



LE CARDINAL

LE BULLETIN OFFICIEL DU PTA DE
DORA KENNEDY FRENCH IMMERSION SCHOOL

JAMES A. SPENCE II, PRINCIPAL

IS IT WORTH IT?...

FROM THE DESK OF LYSSA, YOUR PTA PRESIDENT

Bonjour les familles de DKFI! Lately, we have been hearing from our elementary school parents, particularly kindergarten through second grade, about our school's academic demands.

Some are wondering if it's all worth it? I guarantee that if you asked any middle school parent that question, they would all say it was well worth it. The **2022 US News Best K – 8 in School Rankings** confirms their sentiments. Based on school testing, the Middle School is ranked #13 in the state, #1 in Maryland Magnet Schools, and #1 in PGCPS Middle Schools. Most 8th grade parents would agree that it has been a journey, so we understand the anxiety from new parents.

In response to these questions, our next PTA meeting on November 3rd will feature a short Q&A with Mme Lahlou, the school's Reading Intervention Specialist and Halima Jenkins, mother to three successful DKFI graduates. I hope many of you will join us, as we gather some helpful tips from these experts.

One of the things you may hear about our school is that it has a private school feel despite being in one of the state's largest public school systems! There is no denying the private school feel at DKFI, and that's why it was no surprise we were able to raise over \$10,000 in seven days during the Clean Air Fund Campaign. And most recently, some 8th grade parents have talked about leaving a legacy gift to the school in the way of a new, organized, and fully functional book storage room! It sounds simple, but if done right, it would free up a much-needed classroom in the 3rd grade corridor. If you would like to contribute to the cause or donate one of the \$199 shelving units from Costco, please email us at dkfipta@gmail.com. A commemorative plaque at the entrance of the room would recognize all those who made this school upgrade possible. Although this started as an 8th grade legacy gift, we welcome all to join since it impacts all of our kids! **Abiento!**

DKFI

RANKED

#1

MAGNET MIDDLE-
SCHOOL IN MD

RANKED

#1

MIDDLE SCHOOL
IN PGCPS

RANKED #

3

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
IN PGCPS

RANKED #

10

ELEMENTARY
MAGNET SCHOOL
IN MARYLAND

RANKED #

13

MIDDLE SCHOOL
IN MARYLAND



Souriez!

SAY CHEESE!

PICTURE DAY IS NOVEMBER 3RD

<https://strawbridge.fotomerchanthv.com/clients/dora-kennedy-french-immersion/fall-pictures-10-5-2021-85/optin>

This link will allow parents to sign up to receive updates via email regarding your child's school portraits. These updates include promotions, additional deals and the ability to order more pictures at a later time. When entering student information, parents should be sure to enter the student's name as it is on file at the school.

COFFEE & CHAT WITH PRINCIPAL SPENCE

Join Principal Spence for a Coffee & Chat Session on November 17th at 10am.

RSVP Here:

<https://forms.gle/qXzfowcNLV2jrE8cA>

This is a great opportunity to get an update from our head of schools while asking questions that you may have on your mind.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- 10/27/21 - Stem Fair Participant's scientific question and Materials list due to teacher for approval
- 10/30/21 - DKFI PTA Trunk or Treat
- 11/3/21 - Monthly PTA Meeting
- 11/3/21 - Picture Day
- 11/17/21 - Coffee & Chat with Principal Spence



VISIT THE LOST & FOUND TODAY!

We are 7 weeks into the school year and the Lost & Found is over flowing with lost items. Please remind your child to check the Lost and Found box if they have misplaced any of their personal items. The Lost and Found box is located near the front entrance of school, near the gymnasium door.



REMINDER MANDATORY MASK REQUIREMENTS AT SCHOOL

Dear Parents,
This is a friendly reminder on behalf of our DKFI administration. Please remember to send your little one to school with a mask every day. Include two additional spare masks in case they misplace or lose them during the day.

Let's continue to keep our scholars, teachers and staff safe.

Thank you in advance for your help - If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to us.

Have a wonderful week!





