

School Talk

WEEKLY UPDATE!

October 2, 2020

Inside this Edition

- **Hispanic Heritage Month Continues: Latin Origins of American Favorites**
- **Hybrid or Virtual? How to Change Your Response in ParentVue**
- **A Note About Music Class for Next Week**
- **Free No-Appointment COVID-19 Testing**
- **Library: Missing Books/Check Out Timeline**
- **PTA Note: Reflections Workshop this Monday**
- **Upcoming Dates**
- **Keep in Touch**



Our friends are in town! *Picture by Miqueas Hernandez in Ms. Ross' class.*

 [Hispanic Heritage Month Continues: Latin Origins of American Favorites](#)



MPSA continues to celebrate **Hispanic Heritage Month** and, this week, we will share how some of our favorite foods were based or influenced by Latin discoveries and culture. Have you eaten any of these foods? Did you know their history?

Hot Chocolate: Cocoa can trace its heritage back to Southern Mexico. Known as xocolātl around 3,000 to 4,000 years ago, this drink made of crushed cacao nibs mashed into a paste and mixed with water was once a sacred beverage. According to History, the Maya and the Aztecs also became enamored of the frothy beverage — and it was considered a great symbol of power and status.

Peanut Butter: While modern peanut butter as we know can be attributed to at least three different inventors, the earliest reference to peanut butter can be traced back to the Ancient Incas and the Aztecs who ground roasted peanuts into a paste.

Corn on the Cob: History (and a [5,300 year old ear of corn](#)) show that ancient civilizations, based where we now call Mexico, ate boiled or roasted maize as a staple food crop. The story of maize starts about 9,000 years ago, when people started collecting and consuming a wild grass called teosinte. The plant eventually became modern maize, commonly known as corn or sweetcorn. Mayans have been recorded as using boiled or roasted corn, eaten off the cob, as a main food staple.

Strawberries: Strawberries are mentioned throughout history in various texts, but the Mapuche and Huilliche Indians of Chile are credited with cultivating a strawberry species that is one of the two species that evolved into the fruit we know today.

Baked Potatoes: The potato was first domesticated in the region of modern-day southern Peru and northwestern Bolivia between 8000 and 5000 BC. The tuber was eaten roasted (baked) and boiled and was a staple to the society. It has since spread around the world and become a staple crop in many countries.

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

Hybrid or Virtual? How to Change Your Response in ParentVue

By now you have received the message that APS is looking into a return-to-school plan that phases in students into a hybrid schooling opportunity. You all were asked to make a choice for the type of schooling you preferred for your children back in June, but now you have a chance to make a different choice if you prefer. To make the changes or confirm your current choice:

1. Log onto **ParentVue**. Instructions to do so can be found [here](#).
2. Click on your child's profile in the upper left hand corner.
3. Click on **"Student Info"** in the menu on the left.
4. Click **"Edit Information"**
5. Scroll down the page until you reach the section titled **"Other Information"**.
Look for **"Instructional Delivery Method for 20-21"** and, using the drop down menu, make your selection.
6. Scroll down to **"Transportation Choice for 20-21"** and choose your method of transportation for your child.
7. Scroll all the way to the bottom and click **"Save Changes"**.
8. If you made changes, you will see a message at the top of the page that reads **"Changes submitted on DATE, TIME, are still waiting approval."** The registrar will review and approve the changes.
9. If you didn't make any changes, you will not see a message.

A Note About Music Class for Next Week

Dear Families,

Over the next few weeks, I will ask students to "find" items around the house. Students will use the names of these items to create rhythmic patterns; students will not be asked to use these items as rhythmic instruments.

Please take a few minutes to walk through the house and show your child which items are ok to use as props, and which are not. It is ok for your student to assemble a box, bag or basket before music class. They will need 6-8 items varying in size, shape and material. Safe kitchen items are ideal.

Thank you, Ms. Shakespeare

Free No-Appointment COVID-19 Testing

On October 8, you can get a free COVID-19 test at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington from 2PM to 6PM (or until test kits run out). You do not need insurance, a referral or a reservation. You do not need identification. Testing is for ages 2 and older and will take place outside. Please do not eat or drink 30 minutes before your test. For more information, please view [this flyer](#).

Library: Missing Books/Check Out Timeline

It's been so to see children check out books from our MPSA collection! We are finding that many of the books being put on hold by students are books that were checked out during the Spring and not yet returned. We are asking that you please, check your child's library account to see if they have missing books and kindly return them to MPSA. There are no late fees or fines being charged for those books. Books can be returned to school during our regular pick up/drop off times Monday through Thursday.

Also, a reminder that books reserved by 11AM on Wednesday will be available the next day (Thursday) through the following Wednesday. Any books reserved from this past Wednesday afternoon through next week Wednesday at 11AM can be picked up starting Thursday. Remember, wait for a confirmation e-mail from your child's teacher before coming to the school to pick up a book.

PTA Note: Reflections Workshop this Monday

Parents,

Has your child ever wanted to make a movie for the Reflections contest? Well now is their chance to learn a few skills. Join us on Monday, October 5th from 12-1pm for a presentation from Leah Stein on "***Learn How to Make an iMovie***".

This will be a presentation on Zoom hosted by the ACMPTA. APS iPads do not not have Zoom access so children who are interested in this presentation will have to access it on a different device. However, APS iPads do have the iMovie app that children can use to make a movie so this is a great opportunity for a hands-on learning experience.

We look forward to seeing your children for the presentation.

For more information about the PTA Reflections contest and to download the entry forms and rules, [click here](#).

Upcoming Dates

- Monday, 10/5 at 12:00 PM – Reflections Workshop: iMovie Tutorial
- Tuesday, 10/6 at 7:00 PM – PTA General Meeting (Budget Vote)
- Friday, 10/9 at 9:30 AM - Coffee Talk with Ms. Genove
- Monday, 10/12 – School Closed for Students/Staff Professional Development 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

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