

2019-20 Parent Newsletter #2

“As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.”

John F. Kennedy

The JKO staff and I would like to wish all our students and parents a very enjoyable and relaxing Thanksgiving.



A Brief History of Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is a national holiday in the United States. It is celebrated each year on the fourth Thursday in November. On this day, families gather together, and many people say prayers of thanks for the years blessings. In many homes, a big dinner of roast turkey and dressing is served. Thanksgiving is traditionally a harvest festival. Similar festivals are celebrated in many parts of the world to give thanks after the years crops have been safely harvested. Canada celebrates its Thanksgiving the second Monday in October.

A small ship called the Mayflower set sail from Plymouth, England, on September 16, 1620. The passengers spent 66 days in the hold of the ship arriving on November 21. Most of them were Puritans who had been persecuted for their religious beliefs in England. One month later, on December 26, all 102 passengers set foot on land and began to establish the colony of Plymouth. The Pilgrims, as these people came to be called, had borrowed money from a group of English merchants to cross the Atlantic Ocean. They planned to start a settlement in the Virginia Colony in America, but during the long voyage, storms blew their crowded little vessel off course.



After sailing for more than two months, the Mayflower finally reached land near what is now Provincetown on Cape Cod. This part of the American coast, called New England, had been explored several years earlier by an

Englishman named Capt. John Smith. The Pilgrims followed Smith's maps and sailed across Cape Cod Bay to the mainland coast of Massachusetts. They founded the Colony of Plymouth in December 1620. Most of the Pilgrims had suffered terribly from the long voyage. They immediately began to build shelters, but soon they were overcome by a general sickness. Through the course of the winter 46 died, nearly half their original number. Some who became ill on the voyage and who were too sick to be moved stayed on the Mayflower, which was anchored in Plymouth Harbor for the winter.

The Mayflower had been a cargo ship and had to be refitted to handle the Pilgrim passengers. It had three masts and a double deck. No one is sure of what happened to the original Mayflower after it returned to England the following April. A replica of the original Mayflower was built in England in the mid-1950's. This ship, Mayflower II, sailed across the Atlantic in 1957 to commemorate the Pilgrim's voyage. It is now anchored in Plymouth Harbor, Massachusetts.

The first American Thanksgiving probably took place in New England. It was celebrated by the Pilgrim settlers, who established Plymouth Colony in Massachusetts in 1620. The Pilgrims had struggled bravely through a grim winter with much sickness and little food.



The following spring, friendly Indians helped the settlers to plant corn, and in the autumn, the first crop was harvested. Governor William Bradford proclaimed three days of prayer and thanksgiving. The Pilgrims gave a huge feast and invited the Indian Chief, Massasoit, and 90 of his people.

The custom of observing a special harvest thanksgiving day spread throughout the other colonies in the following years. After the American Revolution, the various states continued the custom, each one naming its own day for giving thanks. In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the first national Thanksgiving Day on the last Thursday in November. The present date was established by Congress in 1941.

Source: <http://www.celebratelove.com/thanxhistory.htm>



PARENT COORDINATOR CONNECTIONS

From the Desk of the
Parent Coordinator
Ms. Bernabel
ABernabel@schools.nyc.gov
Tel #646-265-5169

Announcements

- There will be no school on November 11th in observance of Veteran's Day.
- There will be no school on November 28th and 29th in observance of Thanksgiving.
- The 2nd marking period ends on November 15th. Please check your child's Pupil Path account to monitor his/her progress. *Now is the time to check in with teachers, especially during parental engagement time every Tuesday after school. Contact the school Parent Coordinator (Ms. Bernabel) or the school Guidance Counselor (Ms. Vega) to set up an appointment to meet with all of your child's teachers during parental engagement time.*
- Report cards will be distributed during Parent Teacher Conferences and mailed out as well.



- **College Financial Aid Night** will take place November 18th at 5 pm. We will have a rep from New York State Higher Education Services conducting a presentation for our students and parents.



- **Parent Teacher Conferences** will take place

on Thursday, November 21st (5 pm to 8 pm) and Friday, November 22nd (12 pm to 2:30 pm). As a result, Friday, November 22nd is a half day for students. They school day will be from 8:15 am to 12:00 pm. Students will have the option of having lunch from 11 am to 12 pm in the cafeteria.

