



School Talk

WEEKLY UPDATE!

September 13, 2025

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Please note that Multicultural Night has been moved to Thursday, November 6th!

MAP Growth Assessments Begin Monday!

Beginning Monday, **September 15th**, MPSA students in grades 1st -5th will participate in the NWEA [MAPS Growth Math & Reading assessments](#). Your child's teacher will let you know what day they have testing.

On your child's testing days, we ask that your child **please be at school on time**, and have had a **good night's sleep** and **breakfast**, either at home or here at school. iPads should remain at school during this time, however, if for some reason it finds its way home, please charge it and make sure your child brings it to school daily. Any questions? Contact testing coordinator Amreen Alvi at amreen.alvi@apsva.us.

Meet Our New Mental Health Team

Meet our New Mental Health Team

Ms. Grogan
School
Counselor



This is Ms. Grogan's 16th year in APS and her first year at MPSA. She provides bi-weekly lessons for students in classrooms, has small groups, and meet with students individually!

Ms. Mulligan
School
Psychologist



This is Ms. Mulligan's 4th year in APS and first at MPSA. She is at MPSA Tuesday through Friday, and at Gunston Montessori on Mondays. Along with completing special education evaluations, she supports students' social, emotional and behavioral well-being through individual and small group counseling support.

Ms. Alex
School Social
Worker



This is Ms. Alex's first year in APS. Previously, they worked in Chicago Public Schools supporting students with disabilities and families in need. If your student or your family are in need of resources, please do not hesitate to reach out to Ms. Alex. They are here every Tues. & Wed., as well as alternating Mondays.

Where is Our Fish Mascot Spot?

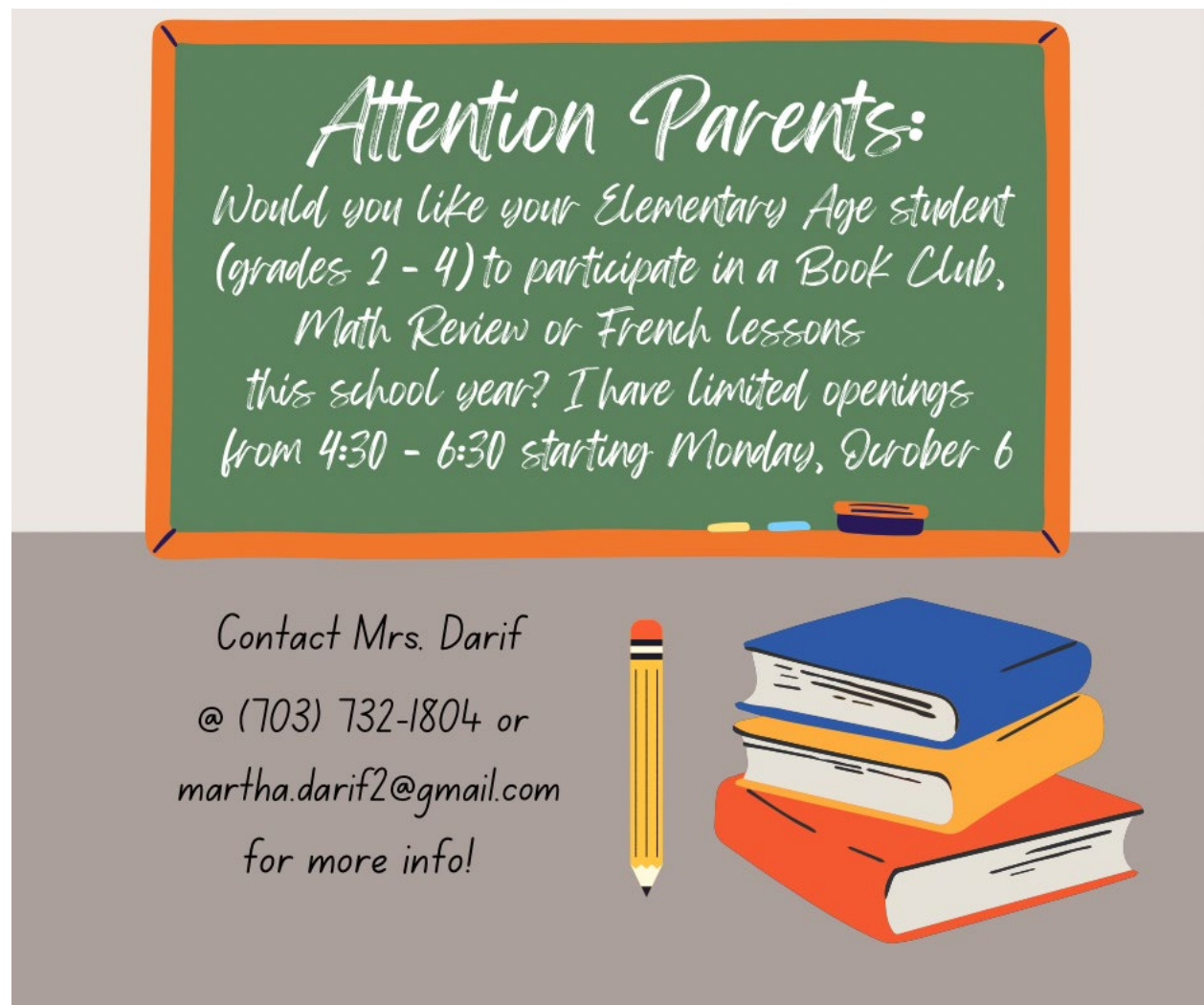
Spot the pleco fish has had a special spot outside the office at MPSA for the last 3 years, and a special place in our hearts. But Spot's aquarium at school was too small for him, so he needed a new home. Now he lives in a 120-gallon tank at the **Congressional Aquarium** in Rockville, MD. Thank you, Spot, for being such a special part of MPSA. We will miss you but wish you a happy, healthy retirement in a bigger aquarium with friends.



