

## John F. Kennedy High School

1901 Randolph Rd

Silver Spring, MD 20902

301-929-2100

[www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/kennedyhs/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/kennedyhs/)

November 2014



## Message from the Principal

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Greetings from John F. Kennedy High School. We really enjoyed our school spirit week and homecoming during the week of October 20, 2014. Homecoming week was capped off with hallway decoration night, a pep rally, an alumni day event, our homecoming parade, our homecoming football game and our homecoming dance. It was wonderful to see so many parents coming into school to support their students in their academic endeavors. Parents/guardians, as you have heard me say, we need to work as a team to ensure success for all of our students.

There continues to be an exciting atmosphere at the "Home of the Cavaliers" as we begin the second marking period. I continue to be impressed with the effort and attitude demonstrated by our students as they learn and grow at John F. Kennedy High School. Please know our staff is working each day to keep our focus on student learning and student success. As we enter the holiday season, please continue to talk to your child about their grades, their successes, their

areas for improvement, and work with them to set goals for their performance during the second marking period which began on Monday, November 3, 2014. Report cards for the first marking period will be distributed to students on Wednesday, November 12, 2014. Please note that Wednesday, November 26, 2014, is an early release day for students. Schools and offices are closed on Thursday, November 27, 2014 and Friday, November 28, 2014 for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

In closing, I must again tell you what a delightful start we have had to the 2014-15 school year. I am proud of both our students for their respectful attitude and desire for learning and our staff for their dedication to teaching and going the extra mile for our students.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Regards,

*Joe L. Rubens*

Joe L. Rubens, Principal

JFK celebrates 50 years



## CAREER CENTER NEWS

There are several college visits remaining for the month of November including:

- Montgomery College Scholars Program
- Virginia Wesleyan College



## COUNSELING NEWS

The Kennedy Counseling Staff continues to work on college recommendations. Students are being encouraged to complete all necessary requirements in Family Connections at home or in the College and Career Counseling Office. Ms. Carroll, our College and Career Counselor, has planned many college visits for this new marking period. Students should stop by to see which schools will be visiting for the coming months of November and December. Students must register in advance for these visits. Drop-ins are not accepted. Counselors will also be working on second semester schedules for the next two months. One of the goals in the Counseling department is to increase the percentage of eligible students. Students with less than a 2.0 GPA at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> marking period will meet with their counselor to come up with a plan on being successful for the rest of the semester. Counselors will also reach out to parents to schedule a parent/teacher conference if necessary. We encourage parents to review Edline at least once a week so that you are aware of your child's academic progress and to communicate with teachers when needed. Don't have an Edline Account? Contact the Counseling Office at 301-929-2120 to get information on an account.

Donniel Gamble, Resource Counselor



## MCPS NEWS

### **PARCC Nights are Coming!**

Parents: If you have questions about the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessments and Common Core State Standards, you won't want to miss upcoming PARCC nights! Come learn about the assessments, what they mean for your child, and how MCPS is preparing students for success on these new tests. You will be able to try your hand at a PARCC test item or two and pick up grade-level information and resources.

The dates and locations are as follows:

#### **Monday, November 24, 2014**

Gaithersburg High School  
101 Education Boulevard, Gaithersburg  
6:30 p.m.—Resource Fair  
7–9 p.m.—Program and Breakout Sessions

#### **Monday, February 2, 2015**

Montgomery Blair High School  
51 University Boulevard East, Silver Spring  
6:30 p.m.—Resource Fair  
7–9 p.m.—Program and Breakout Sessions

For more information, visit the MCPS website at [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org), search "PARCC Nights," or call 301-309-6277.

## A-Tech Department News

**THE KENNEDY DRAMA CLUB PRESENTS:**



Interested in **AUDITIONING** or being part of **COSTUME, MAKEUP, SET DESIGN** or **TECH CREW??**  
**Contact either Ms. Zmoda or Mr. Utterback to join the fun!**

John Ekelund  
 A-Tech Resource Teacher

## SCIENCE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Congratulations to the Biology Team...Mr. Lisby, Mrs. Bartley, Dr. Keene, Mrs. Uzzaman, Mr. Hendricks and Mrs. Jennings for a **SUCCESSFUL** completion of the Biology pilot unit Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems!

