

# School Talk

WEEKLY UPDATE!

September 23, 2023

## Inside this Edition

- Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month
- National Walk & Bike to School Day is October 4
- Picture Day is October 11! Pre-Order Now!
- Youth, Drugs and Mental Health: A Panel Discussion
- Don't Forget! APS Strategic Plan Community Engagement
- Reminder: Advanced Academics and Talent Development (Gifted) Information Sessions
- Upcoming Dates
- Keep in Touch

## Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month

It's **Hispanic Heritage Month** (September 15 – October 15)! MPSA has some incredible displays up and up and coming to showcase this month! Superintendent, Dr. Francisco Duran, visited our school on Friday and tweeted about his visit [here](#). One of the tweets feature him and Principal Genove standing next to a display of books featuring the Hispanic American theme, curated by our school's librarian, Ms. Miller.



More pics of other displays to come, as well as some bios about our Hispanic American staff!

Read more about how APS is celebrating Hispanic Heritage month [here](#). The page updates weekly.

### **Custodian Appreciation Day**

**Custodian Appreciation Day** occurs annually on October 2. We are giving families an early head's up in case your children would like to make a card for our fabulous MPSA custodians! We have Mr. Rigoberto, who is our new custodial supervisor, Ms. Maria & Ms. Dora and, brand new and just started this past week, Ms. Rosario. We are grateful for how efficiently they do their job, often going above and beyond, and how friendly and kind they are to staff and students as well. *As always, you are under no obligation to give or participate.*

### **National Walk, Bike & Roll to School Day is October 4**

Join APS and participate in National Walk, Bike & Roll to School Day, Wednesday October 4. If you are able, students and their families should pick one of the human-powered ways to get to school:

- Walking: Foot power!
- Bike: Riding their own bikes or riding tandem with a sibling or caregiver
- Roll: Skates, rollerblades, foot powered scooters and the like.

Drivers can participate in this event by parking somewhere nearby in the neighborhood (paying attention to street signs) and walking the rest of the way to school. This event was created to draw attention to the need of more safe and protected routes to school for the students who do not use a bus or car as well as promote environmental care by finding ways to reduce our carbon footprint. You can read more about the day [here](#).

MPSA has several bicycle racks situated around the building, so you can lock your bikes there. If space is not available, we will store your wheels in the gym until dismissal.

### **Picture Day is October 11! Pre-Order Now!**

Individual portraits will be taken by Lifetouch at school on **Wednesday, October 11th**. Order forms will be sent home the week before, however, you can pre-order your child's portraits by going to [my.lifetouch.com](http://my.lifetouch.com) and entering our school's picture day ID **EVT8PNZWF**. *If you order online, please be sure to save your confirmation e-mail as any issues with your photos will have to be resolved by Lifetouch customer service, and not MPSA, and they will need that information.*

Make up/retake day will be **Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup>**.

The ACMPTA is organizing volunteers to help during picture day. If you are interested, e-mail [info@acmpta.com](mailto:info@acmpta.com).

### Youth, Drugs and Mental Health: A Panel Discussion

The Arlington County Bar Foundation is sponsoring a free community event, “Youth, Drugs and Mental Health,” a panel discussion and Narcan/Naloxone training. Participants will learn about signs of substance abuse and resources available for families. Panel members include APS Substance Abuse Counselor staff and partners from Arlington County. More details about the event can be found [here](#).

When: Tuesday, September 26 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

### Don't Forget! APS Strategic Plan Community Engagement

During the 2023-24 school year, Arlington Public Schools will work collaboratively with stakeholders to develop the 2024-30 APS Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan serves as a roadmap to guide and focus our work as a school division to provide high-quality educational opportunities that support the academic and social-emotional needs of all students. The process to develop the 2024-30 Strategic Plan will be led by APS Staff and a Steering Committee comprised of diverse group of stakeholders (students, parents, community members, teachers, administrators, and staff) and include multiple opportunities for all stakeholders to share their input and feedback throughout the process.