Third Grade Vision & Hearing Testing

As mandated by the [Code of Virginia 22.1-273](#), students in **3rd grade** will participate in both vision and hearing screenings beginning the week of **September 15, 2025** at school. The screenings will be performed by School Health staff. Parents may choose to have their student exempted from these screenings by providing written notification to the school clinic before the scheduled screening date. If your student does not pass one/both screenings, a notification for follow-up will be sent home. If you have any questions about the screenings, please contact the school clinic at (703) 228-8811.

Book Club? Math Review? French Lessons?



Attention Parents:
Would you like your Elementary Age student
(grades 2 - 4) to participate in a Book Club,
Math Review or French lessons
this school year? I have limited openings
from 4:30 - 6:30 starting Monday, October 6

Contact Mrs. Darif
@ (703) 732-1804 or
martha.darif2@gmail.com
for more info!

Montessori Music Ensemble Sign-Up

All fourth and fifth graders are welcome to join music ensembles this year! Every student may sign up for Chorus and in addition, they may choose to join either Band or Orchestra. (*Only one instrumental music course can be chosen.*)

Below are the links for Chorus and for Instrumental Music sign-ups. It's a wonderful opportunity for students to make music together, and we look forward to a musical year ahead!

CHORUS Sign up: <https://forms.gle/SHWkDZBXvz4hSKHK7>

BAND & ORCHESTRA Sign up: <https://forms.gle/Edvihs2GqFWxJ1og9>

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Chorus: amie.shakespeare@apsva.us

Band: john.findley@apsva.us

Orchestra: erik.kamenski@apsva.us

Art Department Asks

Ms. Barbour, Art Teacher, is requesting a volunteer to help maintain the studio. Duties include restocking materials, managing donated materials and bringing order to chaos. An hour a week would be really helpful. Please email her if interested. E-mail her at heather.barbour@apsva.us if available.

We are also accepting donations of small boxes (shoebox size and smaller including food boxes) and collage materials (decorative papers, stickers, fabric scraps, ribbons, buttons etc.). Items can be dropped off to Ms. Barbour's room 175 or the main office.

Upcoming Dates

- Tuesday, September 23: **Rosh Hashanah** (NO SCHOOL)
- Thursday, October 2: **Yom Kippur** (NO SCHOOL)
- Wednesday, October 8: **Picture Day**
- Friday, October 10: **Early Release** (Parent-Teacher Conferences)
- Monday, October 13: **NO SCHOOL** for Students
- Friday, October 17: **MPSA Fall Festival 2025**
- Monday, October 20: **NO SCHOOL** (Diwali)
- Thursday, October 23: **Multicultural Night**

Keep in Touch

- MPSA on APS: <https://montessori.apsva.us/>
- MPSA on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/MPSArlington>
- MPSA Library on Twitter: https://twitter.com/MPSA_Library
- MPSA Science on Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/MPSA_Science
- Principal Genove on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/CSGenove>
- Ms. Barbour's Art Class on Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/heather.barbour2018/>
- Arlington Montessori PTA: <http://acmpta.com/>
- Arlington Montessori Action Committee (AMAC): <http://www.arlingtonmontessori.org/>

SCROLL DOWN FOR THE PTA NEWSLETTER!

