



School Talk

WEEKLY UPDATE!

April 16, 2021

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Welcome!...and Gentle Reminders for All

We were happy to welcome more students back to MPSA in the hybrid model this week! It was such a joy for both students and staff as new and familiar faces began school this week. All the children look so happy to be in attendance, and we're just as happy to have them here.

This is a good time to remind our families to please have conversations with your children about the safety guidelines we have in place. Our staff does a wonderful job of monitoring the children, however, it would be helpful if the children were reminded of their duty to follow the procedures put in place to keep them safe.

Please remind your children that masks need to cover their noses, and not just their mouths. We know that for some children, fit may be the culprit, but we have seen many children purposely pull their masks down from over their noses. APS requires all students and staff to have their mouths and noses full covered, even outdoors. Under no circumstances should their masks be removed except for eating and drinking.

Please remind your children that as much as we'd love to be able to have normal play with our friends at recess, we have to abstain from games such as tag, or from close friendship huddles. Children still need to observe spacing distances when outdoors.

Thank you very much for helping us help our community stay safe.

Montessori Summer School Information

Students identified by their teacher based on eligibility criteria established by the APS Department of Teaching and Learning, will be invited to attend the **Arlington Public Schools Elementary Summer Strengthening Program from July 6 - 30, 2021**, held here at MPSA. The fee is \$150 for the entire session. Letters notifying eligible students will go out this afternoon. Please respond to the notice ASAP if you plan to refuse the slot or are requesting a virtual option.

At this time, children cannot be signed up without being identified by their teachers as meeting the APS eligibility requirements.

Family Selection Process for Next Year's Instruction

On Monday, APS will launch a two-week student/family selection process in ParentVUE. Families will be asked to select a model—full-time in-person learning or full-time distance learning—for each student for the 2021-22 school year by Fri, April 30. The selection process also asks families to provide information regarding Transportation and Extended Day services. This information is important for planning, staffing and scheduling for a strong start in fall 2021.

It is important to know that there will be no all-virtual instruction for option schools. The virtual model that will be offered will be a district program, so any students of Montessori who choose the virtual option would be a part of that program. If you choose to enroll your child in virtual instruction, we will hold your child's spot for a year, with opportunities provided to have your child return to MPSA in person prior to the end of the year should you change your mind.

More information will be released with the survey this Monday.

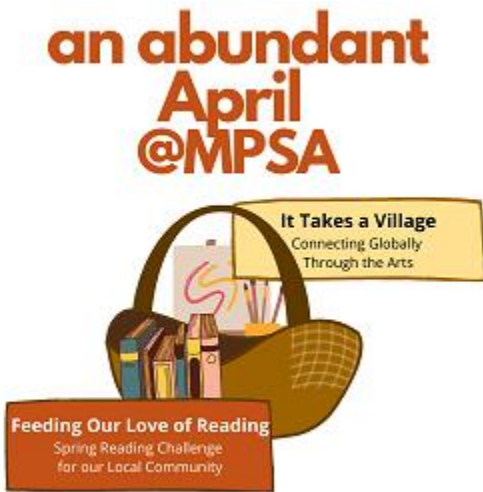
April is National School Library Month!

April is National School Library Month! We are thankful to our amazing library team at MPSA for all their efforts to teach our students information literacy skills and keep them supplied with books no matter where and how they are learning. Thank you Ms. Jopeck, Ms. Haynes, and Mr. Roberts!

More Books! Students may now put up to 10 books on hold at a time using the library catalog (link: <https://search.follettsoftware.com/metasearch/ui/103813>). Please only hold one title in a series at a time so we can loan out our popular books fairly. Students remaining virtual should pick up books at Door #1 Tuesdays through Friday (you will be emailed a notice if books are waiting). Students attending in hybrid mode have access to library resources on days they are in the building. Please promptly return books you have finished reading so we can keep everyone's reading and research needs met!

Spring Reading Challenge (Feeding Our Love of Reading) Update: *Congratulations to the entire MPSA community.* Together we **read over 2260 books and counting!** To continue the connection between our reading challenge and the work of **Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC)**, throughout the month of April, students may bring in non-perishable food items (no glass containers) for donation to AFAC. Donation bins are at Door #1 and in the lobby. Thank you for your support!

🦋 An Abundant April @MPSA...The Giving Continues



Connecting Globally Through the Arts: It Takes a Village

Patachitra of Bengal is a tradition of visual storytelling. Stories are painted on long scrolls by *Chitrakars* (painters) who gradually unfurl them while singing corresponding stories.

On **May 4**, MPSA students will take a virtual, synchronous fieldtrip to West Bengal, India. Our trip begins at *Chitrataru* (Tree of Paintings), the Naya Village artistic collective, museum and community center. Here, MPSA Monarchs will be greeted by generations of *Chitrakar*. These master artists and students will take us under their wing; they will introduce our village of learners to traditional *patachitra* artistic process, as well as scrolls retelling Bengal history and folklore. We hope that May's visit will be the first of many village-to-village connections.

As a way to say thank you and tangibly support Naya and *Chitrataru*, look here for reminders and, beginning April 26, to the Montessori Caregiver FB page for detailed information regarding giving. For additional information, please contact Amie Flowers Shakespeare amie.shakespeare@apsva.us.

🦋 Upcoming Dates

- Monday, April 19: **Survey for 2021-2022 Instructional Choice Opens**
- Thursday, April 22: **Earth 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/>