Students had the following comments regarding the unit...

- “I really liked it!”
- “This made me think.”
- “The project was interesting.”
- “I learned how invasive species impact my area.”
- “Can we do the Town Hall Meeting again?”

The entire unit forced students to think a high levels, relate scientific content to real-world applications, and allowed the students an opportunity to dialogue with one another about the science content.



Town Hall Meeting and Panel Discussion

Ms. Jennings’ Period 3 Class

If you would like to know more about these activities or other opportunities going on in the science classes; please contact your child’s teacher.

Tamara B. Jennings ([Tamara\\_B\\_Jennings@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Tamara_B_Jennings@mcpsmd.org) )  
 Science Resource Teacher

## SOCIAL STUDIES NEWS

The Social Studies Department would like to thank all of their students for their help and support in implementing Chromebooks into regular instructional practice. The feedback they provide their instructors are invaluable as we attempt to navigate the curriculum using 21st century technology. Continued success as we prepare for the second marking period.

Keith Adams  
Social Studies Resource Teacher



## SGA NEWS

The next SGA General Assembly Meeting will be on Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> in the auditorium during 7<sup>th</sup> period.

Congratulations to all class representatives and student volunteers on a great homecoming week! The hallways looked awesome and school spirit was high! We also had the largest attendance at the homecoming parade. Thank you to all who made this possible.

Big thank you to Mr. Joseph for being the DJ for our first ever lip synch competition during Homecoming week! We had over 100 students come out for the fun event and we're looking forward to next year.

Are you interested in a winter dance? Have ideas? See Ms. Young in room 206 with suggestions.

Katherine Young  
Student Government Association Sponsor

## WORLD LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT NEWS

Ms. La Rocca's Italian students are using role-play to be Italian architects and they have been commissioned to create the layout of a new Italian school using their newfound vocabulary on different parts of the school.

Mr. Jefferson's AP Spanish students are working on an article that discusses a period of time in which many people in the world were annihilated. They will create a time capsule, write a letter, take pictures, and save objects representing their society, in case the same event takes place in their own lifetime.

Ms. Elvide Meleance  
World Languages Resource Teacher



## CODE NEWS

The Code.org is well on its way! The initial quarter has proven itself as a great academic choice for students with little background in the world of computing. Students have explored the impact of computers. Everything from online marketplaces and industry to art and traditional cultures. It is an exciting opportunity for students to see exactly how they fit in to the world around them!

Kia Davis

**People who think they know everything are a great annoyance to those of us who do.**

**Isaac Asimov**



FITZ!

## LEADERSHIP TRAINING INSTITUTE NEWS

Our students are hard at work both in their classes and out. Several of our LTI students are tutoring one another in various classes. During the months of October, November, and December several students have and will make trips to our feeder elementary schools (Glenallan, Strathmore, and Bel Pre) to donate goodie gift baskets to the kindergartens for each school.

The fall and winter holidays are a great time for students to log plenty of SSL hours. Even better, many are opportunities that families can take advantage of together. It's a great way to get out and do some good together. Check out the Montgomery County Parks website for tons of fun one-time and ongoing SSL opportunities:

<https://ec.volunteernow.com/recruiter/index.php?class=OppSearchResults&recruiterID=1296&popServ=1159>

Congratulations to our October LTI Students of the Month.

-Melanie Komolafe	9 <sup>th</sup> Grade
-Sally Morales	10 <sup>th</sup> Grade
-Faith Wade	11 <sup>th</sup> Grade
-Nick Ovalles	12 <sup>th</sup> Grade

Thanks to the Kennedy Community for supporting our fundraiser at Ledos in the Colesville Shopping Center. It was a great experience and nice opportunity to interact with one another and individuals within the community. Our next fundraiser will be on Thursday, November 20, at Qdoba (12265 Tech Rd.; Silver Spring, MD 20904).

