**Kindergarten Information Night to be Held on Jan. 23**

Arlington parents with children entering Kindergarten in September 2017 are invited to the annual Kindergarten Information Night scheduled for Mon, Jan. 23 at 7 p.m. at Washington-Lee High School, 1301 N. Stafford St. (Snow Date: Jan. 30).

During the information night program, families of students entering kindergarten in the fall of 2017 will hear an overview about APS elementary schools, the registration process, school options, application deadlines and procedures, school information sessions, and more. After the opening general session, attendees will be able to meet elementary school principals and program administrators to help families navigate the many resources available for students and parents.

Join the conversation on Twitter using the hashtag #KInfoNight. Can’t make it? APS will live stream the main session. The link will be posted on the APS website and on social media.

Simultaneous Spanish-language translation will be provided for the general session.

**Let’s Keep Healthy!**

**Influenza season is here** but it isn’t too late to get the flu vaccine as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Arlington County Public Health Division also has several walk-in clinics each week. The vaccine may be free or may include a $30 co-pay (depending on insurance status). **Public Health strongly recommends that everyone age 6 months and older should receive a flu vaccine each year** (with rare exceptions)

* To find flu vaccines near you go to <http://flushot.healthmap.org/> and type in your zip code.

**In addition**, this is the time of the year when we more commonly see a variety of other contagious diseases, such as gastrointestinal illness (caused by Norovirus and other viruses or bacteria), Pertussis (“Whooping Cough”), and Strep Throat. Along with immunization for influenza and pertussis, good cough/sneeze/hand hygiene is the best way to protect yourself, your friends and family, and others in your schools and community.

* **Please remember to have everyone in your family (adults and children) wash their hands regularly and cover their coughs and sneezes.** Doing so will help prevent the spread of many illnesses. See <http://www.cdc.gov/Features/HandWashing/> for details.
* **Please notify the school and keep your children home if they are sick** with a fever and cough, sore throat, diarrhea or vomiting.  Please wait until your child is symptom and fever free for 24 hours and feeling better before returning him/her to school.
* **Protect yourself and others.** Please remember that preventing illness and the spread of disease protects not just you and your family, but also children who may have serious conditions affecting their ability to fight off infections. Every classroom has one or more students who may have asthma, diabetes, heart disease, severe allergies, cystic fibrosis, cancer or other conditions that make them vulnerable.

**Reflecting on our Randolph Code of Conduct (see attached)**

After a long and restful winter break, we are pleased to continue implementing our Randolph Code of Conduct.  Our primary focus is helping students make appropriate choices to be **Safe, Responsible and a Problem Solver**.  While we reinforce these expectations at school, we are requesting that you review these same expectations with your child at home.  Together, we will have our students develop a strong internal code of conduct for making personal choices.

**Reminder!**

There will be no school on **Monday, January 16th** in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Also, school will be closed on **Friday, January 20th** for the Presidential Inauguration. With this short week of school, please encourage your children to curl up with several good books! Extended reading time will help build stronger reading stamina and increase vocabulary development.

**Student Safety**

Please remember that our top priority is student safety.  We are asking parents to abide by the parking signs and follow all traffic rules.  If you are utilizing the “Kiss and Ride Lane” on S. Quincy Street (adjacent to the bus loop), please be mindful that you must remain with your vehicle; this is a no parking zone during pick-up and drop off.  Also, please remember that there is no parking/stopping in front of neighbors’ driveways.  If there is no place to park, please circle the block instead of stopping traffic or park on a side street and walk to meet your child.  Students and parents should utilize the cross walks when they are crossing the street. We do not want our students darting between parked cars. Please also note that there is a double yellow line outside the school on S. Quincy and U-turns and K-turns are not permitted.  Lastly, please note there is no turning onto 14th street from S. Quincy during dismissal.  We thank all of you for following the set traffic regulations posted and helping to ensure that our students are safe.

**Drum Roll Please…**

We love our Randolph staff family and are very proud of them! While we enjoy our close knit school family, we are always proud and delighted when our staff receive promotions! We wish Julianne Tela much success as she departs from her instructional assistant role to become a second grade teacher at Patrick Henry Elementary School. Hats off to Jamara Miller, our 10-month administrative assistant, has been selected as the Administrative Specialist in Facilities & Operations for the Maintenance Department.

**From the School Counselor:**

Jan. 23-27 Randolph will be doing the “Great Kindness Challenge”. Students will be given a checklist with acts of kindness challenges to do at school and/or at home. Encourage your child to do as many as they can. At the end of the week they will return them to their teacher and we will count how many acts were done. “No act of kindness no matter how small is ever wasted.” (Aesop) Thank you for your support!

**So Long to Autumn and Hello Winter!**

We are saying so long to our Thanksgiving season and celebrating our November and December school-wide Reading Cornucopia.  Our students and staff loved watching our hallway cornucopia grow in size and color as we read our way to a “bountiful” Thanksgiving season.  In honor of the more than 600 books that were joyfully read, we will celebrate our accomplishment with our first Randolph “buddy read” afternoon.  On Thursday, January 19th from 2:30-3:00, each grade level class will be paired with different grade level to share books, discuss authors and make new friends! Our upper grade students will join our primary grade students to celebrate literacy and extend the hand of friendship to another Randolph Star.

**Winter Wonderland….In the Making!**

Yes, Randolph Stars love reading and it really is “snow” much fun to read! In recognition of our season, Randolph Star students will be reading together to build our own Frosty, the Snowman.  During the months of January and February, our reading challenge encourages all students to read daily, record their nightly reading on the form that accompanies this newsletter and return it to school each Friday morning.  Together, our students and staff will build a non-melting, magnificent snowman to greet all who enter our beloved school.  Please note that students in kindergarten through grade 2 will tally the number of books that each student reads nightly while students in grades 3 through 5 will record the number of minutes that each student reads daily.  Extra snow reading challenge forms will be available from your child’s teacher as well as in the main office.  Please encourage your child to read during the days off from school next week so we can begin to create our winter wonderland.

**You are invited!**

Please stop by the Education Center at 1426 N. Quincy Street in Arlington to view this year’s annual art show.  Several of Randolph Star students will have their beautiful artwork on display!  The art show is on display from January 12 through February 7.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**January 16**: HOLIDAY – NO SCHOOL (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)

**January 20**: HOLIDAY – NO SCHOOL (Inauguration Day)

**January 23**: Club de Madres, 8:15-9:30 am, Library

**January 25**: Principal’s Coffee, 8:15-9:15 am, Library

**January 30**: Club de Madres, 8:15-9:30am, library