DORA KENNEDY FRENCH IMMERSION SCHOOL



**SHOW US YOUR SCHOOL PRIDE
THIS WEEK CARDINALS!!**

DKFI PRESENTS **SPIRIT WEEK** OCTOBER 25 -29TH

MONDAY 10/25
COLLEGE AND CAREER DAY

TUESDAY 10/26
SCHOOL COLORS/CARDINAL DAY/SCHOOL SWAG

WEDNESDAY 10/27
WACKY WEDNESDAY/TWIN DAY

THURSDAY 10/28
CRAZY SWEATER DAY

FRIDAY 10/29
FAVORITE LITERARY CHARACTER

PLEASE TAKE PHOTOS OF YOUR SCHOLAR
AND SUBMIT THEM TO DKFIPTA@GMAIL.COM
TO BE FEATURED IN OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER



DKFI NEW TEACHER FEATURE

A WARM DKFI WELCOME TO OUR NEW TEACHERS

MS. COOPER
VOCAL TEACHER



- Describe in one word how your transition to DKFI has been:
 - SMOOTH!
- Are you a native french speaker? If so, from what country?
 - I am not a native French speaker however I am a quick learner!
- What's the best part about teaching at a French immersion school?
 - The culture is beyond amazing! I love hearing my students speak French and teaching me French as well!
- Where was your last teaching assignment? Or schooling?
 - I taught music at a private school in Bethesda Maryland with very young children. The experience was great but it has not compared to the wonderful experience I'm currently having at DKFI.
- What's one goal you have for this school year?
 - To inspire children to be brave, and confident in their abilities as not only musicians but as global citizens.
- Share one fun fact about you.
 - Music is my love but I am also an artist. I digitally draw people all the time if you're curious and or interested in my work I'm on Instagram as @artxvanii.

PARENT SPOTLIGHT

A HUGE DKFI THANK YOU TO MS HANAA MALIK

At a critical time, when schools were relying on technology to continue the learning process, our very own Hanaa Malik, was able to secure a significant computer donation for PGCPs. When a company was recently bought out, the IT department facilitated the distribution of the laptops to families and schools instead of disposing of them. Hanaa was in touch with the IT department and identified various schools in PG County that received donations. DKFI was fortunate to receive computer donations from this company. When Hanaa isn't busy brokering philanthropic deals, she is mom to three DKFI children... Nyle in 6th grade, Niya in 2nd grade, and Nyme in 1st grade.



DKFI NEW TEACHER FEATURE

WELCOME!

MR NICHOLAS
FRENCH TEACHER



**WE ASKED,
THEY ANSWERED!**

- Describe in one word how your transition to DKFI has been:
 - Smoothly
- Are you a native french speaker? If so, from what country?
 - No. I started learning French when I was 15 as a high school student.
- What's the best part about teaching at a French immersion school?
 - It's literally my job to speak a language that I enjoyed learning.
- Where was your last teaching assignment? Or schooling?
 - Prior to coming to PGCPS, I was a French teacher at a private school in Virginia.
- What's one goal you have for this school year?
 - I want to teach my students to write in French as much as possible.
- Share one fun fact about you.
 - I love spicy food. Even spicy chocolate!



CALLING ALL 8TH GRADE PARENTS!!!

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE 8TH GRADE SHOWCASE
AN INFORMATIONAL SESSION TO DISCUSS
THE HIGH SCHOOL FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM
MEET THE IMMERSION PROGRAMS OFFICE AND MADAME SOUNNA**

ALL PARENTS OF 8TH GRADE STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND THIS SESSION
THE DISCUSSION WILL INCLUDE AN UPDATE ON CHANGES THAT WILL BE MADE
TO THE PROGRAM STARTING NEXT FALL.

OCTOBER 27, 2021 - 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

SESSION I: 6:00 PM - 6:30 PM

ZOOM LINK: [HTTPS://PGCPS-ORG.ZOOM.US/J/88329524459](https://pgcps-org.zoom.us/j/88329524459)

SESSION II: 6:35 PM - 7:00 PM

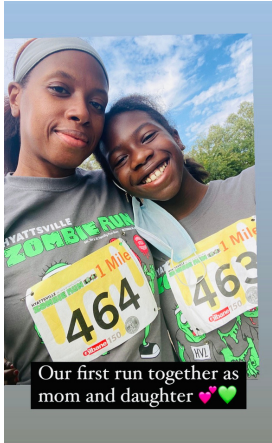
ZOOM LINK: [HTTPS://PGCPS-ORG.ZOOM.US/J/88329524459](https://pgcps-org.zoom.us/j/88329524459)

SESSION III: 7:05 PM - 7:30 PM

ZOOM LINK: [HTTPS://PGCPS-ORG.ZOOM.US/J/88329524459](https://pgcps-org.zoom.us/j/88329524459)

HYATTSVILLE ZOMBIE RUN:

A FAMILY FUN-FILLED, FITNESS FUNDRAISER,
DKFI 2ND PLACE TOP FUNDRAISERS!



