



School Talk

WEEKLY UPDATE!

April 23, 2021

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Families! Please remember to fill out the Qualtrics survey **daily**. This is how APS is keeping track of the health of our school community. For more information click [here](#).

Also, a reminder that it is a good idea to send students to school with a **water bottle** and an **extra mask** in their backpacks, especially for our Primary Montessori students.

Important: Please Fill Out the Parent Survey ASAP

This past Friday, APS released a parent survey to find out your instructional choice for next year. You can find this survey in **ParentVUE** under “Child Info”. ***It is very important that everyone fill out this survey so we can plan for the school year.***

The survey asks 3 questions:

- Will you choose **virtual** or **in-person** learning or your child?*
- **Transportation** choice
- Will you be enrolling in **Extended Day**

This survey must be completed by **Friday, April 30th**. Those who haven't completed this survey by Tuesday, April 27th, will receive a phone call from the office to see if we can assist you with taking this survey. For more information and to see some FAQs regarding this survey, click [here](#).

***Parents – There is NO Montessori virtual option for the upcoming school year.** All our Montessori teachers are returning to the building to teach in person. If you choose the virtual option, your child will participate in the **countywide virtual program**. **We will hold your child's spot for one school year if you choose to do virtual**, however, we will offer you opportunity to return to in person, should you desire, before the end of the school year.

Montessori Summer School Update

Today it was announced that there will be **NO FEE** for Summer school. So if your child was identified and invited to participate in Summer school, **they will not be charged tuition**.

Only students identified by their teacher based on eligibility criteria established by the APS Department of Teaching and Learning were invited to attend the **Arlington Public Schools Elementary Summer Strengthening Program from July 6 - 30, 2021**, held here at MPSA. Please respond to the notice ASAP if you've received the notice and 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.

No 4-Day Primary at MPSA

You may have seen the update from APS this evening announcing that hybrid Pre-K students will be permitted to come in 4-days a week. **This does not include the Primary Montessori students at MPSA.** APS Facilities & Operations visited our school this week and determined that we **do not** have the capacity available to safely house 4 Primary Montessori classes in school on the same days.

Update on APS Transportation

At this point, due to capacity and routing, **APS Transportation will not be able to accommodate any new requests for bus services made after April 14th**. Any families who switch to the hybrid model will be responsible for getting their child to and from school.

SOL Bus Routes: Bus routes are being created for students who will be coming in to take the SOLs. Bus assignments will be posted in ParentVue when they are ready and cannot be adjusted or changed. More information about these bus routes will be sent out via a School Talk from APS Transportation soon.

 **MPSA is No Place for Hate® – Sign the Pledge (Coming Soon!)**



No Place for Hate® is a school climate improvement framework for preK-12 schools looking to build inclusive and safe communities where all students can feel comfortable and thrive. MPSA is working on our certification as a part of that program and to achieve that goal, we will need to have all our students and staff sign a pledge as a part of this program. The Pledge reads as follows:

"I promise to do my best to treat everyone fairly. I promise to do my best to be kind to everyone – even if they are not like me. If I see someone being hurt or bullied, I will tell a teacher. Everyone should be able to feel safe and happy in school. I want our school to be No Place for Hate®."

This pledge will be sent out shortly for your students to sign. We will send it out to you, the parents, and ask that you go over the pledge with your children, discuss the pledge and what it means to make a pledge, and then witness them signing it. Of course, no one is obligated to sign.

To read more about *No Place for Hate®* click [here](#).

 **Spring Cleaning? Keep an Eye Out for Books!**

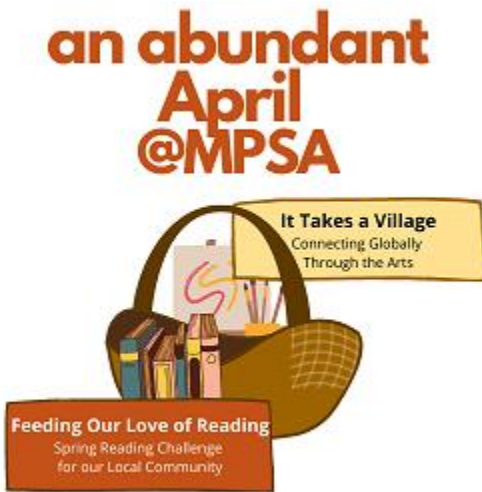
Families! While doing your Spring cleaning, please keep an eye out for overdue library books! We still have several books out from last year, and quite a few overdue from this year as well. **Remember, MPSA does not charge fines for overdue books!** We will be happy just to have them returned to us.

- **If your child is in person**, they can return books by placing them in the return bin in the hallway.
- **If your child is virtual**, you can return books to the return bin located just inside the main doors **Tuesday through Friday**, from **9:30AM to 2PM** and **3PM to 3:45PM**. Ring the bell and let them know you are there to return books and they will let you in.

Also, a reminder for parents helping their children to put books on hold: **Children can only check out 1 book of a series at a time** to allow their classmates to also enjoy the series. It is also for this reason that we ask students to not put more than 1 or 2 books from a series on hold. When a book is put on hold it cannot be checked out to other students.

Finally, please do not forget our **FOOD DRIVE** is still going on. There are food collection bins located directly next to the book return bins. Please consider donating food! All items will be going to the **Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC)**.

 [An Abundant April @MPSA...The Giving Continues](#)



It Takes a Village: Connecting Globally Through the Arts

MAY 4, the date of our synchronous visit to West Bengal, India is quickly approaching! During this live but virtual visit, generations of artists will take MPSA Monarchs under their wings. The **Chitrakar Family of Naya Village** will engage our MPSA family in the long-lived, artistic tradition of visual and musical storytelling known as **patachitra**. Click [here](#) to learn more about **West Bengal Patachitra**.

To say thank you, and tangibly support Naya Village life and work, look here for reminders and, beginning April 26, to the Montessori Caregiver FB page for details.

FUN FACT: when a man marries a woman from Naya Village, the groom replaces his surname with that of the bride's: Chitrakar (scroll painter).

 [Very Important PTA Parent Ed Talk on April 28](#)

The **ACMPTA** invites you to attend a very special **Parent Ed Talk** about Race this **Wednesday, April 28th** at **7PM**. MPSA parent and trained *Courageous Conversations* facilitator, **Monique Bryant**, will be leading a discussion for parents about how to talk to your children about race, how to become an advocate or ally and looking at social justice and what you can do to help. We encourage our parents to attend this discussion. **7PM on Zoom. Meeting ID 399 269 8481/Password: 504941**

**Children are not prohibited from attending but parental discretion is advised.*

 [Upcoming Dates](#)

- Wednesday, April 28: **Let's Talk About Race w/Monique Bryant**, 7PM on Zoom
- Friday, April 30: **Survey for 2021-2022 Instructional Choice Closes**

 **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/>