



Elsie Whitlow Stokes

Community Freedom Public Charter School

HISTORY HERSTORY #OURSTORY

20+



November 2019

The Stokes Banner

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*Cover photo: Second grade visiting the National Portrait Gallery



Letter from the Executive Director



Photo by: Satsun Photography

Greetings Stokes School Community,

The Thanksgiving holiday is a time when many Americans become introspective and reflect on the various things for which we are grateful. Generally, when I think about the Thanksgiving season and my gratitude on a personal level, I am most thankful for family and friends, good health, and a roof over my head. I am also extremely thankful to be a part of the Stokes School community. As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, I'd like to share with you the top 5 things that I am most grateful for at Stokes School.

- **Acceptance and Tolerance:** At a time when parts of our country have proven to be less accepting and tolerant of the diverse make up of the United States, I am extremely grateful to be a part of a community that consists of an incredibly diverse group of people from different countries, cultures and belief systems. We are a community of people who are accepting, tolerant and respectful of "self, others and our community." We understand that we are part of a global community and that we have the right to express beliefs or opinions - in our language of choice - without fear of reprisal or retribution.
- **Intellectual Curiosity:** Our scholars are naturally curious about everything. They are constantly asking questions and seeking answers. This may test adults' patience but it helps our children grow intellectually, socially and emotionally. Part of our job as educators and parents is to encourage our children to continue to question as they grow and to help instill within them a desire to be lifelong learners. I am grateful to be a part of a community of people who understand the importance of intellectual curiosity and investing our time and energy into learning more about and understanding the world around us.

Letter from the Executive Director

- Family Orientation: Although we are a school, we function as a family. We've created strong relationships between staff, parents and students. These are the relationships that will serve as the foundation for our scholars' healthy development as they grow. And these are the bonds that have helped and will continue to help to sustain us all through good times and bad. I am grateful to come to work every day in a place where I know that I am surrounded by family.
- Wellness Orientation: Our school motto, "I will take care of myself, I will take care of others and I will take care of my community" is all about wellness. Every day we focus on our physical well---being through healthy eating and exercise. We consider the well---being of others when we are thoughtful and considerate of those around us, and we promote the well---being of our local and global community through initiatives like the Stokes School Gardens, our recent energy efficient renovations and the installation of solar panels on our roof. I am thankful to be a part of a community that prioritizes wellness.
- Stokes School Scholars: We have the most brilliant, beautiful and caring children that I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. I am so grateful to be able interact with them on a daily basis, play with them in the courtyard, join them in the classroom for story time, share some of my experiences with them, and get to know and learn from them.

Life is good. Happy Thanksgiving!

Best regards,

Erika Bryant

IMPORTANT DATES

PTA Meeting	December 4
First Friday	December 6
PTA Fun Run	December 7; 8AM RockCreek Tennis Center
PTA Pancake Breakfast/ Holiday Bazaar	December 14; 9AM
Winter Concert	December 20
Winter Break	December 23—January 3



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).



I Voted!

“Being kind doesn’t mean you won’t stand up for yourself. You can be compassionate and also be firm in your own stance. Continue to be compassionate and then watch as your compassion inspires other people.” -Satiya Ewing-Boyd c/o 2014

On November 8, 2019, Stokes School swore in the newly-elected Student Government officials for the 2019-2020 school year. All scholars from first through fifth grades practice civic engagement through voting privately; the younger scholars received assistance from older scholars as needed.



I Voted!

Fourth and fifth grade scholars are welcomed to run for school-wide office. This year's officials are Jacob (President 5F), Frieda (Vice President 5S), Amina (Secretary 5S), and Gabby (Treasurer 5F). First through fourth grades have 2 representatives for each class. All pledged an oath to their office and to serve in their positions with fidelity.

With platforms ranging from community service, to improving meal options for scholars with dietary restrictions, we are excited to welcome a student government ready to be active and make change!



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 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 for more information.



Stokes School PTA Presents

ABOMINABLE HOT COCOA RUN

Help raise money for a new playground at the Elsie Whitlow Stokes Public Charter School Brookland Campus! Run in the December 7th Abominable 5K and enjoy a mug of hot cocoa after crossing the finish line. All are welcome - Run, walk, or stroll. Kids also can bike or scoot. Yeti to join the fun?

INDIVIDUALS: \$25

FAMILIES: \$50

SATURDAY, 12/7 @ 8AM

PICNIC GROVE 24

ROCK CREEK TENNIS CENTER

<https://tinyurl.com/StokesPTARun>



RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Vegetable Quesadillas



- 1/2 lb canned corn
- 1/4 cup chopped onions
- 3/4 cup chopped green bell pepper
- 1/2 lb dried black beans, cooked
- 1/2 tablespoon chili powder
- 1/4 tablespoon cumin
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- 1/2 tablespoon Mexican seasoning
- Whole wheat tortillas
- 1/2 cup fresh diced tomatoes
- 1 cup shredded Monterey Jack cheese

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

1. In a medium stock pot, add corn, onions, peppers, and black beans. Sauté uncovered over medium–high heat for 2 minutes.
2. Add chili powder, cumin, onion powder, paprika, and Mexican seasoning. Stir to combine spices well. Heat uncovered over medium –high heat for 2 minutes, stirring frequently. Remove from heat. And set corn mixture aside.
3. Combine corn mixture, tomatoes, and cheese in a large bowl. Toss well.
4. Place tortillas on a sheet pan. Portion $\frac{1}{3}$ cup 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp (about 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ oz) corn and tomato mixture on right side of each tortilla. Fold left side of each tortilla over mixture, and press down gently.



[Click here for December Menus](#)