- We will have our next monthly School Leadership Team (SLT) (4:30 pm) and Parent Association (PA) (5:30 pm) meeting on Monday, November 18th. We look forward to seeing you there. The following are the future dates for SLT and PTA meetings: 12/2, 1/6, 2/3, 3/2, 4/6, 5/4, and 6/1.
- Reminder: We have parental engagement time on Tuesday after school. This mean that the school has set aside time after school for parents to meet with teachers to discuss the academic progress of the child. Simply email or call the Parent Coordinator or the guidance counselor in order to schedule a meeting.
- Please complete and return the financial forms formerly known as lunch forms. All information is confidential. The forms are essential for our school to qualify for Title I money.

The logo features a stylized woman's face with black hair and a white face, positioned above the text "JKO". Below "JKO" is the phrase "In the Spotlight" in a large, black, sans-serif font. The text is flanked by two spotlights with yellow beams of light. The entire logo is set against a white background with a thin orange border.

In the **JKO** Spotlight

Congratulations to all the seniors who received awards this week. They had their awards ceremony on Wednesday, October 2nd.





In the ^{JKO} Spotlight

Recently many of our students attended the CORE (Coalition of Racial Equity) Summit 2019: UNPACKING WHITENESS-Hosted by our neighbor, Repertory Company H.S.

The summit encompassed using the Courageous Conversations about Race framework to discuss the impacts and implications whiteness. Thank you to **Mr. Rafaniello** for spearheading this trip.





On Thursday, October 10th, the LUCHA club conducted a bake sale and earned over \$400.00. A big THANK YOU to the PTA for volunteering to help support LUCHA in the sale.

In the ^{JKO} Spotlight

On October 19th our school participated in a CTE High School fair at George Westinghouse High School. Thank you to our wonderful teachers and students who participated. See pictures below:

Our students with
Omari Gaye, Senior
Director, office of Post-
Secondary Readiness



Our students with John
Widlund, Executive
Director, Office of
Secondary Readiness

In the ^{JKO} Spotlight

On Friday, October 18th, our students participated in the 7th HospiChallenge at St. Joseph's College. This year's theme was sustainability. St. Joseph is one of our post-secondary partners. A BIG thank you to Ms. Milan for spearheading this trip!!!



Our students and Ms. Milan with Damien Duchamp, Chair of the Institute of Hospitality & Tourism Management, St. Joseph's College.





In the ^{JKO} Spotlight

This past week one of our most **OUTSTANDING** seniors, Philip Austin, informed our Superintendent (Vivian Orlen) and me that he made it to the finals of the POSSE Foundation Scholarship interviews. **Congratulations Philip!!!**

October 22, 2019

Congratulations, Philip!

You are a Posse Finalist for Franklin & Marshall College! This is the final stage of the Posse Scholarship recruitment process. This year, nearly 3,300 of New York's finest young leaders were nominated for the Posse Scholarship, and only a small group of students were chosen as Finalists. Your demonstrated teamwork and leadership at the group interview combined with the intelligence and determination you shared in your semi-finalist interview make it clear that you can succeed in both the Posse Program and at Franklin & Marshall.

All Finalists will attend a third round group interview where college representatives will be present. A group of ten of these Finalists will then be selected for the Posse Program and will earn four-year, full-tuition scholarships worth approximately \$200,000 awarded by Franklin & Marshall.

By accepting your position as a Finalist, you would apply Early Decision to Franklin & Marshall College. If selected, you will then be committed to attending Franklin & Marshall and participating in the Posse Program.

Good luck, congratulations, and we look forward to seeing you again!

Sincerely,

Naomi Solomon
Program Director, Posse New York

—
Naomi Solomon
Program Director
The Posse Foundation



Mission

The Posse model works for both students and college campuses and is rooted in the belief that a small, diverse group of talented students—a Posse—carefully selected and trained, can serve as a catalyst for individual and community development. As the United States becomes an increasingly multicultural society, Posse believes that the leaders of the 21st century should reflect the country's rich demographic mix. The key to a promising future for our nation rests on the ability of strong leaders from diverse backgrounds to develop consensus solutions to complex social problems. Posse's primary aim is to train these leaders of tomorrow.

Three Goals

1. To expand the pool from which top colleges and universities can recruit outstanding young leaders from diverse backgrounds.
2. To help these institutions build more interactive campus environments so that they can be more welcoming for people from all backgrounds.
3. To ensure that Posse Scholars persist in their academic studies and graduate so they can take on leadership positions in the workforce.

History

Posse was founded in 1989 because of one student who said, "I never would've dropped out of college if I'd had my posse with me." The simple idea of sending a group of students together to college so they could "back each other up" became the impetus for a program that today has identified, recruited and trained 9,200 students with extraordinary academic and leadership potential.

