

Issue 001

On the Bright Side

 **Duke Ellington**
School of the Arts est. 1974



**BREAST CANCER
AWARENESS
MONTH:
HOW YOU CAN
SUPPORT**

**INSIDER LOOK INTO
CLUBS AND
ACTIVITIES**

**WELCOME
HOME**

**BRINGING BACK
ELLINGTON SPIRIT AS
SUMMER FADES**

**ART
DEPARTMENT
NEWS
& MORE**

Teachers Corner

Duke Ellington was founded because Mike Malone and Peggy Cooper Cafritz wanted to bring an artistic quality to students in the city. If there are any students interested in testifying in front of the state board of education on public school education matters that impact high school students in DC, they should go see Mr. Carias and Ms. Dubose.”

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

It's October meaning it's "Breast Cancer Awareness" month and our team couldn't be more aware of how deeply personal the month of October can be for those surrounding us. On the Bright Side News just wants each of you to know that we are standing tall with all of you, whether you all have been affected directly or indirectly by such a terrible disease. It doesn't matter if you celebrate by wearing various shades of pink, marching with others to raise money, or even support from afar. We appreciate the effort and acknowledgment. Please be cautious of those around you due to the sensitivity that can often follow with such a heartfelt topic. On the Bright Side News encourages you all to stay strong in your pink, while we all work together to find a cure. We do have on-call support if needed, please reach out for more information. You are not alone. We love you madly!

Ellington: Back and Better than Ever

By Moyo Ifafore

The sun is high above our heads. The sharp green grass, soft beneath our feet. In all its proud glory, is Duke Ellington School of the Arts. Strong, white pillars distinguish the school from its counterparts. But these superficial things are not what makes Duke Ellington stand out.

What Principal Sandi Logan says makes Ellington stand out is the community. The fact that everyone has made the sacrifice to be here. "That means that there is a different type of love and community that other communities don't have."

That much is true. The last school year was marked by high tensions between the administration and students. Outside media intensified these tensions, but this year? False information and misguided energy are out.

Last year, as Logan said, was an experiment. Straight back from the pandemic, nothing was clear. It was an evaluation of what could and could not happen post-shutdown (the pandemic isn't over). But, she says very proudly, "We know how to navigate the barriers. We know how to adapt."

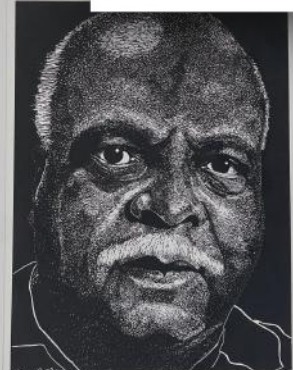
Ongoing negotiations with DCPS for our school's independence have brought our community strife- but it has also made us reconcile with who we are.

"You think you know everything until those things are threatened," she says, fresh from a meeting.

This year is all about defining what it means to be at Ellington. What ground Duke Ellington stands on. What our community cares about. What we can do to uplift that community. This process of negotiation has helped us re-establish our identity.



Principal Sandi Logan



As Duke Ellington comes upon its fiftieth anniversary in 2024- it's important to know what we want to take into the next fifty years. Is its toxicity? Is it fighting? Most would disagree. It's the artistry, the passion, the pushing ourselves to the edge for the sake of our passions, that we want to take with us.

So this year, there's plenty to look forward to.

Already, in the first half of this year, we have DC Music Summit- a three-day weekend for music industry participants, run by a Duke Ellington Alum- Dior Ashley Brown.

March For The Arts, a fundraiser run by the Theatre Department, will remind us that the effort to keep the school well funded goes beyond negotiation with DCPS, but working with our community.

The inaugural Ellington Homecoming, "For The Love Of Duke" will kick off this November 3rd-6th, and will feature a student variety show.

We're also kicking off a variety of clubs this year- GSA, Book Club, Cheerleading, Photography, and more!

In the second half of the year, we're bringing back Arts as Activism, which began last year.

International Food and Games day is also expected to come back. It will connect the Ellington community with what it means to be an artist outside of the United States.

This year is about building upon old Ellington traditions, and also, creating new ones.