Below are the dates and locations of the community forums where stakeholders will be able to offer their input:

- Tuesday, **September 26**: Washington-Liberty HS
- Wednesday, **September 27**: Wakefield HS (session in **Spanish** w/English translation)
- Tuesday, **October 3**: Yorktown HS

All sessions are from 6:30PM to 8:30PM

Surveys have also been sent out and must be completed by **October 6**:

- **APS Staff & APS Parents/Guardians**: Received an individual, one-time use link to the questionnaire via email. If you did not receive this email, please contact [engage@apsva.us](mailto:engage@apsva.us).
- **Community Members**: <https://survey.k12insight.com/r/MPp02v>
- **APS Students**: <https://survey.k12insight.com/r/K4MSnt>. Students can also access the questionnaire link through Canvas.

More information on the APS Strategic Plan can be found [here](#). Any questions should be sent to [engage@apsva.us](mailto:engage@apsva.us).

### Reminder: Advanced Academics and Talent Development (Gifted) Information Sessions

Are you interested in learning more about Advanced Academic Services at APS and MPSA? If so, here are two short videos provided by **Joanna Yamashita**, MPSA's Advanced Academic Coach.

- [Advanced Academics Screening Process](#)
- [How Advanced Academic Services are Provided at APS and MPSA](#)

If you still have questions, (or just want to say hi) please attend one of the MPSA Gifted Services Q and A sessions lead by Ms. Yamashita. Please note that Ms. Yamashita will give a brief overview of the information on the videos but will not be discussing the minute details of the services. The info sessions will focus on how providing gifted services looks at MPSA and address the specific questions families may have.

- In person at MPSA on **Tuesday, October 3** in Room 127 from 9:15 to 10:15
- Online on **Tuesday, October 3** from 12:30 to 1:30 ([MS Teams Link](#))

Ms. Yamashita will also be a guest during the October PTA general meeting on October 10<sup>th</sup> at 7PM - please keep an eye on ACMPTA communications for details.

### Upcoming Dates

- Monday, September 25: **NO SCHOOL (Yom Kippur holiday)**
- Thursday, September 28: **Band students visit TJMS**
- Friday, September 29: **Orchestra students visit TJMS**
- Monday, October 2: **Custodian Appreciation Day**
- Tuesday, October 3: **Gifted Info Sessions (in person & virtual)**
- Wednesday, October 4: **Bike, Walk & Roll to School Day**
- Monday, October 9: **NO SCHOOL for students (Staff reports to work)**
- Wednesday, October 11: **Picture Day (Individual Portraits)**

### 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/>

**\*\*SCROLL DOWN FOR THE PTA NEWSLETTER\*\***

# ACMPTA WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



## What's Inside?

- **Save the Date: MPSA's FALL DANCE!**
- **Enrichment Session Enrollment Happening NOW**
- **Spiritwear Flash Sale Ends this Wednesday the 27<sup>th</sup>!**
- **Are You Signing Up for the Kids Marine Corp Marathon?**
- **Volunteers Needed!**
- **Proposed PTA Budget – Vote Upcoming**
- **Join the PTA or Sponsor a Staff Member**
- **Stay in Touch With the ACMPTA**

## Save the Date: MPSA's FALL DANCE!



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!** MPSA's Fall Dance will be **Friday, October 27** from **6PM to 8:30PM!** All MPSA families and staff are invited! There will be music, games and raffles prizes and GLOW STICKS! Concessions will be sold as well. It's an event you won't want to miss!

The PTA Dance Committee is seeking donations for our raffles and concessions stands.

**For the raffles:** Seeking any items and goods that would be of interest to our families! If you or your company own a restaurant or store and are willing to donate that item, our treasure can write you a receipt for your tax purposes. If you're a family who owns a vacation home and is willing to donate a week – we'll take it. Do you have any NEW items that may make for a lovely raffle basket (candles, unused gift cards, etc...) talk to us!

