



School Talk

WEEKLY UPDATE!

February 13, 2026

NO SCHOOL ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH!

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"I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear." This powerful sentiment, famously spoken by **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**, advocates for choosing love and nonviolence, arguing that hatred is too heavy a burden that destroys the hater and multiplies negativity.

Reminder: Class Pictures Next Week

Class & group photos will be taken on **Thursday, February 19th**. Class photos are **\$12**. Chorus, Band, Orchestra & Patrols will also be taking their pictures. Order forms went home last week but there is one attached to this newsletter if you need. You can also place your order online at mylifetouch.com, picture day ID **EVT799K6D**.

Thank you to those who have inquired but we have all the volunteers we need for picture day!

Note from Advance Academics

A note to parents of students who have been identified as eligible for Advanced Academic Services:

This year, MPSA teachers will send out grade level differentiation reports. On or before the day that you receive your student's report card in Parent Vue, your student's classroom teacher will send you

a copy of their Differentiation Report. The report will capture a few of the ways in which your student's teacher provided challenges and opportunities to grow your student's higher order thinking skills. Your student's classroom teacher can share additional ways in which they provided differentiated instruction for your student during the upcoming Parent Teacher Conference days.

Got Shovels & Energy to Burn? Help MPSA!

Due to the ice and snow that is remaining, outdoor recess is still limited. There are still great piles that present a hazard so, while some classrooms do go outdoors, we must keep the children compact to avoid places where slipping and getting injured or wet with freezing water is a hazard.

Because of this, we are borrowing the idea from other schools and inviting families to come help with the shoveling. If you have shovels and are willing, we welcome you to come to MPSA during this 3 day weekend to help clear the grounds. The MPSA playgrounds are open to the public and you do not need building access to them. The main needs center around the playground equipment.

If you do come out to help with the grounds, please understand this is at your own risk and APS nor the PTA is responsible for any liability.

Thank you in advance for your help!

GOTR Correction: Program for UEM Only

Some 3rd graders may have received the Girls on the Run flyer in backpack mail yesterday, however, this year, our school's program is only for Upper Elementary – 4th & 5th grade. This decision was made because, due to the construction, our running area has significantly decreased, and smaller numbers will be safer. The program directors apologize for any confusion and they look forward to your rising 4th graders signing up next year!

Please Take the Your Voice Matters Survey

The **Your Voice Matters (YVM) Survey** is open, and we want to hear from every corner of our APS community. This annual survey runs through March 6 and helps guide decisions on priorities such as safety, health, well-being and engagement. [You may access the survey here.](#)

The survey is voluntary and confidential. Your insight is a starting point for meaningful change. Let's raise our voices and make sure they count. [Click here to learn more.](#)

Art Department Needs Small Boxes

Ms. Barbour's art class would like small cardboard boxes, paper towel tubes, etc...Bring to the main office or to room 175.

Upcoming Dates

- Monday, February 16: **NO SCHOOL**, *Presidents Day*
- Thursday, February 19: **Class & Groups Picture 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
- 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 FOR THE PTA NEWSLETTER!

ACMPTA WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

February 13, 2025

What's Inside:

- **MPSA Skate Night Takeover!**
- **Annual Yearbook Cover Contest Due FRIDAY**
- **Seeking Nomination Committee Members**
- **Staff Meeting Snacks Appreciated**
- **You Can Still Join the PTA**
- **Keep In Touch**

SAVE THE DATE: PTA Movie Night will be March 13th! Details TBA!

MPSA Skate Night Takeover!

On Saturday, March 21, MPSA “takes over” **Family Skate Night** at TJ Community Center! The plan? MPSA families meet up for community fun! Wear your MPSA gear (or anything orange) and come skate the night away!

Pricing:

- Admission: \$3
- Skate rental: \$4
- Bounce house: \$3
- Skate walker (for our new/shy skaters): \$6

Concessions are sold on site, typically \$1-\$2 snacks.

You can purchase your tickets at the door, however, it's highly recommended to pre-purchase online [here](#). **Make sure you are purchasing for March 21st!**

[Read about Arlington's Family Skate Night here.](#)

Annual Yearbook Cover Contest Due FRIDAY

All yearbook cover art is due **FRIDAY**. Please keep the following in mind, because the art that doesn't follow the rules will be disqualified.

Submit art on:

- 8.5" x 11" piece of white paper.
- "Portrait" format (not landscape) to fit the cover.
- Picture must fill up the entire 8.5" x 11" page.

All entries must include:

- Picture on front **must include** "Montessori Public School of Arlington" and "2025 - 26" on it.
- **On back** please include student name, teacher's name, email address to contact the winning student's family

Other important details:

- The picture must be an original, **hand drawn** piece of art. **NO** computer-generated graphics permitted.
- Parents and/or teachers may **NOT** assist students in the creation of the artwork.
- **Individual submissions only** - students may not work together

Any questions? E-mail info@acmpta.com or have your child come talk to Ms. Kia. All art must be turned into Ms. Kia by the end of the day, Friday. No digital submissions.

Seeking Nominating Committee Members

It's that time of year when the PTA's Nominating Committee seeks out and vets members of our community to be a part of the ACMPTA Executive Committee (EC) next year. Much of the work can be done virtually. You will follow leads for possible candidates and present them at a future PTA meeting. If you are interested in helping recruit our new EC, send an e-mail to info@acmpta.com

Staff Meeting Snacks Appreciated

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 to our staff meeting this past week:

- **The Davis Family**
- **The Peterson-Munns Family**
- **The Wingard-Schmitt Family**

You Can Still Join the PTA

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!

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>