It gets colder, now. The sun is beginning to set earlier and earlier, and intense rehearsals are beginning across all departments. As summer fades away, one thing is certain; Ellington's spirit won't.

Meet the New Duke Ellington Team

ADMIN:

Vernard "Kam" Howard, Director of Strategy & Logistics
Jamie Floyd, Assistant Principal
Greg Watkins, our new Director of Social/Emotional Learning & Student Affairs
Dion Davis, Dean of Students (working closely with Dean Sims)

ARTS:

Whitney Brown, Dance
Elon Durant, Literary Media & Communications, Film & Literature Teacher
Alexander McSwain, Visual Arts
Patrick Lundy, Vocal Music Chair (Concert Choir Director & Theory Teacher)
Danielle McKay, Vocal Music, Technique Instructor & Female Ensemble Director
Koon Ee (Alex) Chan, Vocal Music (Accompanist)
Katie DeBuys, Theatre
Ryan Fields, Theatre
Jacqueline Hammond, Theater
Michael Murray, Technical Design and Production
Alberto Segarra, Technical Design and Production
Mark Ricks, Technical Design and Production
Adarra Davis, Technical Design and Production
Theresa Christian, Technical Design and Production
Henry Joseph, Technical Design and Production

New Staff Interviews:

Mr. Lundy - I love being the new chair of the vocal department. I enjoy the young singers and it gives me joy that all of these students have a gift that can lead them to being on the next big stage.

AP Floyd - It's a big job being a new AP, but I heard a lot about it from AP Jones. She along with the things I've heard about the school gave me hope to want to be here and I Love it.

School Bulletin

DUKE ELLINGTON SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
WANTS TO PROVIDE PADS AND
TAMPONS FOR STUDENTS FREE OF
CHARGE! STARTING NOW, WE WILL BE
RECEIVING DONATIONS FOR MENSTRUAL
PRODUCTS. MORE INFORMATION WILL BE
PROVIDED IN THE WEEKLY BULLETIN
AND ELLINGTON EXPRESS.

PLEASE DONATE TO THE DESA
MENSTRUAL CYCLE DRIVE BY
DROPPING OFF PRODUCTS IN
THE MAIN OFFICE !!

Thank You!

**Do you want to
have an add or
promotion in the
Bright Side?**

Advertising prices:

Students

\$5 for a full page

\$3 for half

\$2 for quarter

\$1 for footnote

Teachers

\$10 for full page

\$7 for half

\$5 for quarter

3\$ for an footnote

Contact:

desaotbsnews@gmail.com
for more information



*What are **Duke Ellington** Students doing in their freetime?*

Written By
Ana del Carmen

Duke Ellington has a lot to offer, from amazing academic classes to world-renowned arts classes and opportunities. There is something for everyone here, you just gotta find where you fit in... and if not make one for yourself, like OTBS. Now here are a few other groups you could join during your time here at Ellington.

The Cappies, What are cappies? Well, I talked to Anaiah (a member of the cappies) he explained to me, "Cappies is critiquing different shows at different high schools; then, at the end of the year a vote is conducted based on production, cast, and crew.

These can be best female/male leading/supporting role, or best quality of the sets/props". Being a cappie is for those who love theatre and to learn about what works and doesn't. He also reminds us that, although it sounds easy it is not, but if the work is put in it will be gratifying.

It is a very well-rounded opportunity that opens opportunities (work can be professionally published, performing at the gala, etc.). The schedule still isn't set in stone but shows can be Friday evenings, Saturday matinees, and evenings.

Track, By now you may have already heard about Coach Nelson encouraging students to sign up for the track team. One of its members tells me that track helps increase cardiovascular endurance and because of this it will be hard to breathe but it has long-lasting results on your health. Remember, for this like any other sport, you will need a well balanced diet given the amount of energy you will be using. Meetings are every day at 7:00 and their meeting is not yet scheduled.