### Upcoming dates:

November 11:	Dress for Success
November 18:	LTI t-shirt day
November 18:	Guest Speaker-James Bond Asst. Director, Office of Student Conduct, University of Maryland (Freshman and Sophmores only)
November 20:	Qdoba Mexican Grill fundraiser (12265 Tech Rd.; Silver Spring, MD 20904) 4pm to 8pm
November 25:	Dress for Success

Kofi Frempong  
Leadership Training Institute Coordinator

## MATH DEPARTMENT NEWS

College Institute students have received midterm grades from their respective college professors. All students have received an "A" or a "B." Both professors have commented on the high performance of our students.

English Grammar students continue to work on their college essays with the guidance of Professor Karin Rodrick.

Professor Lezcek Sibilski wrote an article, published on the World Bank website, which features our Kennedy High School students. Please click on the link below to read this article:

<http://blogs.worldbank.org/publicsphere/realization-dream>

Christine Aaron  
College Institute (CI) Coordinator







## PE DEPARTMENT NEWS

During the month of November:

The P.E. Department will be focused on indoor sports. Students will be completing self-assessments during the sport of Badminton.

If your student is in Health, we are asking that permission forms for Family Life, Human Sexuality & Disease Prevention units will be turned in by November 26, 2014. The parent meeting will be on November 20, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

Brady Markel  
PE Resource Teacher

## ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWS

The English Department would like to recognize the October Students of the Month:

9<sup>th</sup> Maria Chavez-Sanchez and Jacobo Juarez

10<sup>th</sup> Mayana Liu

11<sup>th</sup> Jennifer Stepanik and Khadijah Pearson

12<sup>th</sup> Jonathan Palacios

Congratulations!

Mrs. Wischmann's Culture in Literature class will be going on a field trip to Geppi's Entertainment Museum in Baltimore, MD. Geppi's is a pop culture museum that focuses on graphic novels and the history of comic books. Students will learn more about how graphic novels have been mainstreamed into our culture, and explore the development of the mythology of superheroes.

John Howard  
English Resource Teacher

## ROTC DEPARTMENT NEWS

11 Nov: JFK Veterans' Day Assemblies

11 Nov: Color Guard for VFW at Wheaton Veterans Memorial

11 Nov: Color Guard for Holy Cross Hospital Veteran's Day ceremony

22 Nov: La Plata Rifle Team competition

25 Nov: Cadets will fill 800 food baskets for needy families in DC Metro Area.

Commander Leonard Greig  
NJROTC Senior Naval Science Instructor



## PTSA NEWS

### 10 Reasons to Be Active in the Kennedy HS PTSA

- Make new friends.
- Know people at your student's school.
- Help make the school stronger.
- Contribute to your community.
- Learn new information.
- Develop leadership skills.
- Know what's going on at Kennedy and MCPS.\*
- Find others who care as much as you do.
- Show your child you care about their education.

## **RESOURCE CENTER NEWS**

### **MANAGING FINANCES**

Ms. Dematatis Life Skills class has been working on managing finances including identifying and exchanging coins and bills, personal budgets, "wants" vs. "needs," and expenses and income. Recently they are talking about credits and how they work--or sometimes don't work if they are overused! Parents have been encouraged to include their student when shopping by having them watch how a credit card works and by asking them to identify coins and bills.

Students in her class are enjoying this site that includes map-reading, job skills, shopping and more. <http://www.gcflearnfree.org/everydaylife/edlall>

### **RICE AND BEANS**

The LFI classes have been cooking black beans and rice weekly since the beginning of the school year. Students have become more and more independent at this task every week. The taste has also been improving week by week. Last Friday, they added chicken to the process and loved the results. Thanks to "Ms. Maya" for being our resident "rice expert". These cooking exercises give the students a chance to learn "hands on" skills valuable to their families and for their futures. Many of the students have already started cooking this at home for family and siblings.

Over the 3 day weekend, this 17th - 19th, all students involved will be taking home ingredients, recipes and skills to perform this task at home for/with their families. The parents will observe the process and then comment to evaluate how their son or daughter performed and how much help might have been needed. Hopefully, this engages these students in food preparation in their homes in a way that most of these students have never done before.

Their next cooking unit starts next week with variations on eggs and will run for just over a month.

