



School Talk

WEEKLY UPDATE!

February 6, 2026

Inside This Edition:

- **Gratitude for the MPSA Community**
- **MPSA Kindness Week!**
- **Please Take the Your Voice Matters Survey!**
- **Celebrating Our Artists at the APS School Board Gallery Opening**
- **New Music Department Dates**
- **Class Pictures – February 19th (Need Volunteers)**
- **Upcoming Dates**
- **Keep In Touch**
- **PTA NEWSLETTER**

****EARLY RELEASE this WEDNESDAY the 11th! Dismissal is at 1:30PM!****

Gratitude for the MPSA Community

There was still a lot of snow and ice on the ground when we returned to school this past week. Your cooperation and patience helped to make our transition back to school a bit easier.

Thank you to parents who exercised caution and patience during drop off and pick up, keeping our children and staff safe.

Thank you to the parents and students who were understanding about bus delays.

Thank you to Mr. Koutsouftikis (Asst. Principal) & Mr. McGee (PhysEd) for helping staff find parking, valet style, because of the lack of street parking. Mr. Koutsouftikis even grabbed a shovel and dug out spaces so more staff could park in the lot.

Thank you to 4th grader **Angus G.**, and his father **John G.**, for coming in when we were closed to help dig out the drop off/pick up lane.

Our community has once again proven that we are strong when we work together.

MPSA Kindness Week!

This is a reminder that this Monday begins MPSA Kindness Week which we will celebrate with spirit days.

- **Monday: Kick Bullying to the Curb!** Wear silly socks or shoes to kick off the challenge.
- **Tuesday: Hat's Off to Kindness!** Wear your favorite hat. *(Be sure to label them with your child's name.)*
- **Wednesday: Shine Bright Like an Upstander!** Wear neon and bright colors.
- **Thursday: Strengthen Kindness Not Bullying!** Wear workout or sports gear.
- **Friday: Don't Sleep on Kindness!** Wear your pajamas.

Please see the [original post](#) to learn more about Kindness Week

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.](#)

Celebrating Our Artists at the APS School Board Gallery Opening

This past Wednesday, the School Board art gallery hosted an opening night featuring several APS student artists. Several of our featured artists braved the cold to attend – **Melina B. D., Brynn B., Talon G., Hattie M., Juliana M., Luisa R. & Claire W.** Principal Genove and art teachers Ms. Barbour & Mr. Russey were also there to celebrate with them. You can find the full list of our artists listed in [this edition](#) of the School Talk. *(Pics coming soon!)*

New Music Department Dates

Winter Informance @MPSA: The February 11 Informance date is no longer viable. Our new date is **February 24.** **Participating students begin warm-ups at 9:40.

On February 24 MPSA Chorus, Band and Strings present our annual Informance. 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.** Parents will be invited to our Spring event - we can't wait to share our learning with you!

Chorus Pop-Up@ACC: February 23, 2:30-3:30 *(previously February 9)*

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

Class Pictures – February 19th (Need Volunteers)

Class & group photos will be taken on **Thursday, February 19th**. Order forms will be going home soon – class photos are **\$12**. Chorus, Band, Orchestra & Patrols will also be taking their pictures. We need 3 parent volunteers (1 person per shift) at 9AM-10:30AM, 10:30AM-12PM, 1PM-2:30PM. We will give you a 50% off any Lifetouch package voucher for your time. Contact Kia in the office at kia.stevensonhaynes@apsva.us if you can help.

Upcoming Dates

- Wednesday, February 11: **Early Release**, *District-wide Professional Development Day*
- Wednesday, February 11: **Gunston Middle School Info Night** (See attached flyer)
- 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/>



February 6, 2025

What's Inside:

- **SAVE THE DATE: MPSA Movie Night**
- **GoTR Back at MPSA**
- **Deadline Approaching: Annual Yearbook Cover Contest!**
- **You Can Still Join the PTA**
- **Staff Meeting Snacks Appreciated**
- **Keep In Touch**

SAVE THE DATE: MPSA Movie Night

Please **SAVE THE DATE** of **Friday, March 13th** for our **MPSA Movie Night!** (Film TBD.) School is closed for the day, but we will reopen it for fun times in the evening! More information to come but for now, mark your calendars!

GoTR Back at MPSA

Registration is now open for the **Girls on the Run (GoTR)** program at MPSA!

By using a curriculum that creatively integrates physical activity with life lessons, **Girls on the Run** empowers girls to develop the confidence and character they need to become strong and healthy young adults. Registration for the spring 2026 program is open through February 23 and is open to participants in grades 4-5. The season will run from the week of March 2 through May 17.

The standard program fee is \$210; however, we do offer adjusted program fees based on a sliding scale according to family income. Financial assistance is also available for families in need. For more information, go to the Girls on the Run of NOVA website (www.gotrnova.org) or contact the MPSA Girls on the Run team's site liaison, **Whitney Mendoza** at whitney.howemendoza@gmail.com.

Deadline Approaching: Yearbook Cover Contest!

Calling all Upper Elementary Montessori students!

We're inviting **4th and 5th** graders to participate in the yearbook cover contest. Draw, paint or sketch a piece of art for the 2025-2026 yearbook cover! The winning design will be used as the cover for the yearbook and the winning artist will receive a **free yearbook!**

Contest Rules

All entries must be submitted to Kia by **February 20th!**

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.

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!

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!

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>