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What's been happening at DC public charter schools?

DC International PCS Ventures to Spain

The world-traveling scholars at [DC International School PCS](#) have returned from their educational journey to Spain!

Students visited Lleida, where they connected with local students from their partner school, Insitut Gili. They also explored the city's Gothic Cathedral, were educated on traditional Spanish theater and dances, and even toured the beautiful sights of Barcelona.

The DCI learners also spent time in Madrid, where they fastened their aprons at the world-renowned Prado Museum and took a cooking class to learn the secrets of making quality Spanish cuisine.



Credit: DC International PCS ([@dcinternationalschool](#))

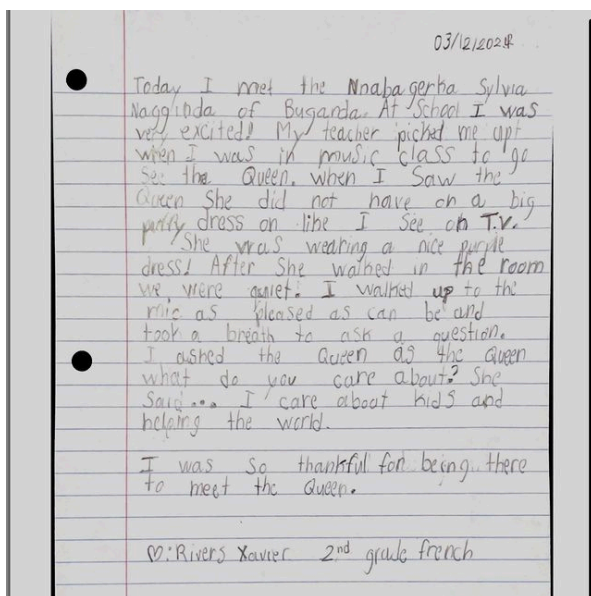
Scholars Meet the Queen of Buganda

Scholars at [EW Stokes PCS](#) got to learn about another worldly culture, too! The Queen of Buganda, a traditional kingdom in Uganda, visited [Maya Angelou PCS](#). Queen Nnabagerka Sylvia Nagginda of Buganda spoke about her life and passions to a group of women and girls, including faculty, leadership, and students.

An EW Stokes second grader, Rivers, was brave enough to ask Queen Nagginda a question during her visit: "as the Queen, what do you care about?" Rivers recorded the Queen's response in a personal reflection: "She said... I care about kids and helping the world."

Rivers also noted that she was surprised the Queen wasn't wearing a puffy dress, as depicted in fairy tales or on the TV. Her reaction shows the value of meeting real-life leaders hailing from different cultures and communities.

"I was so thankful for being there to meet the Queen," Rivers said. We are #DCCharterProud of her bravery, and excited to see communities coming together to uplift new experiences!



Schools Celebrate Pi Day

Last month, several DC public charter schools celebrated Pi Day on March 14—or 3.14. Across the board, activities included exploring how to calculate diameter and circumference using pi, eating delicious pie, and throwing foam pies in school leaders' faces!

At [KIPP DC-Valor Academy PCS](#), [Washington Latin PCS](#), and [Capital City PCS](#), scholars competed to see who could memorize the most digits of Pi. Afterwards, scholars at KIPP DC Valor PCS [gave](#) their plastic poncho-clad teachers the foamy experience, while Capital City PCS [completed](#) their Math-a-thon by seeing who could eat the most small apple pies. Scholars at [Friendship PCS-Blow Pierce](#) enjoyed similar activities, but even "pied" their principal—a feat that made it onto [FOX5 DC news](#)!

Younger scholars at [Early Childhood Academy PCS](#) enjoyed their [Pi Family Fun Night event](#), where they learned how to measure circumference amid bracelet making and coloring activities. The students at [Howard University Public Charter Middle School of Mathematics and Science](#) exercised their creativity and love for math in a special way, working together to create the Pi mathematical shape, as seen from a rooftop!



Credit: Howard University PCS ([@howardums2](#))

Women's History Month

Celebrating Women
in Education

Re-cap: Women's History Month

Women's History Month is a time to highlight and celebrate the seemingly endless achievements women of different backgrounds have made throughout history. Those achievements have challenged stereotypes, shattered barriers, and paved the way for future generations of women to succeed.

During Women's History Month, we took to social media and highlighted the many #HERStoryMakers who are making a difference in the present-time. Check out our [social media](#) to see last month's campaign!



Arab American Heritage Month

April is Arab American Heritage Month! This is a time to celebrate Arab Americans' immense contributions to science, technology, art, and more, and learn about the diverse cultures that exist in Arab nations.

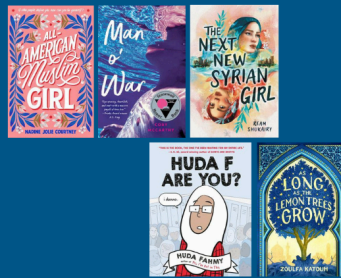
We hope you join us in uplifting our Arab friends, colleagues, and school families. As always, we consider special months to be great moments to dive deeper into important books.

Learn more about Arab heritage, including historical struggles, cultural treasures, and unique narratives via the following recommendations. The Smithsonian museums are also [highlighting](#) exhibits which feature Arab American history and culture.