### **CAVAJAVA**

Cava Java is off to a great start! Our students are learning many important skills that they can take with them upon graduation including budgeting, inventory, customer service, developing social skills, food prep and delivery. Thank you to everyone who has been so supportive.

[CavaJava is now offering WAFFLES!](#)

For the second week of CavaJava there was a surprise! -- Homemade waffles with various syrups and toppings made fresh by the students. Waffles are available in person only at Cava--piping hot and topped exactly as you want. YUM!!!

"Veteran" CavaJava students are helping to train newbies in customer service, taking, filling and delivering orders, using the cash register and giving change and more.

Kate Stephansky, Resource Center Resource Teacher

## **Academy NEWS**

Did you know that JFK is a World International Baccalaureate High School? This means ALL students have access to IB courses. Students can complete the full IB diploma or earn an IB certificate by taking a few IB classes? There are IB courses that correlate with all academies. Financial assistance may be available to help with the cost of IB Exams. Every student at Kennedy should take at least 1 or 2 IB classes before they graduate. If you need help matching IB courses to academies please contact Ms. Kaleisha Wright or Ms. Stacey Wahrman.

[Kaleisha M Wright@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Kaleisha.M.Wright@mcpsmd.org).

Kaleisha Wright  
Academies Coordinator

## **International Baccalaureate (IB) NEWS**

The window for IB exam registration is rapidly closing. Please see Ms. Wahrman in room 105 by Monday, November 10, 2014, if you have not yet registered for IB exams. IB has a fee for late registration.

Stacey Wahrman, IB Coordinator

**Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything.**

**George Bernard Shaw**

## ESOL DEPARTMENT NEWS

Guess what? We have a NEW WEBPAGE where you can read more about our classes and view teacher and student work: [www.jfkesol.com](http://www.jfkesol.com). Please visit "our JFK ESOL world"!



On October 23<sup>rd</sup>, we had ESOL Parent Night, an information session for parents and guardians. About 45 families attended. We explained the benefits of the ESOL program, the criteria to advance in the ESOL program as well as exit. We discussed school policies and resources for parents. If you were not able to come but would like to get this information, please call Ms. Fuhrman at (301)962-5946 or Ms. Haza at (301) 230-0670.

Remember, if your child reports to you that he or she is not understanding the material in a class, tell your child to...

- go to the teacher during Lunch and Learn (each teacher is available during lunch), or
- go to the Media Center after school for CAVS-X which is a homework help center Tuesday through Thursday (teachers provide assistance in English, mathematics, science, social studies, and foreign languages and we have late buses for your child to take if they stay after school)
- enroll in Saturday school for tutoring at The George B. Thomas, Sr. Learning Academy (the classes are Saturday mornings from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. from October through May, and the website is <http://www.saturdayschool.org/>.)
- call or text the Homework Hotline: call (301) 279-3234 or text (724) 427-5445 Mondays 6-9PM and Tuesday-Thursday from 4-9PM.

So there are many ways for your child to get help to improve their grades. On October 31, 2014, teachers will be finalizing first quarter grades, and you will receive these by mail in early November. Here is the format of our reports:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/info/grading/Traditional-report-card-grade9-12-en.pdf>

The special club Liberty's Promise meets Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:30-4PM in room 259. The organization works with our students to prepare for the future, college, jobs, etc. Check out their Facebook page: Liberty's Promise JFK.

The following students received STUDENT OF THE MONTH awards in their ESOL classes for great effort and attitude. We are very proud of them!

### ESOL 1

Mebratru Ayele

### ESOL 2

Cindy Vasquez and Brayan Molina

### ESOL 3

Ben Huynh and Katheryne Garcia,  
Academic Reading Joselynn Melgar

### ESOL 4

Francina DeLeon  
John Steven Ellama

### ESOL 5

Than Le

### MAPS/ ESOL MATH

Jose Villegas Avila

Elizabeth Fuhrman  
ESOL Resource Teacher





## UPCOMING EVENTS

11/15 MCPS Cheer Competition  
Blair High School 9 am

11/29 Swimming and Diving  
Blake & JFK@Montgomery  
College Takoma, 2:30p