In Case You Missed It

We'd like to thank all of the beloved grandparents who came to Nysmith today for Grandparents Day. Read More

The K-12 STEM Symposium was a hit! See More

First grade French students made very cute props and rehearsed for their play Read More

Students in the 7th grade Environmental Science class participated in a 3-day field trip to learn about the Chesapeake Bay Read More

More Highlights From Last Week

Important Dates

School-wide
April 2 (Tues): PTO Meeting 8:30-9:30am
April 3 (Wed): Bingo Night 6-7:30pm
April 5 (Fri): Parent Education Event 8:30-10:30 Cafeteria
April 15-22: Spring Break- Instructional Care Closed

Lower School
April 3 (Wed): 1st Grade Performance 8:45am
April 4 (Thurs): MM2-3rd Spring Photos
April 5 (Fri): MM3 Spring Photos
April 9 (Tues): 1st Grade Author's Brunch (in LA class)
April 10 (Wed): 2nd Grade Field Trip- Walker Nature Center
April 11 (Thurs): Kindergarten Field Trip- Mt. Vernon

Middle School
April 2-3: 4th/6th Grade IOWA Testing
April 5 (Fri): 4th-8th Grade Spring Photos
April 5 (Fri): NJHS Induction Ceremony 1:45-2:45 Silver Atrium
April 5 (Fri): 7th/8th Grade 3v3 Basketball Tournament 3-5pm Gym
April 10 (Wed): 5th Grade Noetic Math Contest
April 12 (Fri): 4th/6th Grade IOWA Testing Continued
April 12 (Fri): 4-8th Grade Walk for the Homeless 2-3pm
April 26 (Fri): Grades 6-8 Last SCA Dance this school year 7-9pm

Classroom News

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Things to Know

**STEM Symposium**
The 2019 K-12 STEM Symposium was an epic success! This past Saturday, WashingtonExec held its 6th annual STEM Symposium at our school. The event drew in over 3,500 students, teachers, parents, and industry leaders from all over the Washington metropolitan area who came together to celebrate all things STEM! A number of schools even chartered buses to bring their students to this special event, and we even had families from out of state stop by to attend the event.

The Symposium stayed true to this year's theme "The Power of Curiosity," by having a variety of hands-on science and technology related activities for all attendees to experience such as; hands-on robotic demos, programming, robot building, straw rockets, flight simulators, LegoBots, and more! This year attendees had the opportunity to hear from a wide-range of inspiring guest speakers who work in STEM related fields including Kirthi Kumar a former Nysmith student, now a Junior at Thomas Jefferson School for Science and Technology and founder of SheSoft - a nonprofit whose mission is to promote building software applications in young girls to bridge the gender gap in technology, former NASA astronaut Sandra Magnus, Peter Highnam and Chirag Parikh from the National Geospationa-Intelligence Agency's Office of Science and Methodologies, and more.

Many thanks to this year's sponsors and all those who attended!

Spring Photos
Spring Photos will be on Thursday, April 4 for MM2, Beg-3rd and Friday, April 5th for MM3, 4th-8th. Class pictures will also be taken. No pre-order is needed.

1st Grade Parent Social
Please join us for a 1st grade Parent Social on Wednesday, April 3rd, 8-8:45am in the Cafeteria. Catch up with other 1st grade parents and meet
new friends! To be immediately followed by the 1st grade presentation of "DINOSTARS" at 8:45am. We hope to see you there!

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**Bingo Night**

Bingo Night is this Wednesday, April 3, from 6-7:30pm. Vocelli Pizza is happy to deliver to Nysmith and encourages families to order online at VocelliPizza.com. They can order ahead and pre-schedule the delivery time. Their phone number is 703-435-7333.

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**IOWA Testing**

IOWA testing begins tomorrow. The reading sections will be administered from 8:30-9:30 on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Math is the following week. 4th graders will take the math test for one hour on Tuesday and one hour on Wednesday 8:30-9:30. 6th graders’ math test will be given during their 11-12 math hour.

