

School Talk

WEEKLY UPDATE!

October 13, 2023

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Wednesday is UNITY DAY!



This **Wednesday, October 18th**, is **UNITY DAY**. It's a day where people all over the country are being asked to **WEAR AND SHARE ORANGE** in recognition of **KINDNESS, ACCEPTANCE, and INCLUSION**.

An event created by PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center, to come together in one giant **ORANGE** message of hope and support. **WEAR AND SHARE ORANGE** to color our nation, and even the world, to visibly show that our society believes no child should ever experience bullying.

[APS on Bullying Prevention](#)

Hispanic Heritage Month: Beautiful Display Representing Hispanic America at MPSA

EL Instructional Assistant, **Shakina Hardy**, created a beautiful display representing Hispanic culture in America to commemorate this month. She took the ideas her and our bilingual family coordinator, **Henry Cardenas**, brainstormed and put together a visually stunning presentation featuring pictures of famous Hispanic celebrities, memorabilia, and an amazing colorful paper sculpture of Frida Kahlo.





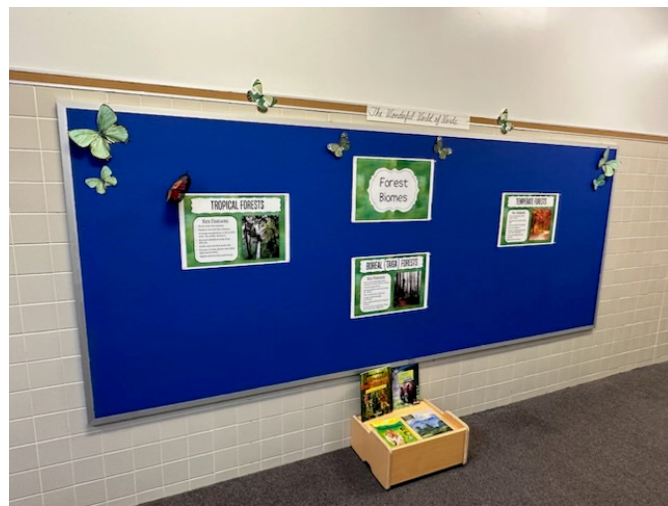
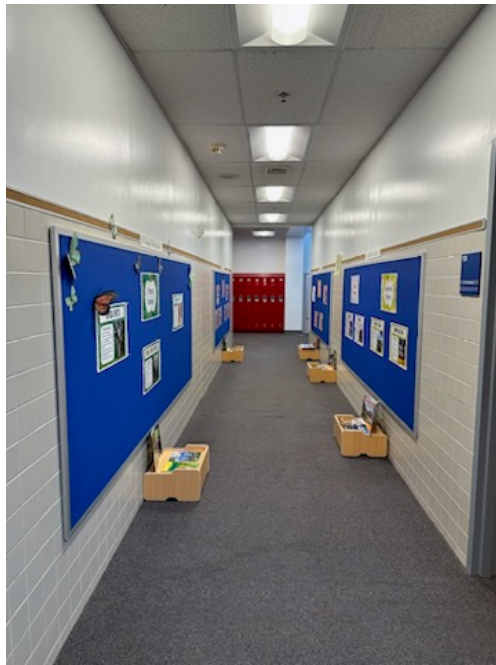
More for Hispanic Heritage Month:

- [15 Famous Latinos Who'll Inspire Your Kids](#)
- [APS Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month](#)

The Wonderful World of Words

“Children have a kind of instinct, a special sensibility, which urges them to acquire new words.” -Dr. Maria Montessori

From the MPSA Reading Specialists: We created the Wonderful World of Words bulletin board exhibit to enhance the content area vocabulary of the classroom. Having multiple exposures to concepts and related vocabulary provides opportunities for children to explore and experience nomenclature. With repeated exposure and practice, key vocabulary words become part of the child’s lexicon.



October 16-20, 2023, is National Bus Safety Week!

National School Bus Safety Week: Held during the third full week of October each year, **National School Bus Safety Week** is an active and evolving public education program and an excellent way for parents, students, teachers, motorists, school bus operators, school administrators, and other interested parties - to join forces and address the importance of school bus safety. Designed to promote school bus safety, school districts throughout the country observe School Bus Safety Week.

This is the perfect time of year to visit safety tips for riding the school bus. As winter approaches and daylight hours get shorter, knowing these safety tips will help all students who ride the bus get to school safely each day.

ON THE WAY TO THE BUS

- Be Alert. Arrive at your stop at least TEN minutes early.
- Obey all traffic lights and signals.
- Plan to walk with schoolmates when possible and face traffic.
- When crossing streets, always cross at crosswalks and intersections.
- Look both ways before crossing the street.

AT THE BUS STOP

- Stand back from the curb or road at least three giant steps.
- Don't push or shove when entering or exiting and always use the steps and handrail.
- Always obey the bus driver and wait for the driver's signal before crossing.
- Always cross at least 10 feet in front of the school bus.
- Never crawl under the bus. If you drop something under the bus, notify the bus driver.

