



# School Talk

WEEKLY UPDATE!

January 9, 2026

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**Welcome back to school! We hope everyone had a very restful and rejuvenating winter break!**

**Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup> is an EARLY RELEASE day! Dismissal is at 1:30PM!**

**Happy Principal Appreciation Week to Ms. Genove!**

In honor of Virginia Schools Principals Appreciation Week, we are proud to recognize and celebrate **Principal Catharina Genove** for her outstanding leadership and dedication to our school community.

Since the opening of The Montessori Public School of Arlington in 2019, Principal Genove has been a steady, thoughtful, and inspiring presence. Even before MPSA officially opened its doors, she played a vital role in shaping our school while it was part of the Drew Model School. Her vision, commitment, and deep belief in Montessori principles helped lay the foundation for the thriving learning community we are today.

We are incredibly grateful for her thoughtful leadership and unwavering commitment to MPSA. Please join us in thanking Principal Catharina Genove for all she does to make MPSA a welcoming and inspiring place to learn and grow.

**Three MPSA Enrichment Offerings this Winter**

In addition to the Baroody Camp offerings, MPSA will be hosting 3 afterschool enrichment programs as well. Don't let the cost dissuade you from enrolling your child – inquire as there may be some financial aid available.

**[Film Club by Boolean Girl for grades 4th-8th, \\$350](#)**

*(Fridays beginning January 23rd through March 13th at Lubber Run Community Center)*

Lights, camera... imagination! Films We Made After School is a high-energy, hands-on 8-week filmmaking adventure where kids become real movie-makers—directors, actors, camera operators, costume designers, sound engineers, and editors—working together to create an original short film from the ground up. Each week builds skills, confidence, and collaboration as the story comes to life, all leading to an unforgettable red-carpet movie premiere for families and friends. This spring, our young filmmakers tackle a mystery-comedy packed with special effects and outdoor adventure: The Swamp Monster of Lubber Run. Expect creativity, laughter, teamwork, and cinematic magic—no experience required, just curiosity and courage. For MPSA & Gunston Montessori students.

Taught by MPSA's ITC and media specialist, **Renee Shaw** ([renee.shaw@apsva.us](mailto:renee.shaw@apsva.us)). Transportation to Lubber Run is not provided – carpooling is encouraged. [Click here to register.](#)

**[Boys & Girls Coding Club by Boolean Girl for grades 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, \\$100](#)**

*(Mondays beginning January 26<sup>th</sup> – March 2 at MPSA)*

Grow your coding skills with the Coding Club! Students can practice coding and building with a microbit. For both boys and girls. Taught by MPSA's ITC and media specialist, **Renee Shaw** ([renee.shaw@apsva.us](mailto:renee.shaw@apsva.us)). [Click here to register.](#)

**[Peace Club by Little Friends for Peace for grades 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup>, \\$200](#)**

*(Wednesdays beginning January 28<sup>th</sup> for 5 weeks at MPSA)*

Little Friends for Peace (LFFP) offers after-school programming that gives students a fun and meaningful way to continue learning peace skills beyond the classroom. Through games, art, cooperative activities, and group reflection, youth explore how to care for themselves, build friendships, and resolve conflicts peacefully.

Our after-school programs help students:

- Strengthen social and emotional skills
- Develop confidence and self-awareness
- Build positive peer relationships
- Practice cooperation, respect, and empathy in a supportive setting

This program has been tailored to the needs of our MPSA community and provides a safe, engaging environment where students can grow, play, and learn together. Guided by MPSA's EL teacher, **Suzanne Stork** and volunteers from LLFP. To register e-mail Ms. Stork at [suzanne.stork@apsva.us](mailto:suzanne.stork@apsva.us).