The Iowa Test of Basic Skills is a standardized, nationally normed achievement test. Scores are part of a student's record here at Nysmith. High schools do not usually pay much attention (if any) to these scores in their admissions process, but summer programs such as UVA's SEP do ask for them as part of their admissions decision making. Students take the core reading, language and math test. They use scorable (bubble) answer sheets.

We give them at Nysmith so that students have practice with this type of test and to provide parents with baseline information. Students may make up one day if absent on one of the five testing days. Students who have a diagnosed learning difference will have extended time.

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**Author Russell Ginns is Coming to Nysmith**

Russell Ginns, author of the *Samantha Spinner* series, will present to 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders on April 24th. If you would like to purchase a personalized, autographed copy of one or more of Mr. Ginns' books, please fill out [this form](#) and return it with cash or a check payable to Nysmith School by Thursday April 11th.

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**New Math Resources to Help You Support Your Upper School Student**

If you're the parent of an upper school student (grades 4-8), you may have been wondering how best to support your child with his/her math studies at home. Click [here](#) to read our latest blog about what resources are now available to help you and your child. For more about the Carnegie learning math program, read our previous blog, "Learning Math the New School Way"
Annual Walk to Help the Homeless
Nysmith's annual Walk to Help the Homeless, to benefit Cornerstones, will be held around the track on Friday, April 12, 2-3 pm. Students in grades 4-8th, along with their parents, teachers and staff are invited to join in raising funds and awareness to help our neighbors in need. Please register using this link. We look forward to the biggest turnout yet!

Nysmith PE Fun Run
Our goal in creating this program is to encourage students to run outside of class and school hours, which is why throughout each month we will be hosting Fun Runs before school from 7:30-8:00am. This program is optional and there are no fees, but we would like for you to encourage your child to participate as it can be a way to connect with friends while running together. Read more here.

Bingo Night is Coming!
April 3rd from 6-7:30 pm—with hundreds of dollars in prizes this year—add it to your calendars now! Tell your upper schoolers that Bingo Night is not just for little kids. There is a special prize for the best pajamas on an 8th grader! Prizes include $100 off at O'Donnells Jewelry, local restaurants and lots more. It's a great time. Just remember to wear your PAJAMAS and come and have fun. Parents, we could use a few volunteers. So, if you're able to help, please sign up.

Tuesday's Morning Munch
Free snack for kids participating in the 7:30AM Fun Run on Tuesday Morning. Tuesday's Menu: Lemon Blueberry Yogurt Bread, Lemon Poppy Seeds Muffins, Raisin Cinnamon Rolls, Belgium Waffles. Remind your children to stop by The Morning Munch in the Silver Pod, 8AM - 8:25AM. For questions, please contact Maria Di Paolo-Greer or Adriane Lewis.

Spring Break Extended Care
Extended Care will be open during Spring Break from Monday, April 15 through Friday, April 19. Instructional & Extended Care will be closed on Monday, April 22. Please complete this form if you would like your child to attend any of the dates during this time and return it to April Breeden, Extended Care Director. Please email April Breeden if you have any questions.
The Look Ahead Archive
Did you know that you can access all of this school year's Look Ahead's in our community portal? If you've missed any of our past issues and want to catch up, simply enter the community portal at the top of our homepage and look for the Look Ahead icon. You can also access the archive by clicking here.

Social Media

Best of Photo Galleries

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Instagram Accounts

Nysmith | Art | P.E. | Library | Music

Nysmith Community
Building a Family Community at Nysmith - Mark your Calendars!

Please join us for these upcoming Nysmith Community events. All are welcome!