WHEN RIDING THE BUS

- Take your seat quietly and quickly. Remain seated while the bus is moving.
- Keep your feet on the floor and never extend your hands, arms, head, or any object out the window of the bus.
- Talk in a quiet voice, be courteous to the driver and schoolmates and try not to distract the driver through misbehavior.

Parenting a Child in the Age of Anxiety

Parenting a Child in the Age of Anxiety: Counterintuitive, but Effective Strategies

Monday, October 16: 7pm to 8:30 pm

Virtual session via Zoom

[Use this link to register for the session](#)

In this presentation, **Dr. Jonathan Dalton**, of the [Center for Anxiety and Behavioral Change](#), will focus on practical, yet sometimes counter-intuitive evidence-based skills and techniques to help their children

and teens experience less anxiety and develop greater tolerance for emotional distress. Specific topics include why anxiety and avoidance are teammates, how to teach specific coping skills to your children, which types of positive reinforcement should be used to decrease anxiety, and when active ignoring of anxious behavior is the best method to decrease the child's experience of anxiety.

[View event flier](#)

[988 Lifeline: Share and Help Save a Life](#)



If you or someone you know is struggling or needs support now, call or text 988 or chat 988lifeline.org – You are not alone. #988Lifeline

988 Lifeline's New American Sign Language Services: The 988 Lifeline added American Sign Language (ASL) Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community to reach trained crisis counselors 24/7. With these new services, Deaf and Hard of Hearing people who need support call dial 988 directly using their videophone or visit 988lifeline.org, select "ASL Now," and follow the prompts.

[UEM Music Reminder: Auditions Coming Up!](#)

Attention Upper Elementary Students: Audition for District Honors Band, Chorus & Orchestra

Honors music programs give elementary and middle school students the opportunity to grow and challenge themselves musically. These are auditioned groups. Auditions begin soon; weekly rehearsals begin in January; and the Honors Ensemble Concert will be March 12.

- **Jr. Honors Band Auditions:** Tuesday, November 14, 2023, Kenmore Middle School
- **Jr. Honors Orchestra:** Wednesday, November 8, 2023 – 5:00–7:30 PM
- **Jr. Honors Chorus (5th Grade Only):** Monday, October 30, 2023 – 4:00-8:00 PM, or
- Thursday, November 2, 2023 – 4:30-8:30 PM

Explore the link below for registration and specific information related to dates, location, and audition requirements.

<https://www.apsva.us/curriculum/arts-education/honors-music-band-chorus-orchestra/>

If you have additional questions, please contact amie.shakespeare@apsva.us

Traffic Cameras Coming in 2024

Traffic cameras will be posted around MPSA and ACC beginning in early 2024 that will operate during the high traffic times of the school day when our school zone beacons are flashing – 8:30AM to 9:10AM and 3:40PM to 4:20PM. These are the times when there is a lot of student and pedestrian traffic and when it's most important for motorists to pay attention to and obey traffic laws.

Upcoming Dates

- Wednesday, October 18: **Unity Day**
- Thursday, October 19: **EARLY RELEASE at 1:30PM**
- Friday, October 20: **NO SCHOOL for MPSA Students** (Parent 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/>

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

ACMPTA WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



What's Inside?

- Only TWO MORE WEEKS Until the Dance!
- Reflections Contest Forms & Information
- Giant Food Community Bag Program
- Join the PTA or Sponsor a Staff Member
- Stay in Touch With the ACMPTA

Only TWO MORE WEEKS Until the Dance!

**READY,
SET
GLOW**

MPSA'S FALL DANCE PARTY

FRIDAY, OCT 27

6PM - 8:30PM
MPSA GYM

JOIN US FOR FOOD TRUCKS, RAFFLES,
GAMES AND OF COURSE DANCING!

ACMPTA WILL BE SELLING CONCESSIONS, RAFFLE TICKETS AND
GLOW STICKS (EXACT CHANGE IS GREATLY APPRECIATED)

IT'S ALMOST TIME!!!! 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!

We look forward to seeing you there!

Reflections Contest Deadline is this WEDNESDAY!

The deadline for your child to enter this year's PTA Reflections competition is this Wednesday, October 18th! All entries are due by the end of the school day. There are boxes in the library and at the main office door where students can turn in their entries. ***All entries must have a completed entry form to go along with it.***

The **2023-2024** theme for the PTA Reflections Contest has been announced. It is "***I am Hopeful Because...***"

Read more about the Reflections Contest on the National PTA website [here](#). Visit our own Reflections page [here](#).

For questions specific to the ACMPTA's participation, please e-mail reflections@acmpta.com.

Giant Food Community Bag Program

Have you heard the news? The ACMPTA has been selected as a beneficiary of the [Giant Food Community Bag Program](#)! For the month of **November**, we will receive a **\$1** donation from each purchase of the \$2.50 reusable Community Bag at the Giant Food store located at [2501 9th Road South](#) – located inside the complex above the Hair Cuttery and next to the Penrose Square sprayground.

In addition to purchasing one yourselves, please encourage friends and family to purchase a reusable bag to help our environment and our school!

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>