



School Talk

WEEKLY UPDATE!

October 26, 2025

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Reminder that there is an EARLY RELEASE this Thursday, October 29 for countywide professional development. MPSA will dismiss at 1:30PM.

Multicultural Night is November 13 – Sign Up Now!

On **Thursday, November 13th**, we will be celebrating **Multicultural Night!** From **6PM to 8PM**.

We need hands on deck to help make the evening wonderful! Set up, clean up and help running some stations. [Sign up to volunteer or present here.](#)

We are also looking for **contributions** to our **Multicultural Night potluck**, the signature event of the evening. Sign up to bring a food representing your culture/heritage (*to include American cultures and regional dishes/specialties*). Can't/don't like to cook? Bring paper products instead! [Sign up to bring a dish here.](#)

Sharing Advice on Children & Grieving/Attending a Funeral

Our school counselor, Ms. Grogan, has provided two articles that families may find helpful in regards to grief and attending a funeral. Any questions or concerns can be e-mailed to her at Kacee.grogan@apsva.us.

- **After a loved one dies - How children grieve and how parents and other adults can support them.** [English](#) [Spanish](#)
- **Advice on funeral attendance.** [Click here.](#)

Introducing New Staff at MPSA

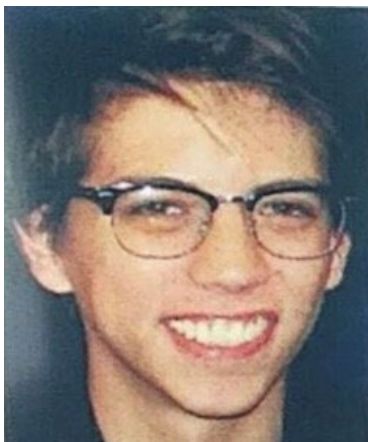
We have a few new faces at MPSA that we'd like to introduce!

Tor Bauman, Lower Elementary Assistant



Mr. Tor Bauman has joined Ms. Darif's class as a Lower Elementary Montessori instructional assistant. He is a James Madison University (JMU) graduate and a former Arlington Public Schools student, he started at MPSA in the fall of 2025 after previously spending five years working outdoor education and outdoor recreation for JMU and NOVA Parks. He is excited to be working in this new role and is looking forward to learning more about Montessori while helping students engage in their learning.

Isaiah Padilla, Long-term Substitute Teacher



Mr. Isaiah Padilla joins us a long-term substitute teacher for the late Ms. Ross' Upper Elementary classroom. He has expressed his gratitude for having found such a welcoming and supportive community here at MPSA. He was born in Texas and raised in Arizona where graduated from Arizona State University with a degree in business administration. He's spent several years volunteering with after-school programs and being at MPSA is his first professional venture into education. He's an avid reader (mostly science fiction and history), and enjoys playing piano and portrait sketching in his free time. Isaiah has been a long term sub with us before, therefore is very familiar with our school and routines.

Carlos Tirado-Negrón, Long-term Substitute Teacher



Dr. Carlos Tirado-Negrón holds a Ph.D. in Applied Ethics and Sociology and has taught at Princeton University, Saint Thomas University, and the University of Puerto Rico. Originally from Valencia, Spain, he brings a strong background in philosophy, culture, and the arts to his teaching practice.

At MPSA, Mr. Carlos teaches Special Education and Music, where he integrates music, languages, and reflective learning to foster inclusion, creativity, and curiosity in every student. He's excited to share his love of learning with the Montessori community.

Next Week is School Psychologists Week

During the week of **November 3-7**, the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) and schools across the United States will celebrate the 2025 National School Psychology Week (NSPW). This week celebrates the contributions of school psychologists and the important role they play in schools and communities. NSPW is an annual opportunity to recognize school psychologists' work to help children thrive in school, at home, and in life.

Our school psychologist is Ms. Emily Mulligan! She's new to MPSA and has become an important part of our school and mental health team. If you have any questions, or if she's helped your child and you want to say thank you, you can e-mail her at Emily.mulligan@apsva.us!

Upcoming Dates

- Wednesday, October 29: **Early Release** (*Teacher Professional Development*)
- Tuesday, November 4: **NO SCHOOL** for Students (*Grade Preparation Day*)
- Tuesday, November 11: **NO SCHOOL** (*Veterans Day*)
- Thursday, November 13: **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/>

ACMPTA WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



October 26, 2025

What's Inside:

- The Reflections Deadline is Near!
- Treats for the Sweet?
- We Still Need an ACTL Representative
- Join the PTA – It's Never Too Late!
- Keep In Touch

The Reflections Deadline is Near!



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!

Treats for the Sweet?

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 following families for contributing snacks to our last staff meeting:

- **The David-Tombras Family**
- **The Gillette Family**

We Still Need an ACTL Representative

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](#).

Join the PTA – It's Never Too Late!

Getting a PTA membership is some of the easiest fundraising you can do! [Click here to sign up](#). Want to gift a membership to a teacher? 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.

individual membership is \$15, and a family membership (2 adults in the same household) is \$25.

Community Trunk-or-Treat at Gunston



1st Annual Community Trunk or Treat in South Arlington will be hosted at Gunston Middle School on Thursday, October 30th, beginning at 6 pm. This family event is for children 11 years old and younger. It's a community-focused event where kids go from car to car, collecting candy and treats from local organizations and community leaders.

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>