April 2: PTO Meeting 8:30-9:30am
April 3: 1st Grade Performance "Dinostars" 8:45am
April 3: Pajama Bingo 7:00pm
April 5: Annual 7th & 8th Grade 3v3 Basketball Tournament 3:00pm
April 12: 4-8th Grade Walk for the Homeless 2:00-3:00pm
April 23-26: International Week
April 29-May 3: Spring Book Fair 8:00-5:00pm

Volunteers Needed

We need a few volunteers for some upcoming activities this week and in April. All are available [here](#).

This week we have Bingo (Apr 3) and Picture Day (Apr 4 & 5). For picture day, parents will receive a $35 voucher for helping.

Also coming up is Spring Book Fair (Apr 25-May 6).

SchoolPool

Interested in sharing the ride to school? Try [SchoolPool](#)!

Loyalty Programs

The Nysmith PTO continues its participation in loyalty programs to supplement the many PTO sponsored events. Families can support them by collecting Box Tops and shopping at Harris Teeter and Lands' End stores. Read more [here](#).

Have a Student Achievement? We want to know about it!

Remember to tell us if you have an upcoming special event, item of interest, or student achievement to celebrate, email us at nysmithnews@nysmith.com. Some examples of what you should include in your email are:

- upcoming special events (inside or outside of the classroom)
- upcoming competitions including details on the nature and specifics of the competition (background/history of organization, location, format, advancement opportunities)
- names, grade levels & hometowns of participating students and parent/coach
- same-day or Monday (for weekend events) reporting of individual and/or team results
- high resolution photos of students competing and/or receiving awards/trophies (including captions identifying each student and parent-coach in picture)

With advance notice, we'll be able to share your student's wins and experiences within and around our community. Thank you in advance for your help and cooperation in making Nysmith a stand-out school!
Graffiti For Good
Graffiti for Good is a root beer float sip and paint by 6th grade students as a fundraiser to support foster care teens as they transition to independent living. It will be held on April 6th from 5-8pm at Floris Elementary School in Herndon. Tickets are available for pre-purchase for $12 and $15 at the door. There will be fun raffles and yummy concessions available. Read more.

Learn How to Code and get the Competitive Edge for College!
The Coding School, a national 501c3 organization, is offering a one-of-a-kind opportunity for middle and high school students to receive one-on-one coding instruction and mentorship from top computer scientists, working at companies like SpaceX, Google, and Microsoft, and studying at elite universities, such as MIT, Harvard, and Stanford. Students will receive personalized lessons tailored to their interests and learn in-depth knowledge in cutting-edge CS fields, from coding fundamentals to cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, game development, mobile app development, and web development. Moreover, because of our video chat platform, students can connect with these top computer scientists from anywhere in the world. For more information visit here.

SheSoft Conference & Championship
Calling all 5th - 8th grade girls! Registration is now open for the second annual SheSoft Championship and Conference. This year's event will take place on June 7th - 9th, right here in the DC metro area. Those who are interested in competing for either an "Innovation Award" or "Technologist Award," can register learn more and register online here. Championship applications will be accepted from now until May 1, 2019.

Founded by Nysmith alumnus, Kirthi Kumar, SheSoft is a non-profit organization dedicated to bridging the gender gap in technology by empowering young girls in upper elementary and middle school ages through seminars, webinars, workshops and software application competitions.

North South Foundation Regionals
All Nysmith families are invited to participate in the Regional North South Foundation Competition that will be held at Nysmith on April 27th and 28th. The competition has numerous individual competitions including spelling, vocabulary, geography, history, essay writing, science, math, and public speaking. Click here to find out more information and register.

Summer Camps
Woodberry Forest: Week long for middle school boys in June. More info here.
National Youth Leadership Forum

If you would like us to nominate your current 3rd, 4th, or 5th grader for the National Youth Leadership Forum, please email Ms. Breedan with your child’s name and gender, your mailing address and the grade they are currently in. For more information about this program, please visit this website.

Extended Care Programs

Classes held from 4pm-5pm are underway. You are always welcome to join them, but will need to check with each individual program for the prorated rate. Please see the attachment for details and registration information.

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