ACMPTA WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



September 13, 2025

What's Inside:

- Baroody Enrichment Registration Opens Monday
- Advocate for Your Child & Represent the PTA
- Gift Your Teacher a PTA Membership
- Get Your MPSA Swag!
- What Does "I Belong!" Mean to Your Child?
- No Stuff, No Clutter Fundraising!
- We Want to Meet Our Community – Tell Us How You Can Support the PTA
- Snacks for Staff Meetings – Please Sign Up!
- Community Interest Share
- Keep In Touch

Only **34** more days until the **MPSA Fall Festival** on **October 17th**!
Click [here](#) to purchase festival wristbands! *(Needed to play games.)*
Have an item to donate to our raffle? E-mail VPprograms@acmpta.com

Baroody Enrichment Registration Opens Monday

We are happy to have **Baroody Enrichment** back to provide quality afterschool activities for your children. This year we even have some PreK offerings! Registration starts **Monday, September 15th**! A flyer was sent home last week but you can read about the classes being offered by [clicking here](#).

Enrichment will begin Monday, October 6th.

Advocate for Your Child & Represent the PTA

The [Advisory Council on Teaching & Learning \(ACTL\)](#) is made up of representatives from each school and certain community organizations to assist in reviewing the system-wide curriculum and instructional program, and in developing recommendations for improvement.

The ACMPTA is seeking MPSA parents to be our representative on this committee. We are looking for a primary and an alternate. If you are interested, please send an e-mail to president@acmpta.com. To read more about ACTL, [click here](#).

Gift Your Teacher (& Yourself!) PTA Membership

We just opened up the application period for teacher grants! Teachers can make a request for material to enrich your children's education! A requirement to apply is that every applicant must be a PTA member. **We are asking you to consider purchasing a membership for a teacher!** We have about 50 instructors who are eligible to request a grant. [Click here to sign up.](#) List who the membership is for and we will notify them of your gift. In the chance that someone has already purchased a membership for your teacher, *we will pass it along to one of the teachers that is in need of membership.* A sponsored membership is \$15.

If you don't have one, please do sign up, too! This is the easiest fundraiser ever! An individual membership is **\$15**, and a family membership (2 adults) is **\$25**. Also, consider purchasing a membership for your child's teacher so they can apply for a grant!

Get Your MPSA Swag!

We are taking orders for our lush pullover hoodie! **Sizes Youth XS to Adult 4X!** These are popular and so comfy in the cooler months! Don't miss out!

Hoodie sales will continue until October 3rd and then the order will be placed. We do have some hoodies in stock so you may get yours earlier.

We have other swag available, too!

[Order swag here!](#)

What Does "I Belong!" Mean to Your Child?



The annual **PTA Reflections Art Competition** is now open! This year's theme is **"I Belong!"**. Information about the different categories can be found [here](#). There you will also find video tutorials by local artists on how to create your best art via mixed media, photography, art (clay), movie making and more!

Deadline to turn in entries is **Monday, November 3rd**. Application form is forthcoming! Any questions? E-mail reflections@acmpta.com.

We look forward to seeing the art you create!

No Stuff, No Clutter Fundraising!



Feeling generous? We have opened our **NO STUFF Fundraiser!** The PTA promises to **NOT** ask your children to sell a thing if we can make our fundraising goal of **\$5000** from this fundraiser! We are asking each family to consider a donation of **\$75** this year – but we will be grateful for whatever amount you decide to donate! We are a 501c3, so your donation is **tax deductible!** [Click here!](#)

We are at 15.5% of our goal of \$5000. Won't you help out?

We Want to Meet Our Community – Tell Us How You Can Support the PTA

[Please fill out this interest survey](#) and see if there is a role for you in our PTA! Own or work for a business that would like to donate charitable funds, goods or services? [Fill it out, too!](#)

Snacks for Staff Meetings – Please Sign Up!

MPSA instructional staff must meet at least once a month for after schoolwork & collaboration meetings. The ACMPTA would like to revive the tradition where our families would provide snacks for the teachers to have during these meetings. We are looking for at least 4 families to donate snacks to the cause. *Examples of snacks: Granola bars, fruit snacks, nuts, cheese & crackers, cookies, etc. We will also be asking for fresh fruit/vegetables as well.*

Snacks can be dropped off as early as the day before to the Kia in the main office. The PTA will provide paper products.

[Sign up here!](#)

Keep In Touch

- PTA Website: <https://www.acmpta.com/>
- PTA Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ACMPTA>
- Private PTA Forum on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1614926128674543>
- PTA Twitter: <https://x.com/ArlCoMontessori>
- PTA Listserv: ACMPTA+subscribe@groups.io
- Montessori Caregivers Group (Parent-lead Private Forum):
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1419402838207257>