

School Talk

WEEKLY UPDATE!

February 25, 2022

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February is dedicated as **Black History Month**, honoring the triumphs and struggles of African Americans throughout U.S. history. This newsletter will feature a quote every week from a celebrated Black American. We invite you to do more research into the history of those we feature.

TUNE IN: Special PTA Meeting on Tuesday, March 1

This Tuesday, March 1st, join the ACMPTA's general meeting to hear guidance from **Principal Genove** regarding the new APS mask mandates (TBA on Monday) and, in the later half, meet new School Board member, [Mary Kadera](#), who also serves as our School Board liaison. At 7PM on Zoom: **Meeting ID 399 269 8481/Password: MPSA22**

Attendance Changes - Frequent Tardies & Absences Will Be Addressed

APS is requiring that school begin strictly monitoring student attendance. **If your child has more than 5 unexcused absences**, your family will be referred to the school attendance specialist and/or social worker. **If your child has 15 consecutive unexcused absences**, your child will be unenrolled from the program. Frequent unexcused tardies will also be reported to the school attendance specialist and/or social worker.

The following are considered **EXCUSED** absences or reasons for tardies:

- Illness, quarantine of student, doctor or dentist appointment
- Death in the family
- Observance of a religious holiday
- Summons to a court of law
- Violent storms or state emergencies
- Suspensions
- Severe family emergency

Family vacations, staying home to visit with out of town relatives, attending special events or celebrations, and oversleeping are not considered excused.

A Good Read (featuring Principal Genove)

This article about children's emotional growth and the pandemic was published in Education Weekly and features quotes from our principal, **Catharina Genove**. [Read it here](#).

APS Seeks Your Opinion

2022 Your Voice Matters Survey

APS will conduct the 2022 Your Voice Matters Survey of students, families, and staff in early March through April 2022. The survey is conducted biannually in partnership with the [Arlington Partnership for Children, Youth, and Families \(APCYF\)](#) to provide a snapshot of APS students, school climate and engagement. The survey is administered by [Panorama Education](#), an independent educational survey

research company, and data will be used to inform work across both APS and the Arlington County Government. In addition, the data will provide APS with new benchmarks for measuring progress on 2018-24 Strategic Plan goals. Results will be available in Summer 2022. For additional information, please visit the [2022 Your Voice Matters Survey](#) webpage.

Share Your Comments on Draft School Board Policies

Review and comment on draft APS policies that are available for public comment on the [APS Engage website](#). Comments can be provided until the deadline listed online for each individual policy.

- I-7.4.1.32 School Special Activities
- I-7.2.2 Gifted Services
- I-8.1 Grouping
- J-5.1.30 Attendance
- J-5.1.31 Full-Day Attendance
- I-12 Evaluation

Trans 101: A Workshop on Understanding

Working through any feelings you may have about the transition your child is making is vital. During any period of change in a child's life, support from family and community is important, and authentic support and love can save lives. Here is an opportunity specifically for grandparents and extended family of teens and young adults who are gender diverse. The workshop is titled, "**Trans 101**". It is a free course, but registration is required. Read the official flyer here.

Upcoming Dates

- Thursday, March 3 – **EARLY RELEASE** for Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Friday, March 4 – **NO SCHOOL** for Parent-Teacher Conferences

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/>