



# School Talk

## WEEKLY UPDATE!

April 9, 2021

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This is a reminder that **Monday, April 12**, is **NO SCHOOL** for students. Your children will not be assigned any asynchronous work that day, nor will their Monday specials be held. Enjoy your 3-day weekend!

### **Free APS Covid Testing for Students & Staff**

**Beginning April 19**, APS will provide **free** COVID-19 testing for students and staff who are symptomatic, or who have been exposed to COVID-19, in partnership with ResourcePath. Walk-up testing sites will be located at **Glebe Elementary**, **Kenmore Middle** and **Wakefield High School**. Trained staff will assist in mid-nasal swab testing using the RT-PCR test. Additional details about the testing program and ResourcePath are available online here: [https://www.apsva.us/school-year-2020-21/health-safety/covid-19-testing/?utm\\_source=covid%20testing&utm\\_campaign=f5April9](https://www.apsva.us/school-year-2020-21/health-safety/covid-19-testing/?utm_source=covid%20testing&utm_campaign=f5April9)

### **The Spring (Break) Reading Challenge Ends on Sunday!**

**Feeding Our Love of Reading! Spring (Break) Reading Challenge:** Please continue to log in your books! Our goal is 2000 books read from Friday, March 26<sup>th</sup> to Sunday April 11<sup>th</sup>. For each book read, MPSA families are contributing to the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC). One book covers the equivalent of a box of cereal. Anyone in your household may participate, whether they attend MPSA or not!

The easiest way to keep track is this Google form: <https://forms.gle/bdsmyKGNXPj5qkLe6> There is also an activity with a traditional reading log in the Library's Seesaw and Canvas course. Questions should be directed to our librarian, [Ms. Jopeck](#).

### What counts?

- Books you read yourself!
- Books you read to someone else!
- Books someone reads to you!
- Audiobooks, eBooks, print books!

### [Spotlight Library: MPSA](#)

Our school's library was featured as the Spotlight Library in this week's APS Library Connection! The article reads:

"We have the reading-est readers at MPSA! Like most schools, however, the past year has provided its share of challenges to our preferred reading routines. As the librarian, Valerie could see that the required minutes on RAZ Kids and Lexia were stymieing the joy of reading. It was becoming a chore rather than a delight. As a school community our response was to get back in the habit of "always reading".

With the administrative team, we created seasonal reading challenges that called upon our whole community to read 2000 books over both Winter and Spring Breaks. Students were not directed to read a set number of books or pages per child and were encouraged to "read what you really like to read". Novels, comic books, album lyric sheets, science text books, and more all appeared on the reading logs. We knew that if we freed our learners to get back to true reading for fun the 2000 title goal would be met -and how! For our Winter Reading Challenge, students read 2144 books! Half way through our Spring Reading Challenge, our community is closing in on 1000 titles. We have no doubt we will reach our final goal.

What do our students "get"? At the end of the Winter Challenge, our principal and Valerie were doused in ice water by the teachers of the classes who read the highest number of books and with the highest rate of participation. A [video highlight reel is here](#). Although many of the students appreciated the entertainment and competition pieces, as staff we wanted to move away from both of those facets. So, for the Spring Challenge we are reaching out to the larger Arlington community and re-focusing on intrinsic motivation. With the generosity of several of our families, for each book read the equivalent of a box of cereal is donated to Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC). We are coupling our **Feeding Our Love of Reading** theme with a school-wide food drive during April in support of AFAC. You can track our progress by following us on Twitter (@MPSA\_Library)!"

The month of April is School Library Appreciation Month.  
<https://www.apsva.us/post/april-is-school-library-month/>

### Extended Day Information

APS plans to have Extended Day available for the 2021-2022 school year. The registration process is staggered, giving a priority enrollment opportunity to families who were enrolled in Extended Day for this school year, and then holding a lottery for the remaining available slots. For more about this new registration process, click here: <https://www.apsva.us/extended-day/registration/>

Extended Day is available for children age 4 years and older. Unfortunately, 3 year olds cannot attend at this time.

### A is for April...and Appreciation!

Say thank you to our APS Heroes!

APS is gathering creative expressions of thanks to teachers and support staff who are making a difference to Arlington students during this challenging year. Send pictures, poems, letters, videos, artwork, dance, song, or any other expression of appreciation by **April 15**.

Please share with us via Dropbox by April 15<sup>th</sup>.

<HTTPS://WWW.DROPBOX.COM/REQUEST/RQVBAVIHSSXPLAWIQX1>

### Arlington Student Film Festival Deadline is Approaching

The **Arlington Student Film Festival 2021** is less than 3 months away! The submission deadline is April 14!

Montessori film makers are welcome to contact our ITC, [Ms. Shaw](#) with any questions regarding the film festival. Also contact Ms. Shaw ASAP if you are actively working on a film but need an extension.

Submit films here [bit.ly/enterasff2021](http://bit.ly/enterasff2021)

#### ***Need some inspiration?***

Visit [Play@Home!](#) The **Play at Home** project is a collaboration between theaters from across the country. The mission of the initiative is simple: to continue to inspire joy and creativity through live theater.

The Kennedy Center has micro-commissioned short plays or musicals (10 minutes or less) which are now available for free download. All plays are intended for families or small groups of people to perform together at home or, possibly, a virtual space.

[The Day of the Race](#) written by Broadway's Claybourne Elder, gives students the opportunity to design, produce, and star in a silent film. [American Pops Orchestra](#) (APO) will provide the soundtrack. To have APO accompaniment added to your production, films must be [submitted by 11:59pm ET on April 19](#).

### Upcoming Dates

- Monday, April 12: **NO SCHOOL for Students** (*Grade Preparation 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](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/>