



# School Talk

## WEEKLY UPDATE!

December 10, 2021

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If you are planning on donating to the MPSA grocery store gift card drive, the deadline is this coming **Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup>** so that we have time to distribute to families before the holidays. We appreciate cards to **grocery stores** or stores with a grocery section (like Target). We are asking for smaller denominations (\$5 to \$25 each) so that we can easily divide the cards amongst our 30 families. You may send them in with your child. Their teacher will get it to Kia in the main office.

### **APS Martin Luther King, Jr. Literacy Contest**

Arlington Public Schools students are invited to take part in the annual **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Virtual Literary and Visual Arts Contest**. Entries are due by **5 PM** on Thursday, **December 16<sup>th</sup>**.

**PROMPT:** Incorporating a quote from Dr. King, describe in writing or through visual arts how you, as a student, can get involved, take a stand, and support Dr. King's mission and vision for equality; and inspire a more equitable, inclusive, and peaceful Virginia.

Read more information [here](#). Download the entry form: [ENGLISH](#) [SPANISH](#)

### Weekly Covid-19 Testing Changes: Must Reapply

Starting in January, APS will be using a new testing partner for the weekly surveillance testing - CIAN Diagnostics. This means that, if you would like your child to continue to be tested weekly, you need to sign new paperwork with CIAN.

The link to sign up for **STUDENTS** is [here](#). The link to sign up for **APS STAFF** is [here](#).

Read more information about testing [here](#).

*Note: Our testing day and time will remain the same as before. Fridays from 2PM to 4PM.*

### Congratulations to the MPSA Honors Ensemble Members

The following Monarchs participated in county-wide auditions. Based on “blind” adjudication, students were selected to perform in the Spring Honors Concert at Kenmore Middle School, with the Junior Honors Band, Junior Honors Orchestra and Elementary Honors Chorus, on Tuesday, March 15, 2022, 7:00 PM. Congratulations!!

**Junior Honors Orchestra:** Camilla Randi, Violin

**Junior Honors Band:** Thomas Larson, Alto Saxophone

**Elementary Honors Chorus:** Akunna Isiadinso, Mariana Lee

### Film Challenge from the Library and Technology

Calling all Lower and Upper Elementary families! This week in library, students participated in the **Hour of Code** program. They learned about coding and the importance of specific and clear instructions when coding. To demonstrate how coding can be applied to our everyday lives, students watched an order of operations [video](#) about how to make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich.

Our challenge for students is to film a family sandwich making video. Students will ask adults to write down instructions on how to make a sandwich of your choice. Using their school issued iPad, students will film themselves making the sandwich by following your instructions exactly. Fails are what make the videos entertaining and humorous! If your student needs help piecing clips together, we can help.

Students can submit their video to either Ms. Miller or Ms. Shaw at school. Please email Kay Miller [kay.miller@apsva.us](mailto:kay.miller@apsva.us) or Renee Shaw [renee.shaw@apsva.us](mailto:renee.shaw@apsva.us) if you have any questions.

### Urgent: Gardening Help Wanted This Saturday

The First Lady of VA, Pam Northam, is coming to visit MPSA on Monday! This was a suddenly planned visit. Part of their visit includes a press conference that they want to hold in the courtyard!

Therefore, the PTA has planned a Saturday workday. Come out and meet them on **Saturday, December 11**, from **10:30AM until 12:30PM**. If you'd like to, bring a lunch (and something to clean hands) and there could be a playdate lunch on the MPSA playground afterwards. On the agenda, planting some

potted plants to bring some color to the space and cleaning up the beds to start to get them ready for spring planting. You must be an approved APS volunteer to help.

### Please Donate Your Children's Clothes to MPSA

Our school social worker, Ms. Shannon Joseph, is asking for families to donate clothes to our students in need. She's seeking clothing, in good condition, for all ages (from PreK-5), for all genders and in all sizes. Surprisingly, the one thing she doesn't need are coats, but she does need winter tops, bottoms, hats, gloves, jackets, sweaters socks. There will be a box at Door #5 in the morning and the afternoon where families can drop off clothes. Or you can drop them off to the main office at Door #1.

### Come Look Through the MPSA Lost & Found

The Lost & Found is extremely full, and we'd like to have those items cleared out before Winter break. We are offering several opportunities for parents to come look through the items and retrieve anything that belongs to your child. You may come search through our lost and found outside of Door #5 - the car rider/walker drop off door on Highland Street - at these times:

- Friday, **December 10** at 3PM
- Monday, **December 13** from 8:30AM to 9:30AM and again from 3PM to 4PM
- Tuesday, **December 14** from 8:30AM to 9:30AM and again from 3PM to 4PM

If you cannot come at those times, please encourage your child to go look through the lost and found for their missing items.

All items will be donated to charity on **Wednesday, December 15**.

### USAF Concert Livestream Link

Attending the United States Air Force holiday concert has been a tradition for many years. It started when the Montessori program was housed at Drew. Sadly, covid-19 concerns lead to it being all virtual, but it was still a beautiful event! If you'd like to watch it, you can view the recording [here on Youtube](#). Enjoy!

### MPSA Vaccination Event

MPSA will be hosting a vaccination clinic for **children aged 5-11 only** to receive the Covid-19 vaccine, free of charge. The event is walk in only, no appointments necessary. The schedule is as follows:

- First Dose Vaccines: **December 17<sup>th</sup>**, 4:30PM to 6:30PM
- Second Dose Vaccines: **January 7<sup>th</sup>**, 4:30PM to 6:30PM

This event is being run by the Public Health Division in Arlington County. If supplies or time should run out, the staff will help families locate other resources to get their children vaccinated.

 Upcoming Dates

- Monday, December 13 – End of the **MPSA Gift Card Drive**
- Monday, December 20 to Friday, December 31 – **NO SCHOOL/Winter Break**

 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/>