“As the original Posse partner, Vanderbilt has proudly shared the Foundation’s mission of empowering student leaders to reach their potential.”

Nicholas S. Zeppos, Chancellor, Vanderbilt University

Vanderbilt University was the first school to partner with Posse, awarding scholarships to five students from New York City. Since then, the program has expanded to **10 major cities**. Posse Scholars have won more than \$1.4 billion in scholarships from our partners, which now include **58 selective institutions** of higher education.

Posse Scholars are engaged members of their campus communities and graduate at a rate of 90 percent.

The program has been recognized as one of the most comprehensive college success and leadership development initiatives in the country. Posse President and Founder Deborah Bial was awarded a **2007 MacArthur “Genius” Fellowship**. In 2010, President Barack Obama honored Posse with a portion of his Nobel Peace Prize grant.

In the ^{JKO} Spotlight

Recently many of our students kicked off the Big Brothers Big Sisters of NYC's TD Bank Workplace Mentoring Program. A BIG thank you to Ms. Milan for spearheading this!!! Below are some pictures:



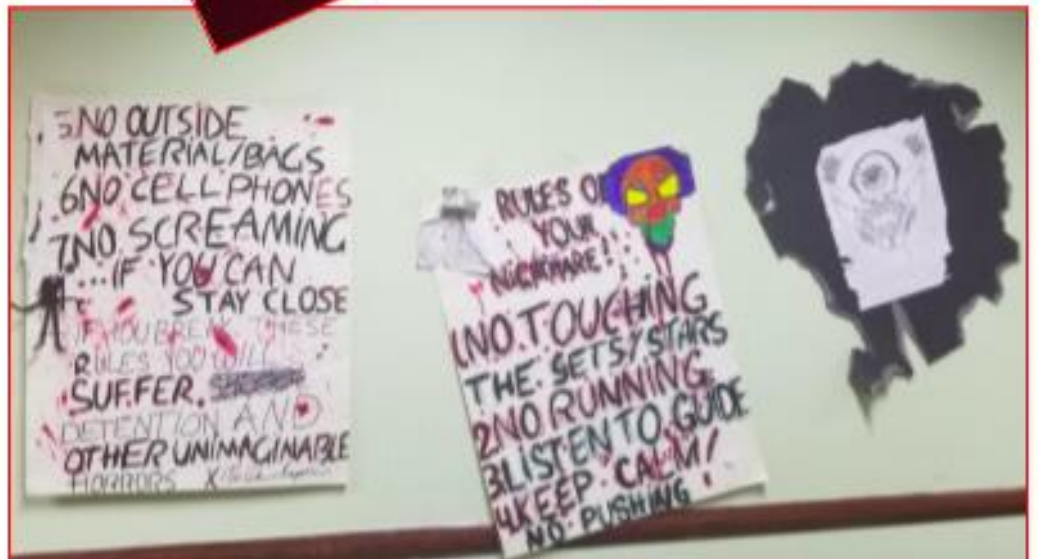
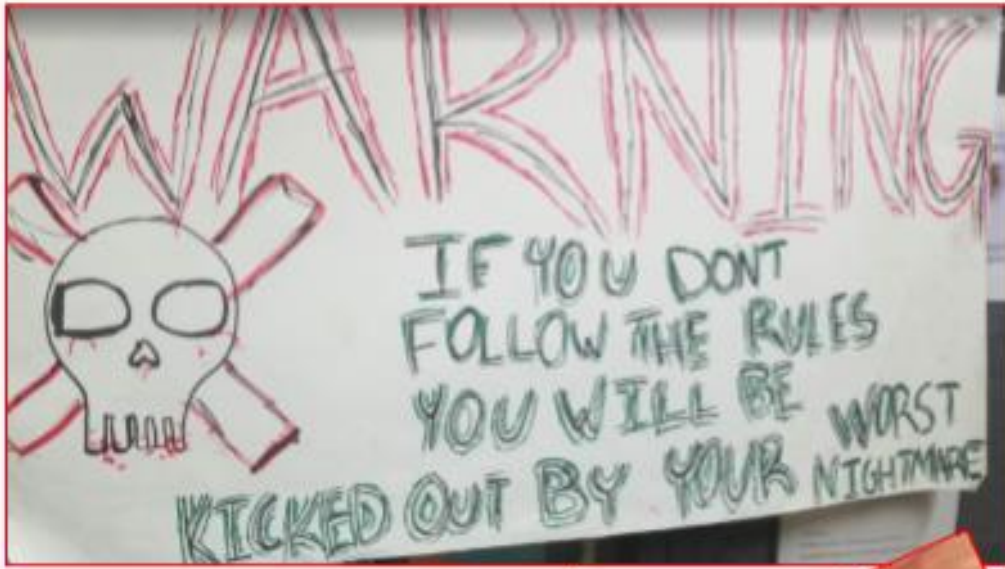


In the ^{JKO} Spotlight



On Friday October 25th, NHS conducted its annual **Halloween** dance and the Smash Art club conducted its annual **Haunted House** event. They were a scary success!!! Thank you to Ms. Wicks and Ms. DeGregorio for spearheading these events. A BIG thank you to all students and staff who supported these two clubs.