Book Club, To anyone who likes books and hopefully also likes reading them, not only staring at their never-ending TBR, you can join our very own book club. This is student coordinated and is really just to talk about your thoughts on the book chosen. Some goals for this year are to read outside of your comfort zone and to read more rather than watching TV or scrolling endlessly on social media. This book club will happen on Wednesdays during advisory (1:30-2:00pm) in the media center. If you have any doubts or questions about this make sure to talk to Ms. Bethea who can be found in the media center.

The Gender Sexuality Alliance, GSA—is a community and safe space grown to support and encourage LGBTQ+ students and allies to lean in, step up, and speak out. The GSA convenes weekly on Thursdays during lunch in G34 (official schedule TBD). You can help make an impact by helping plan/lead events like DESA Pride (June 2023), or even just by showing up and strengthening the community. The organization is student-powered and in Mr. Nearing's (G89), Advisor, own words, “this is a space of respect and inclusivity, with a goal of not excluding anyone along the way”.

Cheerleading, Got The Spirit? Let's Hear It! Tryouts happened very recently and if someone you know is on the team be sure to congratulate them for showing up and showing out! What do our cheerleaders do? Well, they make sure to keep the team spirit high, to encourage us all by encouraging the team. If you have any doubts or questions about cheerleading you can contact Ms. Coleman, the cheerleading club facilitator.



Last But Certainly Not Least

On the Bright Side News Org. , Last but certainly not least, the people who brought you your school's very own newspaper and news room. With this new year, we have rebranded and are more excited than ever to keep publishing On the Bright Side Newspapers. They will be published every 5 weeks but while waiting for a new edition you can catch up with us on our social media. Meetings are Tuesday and Thursday during lunch in room 209. To learn more about us you can talk to anyone who is part of this club. Stay on the lookout for our newscast video!

Zodiac in Fashion

SCORPIO

By Aniya Matthews and Reighan Williamson

The "Zodiacs in Fashion" fashion segment will discuss each sign's associated month, its personality, and how it connects to how they dress. It will also discuss how you can dress like these signs. In astrology, one of the 12 distinct zodiacal constellations that the sun travels through is referred to as a sign of the zodiac. The zodiac sign that the sun was in when a person was born determines their unique sign. According to astrology, a person's personality can be predicted based on their zodiac sign.

Scorpions are renowned for their discretion, even secrecy, and enigmatic nature. Other personality traits include enthusiasm, creativity, fierce loyalty, bravery, and fearlessness.

Typically, Scorpios are drawn to dark shades or colors, such as (deep reds, navy blue, black, purple, etc). Darker shades and modern fabric with a rebellious edge, such as leather and sheer mesh, appeal to Scorpios.

They like to dress in a way that reflects their strong aura, which is why they tend towards more edgy, rebellious vibes.



Although Scorpios have a laid-back aspect to their fashion, they adore statement pieces to finish their looks and draw attention to them. Jewelry is a need for Scorpios since they love to dress up and take great satisfaction in the care they put into their appearance. They make anything they wear look fantastic because they are overconfident. To dress like a Scorpio you have to be confident in what you put on and wear it with a sense of pride like you know this is the best outfit anyone will ever see.

Zodiac in Fashion

LIBRA

Libra is an air sign. Libras are known to be friendly, flirty, and fashionable. Other personality traits include being extroverted, charming, and well-balanced. Libra's are typically everyone's favorite new friend at the party

Libra's style, in general, can be summed up by the following words: feminine, fashionable, and romantic. The Ultra-balanced Libra is the master of mixing. From street style vibes one day to gala-ready glam the next. Libras making a statement comes with ease. The cool, calm, and collected sign favors comfortability and relaxation without sacrificing style. Idealists at heart, Libras love to romanticize and delight in the joy of others. With a powerful blue, they rarely go unnoticed.



Luckily for Libras, there are plenty of impressive fashionistas for wardrobe inspiration. From the red carpet to effortless street style, celebrities like Gwen Stefani, Bella Hadid, Doja Cat, Hillary Duff, and Cardi B are all known for embodying what it truly means to dress like a Libra.

On the Bright Side Presents:

Department Chatroom

Joshua

Hey Mr. Lundy, What can duke expect from the vocal department this year?