**[Intent to Return Forms/Middle School Options Programs Deadline](#)**

APS will be sending out an intent to return form to all students currently enrolled in an option program. This will be sent directly to the e-mail you have registered with the school. Families will receive a **separate e-mail for each child** and only **one** parent/guardian (the enrolling parent) will receive the survey. If you have not received this survey or feel there has been a mistake, **please do not call MPSA**, call the APS Welcome Center at **703-228-8000** and leave a message with your child's name, student number, current school and number where you can be reached.

**Middle School Option Programs Deadline**...is next **Friday, January 16<sup>th</sup>** at 4PM. If you would like to apply to an option program such as H-B Woodlawn, you must submit your application before then. Apply at [apsva.schoolmint.net](http://apsva.schoolmint.net). **You do not have to apply for Gunston's Montessori program.** Unless you state otherwise, your 5<sup>th</sup> grade will automatically be enrolled at Gunston for their 6<sup>th</sup> grade year.

### **MPSA Musical Winter Informance Date Change**

The January 28<sup>th</sup> Informance date is no longer viable. **Our new date is February 11<sup>th</sup>.**

On February 11, MPSA Choristers join MPSA Band and Orchestra for our annual Informance. An Informance is a student-led event wherein MPSA Upper Elementary students host sample Chorus, Band and Orchestra rehearsals in a performance-like setting.

Chorus members should wear any combination of black & white; or black bottoms with an MPSA monarch t-shirt. As always, butterfly accessories are perfectly acceptable.

This event is meant solely for the MPSA student body so please do not make plans to attend. Families will be invited to the Spring concert to see children perform.

### **Art Class Materials Needed**

Ms. Barbour's art class is seeking cardboard canisters (such as the type oatmeal, corn meal and grits come in) as well as all types of fabric scraps. If you have these to donate, please have your child bring them to Ms. Barbour's room #175 or drop off in the main office. Thank you in advance.

### **Upcoming Dates**

- Wednesday, January 14: **Early Release**, students dismissed at 1:30PM
- Monday, January 19: **NO SCHOOL**, Martin Luther King, Jr's Birthday
- Friday, January 30: **NO SCHOOL**, Grade Preparation Day

### **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](https://twitter.com/MPSA_Library)
- MPSA Science on Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/MPSA\\_Science](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



January 6, 2026

## What's Inside:

- **MPSA Swag is (Finally) In!**
- **AMAC's 2026 Executive Committee Election Results**
- **We Ask for Your Membership in 2026!**
- **Thank You for the Treats!**
- **Keep In Touch**

### MPSA Swag is (Finally) In!

The swag that was ordered back in the fall has been received and will be distributed next week. We thank those of you who ordered for your grace and patience. We do still have some stock available in our store which you can find [here](#).

### AMAC's 2026 Executive Committee Election Results

Introducing the Executive Committee for the **Arlington Montessori Action Committee (AMAC)** for 2026.

- President: **Matthew Cox** (*returning*)
- Executive Vice President: **Vidisha Parasram**
- Treasurer: **Katie Lin** (*returning*)
- Secretary: **Kia Haynes** (*returning*)

You can visit the [AMAC site](#) to learn more about what they do and how to be involved.

### We Ask for Your Membership in 2026!

Families, we invite you to join the PTA and help support our school in an easy, meaningful way! PTA membership is a simple fundraiser for our school—we keep a portion of every membership fee.

Being part of the PTA strengthens family-school partnerships, gives parents a voice in advocating for children's education, health, and safety, and builds a strong community that supports students and teachers through involvement and funding. It's a direct way to support your child's learning environment, access helpful resources, and join a larger movement for educational equity at the local, state, and national levels.

Membership costs:

- \$12 for one person
- \$20 for two people in the same household

Join today and help make a difference at MPSA—together, we're stronger!

### **Thank You for the Treats!**

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 yesterday's treats:

- **The Davis Family**
- **The Darrah Family**
- **The Farfalla Family**
- **The Rasula Family**

### **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](mailto:ACMPTA+subscribe@groups.io)
- Montessori Caregivers Group (Parent-lead Private Forum): <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1419402838207257>