



School Talk

WEEKLY UPDATE!

November 14, 2025

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Thanksgiving feasts start next week for some classes. This is your reminder that parking in the lot is only for APS staff – please find street parking if attending. Remember to be kind to our neighbors and park responsibly! Thank you!

Applying for a Sibling in the Lottery then READ THIS!

For families of students **currently** attending MPSA who will **continue attending** MPSA next school year: If you are going to be applying for their sibling(s) to attend MPSA in this year's lottery for the 2026-2027 school year, [please fill out this survey](#).

It is important that you fill out this survey so that we can allocate a spot for the sibling if we have spots available.

The survey above is not the application. To apply for your child to attend, [you must apply here](#) in addition to the above. You **must** indicate that you have a sibling on the application and will need their student ID number, which can be found in ParentVUE or on any of their school documents.

Any questions, please e-mail or call our registrar, Kia Haynes at kia.stevensonhaynes@apsva.us/703-228-8818.

Current 5th grade students are not eligible for sibling preference.

Lost & Found Clean Up

The lost and found will be on display in the main lobby from **Monday the 17th** through **Tuesday the 25th**. Afterwards, any unclaimed items will be donated to charity. Please come take a look (and remind your children to look, too)!

Introducing a New Face at MPSA

MPSA is happy to welcome **Lani Richards**! She will be joining as our part-time music teacher!



Lani is starting her fifth year as a music teacher in Arlington Public Schools. She is also teaching at Integration Station this year. Prior to that, she taught for one year in Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS). She received her Bachelor's degree in Communications from Weber State University and her Virginia Teaching license from Shenandoah University. Lani previously worked for 13 years as a kindergarten assistant in FCPS. She sings in three choirs, plays the piano and organ and enjoys visiting her children and grandchildren as much as possible!

Upcoming Child Protection Unit in Counseling Lessons

School counselors across APS provided bullying prevention lessons in October to strengthen our efforts in creating safe and supportive school environments.

As an natural extension of supporting our students with bullying, we recognize the sad fact of child abuse as one of the largest public health crisis facing children (ages 0 to 18) around the world. Again this year, elementary counselors will deliver one grade level specific child protection lesson from the *Second Step* evidence-based program to K-5 classrooms in December.

Students will learn ways to help them decide if something is safe or not: specifically, about safe, unsafe, and unwanted touches, and rules about touching private body parts (we define this to students as the area covered by swimsuits).

They'll also learn to say no to unsafe or unwanted touches, and to tell an adult if someone breaks rules about touching private body parts. Students will also practice asking an adult for help, telling an adult about an unsafe situation, and being assertive to get out of unsafe situations.

Families are the most important part of their child's safety. That's why we're committed to providing you with information and training to support your child:

- If you have any questions about the Child Protection Unit or the *Second Step* program, please contact your student's school counselor. You are welcome to review with the school counselor the lesson(s) used. The Counseling page on the APS website contains additional details about our Second Step lessons. Please note, APS employees and volunteers receive annual training on these issues.
- We also encourage families and caregivers to participate in adult-focused prevention trainings, which can help you support your child at home. Find more information about training offered in English and Spanish [here](#).

Ways to get help or support now:

- Arlington Child Protective Services
703-228-1500 (available 24/7)
- Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline
1-800-4-A-CHILD (1-800-422-4453)
- Darkness to Light
1-866-FOR-LIGHT (1-866-367-5444)
Or text LIGHT to 741741

As a reminder, if you have **opted-out** of social emotional counseling for your student(s), they will **not** participate in the child protection lesson. If you would like to change your opt-out, please contact your school counselor.

Thank you for helping us to make our school a safe and supportive place where everyone can learn.

Teacher Wish Lists

Many of our teachers and instructional teams have Amazon wish lists in hopes that families who are able will support their classroom needs with items that APS won't typically purchase. If you are willing, [please look at the lists here](#). Thank you in advance.

Make Up Pictures & Retakes: November 19th

If you missed picture day, or you want to have your child's picture retaken, you can on **November 19th**! Pictures will be taken in the morning only. This will be the only make up picture day. You can [pay online here](#) and use picture day code **EVT8PDF99** to order your pictures. Want to pay cash? We have a limited number of order forms in the main office.

Upcoming Dates

- Wednesday, November 26-Friday, November 28: **Thanksgiving Break** (No School)
- December 10: **Early Release**, dismissal is at 1:30PM

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



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What's Inside:

- **Did You Take Pics/Video at Multicultural Night?**
- **Delay on Swag Delivery**
- **Treats for the Sweet!**
- **Join the PTA – It's Never Too Late!**
- **Keep In Touch**

Did you Take Pics/Video at Multicultural Night?

Did you come to the MPSA Multicultural Night celebration yesterday evening? If so, and you took pictures or videos that you are willing to share, please do! We ask that you [upload them to this drive](#) here. We are looking to include candids from our school activities in our yearbook this year, so please share! The main office will help us to remove/blur students who have opted out of participating in these photos. Thank you in advance!

Delay on Swag Delivery

We apologize for the delay on swag delivery. October became a far busier month than anticipated with a lot going on for both the PTA and MPSA staff so placing orders was delayed. The orders have been placed, and we hope to have delivery before the holidays. We thank you for your patience.

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!](#)

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.

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>