



School Talk

WEEKLY UPDATE!

May 7, 2021

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May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

During this month-long celebration, APS will highlight Asian American and Pacific Islander history, their experiences, and Asian American and Pacific Islander students and staff. Celebrating this heritage also helps to combat the troubling trend of anti-Asian hate. Visit the Asian Pacific American Heritage Month [webpage](#) to learn more about this heritage celebration and join the conversation online by using the hashtag [#APSAAPI](#) throughout the month.

Week 1: **The History of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month**. Click [here](#) to read about this month of recognition, how it began, and more.

SOL Testing at MPSA

The Virginia **Standards of Learning (SOL)** testing dates will be sent out soon. The testing will begin on May 17th and continue through early June. SOL testing for our virtual students will take place on Mondays, and you will be provided bus transportation if you qualify. That information will be available in ParentVue closer to the testing date.

All SOL testing must happen in person so there is no virtual option. To read more about the SOL's, please click [here](#). On that page you will also find the links to opt your child out of taking the SOL tests should you choose.

Screen Time Setting: Some families have been taking advantage of the parental controls available in the iPad's Screen Time setting. Using these controls is fine most of the school year, but they interfere with the device's ability to take the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) tests. During the SOL testing window, these controls must be removed. To ensure all students can test, we have removed these settings from the student's iPads through the remainder of the school year. Families may re-enable these controls after the last day of school.

[APS Celebrates Bike Week](#)



APS ROLLS with [Bike, Walk and Roll to School Month 2021!](#)

To promote the many benefits of biking and walking to school while adhering to COVID protocols, Arlington Public Schools will celebrate **Bike, Walk and Roll to School Day 2021** *throughout the month of May*, rather than on one day, this year. The theme for 2021 is *"Let's Roll With It!"* Approaches to participation vary. Following is a quick overview of APS, [Safe Routes to School](#) and partner resources available to support your school's participation in May 2021.

[Our Field Trip to the Naya Village](#)

The past week has been very exciting for our virtual and hybrid community. Last Friday, students met Dr. Betty Belanus, a folklorist with Smithsonian Folklife. Betty challenged students to think like folklorists and prepared us for this Tuesday's virtual trip to Naya Village, Pingla District, West Bengal India. She took us on a photo trip through the village, and introduced us to the Chitrakar Family, a family of traditional scroll painters.



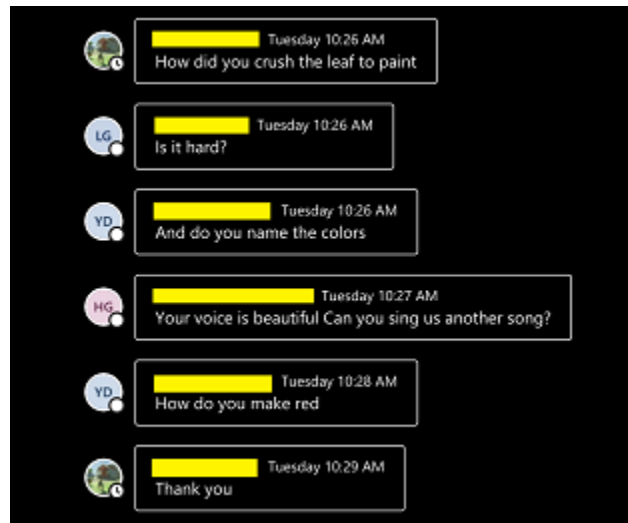
On Tuesday, with the assistance of the Kolkata-based advocacy program banglanatak.com, we connected with Naya Village and met Mamoni Chitrakar and her 12 year old daughter Karishma. Some of us connected via Teams and some of us connected via Zoom; thanks to patience, science and collaboration, we connected and, it seems, we all enjoyed the company.



Ananya Bhattacharya, from Banglanatak, kindly shared reflections from West Bengal

Mamoni said she was pleased to showcase her traditional skill in front of so many young children, the experience was absolutely new to her. She enjoyed it very much. For Karisma it was her first international exposure. Her nervousness went away after meeting the kids. She loved the appreciations she received. She was thrilled when the kids tried to participate during her song...our team is also very glad that it went so well.

Throughout the building and at home, student have been reflecting, as well, in words and action.



To delve deeper into Patachitra, especially Fish Marriage stories, take a peek at this beautifully-produced Google Arts and Culture [link](#).

To tangibly show gratitude and support for *Patachitra*, this educational opportunity and, specifically, Mamoni and Karishma Chitrakar, please visit the [Montessori Public School of Arlington Caregiver Community Facebook fundraiser](#) and contribute.

[A Note from Our Counselor](#)

Families, this is a reminder for parents of 5th graders to please contact me by [e-mail](#) if you have made any changes to your child's plans for 6th grade. You will also need to let [Ms. Ingrid](#) in the main office know as she is the registrar and will make sure that your child's school records are transferred to the appropriate place. Thank you! – Ms. Reeser, School Counselor

[Instrumental Music Recruitment for 2021](#)

On **Friday, May 18th** at 7PM, MPSA's band teacher, Mr. **Randy Glasner**, will be hosting a live instrumental music recruiting event for current 3rd and 4th grade students. The link will be available soon, but for now, please save the date!

 **Upcoming Dates**

- May 17: **SOL Testing Window opens**
- May 18: **Instrumental Music Recruiting Meeting, 7PM**

 **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/>