**For the concessions:** Are you a baker and are willing to bake goods for us to sell? Or are you willing to contribute food and drink items to our cause? We'd love to hear from you!

E-mail our Programs and Events vice president, **Sonali Singh**, at [vpprograms@acmpta.com](mailto:vpprograms@acmpta.com).

Or consider making a monetary donation to our general fund, which would go towards helping fund this and other events. [Donate here](#) or send in your check, made out to the **ACMPTA**, to Kia Haynes in the main office.

### **Enrichment Session Enrollment Happening NOW**

The ACMPTA is pleased to bring back after-school enrichment programming by Baroody Camps! [Click here](#) to view the offerings! Registration closes this Friday at midnight! We have several wonderful options for our K-5<sup>th</sup> grade students. Sessions begin October 10<sup>th</sup> and run through December 7<sup>th</sup>, from 4PM to 5PM, directly after dismissal. Offerings include:

- **Mondays:** Hip Hop Dance (K-5); LEGO Robotics (K-3)
- **Tuesdays:** Dance/Cheer/Zumba (K-5); Debate Club (3-5)
- **Wednesdays:** Chess (K-5); Pottery (K-5)
- **Thursdays:** Cooking (1-5); Magic Explorers (1-3)

### **Spiritwear Flash Sale Ends this Wednesday the 27<sup>th</sup>!**

You asked and ACMPTA is delivering! Families and friends of MPSA can now order spiritwear! There are many items for sale – something for everyone! Act now to take part in our **FLASH SALE** with special **discounted prices** and **FREE SHIPPING** to school! When the sale ends, all prices will go up and you will have to pay shipping to your home. Available in youth and adult sizes!

Shop now before the flash sale ends on September 27<sup>th</sup>! <https://spirithero.com/collections/montessori>



*Just a few of the designs/styles offered.*

### Volunteers Needed!

**Interested in Student Art? Join the PTA Reflections Team.** The Reflections committee is seeking one more person to help with organizing, arranging, and judging submitted works. You'll be working assisting the 2 chairpersons, not leading. If you have ever considered signing up to be a Reflections chair, this is a good way to get firsthand experience working with the competition before making the decision to take it on. If you are interested, send an e-mail to [reflections@acmpta.com](mailto:reflections@acmpta.com).

**Our school picture day for individual portraits is October 11<sup>th</sup>.** We will need several volunteers to assist our photographers that day. Since APS requires any volunteers working with children to be cleared and trained, it is important that those of you interested in volunteering **start the process now** if you haven't already. E-mail [info@acmpta.com](mailto:info@acmpta.com) if you are interested in helping.

### Proposed PTA Budget – Vote Upcoming

The proposed 2023-2024 PTA budget was introduced on Friday, September 8, at the first PTA general meeting. In case you missed it, [it is posted here for your review](#). There will be a vote held at the next PTA meeting on October 10<sup>th</sup> by membership to accept this budget. If you have any questions or concerns, please direct them to the treasurer by e-mailing [treasurer@acmpta.com](mailto:treasurer@acmpta.com).

### Join the PTA or Sponsor a Staff Member

Membership is **\$12** per person, or **\$20** for 2 people. Cash and check will be accepted or sign up through our [online portal on Membership Hub](#). Signing up to be a member is also the easiest fundraising effort you could make as a portion of the dues goes into our general fund. Already have a membership? Consider sponsoring a staff member. We require staff to be a paid PTA member in order to receive a PTA grant. Help them out by purchasing them a membership!

### Stay in Touch With the ACMPTA

- Our Website: <https://www.acmpta.com/>
- Our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ACMPTA/>
- Our Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/MPSAFamilies/>
- Our Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ArlCoMontessori>
- Sign up for our Chat listserv: <https://groups.io/g/ACMPTA>