Together we raised \$2,185!
THANK YOU!

NEXT PTA MEETING 11/3 @ 6:30PM - MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Our next PTA meeting will be held on **NOVEMBER 3RD**. The 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 by accessing the link onto <https://www.dkfipta.org/>

TOUCH TYPING THE KEYBOARD IS HERE TO STAY.....

BY: PILAR SNOWDEN

Reminders to bring fully charged Chromebooks and iPads to class are a sharp contrast to the days of making sure that students had an adequate supply of pencils at the ready for facing a school day. Not only are students no longer taught cursive writing, many are becoming quite used to not writing at all, but rather typing and submitting assignments via Google docs. As I observed my son typing recently, it dawned on me that at age 8, he has completed more assignments via typing without ever being formally taught how to type. And I must confess-his idiosyncratic hen-pecked method is painful for me to watch.

As students are exposed to computers and phones at younger ages, and seem perfectly capable of navigating these devices with much agility, I wondered if there is a benefit to learning how to type like my and my generation did -via the old QWERTY method. I stumbled upon an article by Anne Trubek, associate professor of rhetoric and composition at Oberlin College. She states that "Touch typing allows us to write without thinking about how we are writing, freeing us to focus on what we are writing, on our ideas. Touch typing is an example of cognitive automaticity, the ability to do things without conscious attention or awareness. Automaticity takes a burden off our working memory, allowing us more space for higher-order thinking. (Other forms of cognitive automaticity include driving a car, riding a bike and reading—you're not sounding out the letters as you scan this post, right?) When we type without looking at the keys, we are multitasking, our brains free to focus on ideas without having to waste mental resources trying to find the quotation mark key. We can write at the speed of thought."



Mr. Held, tech extraordinaire, shared that Clever does indeed have a free typing program for our scholars! Your student can navigate to Clever and type "typing" into the search bar. Clicking on the resource "Typing.com single sign on" will take them to a page where they can select one of their classes (any will do) and they will be able to access a number of typing resources.

The Lessons tab allows you access to 3 levels of typing lessons- beginner, intermediate and advanced. Also within the Lessons tab is a Digital Literacy section where students can learn about computer and internet basics. There is a coding essentials section which reviews HTML, CSS and JavaScript. And lastly, there are typing practice modules.

In addition to the Lessons tab, there is a tab for typing tests, and a tab to review your achievements. Your learner can also personalize their theme while using the site.

I'm sure, in time, there may be advancements made in how we type, but until then, I will be encouraging my scholars to master the QWERTY method- they have enough to think about other than hunting for a letter while completing assignments!



HAPPY DIWALI



Happy Diwali
festival of lights

Dwali is a Festival of lights and one of the major festivals celebrated by Hindus, Jains, Sikhs and some Buddhists, notably Newar Buddhists.

November 4th is the primary day for families to gather

The festival usually lasts five days and is celebrated during the Hindu lunisolar month Kartika.

JOIN US FOR A DRIVE-BY TRUNK -OR- TREAT!

**THIS SATURDAY
OCTOBER 30TH
FROM 5-7PM**

**WEAR YOUR COSTUME AND
JOIN US FOR SOME FUN &
TREATS**

The RSVP link will close at 12
noon on Wednesday,
October 27th
REGISTRATION LINK:
<https://forms.gle/nUVzPV2Wpd6ZfsED7>

Location:

Dora Kennedy French
Immersion school
8950 Edmonston Road,
Greenbelt, MD



STAY CONNECTED

**Let's
CONNECT**

Are you looking for a parent Mentor to help you get acclimated to DKFI? Finding it difficult to adjust to French education? Contact your PTA at DKFIPTA@gmail.com to get connected with experienced DKFI parents to assist you along the way. **YOU are not in this alone!**



DORA KENNEDY FRENCH IMMERSION PTA

NATIONAL PTA SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

2021-2022 EXECUTIVE BOARD



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