Children's Books



Young Adult Books



Books for Adults



Upcoming Board Meeting

[www](http://www.dcpsb.org)

**April
Board
Meeting**

April 22
6:00 p.m.
dcpcs.org

DC PUBLIC
CHARTER
SCHOOL
BOARD

DC PCSB's next board meeting will take place on **April 22, 2024**. Click here to [register](#) for the Zoom Webinar.

Our last Board meeting took place on **April 8, 2024**. It was special meeting. [View the link](#) to watch our last regular Board Meeting, on March 18, and the Special Board Meeting as soon as it becomes available. All other prior meetings are available on our Youtube channel as well.

If you are interested in submitting a public comment or would like to sign up to testify, please click [here](#).

Items Open for Public Comment



Below are the items currently open for [public comment](#).

- [Notice of Petition to Adopt: ASPIRE Policy & Technical Guide](#)
 - **Due Date:** April 22, 2024*
 - **Board Vote:** June 10, 2024

**Please note: This deadline has been extended from April 8, 2024.*

- [Notice of Charter Review – DC Bilingual PCS, Meridian PCS, and Two Rivers PCS](#)
 - **Due Date:** April 22, 2024
 - **Vote Date:** April 22, 2024
- [Notice of Charter Reviews – Multiple Schools: DCI, Lee Montessori PCS, Perry Street PCS](#)
 - **Due Date:** May 20, 2024
 - **Vote Date:** May 20, 2024
- [Notice of Petition to Amend Charter: Facility Amendment Request – The Family Place PCS](#)

- [Notice of Request to Amend Charter Facility – Social Justice PCS](#)
 - **Due Date:** May 20, 2024
 - **Vote Date:** June 24, 2024
- [Notice of Request to Amend Charter Enrollment Ceiling Increase & Facility – Sojourner Truth School PCS](#)
 - **Due Date:** May 20, 2024
 - **Vote Date:** June 24, 2024



ASPIRE, Our Proposed Revised Accountability System

As noted above, [public comment](#) for our ASPIRE Technical and Policy Guide has been extended until April 22, 2024. ASPIRE stands for Annual School Performance Index Report & Evaluation, and is our proposed accountability system.

What is accountability? At DC PCSB, we uphold our commitment to making sure DC public charter schools are effective and serving their students well, by holding them accountable to their charter goals. That means observing and evaluating their academic performance, and ensuring that they are serving their students in the way they pledged to, during the formation of their charter.

ac·count·a·bil·i·ty

/əˌkaʊn(t)əˈbɪlədi / noun

Synonyms

Commitment Dependability Trust

as in *obligation**

At DC PCSB, make sure schools uphold their *commitment* to serve their students, by evaluating how effective the school is.

**According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary*

Our ASPIRE system will evaluate schools across five levels, with one being the highest and five the lowest. DC PCSB will have different measurements for the schools, depending on which grades and student populations they serve.

Our ASPIRE system is an important step in our work as a DC government agency, and represents lots of hard work and collaboration. We are still in the development and trial phases of our work, but as the time comes, we will share more about what ASPIRE may mean to you, your school, or your student. Learn more via our [youtube series](#) and [website page](#).



Public Lottery and Enrollment Saturday

April 27, 2024 marks Enrollment Saturday—a time when schools across the city, including DC public charter schools, have open office hours to provide assistance with enrollment. Most schools will be available between **9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

Families whose scholars have matched with the school can visit its office hours, to ask questions or learn more about how to enroll for the next school year. [Here](#) is a list of schools participating in

As a reminder, **the enrollment deadline is May 1, 2024**. According to MySchoolDC: "If you were matched to a school in the lottery for the 2024-25 school year, you have until May 1, 2024, to enroll your child at their matched school. If you do not enroll your child at their matched school by that date, they may lose their space at the school. Enrolling your child at their matched school will not remove them from waitlists."

KEY DATES

**December 2, 2023**

EdFEST (PK3 - Grade 8)

**December 9, 2023**

EdFEST (Grades 9-12)

**December 11, 2023**

Lottery application opens

**February 1, 2024**

Application deadline (Grades 9-12)

**March 1, 2024**

Application deadline (PK3 - Grade 8)

**March 29, 2024**

Lottery results are available

**April 27, 2024**

Enrollment Saturday

**May 1, 2024**

Enrollment deadline for matched students

DC Emancipation Day



DC PCSB will be closed on **Tuesday, April 16, 2024** in observance of DC Emancipation Day. We will reopen on Wednesday, April 17.

According to the office of Mayor Bowser, DC Emancipation Day honors the passing of the DC Compensated Emancipation Act in 1862, which abolished slavery in the city eight months before the Emancipation Proclamation ended slavery in the South. This act “freed 3,100 individuals, reimbursed those who had legally owned them and offered the newly freed women and men money to emigrate.”

To remember and honor the brave people who fought for the DC Emancipation Act, Mayor Bowser will be [hosting](#) a series of celebrations. On Sunday, April 14, there will be a parade, concert, and fireworks show at Freedom Plaza.

We hope you have a happy and restful day, as we remember this momentous occasion.



About DC PCSB: The DC Public Charter School Board (DC PCSB) is the sole authorizer of public charter schools in the nation's capital. Our goal is to ensure every DC student receives a quality education that makes them feel valued and prepares them for lifelong learning, fulfilling careers, and economic security. DC PCSB creates the policies and conditions that empower teachers and schools to do their best work educating students. DC PCSB provides oversight to 69 local education agencies that operate 135 public charter schools educating more than 45,000 students living in every ward of the city. Learn more at dcpcsb.org.

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