



# School Talk

WEEKLY UPDATE!

October 7, 2023

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**IMPORTANT REMINDER #1:** **There is NO SCHOOL on Monday, October 9<sup>th</sup>.** School offices will be open to those with scheduled appointments or families dropping off paperwork.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER #2:** Please do **NOT** block ANYONE'S driveway and drop off and pick up – no matter how far down the street the house may be from school or even if you don't plan on being long. It has come to our attention that we have parents who are still doing this. **Our neighbors have been told that they can record tag numbers and report the cars to the police.**

### Hispanic Heritage Month: Principal Genove Representing at the ALAS Summit

The **20<sup>th</sup> Annual Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (ALAS) Summit** was held October 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> in San Antonio, Texas this past week. MPSA's principal, **Catharina Genove**, attended along with Superintendent **Francisco Duran**, APS School Board Chair **Cristina Diaz Torres**, and other APS principals of Hispanic heritage.

The ALAS is a forward-thinking organization committed to fostering educational equity for all students, especially those from historically marginalized backgrounds. ALAS members are driven by a shared mission to inform, inspire, and positively influence education communities nationwide. They provide resources aimed at assisting educators in providing inclusive and effective educational systems and are dedicated to building a brighter future for students by creating a platform for collaboration, growth, and impactful change in the education sector.



Principal Genove (2<sup>nd</sup> from the left) at the ALAS Summit with APS colleagues Iliana Gonzales (*APS Director of Strategic Planning*), Principal Carmen de la Cruz Scales (*Carlin Springs ES*), APS Superintendent Francisco Duran, and Principal Carlos Ramirez (*Randolph ES*) in San Antonio, Tx.



From L-R: Stephen Linkous (*APS Chief of Staff*), Iliana Gonzales, Catharina Genove, Carlos Ramirez, Carmen de la Cruz Scales, Francisco Duran, and Cristina Diaz Torres (*Chair, APS School Board*) at the ALAS Summit in San Antonio, Tx.



L-R: Carlos Ramirez, Carmen de la Cruz Scales, Catharina Genove, Iliana Gonzales and Liza Burrell-Aldana (Principal, Claremont ES) at the ALAS Summit in San Antonio, Tx.

Source for photos: Catharina Genove

### **Almost 8:55AM? Go Directly to the Main Door.**

If you are dropping your student off in the morning, and you do not think you will make it to Door #5 before it closes at 8:55AM, **then drive directly to the main entrance and walk your child inside**. Since you will not be staying long, you will be permitted to park against the curb while you run in to sign your child in. Your children will be allowed to go to class while you sign them in, and this way, they might still be on time. This is also a suggested solution for those who pull up to drop off at Door #5 and find themselves at the end of a long line. Follow the orange detour signs on S. Highland Street and enter by the Arlington Career Center to get to the front of the school. Please be mindful of students crossing the lot.

As a reminder, we recommend parents who drop their students off to school arrive **at the latest by 8:50AM**. Door #5 opens at **8:30AM** so there is plenty of time to get your child to school on time. **Please do not yell at or argue with our school staff for enforcing APS policies**. Instead, direct your disagreement with the APS attendance policy about unexcused tardiness to [engage@apsva.us](mailto:engage@apsva.us).

## Notes from the Music Department

MPSA students participate in the district's Beginner Band and Orchestra Kick-off at TJ Middle School.



Instrumental music teacher Mr. Matthew Rinker with MPSA's 4<sup>th</sup> grade band students. Mr. Kamenski's 4<sup>th</sup> grade orchestra students went the following day.

Upper Elementary Chorus is off to a great start with almost 60 participants! We spent our first rehearsal getting to know one another, our own voices and some of the repertoire we'll perform this school year.



### **Mark Your Calendars!**

- Winter Concert: February 13
- Spring Concert: June 11

## **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 in October; weekly rehearsals begin in January; and the Honors Ensemble Concert will be March 12. 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](mailto:amie.shakespeare@apsva.us)

## **Gifted Info Session Recording Available**

**Advanced Academics and Talent Development (Gifted) Information Sessions.** Are you interested in learning more about Advanced Academic Services at APS and MPSA but missed the info sessions this past week? Great news, [you can watch it here!](#)

If you still have questions, Ms. Yamashita will also be a guest during the October PTA general meeting this **Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>** at 7PM - please keep an eye on ACMPTA communications for details.

## **Picture Day is Wednesday!**

**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).

## **Upcoming Dates**

- Monday, October 9: **NO SCHOOL for students (Staff reports to work)**
- Wednesday, October 11: **Picture Day (Individual Portraits)**
- 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](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 **TWENTY MORE DAYS** Until the Dance!
- Reflections Contest Forms & Information
- PTA General Meeting this Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>!
- Join the PTA or Sponsor a Staff Member
- Stay in Touch With the ACMPTA

Only TWENTY MORE DAYS 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)

**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.

### **Reflections Contest Forms and Information**

This week, PTA Reflections Chair Vidisha Parasram visited classrooms to talk about the Reflections contest and encourage students to enter. Entry forms were sent home a couple weeks ago, but you can also [download a form here](#). ([Aquí en español](#).)

We encourage you to take a look at the [ACMPTA Reflections page on our website](#) as there are some helpful tutorials there – you can learn some basics of writing from author and book editor Hannah Grieco; wonderful photography tips from MPSA's resident photographer, Richard Roberts; and some great art techniques from local artist and MPSA parent, Patrick Kirwin.

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

The ACMPTA **deadline** for all works to be submitted for our students at MPSA will be **Wednesday, October 18, 2023**, by the end of the school day.

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

For questions specific to the ACMPTA's participation, please e-mail [reflections@acmpta.com](mailto:reflections@acmpta.com).

### **PTA General Meeting this Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>!**

This is a reminder to join us for our monthly PTA general meeting held via Zoom. **Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>** at 7PM. On **Zoom**: Meeting ID: **399 269 8481**, Passcode: **MPSA23**

**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 this meeting by the membership to accept this budget. *You must be a member of the PTA to vote!* See below for information on how to join! 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>