

**January 28**

*Out of Boundary and Pre-School/Pre-Kindergarten Lottery Opens*

**February 5**

*Report Cards Sent Home*

**February 11**

*Chancellor's Office Hours  
6:00 p.m.  
Noyes Education Campus  
2725 10th St. NE*

**February 12**

*Professional Development  
Day; No School*

**February 15**

*President's Day; No School*

**February 24**

*Chancellor's Community  
Forum  
6:30 p.m.  
Luke C. Moore Academy  
1001 Monroe St. NE*

**February 28**

*Out of Boundary and Pre-School/Pre-Kindergarten Lottery Closes*

**March 1**

*Parent Teacher Conferences*

## One parent's story: DCPS improves early diagnosis of learning delay

Early Stages, a new DCPS intervention center, identifies and evaluates 3- to 5-year-old children whose parents suspect learning delays.

A few years before Early Stages launched, Elizabeth Rihani and her husband brought their developmentally delayed daughter to DCPS for evaluation. But they quickly became frustrated. Legal deadlines were missed and nobody helped them through the process. They felt let down.

"Parents received the message it was their fault their children were delayed," Elizabeth said. She and her husband felt frustrated and vulnerable.

Elizabeth decided to do it herself. She educated herself about laws and processes. She visited schools and learned about Hana's needs and what it would take to meet them. She found a DCPS placement for her daughter, and is thrilled with the attention and professionalism of the special education staff who work with Hana, who is now in kindergarten.

Elizabeth is now using what she learned to serve other parents as an Early Stages employee, and to make sure parents get the services they need.

"I wanted to be a part of the reincarnation I was seeing in early intervention at DCPS," said Elizabeth. "I want all children in this city to get the kind of education and special education placement Hana is getting now."

If you or someone you know needs early diagnosis services, call (202) 698-8037 or visit [www.earlystagesdc.org](http://www.earlystagesdc.org).



Hana and Elizabeth



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## Welcome to DCPS Parent News

Welcome to DCPS Parent News! This is our first issue. Since we want to make sure you are able to find the information you need most, tell us what we should include in this newsletter at <http://dcps.dc.gov/DCPS/parentnewsletter> or call (202) 442-5191.

This newsletter is an important way for us to get you information. But there are other ways, too.

Check out the calendar for upcoming events, where you can get information and give feedback in person.

You can also visit our website at [dcps.dc.gov](http://dcps.dc.gov) and tell us what you think so we can keep improving. We'd love to hear your feedback at <http://dcps.dc.gov/DCPS/website>.

### 'Out of boundary' lottery open until Feb. 28

Did you know that your child can apply to attend any DC Public School? Even those not in your neighborhood?

The DCPS Out-of-Boundary Lottery allows you to apply to send your K-12 child to any DCPS school in any ward. All DCPS schools are hosting open houses during the out-of-boundary application period, which runs from Thursday, Jan. 28 until Sunday, Feb. 28.

Contact individual schools for open house information, and then submit your application online before Feb. 28 at [dcps.dc.gov/oob](http://dcps.dc.gov/oob). If you need information about where to access computers to register, or have other questions about the out-of-boundary lottery, call (202) 478-5738.

### Free early education for 3- and 4-year-olds

Ninety percent of all brain development happens before the age of 5. That's why pre-kindergarten (for 4-year-olds) and pre-school (for 3-year-olds) gives children such a big advantage when they start school.

If your child is 3 or 4 years old by Sept. 30, you can apply for **free** preschool, pre-K or HeadStart. DC Public Schools now offers early education at 85 schools.

For the greatest opportunity to get into the program of your choice, applications should be submitted online before Feb. 28 at [dcps.dc.gov](http://dcps.dc.gov). After this initial enrollment period, applications will be accepted until all slots are full. For more information, call (202) 698-1033.



Photo by Simona Monnatti

Students from Shaw at Garnett Patterson

*If your child is 3- or 4-years-old by Sept. 30, you can apply for **free** preschool, pre-K or HeadStart.*



Photo by Michael DeAngelis

Elementary School students from Drew ES

To receive this newsletter electronically please contact [nicole.smith2@dc.gov](mailto:nicole.smith2@dc.gov).