



School Talk

WEEKLY UPDATE!

October 29, 2021

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Tuesday, **November 2**, is **NO SCHOOL** for students. It is a teacher work day.

Thursday, **November 4** is **NO SCHOOL** for staff & students in observation of [Diwali](#). The office will be closed.

A Reminder About the Kiss & Ride

We've noticed that since the weather has been inclement, the number of dangerous and disrespectful practices has increased during AM drop off and PM pick up. This is everyone's reminder to

Patently wait your turn when in the car rider lane. When you jump the line to move ahead of a seemingly "slow-to-move" parent, you are not just creating a potentially dangerous situation, but you are being disrespectful to all of the other parents who are patiently waiting behind you for their turn.

By the same token, **if you have a child who needs help getting unstrapped or strapped into a car seat and it takes a little time, please find parking, and walk your child to door number 5.** There is usually parking right in front of the Primary playground.

Please refrain from making U-turns in the middle of our already crowded street. This is very unsafe. Instead, go up to 7th Street and make a right or left turn.

Please don't double park or block in cars/driveways on Highland Street. We are trying to be good neighbors.

Picture Day Concerns

We are aware that several errors have occurred regarding many of the picture day purchases. So we may work to get them resolved, please send an e-mail with your issue to Kia Haynes and include:

- Full detail of the issue
- Package you purchased
- Proof of purchase (if you ordered online)
- Picture ID code that was sent home with your child this week (if you received one).

If you turned in your picture day form AFTER picture day, your pictures have been delayed but should arrive soon.

If you purchased pictures with the wrong picture day ID and have not been able to access your digital pictures due to the e-mail address being incorrect, we're still waiting on an update from Lifetouch. In the meantime, you should be able to use the phone number you used when making your purchase to download the digital print.

If your child missed having their picture taken, or you'd like their picture retaken, make up day is November 17. Send back the pictures you purchased in exchange for the new pictures.

Picking Up Your Child Early

Sometimes it takes your child a good few minutes to make it to the door, so if you are picking your child up for an appointment, **we suggest you give yourself at least 10 minutes of leeway**. We can call your child, but some children just take longer to get ready – especially if you've arrived in the middle of their work or nap time.

We will not call for your child before you arrive. We've tried to extend that courtesy but most of the time it ends up with a child waiting in the lobby for a parent to arrive. Please do not call the office asking to have your child ready before you have arrived.

Finally, all pick ups should be happening at Door #1 so that attendance can check that child out as an early release. Teachers should not be dismissing from Door #5 except for cases of Covid-19 quarantine or dismissal.

The Fiction Song

Students are learning library songs to remember characteristics of fiction and non-fiction books. Sing the fiction song with your students! Below are the lyrics for the fiction song, set to the tune of Yankee Doodle:

Fiction fiction is a story

*Written by an author.
It has a plot and characters,
Who sometimes get in hot water!*

Gifted Service Information Sessions

MPSA's Resource Teacher for the Gifted, Ms. Yamashita, will be hosting 3 information sessions for families interested in getting their children identified for the Gifted program.

Two sessions in English will be held on Microsoft Teams on Tuesday, November 16. One in the morning, at 9:30AM to 10:30AM, and one in the afternoon at 12:30PM to 1:30PM.

One session will be held in Spanish (with MPSA Bilingual Family Liaison, Mr. Cardenas, translating) on Thursday, November 18 from 7PM to 8PM.

The Teams links to the meetings can be found [here](#).

Ms. Yamashita has made two informational videos for families:

- [Gifted Services Screening Process](#)
- [How Gifted Services Are Provided at MPSA](#)

Any questions can be directed to her at joanna.yamashita@apsva.us

Upcoming Dates

- Tuesday, November 2 – **NO SCHOOL for Students/Grade Prep Day for Teachers**
- Thursday, November 4 – **NO SCHOOL for Staff & Students/Diwali**
- Thursday, November 11 – **NO SCHOOL for Staff & Students/Veterans' 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/>