The school should expect to hear wonderful music from Vocal Music Department. From the show choir and the female ensemble to concert choir. There will be good music all around. One thing I want the school to know about Vocal is that we are making students to lead the next generations of vocalist. From there classical training to all genres of music. We will be there.

That sounds great! What about the LMC department Ms. Robin?



The school should expect to see many showcases from this department. We are the next generation of writers, photographers, and videographers. One thing I want people to know about my department is that we are storytellers. From the pictures we take to the words we write. Everything is a story and we are the storytellers. Our work is the story.

Noted! Mr. Easton, what are you guys cooking up in VA this year?



Mr. Eason - VA - The school should expect to see more pieces this upcoming year. Wonderful pieces made my groups of students that will show the growth of the world. You should expect to see stories through the many pieces. One thing I want the school to know about Visual Arts is that we are more than just painters, but we are storytellers. We tells stories with every line we decide to draw to every color we use in our pieces. It's all a story.

How about Museum Studies, Ms. Steward?



Ms. Steward - Museum Studies - The school should expect the same level of amazingness from the Museum Studies department, as they did on our showcase last week. I want the school to know that we work very hard to contribute to Ellington such as with the Ellington Express.

Hey AP Daniel, how can Instrumental top last year?



AP Daniel - Instrumental - The school should expect a lot more shows from Radical Elite and for a few collabs with the Vocal department and it's new chair. One thing I want the school to know about the Instrumental Department is that we are a team. We all come together to produce great music. We are a family and everyone has their part to play from the smallest flute to the biggest drums.

Ms. Robinnnn, I know TDP is always busy, but what can we expect from them this year?



Ms. Robin - TDP - The school should expect TDP to work their best at every show that Duke holds. It's out jobs to make sure your audio comes through and that your lighting is perfect and that your costumes are perfect. Everyone should know that we work hard to make sure your shows are great. The school should expect nothing less from us. As we are the Technical Design and Production department.



