

School Talk

WEEKLY UPDATE!

September 18, 2020

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[MPSA Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month](#)



Celebrating
**HISPANIC HERITAGE
MONTH**

September 15–October 15, 2020

Hispanic Heritage Month is an annual celebration of the history and culture of the U.S. Latinx and Hispanic communities. The event, which spans from September 15 to October 15, commemorates how those communities have influenced and contributed to American society at large.

Hispanic Heritage Month actually began as a commemorative week when it was first introduced in June of 1968 by California Congressman George E. Brown. The push to recognize the contributions of the Latinx community had gained momentum throughout the 1960s when the civil rights movement was at its peak and there was a growing awareness of the United States' multicultural identities. On September 17, 1968, Congress passed Public Law 90-48, officially authorizing and requesting the president to issue annual proclamations declaring September 15 and 16 to mark the beginning of National Hispanic Heritage Week. President Lyndon B. Johnson issued the first Hispanic Heritage Week presidential proclamation the same day.

The timing of Hispanic Heritage Month coincides with the Independence Day celebrations of several Latin American nations. September 15 was chosen as the kickoff because it coincides with the Independence Day celebrations of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Those five nations declared their independence from Spain on September 15, 1821; Mexico, which declared its independence from Spain on September 16, 1810; and Chile who celebrates their independence from Spain on September 18, 1810.

In the decades since, National Hispanic Heritage Month proclamations have been made by every sitting president of the United States. (Source: [The History Channel](#))

Twenty-one percent (21%) of our MPSA family identifies as Hispanic, as do several of our staff members, to include our principal, **Ms. Genove**. We welcome the many cultures of our school and celebrate them all year long, not just during their special months, however, we would not miss an opportunity to give recognition to a community in the spotlight, receiving appreciation, for enriching American culture with their contributions and influence. ¡Feliz mes de la Herencia Hispana!

Read more about Hispanic Heritage Month [here](#).

[Sing for World Peace](#)

Lift up your voices and sing with Montessori communities all over the world as we sing for world peace on Monday, September 21. From 9:30 to 10:00AM, your family can celebrate the **International Day of Peace** by singing *Light a Candle for Peace* by Shelley Murley. Then share your experience with our community on Twitter [@MPSArlington](#) #PeacefulMonarchs or your classroom's Seesaw page.

For more about the International Day of Peace and to see a beautiful video Primary Montessori teacher, **Ms. Mendolia**, singing and signing "Light a Candle for Peace", click [here](#).

[Check out the Books!](#)

Yesterday was our first library book pick up and it went beautifully! It was nice to see so many familiar faces coming to check out books. We also saw families who came in hopes of checking out books that we had to begrudgingly turn away, so we'd like to remind everyone again how the process goes.

- Students will need to put holds on books using the MPSA Library Catalog (Destiny Discover).
- The library staff will **checkout up to five books**, based on availability, each week.

- Books must be checked out by **11:00 a.m. on Wednesdays** each week to be included in that week's scheduled pick up time (*which is the following Thursday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday – there is no pick up on Friday*).
- **Children should not come to pick up books until they have received a notice from their teacher to do so.** At any time, students can check on their current checkouts for pickup and pending Holds by logging into their account on the library's catalog – [Destiny Discover](#).
- Books that are not picked up by the following book distribution day **will be returned** to the library and will have to be checked back out again.

Pickup Schedule – Follow all social distancing practices & wear a mask!

- **Thursdays:** 9:00AM – 3:45PM outside Door 1 (Main Entrance)
- **Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays:** 9:15AM – 3:45PM just inside Door 1 (Main Entrance) – *closed 12-1 for lunch.*

Drop off returns – Follow all social distancing practices & wear a mask!

- **Starting Monday, September 21st** in the library return bins located just outside of Door 1 (Main Entrance). We can only accept MPSA library books in the return bins. Books will be checked in the following Monday to follow current health and safety guidance. Please only drop off books when the bins are out for use (Monday – Thursday from 9:00AM to 3:45PM). Please do not let your children stick their hands in the bins or try to retrieve books from the bins as this isn't safe per Covid-19 safety guidelines.

Remember that the building is closed for deep cleaning on Fridays. Library and other materials **cannot** be picked up or dropped off on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday.

The main library webpage: <https://montessori.apsva.us/welcome-to-the-mpsa-library/> has all the information, additional links, and tips & tricks videos you need to get started. Please read through this information as a family. We will only be checking out books at this time. No audiobooks will be available to check out, however, you child may stream audiobooks through their MackinVA app on their iPad.

We ask for everyone's patience and grace as we start this process. We have tried to think through all possibilities, but must allow for some changes to the procedures as we go.

 **Music Notes**

Please enjoy [this slide deck presentation](#) from Ms. Shakespeare, given at today's Coffee Talk. It includes lots of wonderful music department news, to include the wonderful announcement that 4th and 5th grade students can now sign up for Band and Orchestra! MPSA is happy to have Mr. Glasner and Mr. Kamenski back to teach Band and Orchestra (respectively). Open the presentation to find the link and QR codes for sign up, plus their teaching schedules.

Please welcome Ms. Stawasz!



Christiana Stawasz is a Museum Education Intern from the George Washington University School of Education and Human Development who will be working with our students through December. She's a graduate of Bennington College here to learn about our students, the Montessori Way and, eventually, build a curated virtual museum experience for the children. Read more about her [here](#).

[WhatsApp for Our Spanish-speaking Families](#)

MPSA now has a WhatsApp group just for our Spanish-speaking families. The creation of this app was to foster more inclusivity into our school community by providing a source of information and community sharing in their native language. To enroll, families must send an e-mail to our Bilingual Family Coordinator, Mr. Cardenas at henry.cardenas@apsva.us and include your full name, your child's full name and teacher and your mobile number.

[Primary Montessori Kit Pick Up](#)

This is a reminder that this coming Monday, September 21 will be the first round of Primary Montessori kit pick ups.

- **9:30AM to 12PM:** Pick up for Ms. Bruno, Ms. Kain, Ms. Kalkus and Ms. Mendolia
- **1:30PM to 4PM:** Pick up for Ms. Morgan, Ms. O'Donnell & Ms. Novak

(Please note Ms. Kain has moved from PM to AM pick up.)

Please make sure to read all communications from your child's teacher as she will be telling you **WHERE** and **HOW** to the kits will be given to you.

[How to Reach Ms. Reeser](#)

If you are need of assistance from our school counselor, Ms. Reeser, here is how to contact her:

Diane Reeser, M.A., School Counselor
Montessori Public School of Arlington
Office Hours by appointment: please email to arrange
<mailto:diane.reeser@apsva.us>

pronouns: she,her

Upcoming Dates

- Monday, 9/21 – Primary Montessori Tool Kit Pick Up
- Monday, 9/21 at 9:30AM – Sing for World Peace on the International Day of Peace
- Wednesday, 9/23 at 7 PM - Parent Ed Talk with MPSA Librarian, Ms. Jopeck
- Friday, 9/25 at 9:30 AM - Coffee Talk with Ms. Genove, featuring Ms. Reeser speaking on GoZen!

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
- Principal Genove on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/CSGenove>
- Arlington Montessori PTA: <http://acmpta.com/>
- Arlington Montessori Action Committee (AMAC): <http://www.arlingtonmontessori.org/>