A message from Ms. McMahon: On Tuesday, October 22, 2109 Jada Mills, Susmita Chakraborty, Carlabel Torres, Neshely Torres, and Dainella Reynosa represented their JKO Virtual Enterprise firms at the Winning Women Fall Conference.

Hosted by HSBC, one of VE's premier business partners, and facilitated by NBCUniversal and CVC Growth Partners professionals who both serve as industry partners to JKO, Winning Women is an early career development program for high-potential female leaders enrolled in the VE program.

It was a jammed pack day of student and business leader Introductions, leadership coaching Session, network panel discussions and roundtable mentorships followed by reflection and shoutouts.

Very inspiring for all those who attended.

Thank you for support VEI and CTE



In the Spotlight



In the JKO Spotlight

On Sunday, October 20th, Ms. Kadison and the Helping Hands club participated in an annual Cancer walk at Flushing Meadow Park in Queens. A BIG thank you to Ms. Kadison for spearheading our student participation!!!



In the Spotlight

On Friday, November 1st Ms. DeGregorio conducted our annual celebration of art and culture with the Spanish creating a ***Dia de Los Muertos*** lobby display and a fiesta in room #101 after school. Students in art created masks-Calaveras, and students in Spanish created window pane colorings of Dia de Los Muertos imagery with writing. There was a celebration after school where food was served as well as Dia de Los Muertos Mexican bread was served. This was a free event open to all students to sample and experience some Mexican culture. ***Thank you for spearheading this event Ms. Degregorio!!!***









In the JKO Spotlight

On Wednesday, October 30th, LUCHA conducted Graffiti Night. Participants worked with a renowned graffiti artists to create their own graffiti based on their names and JKO. A big thank you to **Artist Bam and Grace Frutos** for helping make this outstanding event a success!!!





GRAFFITI



ART



LUCHA





In the Spotlight

On Monday, October 28th, many of our students attended a trip with Ms. DeGregorio to the Apollo Theater on to see Ta-Nehisi Coates "Between the World and Me," a powerful telling of race in America told through the intimate writing of a letter to his son. See pictures below:



