



School Talk

WEEKLY UPDATE!

March 4, 2022

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[It's School Social Work Week!](#)

National School Social Work Week is marked every first full week of March to celebrate school social workers across the nation and appreciate their work in helping students achieve academic success. MPSA's social worker is [Ms. Shannon Joseph](#), and we most definitely feel blessed to have her! Ms. Joseph not only provides all the services showcased in this [APS Video Tribute to Social Workers](#) (she appears at the 1:23 mark) but she also helps provide resources of food and clothing to our families in need. Thank you, Ms. Joseph, for being one of our MPSA shining stars!

[Reminder: Third Grade Swimming is Next Week](#)

3rd Grade Swimming begins on **Monday, March 7** and goes through **Friday, March 11**. A separate e-mail was sent to 3rd grade families with more details.

Children may wear their swimsuits to school beneath their clothes. They will also need a towel, underwear and a comb or brush in a waterproof bag. They should not bring valuables (money, jewelry etc.) to the pool.

We need male chaperones to supervise boys in the locker room. If you are available, please send an e-mail to Mr. McGee at sean.mcgee@apsva.us and CC Kia Haynes at kia.stevensonhaynes@apsva.us, the

volunteer coordinator, for clearance. If you want to volunteer but have not applied to be a volunteer, [please fill out this application](#) now.

[Notes from Our Counselor: Russian/Ukrainian War](#)

Dear Parents,

Perhaps your child is aware of the dire situation in Ukraine. Our hearts go out to the people of Ukraine, those who remain there, those who are fleeing or have fled, and those who have ties with family, relatives, and friends who are in harm's way.

The bravery and solidarity of the Ukrainian people are an example for us all: mothers protecting their children, fathers and government officials defending their homeland willing to give the ultimate sacrifice for honor and country.

If your child is aware of the current situation in Ukraine and inquiring about it, I am providing links with tips for healthy communication about the war in Ukraine.

<https://www.apa.org/topics/resilience/kids-war>

<https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/how-to-talk-with-students-about-the-russia-ukraine-war-5-teaching-tips/2022/02>

With heartfelt concern and a wish of peace for all,

Diane Reeser, MA
MPSA School Counselor

[Your Voice Matters Survey Launches Next Week](#)

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.

[Rising Kindergartners Need to Submit Updated Medical Paperwork](#)

If your child is going to be a **Kindergartner** in the **2022-2023** school year, then you will need to provide the school clinic with an updated physical (**dated no earlier than September 1, 2021**) which should include a vaccine record and up-to-date-TB test. All items can be e-mailed to our school's Public Health Nurse, [Sohilah Soliman](#); dropped off to the main office during school hours; or sent to school in a sealed

envelope addressed to the School Clinic and given to your child's teacher. ***Kindergartners who do not have their medical up to date cannot start school in the fall without it***, so we recommend getting the physicals in soon than later to avoid a delay.

 **Upcoming Dates**

- Wednesday, March 16: **Early Release**

 **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/>