GAMES

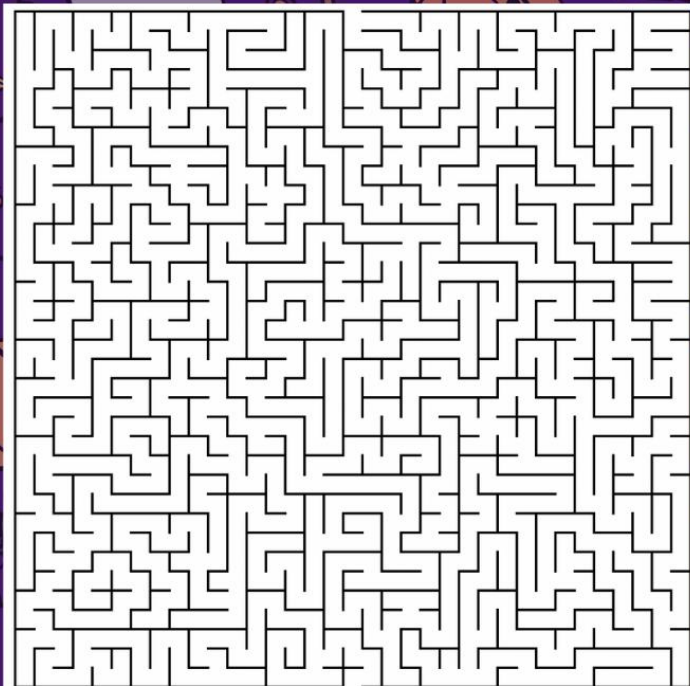
The Duke Experience

M X M F M I K E U Q R K T G I H N B S G R W O B P
 V X Q Q Y T Q Z E I W N S J H Y C I P K O W Q C E
 Y X V S N X V D E B M N J K Y T A B Q D X Q N O L
 S U M X M A P E O G M Y U K G I P Z L U R O J M L
 X J W S W S W T N Y W V T O G L P U E P N J K I I
 A L R C A R I T L R C M H O E Q I U A P S U A C N
 Z T V H K V B Q M I M O F B P L E K V R O R A K G
 E A G E O L Q V S J Q B A E L S S V R I Q W Y Z T
 T C L E T S Y U R J X E A U G S B I F N R D L I O
 O J B R F G M M O H G D U K E T T T A C D S D E N
 L T N L V Z O Q K P V F J O Z H E U O I D V A R J
 B E N E S C W V E L Z E Z I K S Z D F P V J N T M
 F V Y A A T Y I W X H C L E V N X D E A R N C A E
 M E K D X N D F N P C Q N L D A S X M L K V E E C
 Q R Z E T B A M A G R A G I Q X X S O L T L T H A
 K A H R R S A O P S I T V D K B X D C I Y A I T S
 P X Q S J N V P B X H E I Q P P M S L U R M M R Q
 H A V A L Z G H X U Z I Y U H P M V E O D T J R L
 A T I A U C R C Z M T X O Q V C E U W N J Z R J M
 D U C K S W E K M X O J T N W T R F P K Q R C W M
 I O C G C W S W B N Z M U U W K E B X Z Y T C L I
 V A J N C T T J S E N F T K Q Q H A L L O W E E N
 B S A G A L B K E V C A N D Y V T J V G Z X U Y N
 W L G M L M A E G W C P A C A Y J B Q D C G K Q X
 P H H F S I R G I U N O C O W V M X M S C R T V P

1. candy 2. cappies 3. cheerleaders 4. comic 5. club 6. dance 7. duke
 8. ellington 9. fashion 10. halloween 11. mike 12. music 13. otbs 14. peggy
 15. Logan 16. pumpkin 17. theatre 18. vocal 19. welcome 20. back

7		1	8	5	2			4
9	2	8			4		3	
5			3		9		2	
	1		5	9	7	4		2
	5	9		6	1	7	8	
3	4	7	1	2	6	9		8
	9		7		8	2		6
2		6	9			3	7	

BONUS COMIC!



Meet the Team



**Special Thanks to
Ms. Francis for all
the support and love!**

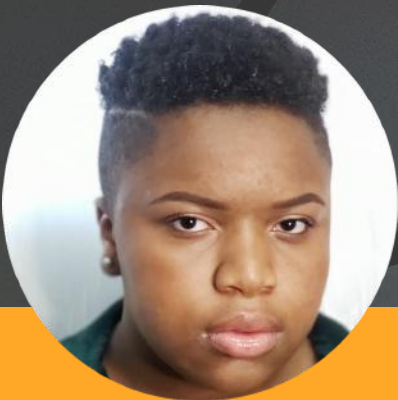


HEY MY NAME IS JONATHAN HOBBS, I'M A SENIOR IN THE VOCAL DEPARTMENT AND ONE OF THE CREATORS OF OTBS NEWS! I HAD GOT THIS VISION FROM A CLASS PROJECT AND IT WENT SO WELL THAT IT SPARKED MY CREATIVITY AND DRIVE TO PUSH TO MAKE THIS A CLUB! AND HERE WE ARE!!!

HI MY NAME IS SANAA! I AM A SENIOR IN THE DANCE DEPARTMENT. I AM ONE OF THE TWO CHIEF EDITORS AND I HANDLE THE ADMINISTRATION SIDE OF THINGS AND COORDINATION WITH TEACHERS AND ADMIN ON THE LOGISTICS.



HEYY Y'ALL MY NAME IS BAILEY AND I AM A SENIOR IN THE MUSEUM STUDIES DEPARTMENT. I AM THE TEAM LEADER OF THE MEDIA/PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP. I CAN'T WAIT FOR YOU GUYS TO SEE WHAT'S IN STORE.



MOYO IFAFORE IS A SENIOR IN THE THEATRE DEPARTMENT. SHE IS PART OF THE WRITING SECTION, AND IS LOOKING FORWARD TO HER SENIOR SHOWCASE THIS DECEMBER!



YOOOO! MY NAME IS ERIC CURRY III AND I AM A SENIOR IN THE THEATRE DEPARTMENT. I AM ALSO THE SOCIAL OUTREACH LEADER OF OTBS. I CAN'T WAIT TO GET WORK FOR Y'ALL!



ON THE BRIGHT SIDE

CONTACT US:
instagram:
[@onthebrightsidenews](#)
desaotbsnews@gmail.com