

School Talk

WEEKLY UPDATE!

December 18, 2020

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MPSA Wishes You a Wonderful Break

As we enjoy the upcoming break, it is my fervent wish that each of you receives and returns the seasonal bounty of blessings and good tidings that make the holidays truly special. It is also during this time that I am reminded of my own good fortune to serve as the proud principal of MPSA, with a dedicated staff committed to helping students excel, and supportive families who give us encouragement by their words and actions.

I hope everyone has a wonderfully relaxing and restful break, and I look forward to seeing everyone next year!

Holiday wishes to you and yours,

Catharina Genove, Principal



 **Keep Your Children Reading w/the MPSA Winter Reading Challenge!**



We have embarked on our **Winter Break Reading Challenge!** The challenge started at 2:31 p.m. today (right after school dismissed) and will end at 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, January 3rd. Truly just over the break. I introduced the challenge to the children during library classes this week, so ask them all about it!

The Challenge! MPSA students read 2000 books, collectively!

The Bonus! IF the students achieve this goal, Ms. Jopeak and Ms. Genove will be “water cooled” in January! *What’s water cooling?* This:



Washington Nationals: Jayson Werth gets water-cooled by Wilson Ramos. Photo by Rob Tringeli

The Extra Bonus! The teacher of the class with the best participation gets to do the water dumping!
**The event will be live-streamed and will follow all appropriate APS health and safety requirements.*

HOW will this happen? Students will have multiple ways to track their reading. The easiest for the library to track is this form: <https://forms.gle/AJv5Ja5ZkGV9gwRb6> (filled out after each book is finished). Students do not need to be logged into any APS devices to fill it out. They will also have access to a more traditional reading log in both Seesaw and Canvas, starting today, in the library course.

What do we need from you? Not much! Just encourage your children to read over break! (Expressing enthusiasm about watching the water cooling could be very motivating!)

E-mail if you have any questions. Thank you for supporting reading for fun!

Ms. Jopeak, MPSA Librarian

 Supporting MPSA Families in Need Over the Break

We have identified 28 families in dire need of food/resource assistance over the Winter break that we'd like to help. APS will not be providing meals during the last week of break. If you are willing to help by donating money, please e-mail Kia at webmaster@acmpta.com. Donating can be done electronically. It took some time to compile the list, and that is why this ask is coming so late. Thank you in advance.

 Gunston MS Info Night for Rising 6th Graders

Gunston Middle School will be holding their Information Night for Rising 6th graders in January. The sessions are:

- **January 12 at 7PM**
- **January 13 at 7PM in Spanish**

The sessions will be held via Microsoft Teams Live and can be viewed from your child's school device.

Flyers: ENGLISH SPANISH

 Music Notes from Ms. Shakespeare

Farewell, Ms. Chrissy: Our wonderful George Washington Museum Education intern **Christiana Stawacz** is moving on. She is thankful for the time spent with our community, and we are thankful for the many ways she enhanced and supported our learning. When visiting the National Zoo, find "Ms. Chrissy" (in the education department, not an animal habitat) and say hi.

Before leaving, Ms. Chrissy created a gift for our students. In her 3 part lesson "To Community and Beyond," students were asked to think about ways people can connect with others when living in a distanced setting.

We learned about the technological tools astronauts and various scientists use to connect and communicate within a highly-distanced setting. Our last lesson focused on the Mars rover Curiosity. We examined the selfies Curiosity sent Earthlings from its Martian habitat.

Students were then asked to photograph or illustrate their own selfies from their own unique and socially-distanced habitats. This **Curiosity Selfie Collage** depicts and connects participating students from our community. [View the collage.](#)

Thank you, Ms. Chrissy, and best wishes.

UEM Music & Art Kit Distribution: Music and art kits will be passed out to 4th and 5th graders on January 11, 2021 from 1:00PM to 3:00PM. Please mark this on your calendars. More procedural information will be sent out in the new year.

Visit Carnegie Hall: Want to take another virtual fieldtrip to see Falu, Magda and Yacouba at Carnegie Hall?

Visit <https://vimeo.com/312977665>

Supplemental information is accessible to students via Seesaw.

For more information and family activities from Carnegie Hall, visit

<https://www.carnegiehall.org/Explore/Learn/Families-and-Kids>

Upcoming Dates

- Monday, December 21-Friday, January 1: **Winter Break, NO SCHOOL**
- Monday, January 4 – **Back to School**
- Monday, January 18 – **Martin Luther King, Jr's Birthday, NO SCHOOL**
- Wednesday, January 20 – **Presidential Inauguration Day, NO SCHOOL**
- Friday, January 25 – **Kindergarten Info Night**

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/>