



School Talk

WEEKLY UPDATE!

December 4, 2020

Inside this Edition

- **Hybrid Families: Transportation**
- **2021-2022 School Year Calendar Approved by School Board**
- **MPSA Day of Code**
- **Ms. Mendolia's Kit Distribution Date**
- **Upcoming Dates**
- **Keep in Touch**

Hybrid Families: Transportation

The hub stop map can be found in **ParentVue** under “**Documents**” or you can [click here](#) to view. We want to remind families that **no more than 11 children will be permitted to ride the bus at one time** to ensure adequate distancing, so for hubstops that have many children, a shift schedule will be created and you'll be assigned a specific time for your child(ren) to be picked up in the morning and dropped off in the afternoon.

If you changed your mind and have decided that you will drive or carpool your child to school instead of using APS transportation, **please e-mail Kia Haynes** (kia.stevensonhaynes@apsva.us) and let her know as soon as possible.

2021-2022 School Year Calendar Approved by School Board

Last night, the School Board approved the Superintendent's proposed calendar for SY2021-2022. The school year will begin August 30, 2021 and end on June 17, 2022, and includes the addition of 4 new religious high holidays: Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Diwali and Eid. You can view the calendar [here](#).

MPSA Hour of Code

Art and Music will be participating in the MPSA **Hour of Code** from **December 7th through the 11th**. To kick off the event, we are hosting a **guest speaker** from Virginia Tech for 4th and 5th graders on **December 7th at 1PM**. They will participate in a virtual visit to the **Thinkabit Lab at Virginia Tech**. More information about the visit:

“Would you like to learn how to build a small robot? Program LED circuits and small electronic motors? These skills are a part of Virginia Tech's Thinkabit lab experience led by Jim Egenrieder.

The Thinkabit Lab experience at Virginia Tech offers both teachers and students an engaging environment—part lab, makerspace and innovative learning spaces—to foster creativity, collaboration, and the critical skills necessary for the future technical workforce. A typical visit by school groups (mostly 4th grade through 12th grade) begins in an uncommon, colorful and comfortable space with an interactive exploration of a wide variety of STEM careers and supporting careers, and how to communicate these with parents, teachers, and school guidance counselors. Participants then move next door to an equally uncommon technical learning lab in which they build and program with electronic microcontrollers, working in two-person teams in an engineering design process to build and present unique robotic crafts they designed. Presentations are followed by short reflective writing. Teaching strategies facilitate differentiated learning aimed at 100% engagement.

After-school clubs and other groups participate in a variety of flexible and adaptive programs ranging from creative robotics (solving individual real-world problems) to using sensors and actuators in environmental monitoring or remote operations. Summer camps provide in-depth experiences in similar topics. All activities support enhanced understanding and appreciation of IOT (Internet of Things) connectivity, while emphasizing intellectual property, protection of privacy, and the inspiration to be part of future innovations and solutions. Activities are extended through teacher training and school equipment loan programs to provide ongoing and expanded opportunities at local schools. Multiple school divisions have begun developing Inspired by Thinkabit Lab spaces at their sites with Thinkabit Lab resources, guidance documents, and activities.”

Ms. Mendolia's Kit Distribution Date

Families of Ms. Mendolia's Primary Montessori class – your primary kits will be distributed on **Monday, December 7** from **10AM to 11:30AM** at the **Main Door #1**. Please drive up to the bus lane, **stay in your car**, and wait for Ms. Mendolia to bring your child's kit to you.

Upcoming Dates

- Monday, December 7-11th: **Hour of Code Week**
- Wednesday, December 9th: **PTA Parent Ed featuring Laura Hill**
- Monday, December 21-Friday, January 1: **Winter Break, NO SCHOOL**

 **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/>