

School Talk

WEEKLY UPDATE!

February 21, 2026

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Quote of the Week: "Find the good. It's all around you. Find it. Showcase it and you will start believing in it." – Jesse Owens

Ramadan Prayer Rooms

We are doing our best to accommodate those children who wish to pray during this time of Ramadan, however, due to space constraints – we have more staff in the building this year and not as many available spaces – we may not have a room available every day. When we do, we can only accommodate the midday prayer time (*around 12:20pm – 1:20pm after daylight savings time*) and not the prayer that occurs close to dismissal time. The teachers of those who have requested a prayer room will reach out to you to make sure you have given your child permission to miss class time for prayer.

Next Week's Music Department Dates!

Winter Informance @MPSA

February 24, 10:00-11:00

On February 24, MPSA Chorus, Band and Strings present our annual **Informance**. An **Informance** is a student-led event wherein MPSA Upper Elementary students host sample Chorus, String and Band rehearsals in a performance-like setting. **This event is for MPSA student-body only and appropriate for all ages.** Parents/families will be invited to our Spring event.

Chorus Pop-Up @ACC

February 23, 2:30-3:30 (*bring coats, no water bottles or non-SPED fidgets*)

- 2:15 Choristers report to Ms. Shakespeare's room then walk to ACC
- 3:40 Chorus Dismissal from Ms. Shakespeare's room

Outdoor Lab Summer Camp Registration 3/6

(Flyer attached to this newsletter)

The Outdoor Lab Summer Camp 2026 is a fantastic opportunity for students who have a passion for nature, love spending time outdoors, or have an interest in animals. The camp is hosted at the **Phoebe Hall Knipling Outdoor Lab**, offering a week-long immersive experience that combines fun and learning in a beautiful natural setting. This camp offers a transformative experience for students, providing them with the chance to make new friends, explore independence, and connect with the natural world.

Camp Details

Dates & Sessions:

- Session A: July 6-10 (For students entering 7th, 8th, or 9th grade)
- Session B: July 13-17 (For students entering 7th, 8th, or 9th grade)
- Session C: July 20-24 (For students entering 5th or 6th grade)

Activities Include:

- Animal Exploration
- Boating & Fishing
- Night Walks
- Arts & Crafts
- Nature Hikes
- Science FUN!

Tuition:

- Standard Tuition: \$718 (Includes transportation & meals)
- Reduced Tuition: \$119 (Available for students who qualify for free and reduced meal benefits through APS)

Registration opens at 6 p.m. on March 6, 2026. Applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis until April 30, or until sessions are full. Late applications will be placed on a waitlist.

[Registration link will be available here on March 6.](#)

For questions about the camp, feel free to contact Rochelle Proctor at Rochelle.Proctor@apsva.us or call 540.347.2258.

Reminder: 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 23: **Lexia Lab Begins** (*by invitation only*)
- Thursday, March 12: **Early Release, Parent Teacher Conferences**, dismissal at 1:30pm
- Friday, March 13: **NO SCHOOL, Parent-Teacher Conferences**
- Friday, March 20: **NO SCHOOL, Eid al-Fitr**
- Monday, March 30 – April 3: **NO SCHOOL – Spring Break**

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 21, 2026

What's Inside:

- KPOP Movie Night is COMING!
- MPSA Skate Night Takeover!
- Late Entries for Annual Yearbook Cover Contest
- URGENT NEED: Nomination Committee Members
- Community Events
- Staff Meeting Snacks Appreciated
- You Can Still Join the PTA
- Keep In Touch

There will be a **PTA General Meeting** on **Thursday, March 5th** at **7PM** on Zoom.
[Click here to join](#). Meeting ID: 399 269 8481; Passcode: MPSA25

KPOP Movie Night is COMING!

The PTA presents a **KPOP Movie Night** on **Friday, March 13th** featuring a *to be disclosed* movie – can you use the **clues** below to guess what it is?

It will be a **GOLDEN** opportunity to catch a **FREE** movie and go **UP, UP, UP WITH OUR VOICES** as we sing along to our feature film!

TAKEDOWN these notes! Doors will open at **5PM** with the film starting **promptly** at **5:30PM!** Bring a blanket or cushions (no chairs, please) and remember, an adult 18+ must accompany all children at all times.

Admission is free but please **pre-register** by clicking [here](#) so we can get a close-to-accurate headcount and get a **free popcorn!** (1 serving per registered attendee.) The PTA will be selling other concessions like pizza and drinks – sorry, no **SODA POP** though!

[Pre-register!](#)

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.](#)

Late Entries for Annual Yearbook Cover Contest

If your Upper Elementary child was absent on yesterday (February 20th) and was unable to submit their entry, they may do so on Monday, February 23rd. Please have them turn in their entry to Kia (who will confirm their absence on the 20th). **No other late entries will be accepted.**

URGENT NEED: 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

Community Events

Here are some events that the ACMPTA thinks may be of interest to the community. They are not sponsored by APS, MPSA or the ACMPTA and are being shared purely for your information.

Arlington Holi 2026



Hosted by [Arlington Community Culture \(ACC\)](#) a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Join the ACC for their 3rd Annual Arlington Holi—a family-friendly Festival of Colors celebrating spring, hope, and friendship, with music, color play, and a joyful gathering of cultures for all ages. As always, the event is FREE to attend. This year, they're kindly asking for optional donations of \$5 per person or \$20 per family. Each donation includes free color powder and a keepsake towel provided by Akash Dave (The Way Home). Please register to help them plan and make this event a success.

Participation helps support their mission of bringing the community together, learning about one another's cultures, and building lasting friendships. [Register here.](#)

Flag Football

Registration for [Flag Star Football's Spring Flag Season](#) is happening now! And they're running a series of [FREE Promo Days](#) (and [Girls Flag Promo Days](#)) in March for folks to try the league.

[Flag Star](#) is a local, rec league focused on Getting Better and Having Fun. No screaming coaches, no midweek practices; it's fun, positive, organized. And it's a first-time-player-friendly program.

They have programs for everyone – K-12th Grade, boys and [girls](#), ['elite' players](#) and couch-potatoes – and are committed to full-inclusion ([financial aid available](#)). You can [register for the league here](#), find out [more about times/locations here](#), or [RSVP for one of their FREE Promo Days](#) to see if you like it.

'Free Agent' registration closes February 25th, although you can always email hq@flagstarfootball.com if you have questions (or want to try the promo day before you register).

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!](#)

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>