household member is exposed? Should your entire household stay home? Should you notify the school?

Firstly, if you or someone in your household is exposed to COVID, notifying the school is always a good idea- it helps the school to determine what, if any, actions must be taken.



COVID MITIGATION CONTINUED

In many situations, it's not feasible for everyone in a household to quarantine. Some household members may need to go to work or school, or pick up groceries. And that's OK, as long as the unvaccinated person who was exposed can quarantine in a separate part of the house from other unvaccinated members of the family. Everyone (not just the person quarantining) needs to practice extra safety precautions. Although a full-household quarantine may not be necessary, it's imperative that everyone carries out extra safety precautions. This includes wearing a mask if you have to interact with the person who was exposed and minimizing unnecessary contact with people outside of your household. While infections in fully vaccinated people are less frequent than those in the unvaccinated and are mild or asymptomatic, preliminary evidence suggests that fully vaccinated people who do become infected can spread the virus to others. What should those in quarantine do? Stay away from large crowds and public spaces. Wear your mask at all times (as much as possible!) and avoid situations that require you to remove your mask. Socially distance from people not within your household (i.e. no dinner with friends, playdates, no carpooling, etc.)

Wash your hands!

It may not be feasible for everyone in your household to quarantine, but if the person who's exposed tests positive, then everyone should quarantine. As defined by the CDC, quarantine "is used to keep someone who might have been exposed to COVID-19 away from others." If you were in close contact with someone who tests positive, you're advised to stay home for 14 days, whether or not COVID-19 symptoms appear. Let's all take the necessary precautions to ensure that we are doing our part to keep our scholars, staff and families of DKFI healthy!

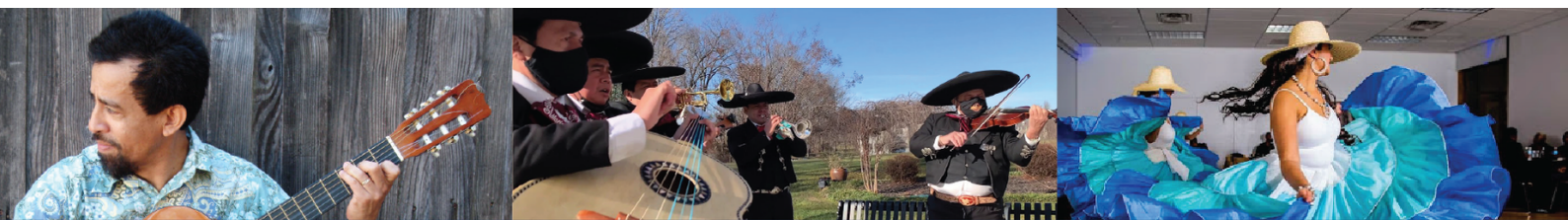


HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15, by celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period, starting on September 15 and ending on October 15. It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988, on the approval of Public Law 100-402. The day of September 15 is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively. Also, Columbus Day or Día de la Raza, which is October 12, falls within this 30 day period.

Check out a list of activities here: <https://www.hispanicheritagemonth.gov/>




WELCOMING WEEK

Enjoy a fun-filled afternoon with music, dancing, and stories. You can also connect with community resources and even get a COVID-19 vaccination, face painting, and much more. Featured performers include guitarist Mr. Lilo, Mariachi Los Mensajeros del Sur de Humberto Guzman, and Ayelen Dance & Folklore. Connect with community resources, get COVID-19 vaccinations, and dine at our food truck. Face mask required for all attendees over the age of 2. Rain date is October 2, 2-4 pm. Co-presented with the Prince George's County Latino Advisory Board. [LINK: https://www.pgcmils.info/event/5504807](https://www.pgcmils.info/event/5504807)

RAISE FUNDS FOR DKFI PTA WITH THE 2021 ZOMBIE RUN!



Mark your Calendars: Zombies are coming Saturday October 16, 2021!! The Hyattsville Zombie Run is a fun, family-friendly event promoting a healthy lifestyle and exercise. It is a fantastic opportunity to raise money for our school. **Last year, DKFI PTA raised \$1364.00 through the individual fundraiser option!** The event includes three races: 1K Family Fun Run, 1 Mile Kids Run and a 5K. All racers, runners, joggers and walkers are invited to participate-- there is something for everyone! When registering for the race, you can choose to be an individual fundraiser through the race website. Individual Fundraisers get their own webpage to raise money for their school from family and friends who sponsor them to run in the race. **Check out this link to register and start a fundraiser:**

<https://runsignup.com/Race/MD/Hyattsville/HyattsvilleZombieRun>

SPECIAL THANKS!

We would like to sincerely thank the following PTA parent volunteers who assisted the PTA Board during the first week of school: past PTA presidents Anton Veiga, Halima Aziza Jenkins, Crysta Henderson-Watford, and PTA members Hanaa Malik, Brandon Snowden, Delvin Champagne, Casey Hargrove, Stephanie Despero, and Kinsey Harvey.



UPCOMING EVENTS

9/21/21- Back-To-School Night K-5 6:30pm - 8:30pm

9/22/21- Back-To-School Night 6-8 6:30pm-8:30pm

10/6/21 - 1st PTA Meeting of the Year

10/16/21 - Hyattsville Zombie Run

LIBRARY NEWS YOU CAN USE



**PTA KINDERGARTEN & FIRST GRADE
MEET & GREET 2021**

Prince George's County Memorial Library System is offering free help to our children. Below, you'll find just some of the many resources and services that the Library provides students to help make sure they excel in school!

Brainfuse HelpNow offers free live tutoring in Spanish and English for all school subjects and is available daily from 2 pm - 11:55 pm EST. Students can practice long division, improve reading comprehension, and learn many other key skills with the support of a real tutor.

[Click here to learn more](#)

Novelist K-8 Plus helps you find read-alikes, genre specific books, nonfiction titles, and more. This resource is structured around easy-to-navigate categories, but also has the capability to do more advanced searches to narrow things down to exactly what you are looking for.

[Click here to learn more](#)

LEARNING EXPRESS

LearningExpress Library's school center is for anyone that needs skill-building resources for classroom and homework success. Improve your skills in mathematics, logic and reasoning, English language arts, and more. It also offer college admissions test preparation for important exams like the SAT, AP tests, ACT and more.

[Click here to learn more](#)



**1ST GRADE CLASS END OF YEAR
MEET & GREET 2021 - HOSTED BY PARENTS**



**PTA PRESIDENT & TOUSSAINT LE CARDINAL
AT KINDERGARTEN & FIRST GRADE
MEET & GREET 2021**

LIBRARY ACCOUNT

Did you know that your child already has a library account? All Prince George's County Public Schools students already have access to the library without registering for a library card! In partnership with PGCPs, the Library automatically creates LINK accounts that grant all PGCPs students access to library services.

[Click here to learn more](#)

DORA KENNEDY FRENCH IMMERSION PTA

NATIONAL PTA SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

2021-2022 EXECUTIVE BOARD



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PRESIDENT**



**TIKEETHA THOMAS
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**BENITY SEWELL
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**PILAR SNOWDEN
SECRETARY**



**ALISHA HUNTLEY
TREASURER**

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO VOLUNTEER:
PLEASE EMAIL US AT DKFIPTA@GMAIL.COM