



# Elsie Whitlow Stokes

*Community Freedom Public Charter School*

**HISTORY HERSTORY #OURSTORY**

# 20+



**January 2020**

# The Stokes Banner

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\*Cover photo: Marko (KS) celebrating bowling a spare during a field trip to Duckpin Lanes



# Letter from the Executive Director



Photo by: Satsun Photography

Greetings Stokes School Community,

Around the country Americans have just celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday, a national day of service, by volunteering and giving back to their communities. At Stokes School, service to others and our community happens more than one day a year - it is a way of life. We affirm our commitment to service every morning when we recite our three school rules, "I will take care of myself, I will take care of others and I will take care of my community." Our Scholars begin learning about service to others as early as Pre-K and Kindergarten by participating in projects like making sandwiches for the homeless and cleaning up their playgrounds. Some of our older scholars have organized projects to take care of our global and local communities by raising funds to build a well in a Nigerian village and helping to clean up the Anacostia River. Staff at Stokes School also strive to lead by example and serve our communities in several ways. Some staff members organize and support youth development efforts in their immediate neighborhoods, others serve on boards of community based organizations, while others serve internationally by supporting initiatives like educating girls in developing countries.

Service is part of the Stokes School ethos. But did you know that this ethos is based on the way that Elsie Whitlow Stokes served her community during her lifetime? Not only was she a teacher for 36 years, but she also tutored students at her home after school, grew vegetables in her backyard every summer to share with her elderly neighbors, organized and taught a group of developmentally challenged teenagers and adults at her church and was a member of the Zeta Phi Beta Inc., a historically black Greek-lettered

# Letter from the Executive Director

Sorority. As a member of Zeta Phi Beta, she served as Treasurer for her sorority's local chapter and managed their finances so well that she and her sorority sisters were able to offer several college scholarships to young people in her community who may not have otherwise been able to afford college.

Elsie Whitlow Stokes instilled this sense of service in her daughter (my mother), Linda Moore, and in turn, Ms. Moore ensured that community service is one of the pillars on which Stokes School stands. Over the years we have seen many of our Stokes Scholars grow into adults who took the lessons that they learned about service to actively give back to community. When you have a moment, please watch this TEDx Talk given by a Stokes School Alumna, Diana Acosta, about [The Power of Community](#) and her chosen career of service to her community. Also, please share with your scholars the different ways that you and your family provide service to the community.

Our hope is that Stokes Scholars continue to heed these lessons and to understand that through service, we are not only helping others and making our communities better but we are also investing in our own happiness and well-being. The more we give – the more we receive.

Sincerely,



Erika Bryant

Executive Director

*“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?”*

# IMPORTANT DATES

PTA Meeting	February 5
First Friday	February 7
Friendship Ball	February 14
Intent to Enroll Deadline	February 17
February Break	February 17 - 21
Black History Month Assembly	February 28



# Drop Off

Please do not drive up Oakview Terrace to drop your scholar off in the morning unless you have a handicap placard or are pregnant. We welcome you to park at the bottom of the hill (Perry Street) and walk your scholar up the hill. Otherwise, please drive through our carpool lane on Otis Street and allow our Safety Patrols to open your car door and help your scholar up the stairs and into the building. As another option, you are welcome to park on the side of Otis Street across from the school and walk your scholar in. Please be mindful of our neighbors and do not block their driveways or litter in their yards. As always, thank you for taking care of our community.

# Pick Up

Please obey DC traffic laws throughout the community and be courteous by not blocking our neighbors driveways on Oakview Terrace. All first through fifth grade scholars are dismissed from the multi-purpose room with the exception of those who attend after school. Students will not be released to their parents until they are sitting down in their classroom line and their teacher has checked them off. Students will not be permitted to play in the courtyard after school. If you wish to stay and play after 3:30 PM, please use the Pre-K playground or the playground in the front of the building. Pre-K and Kindergarten students will continue to be picked up from their classrooms at dismissal time (3:00 PM for Pre-K and 3:30 PM for K).



# S-P-E-L-L-I-N-G B-E-E



Each year, third through fifth grade Stokes scholars study hard for the Stokes School Spelling Bee. It's a friendly competition between classmates and friends that, surprisingly, evokes a high level of audience excitement. Stokes School's spelling bee leads up to the District Cluster Spelling Bees. Participating schools send three scholars as representatives of their spelling prowess. Stokes School representatives this year are Jacob (5F), Kennedy (4S), and Frieda (5S) (with Cecilia [5S] as our alternate).



# S-P-E-L-L-I-N-G B-E-E

The Cluster Spelling Bee will be taking place in February and the competition to be there was fierce. Round after round was tension-filled, but the final four was when things really heated up! Jacob and Kennedy went back and forth for first place. After 3 rounds of words spelled with poise, confidence, and accuracy, Jacob clinched the first place spot and Kennedy took a well-earned second place. Next, third place was a run-off between Frieda and Cecilia. Mr. Rene tossed out some of the most difficult words yet. There were some stumbles, but when Cecilia spelled “apprentice” the crowd exploded. Did she win? Not yet. In a twist that made the scholars gasp, we learned that when one competitor spells a word incorrectly, the next person must spell two words in a row correctly in order to win. For her second word, Cecilia was presented with “absorptive.” Absorptive (adj.) tending to absorb; absorbent. At the end of a hard-fought round, Cecilia became Stokes School’s alternate when Frieda correctly spelled “abundance.”

We are so proud of every single scholar who competed in the spelling bee and wish the best for our top 4 in preparing for the cluster bees at Langley Elementary School.





# GET INVOLVED

- Box Tops goes digital. For a limited time, to celebrate the launch of the new Box Tops for Education app, you can double box tops! Scan your receipts on the apps and give your box tops to Stokes School for 2x points.



- The wellness committee needs YOU to help with the Green Team. We are entering our second year providing multi-stream waste management in the cafeteria. Our students are enthusiastic about the program, but often need some adult guidance to make sure it's done correctly. Mondays during lunch (11-1) are the time of most acute need. [Sign Up Here!](#)



# GET INVOLVED

- Join the Stokes PTA. Keep abreast of what the PTA is up to by checking the PTA bulletin board (located across the hall from Kindergarten).
- Shopping? Use [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and select Elsie Whitlow Stokes Community Freedom Public Charter school as your charity of choice.
- We are always seeking parent volunteers for scholars' lunch periods. If interested in donating your time, email [AnaD@ewstokes.org](mailto:AnaD@ewstokes.org) for more information.



## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

### Kati-Kati Chicken



- 6lbs 8oz chicken breast
- 2.5 oz garlic powder
- 2 oz sugar
- 2 tablespoons cinnamon
- 2 tablespoons allspice
- 2 tablespoons paprika
- 1.5 tablespoons salt
- 1 teaspoon red pepper flakes
- 2 teaspoons black pepper
- 1teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1 tablespoon ground turmeric
- 1/4 cup ground cumin
- 1/4 cup canola oil

## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

1. Combine garlic powder, sugar, cinnamon, allspice, paprika, salt, red pepper flakes, black pepper, cayenne pepper, turmeric, cumin, and oil in a small bowl. Stir well.
2. Toss chicken portions in spice mixture. Allow chicken to marinate for at least 30 minutes.
3. Place chicken portions on a sheet pan lined with parchment paper and lightly coated with pan release spray.
4. Bake at 350 °F for 10-15 minutes

\*\*\*Replace chicken with tofu or hearty mushrooms for a tasty vegetarian alternative



[Click here for February Menus](#)

