



School Talk

WEEKLY UPDATE!

October 12, 2025

Inside This Edition:

- Our Heartfelt Thank You
- MPSA's Hispanic Heritage Display
- Upcoming Dates
- Keep In Touch
- **PTA NEWSLETTER**

Our Heartfelt Thank You

Dear MPSA Families,

On behalf of the entire staff at Montessori Public School of Arlington, I would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude for the extraordinary kindness and support you have shown during this difficult time following the sudden passing of our beloved teacher, Ms. Lila Ross.

Lila was a cherished member of our school community since 2011—a teacher whose warmth, dedication, and joyful spirit touched the lives of countless students and colleagues. Her loss has been deeply felt by all of us, but the compassion shown by our families has brought comfort and light in the midst of sorrow.

To the Arlington County Montessori PTA, we extend special thanks for thoughtfully organizing donations of food, snacks, and drinks for our staff. These gestures of care created space for us to gather, reflect, and support one another as we began to process this loss. It meant more to us than words can express.

We have also been deeply moved by the many ways students have expressed their love for Lila—through beautiful cards, touching artwork, and heartfelt memories. These tributes remind us daily of the profound impact she made in our community.

We would also like to recognize and thank the parents of Lila's class, whose generosity and presence have been invaluable in helping Ms. Isis Peake and Ms. Emily Hall manage classroom routines while they, too, grieve the loss of their colleague and friend. Your quiet acts of support and understanding have truly lifted their spirits.

As a school, we continue to heal together - leaning on one another, sharing memories, and celebrating all that Lila gave to our community. We are working on a meaningful way to honor her memory within the school and will keep you informed as plans take shape.

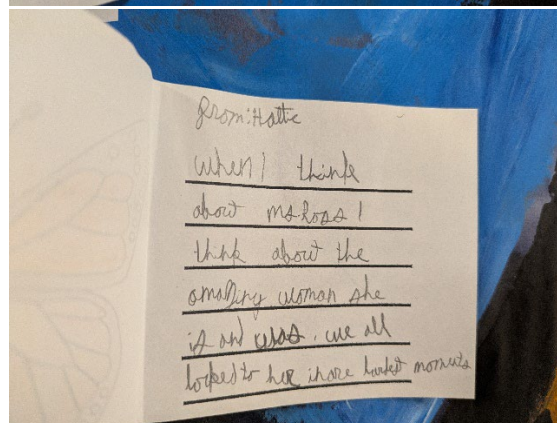
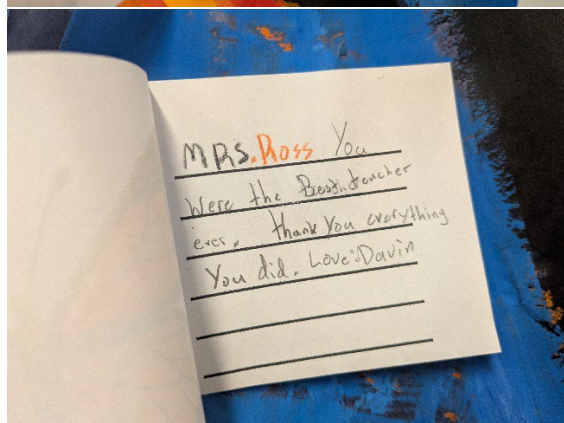
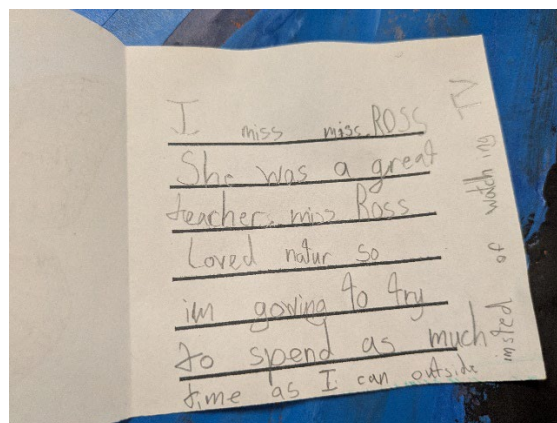
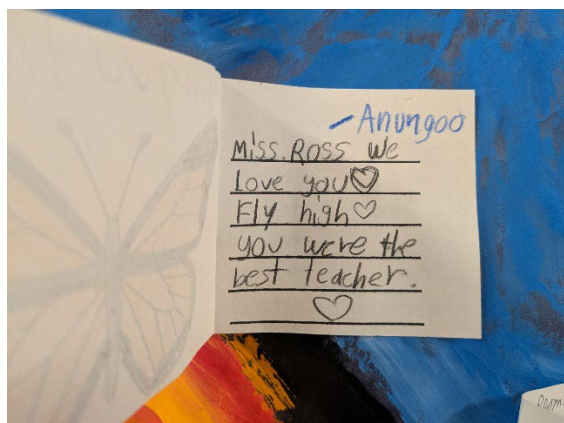
Thank you again for surrounding us with such care, love, and solidarity. It is a powerful reminder of what makes our Montessori community so special.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Catharina Genove

Principal, on behalf of the MPSA Staff





MPSA'S Hispanic Heritage Display

Office admin Karla Cabrera and Primary Assistant Leyla Valdez stayed after work for several hours to create this beautiful display for Hispanic Heritage month. If you have not had the chance to see it over these past few weeks, please do stop by to take a look when you come to the MPSA Fall Festival. ¡Feliz Mes de la Herencia Hispana!





Upcoming Dates

- Monday, October 13: **NO SCHOOL** for Students
- Friday, October 17: **MPSA Fall Festival 2025**
- Monday, October 20: **NO SCHOOL** (*Diwali*)
- Wednesday, October 29: **Early Release** (*Teacher Professional Development*)
- Tuesday, November 4: **NO SCHOOL** (*Grade Preparation Day*)
- Thursday, November 6: **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



October 12, 2025

What's Inside:

- “I Belong!” – Show Us How (PTA Reflections Competition)
- Fuel Staff Meetings, Please!
- Ways to Support the PTA
- Keep In Touch

Only **4** more days until the **MPSA Fall Festival** on **October 17th**!
Click [here](#) to purchase festival wristbands! (Needed to play games.)

Tickets are \$20 online & at the door.

Have an item to donate to our raffle? E-mail VPprograms@acmpta.com

[“I Belong!” – Show Us How \(PTA Reflections Competition\)](#)



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**.

[APPLY HERE!](#)

Any questions? E-mail reflections@acmpta.com. We look forward to seeing the art you create!

No Stuff Fundraiser Final Total

We are happy to share that we raised **\$2300** with our **NO STUFF** fundraiser this year! We are short **\$2700** towards our \$5000 goal so, should you feel inclined, please do still donate! All donations are tax deductible.

Fuel Staff Meetings, Please!

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!

Thank you to the families who brought snacks for the staff meeting last week:

- The Bloomberg-Jordan Family
- The Cowham Family
- The Smyczek Family

Ways to 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!

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](#).

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>