APOLLO



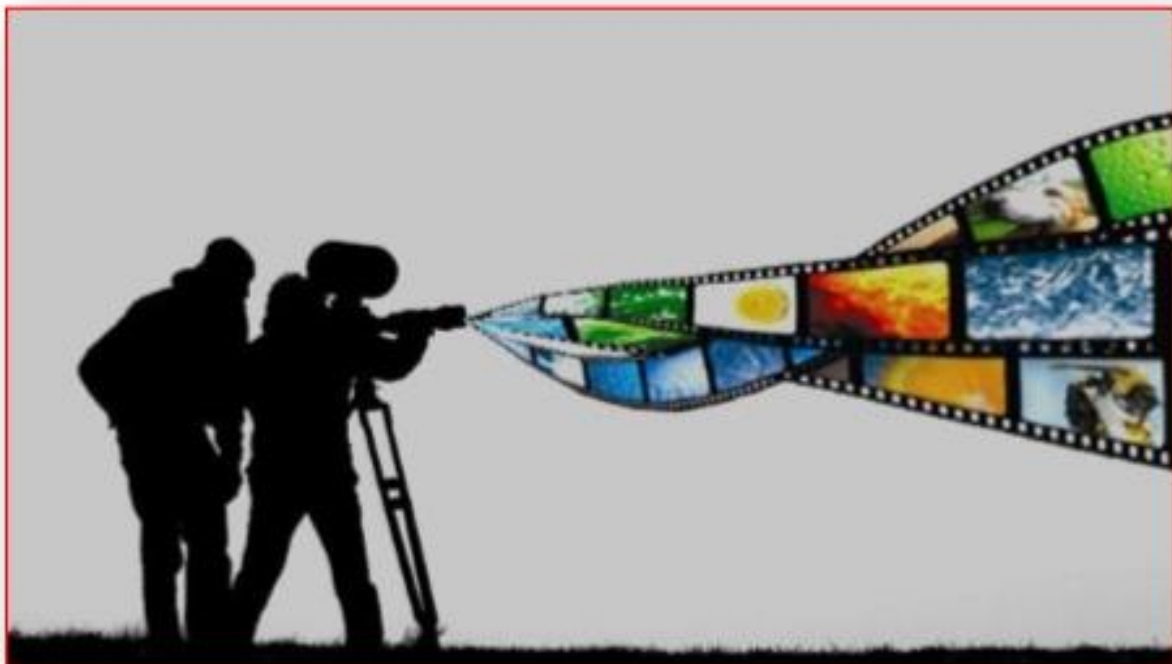


A message from Ms.
DeGregorio:

JKO has been selected to participate in DCTV's free after school documentary filmmaking program! We had 9 students complete the application. They felt we could start there and maybe more students could be added.



The program will run for 14 weeks on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00 - 5:00PM. Mr. Vincent, you suggested room#401, since they will need access to computers. The program begins Thursday, November 7.





In the ^{JKO} Spotlight

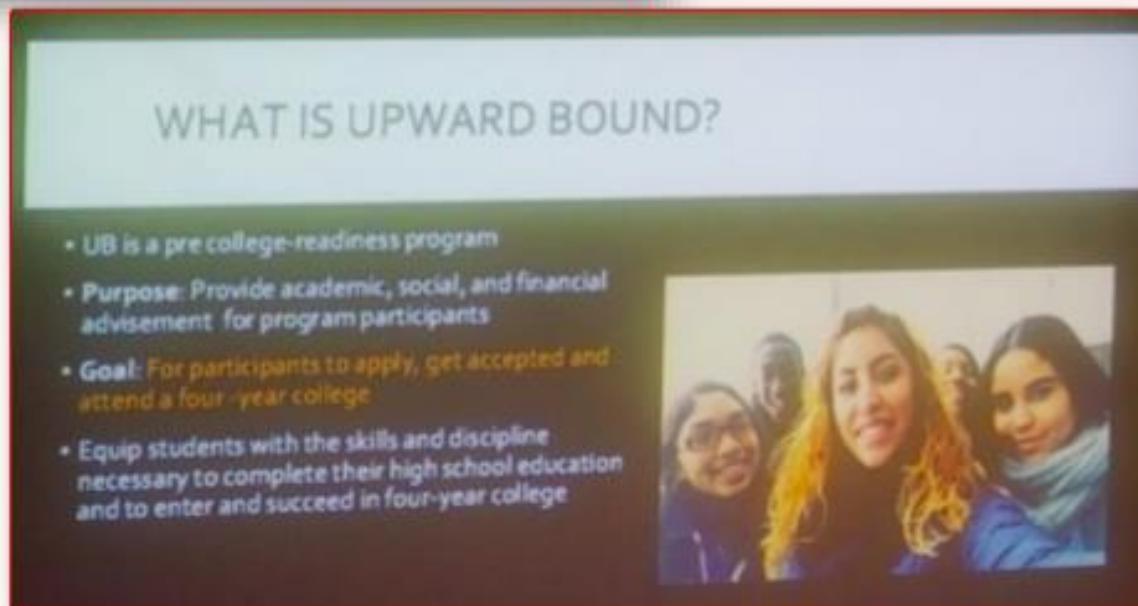
On Thursday, October 31st, we had a SUNY representative present to our seniors. The presentation was outstanding. Thank you to **Ms. Vega** for making this happen!!!



The logo features a stylized woman's head with the letters 'JKO' below it, positioned between two spotlights. The word 'Spotlight' is written in a large, black, serif font, with 'In the' in a smaller, sans-serif font above it. The entire logo is set against a yellow spotlight beam.

In the JKO Spotlight

On Wednesday, October 30th, the director of upward bound, Oriel Straker, visited JKO to recruit our 9th and 10th graders for the program. The presentation was followed by experiential anecdotes by some of our students who are members of the program. Thank you to Ms. Vega for spearheading this event!!!

A large presentation slide titled 'WHAT IS UPWARD BOUND?' is shown. The slide contains a bulleted list of information about the program and a photo of three young women. The text on the slide is: 'WHAT IS UPWARD BOUND?', '• UB is a pre college-readiness program', '• Purpose: Provide academic, social, and financial advisement for program participants', '• Goal: For participants to apply, get accepted and attend a four-year college', and '• Equip students with the skills and discipline necessary to complete their high school education and to enter and succeed in four-year college'. The photo shows three young women smiling.

