

School Talk

WEEKLY UPDATE!

September 29, 2023

Inside this Edition

- **Hispanic Heritage Proudly Represented by MPSA Staff**
- **iPad Update: Newer iPads Do Not Have an App Catalog**
- **VEA Article by Mr. Russey**
- **Got Cardboard?**
- **School Cash Online**
- **Reminders! Don't Forget About These Events!**
- **Upcoming Dates**
- **Keep in Touch**

Hispanic Heritage Proudly Represented by MPSA Staff

It's **Hispanic Heritage Month** (September 15 – October 15)! MPSA has many staff members of that proudly represent their Hispanic heritage here at school. They are enjoying sharing their culture with the students and have been readily available to answer any questions they may have. Here are some words from some of the staff:

Valerie Carroll, Speech-Language Pathologist, represents **Puerto Rico**: My cultural identity is Puerto Rican. Hispanic Heritage month for me is time to reflect on my heritage and the importance of continuing to celebrate the traditions that have been passed down to me.



Ms. Carroll and her son, Dallas

Nadia Cruceta Arias, LEM Instructional Assistant, represents **Puerto Rico**: My personal identity is Puerto Rican, as I was raised and educated in San Juan, Puerto Rico. For me, Hispanic Heritage Month is a chance to reaffirm my values and diverse culture. As a Latina mother, it helps us transmit to my girls the importance of knowing our roots and our community. It inspires us to know our predecessors who managed to fulfill their work, educational and professional dreams outside their homeland, which encourages us to continue and work for our own dreams.



Ms. Cruceta Arias

Tequila Howard, Primary Montessori Teacher, represents **Honduras**: September 15th marks the anniversary of independence of Latin American countries. Honduras was one of the countries that gained its independence among Nicaragua, Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Guatemala. Given the fact that my lovely, late grandmother was from Honduras, Hispanic Heritage month gives me an opportunity to celebrate her, as well as the hard work that was put in for these countries to gain their independence. Celebrating cultural experiences is not only important for me but gives our children the opportunity to be exposed to and learn wholeheartedly!

Adelia Penaloza de Navia, Primary Instructional Assistant, represents **Bolivia**: I'm from Cochabamba, Bolivia. There are a lot of Latinos living in this beautiful and generous country, and I feel so happy and proud of my Hispanic heritage.

Other proud staff representing...

...**Bolivia**: **Alexis Carrillo** (Primary Instructional Assistant), **Victoria Hardesty-Allen** (LEM Instructional Assistant); **Karina Valdez** (Main Office), **Leyla Valdez** – also part Ecuadorian (Primary Instructional Assistant)

...**Cuba**: **Catharina Genove** (Principal)

...**Dominican Republic**: **Yanelys Barett** (LEM Instructional Assistant)

...**Ecuador**: **Henry Cardenas** (Bilingual Family Coordinator), **Silvia Yzquieta** (Primary Instructional Assistant)

...**El Salvador:** **Gloria Alvarez** (Primary Montessori Assistant), **Reina Benitez** (LEM Instructional Assistant), **Maria Diaz** (Custodian), **Martha Marquez** (Primary Instructional Assistant), **Rigoberto Pacheco** (Custodial Supervisor), **Laura Quijada** (In-School Sub), **Dora Raymundo** (Custodian), **Rosario Valencia** (Custodian)

...**Guatemala:** **Lidia Ordonez** (Primary Instructional Assistant)

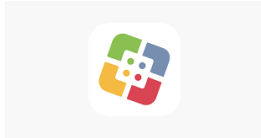
...**Peru:** **Maria Cake** (Clinic Aide)

...**Puerto Rico:** **Frances Colon Garcia** (Psychologist)

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

iPad Update: Newer iPads Do Not Have an App Catalog

The newer iPads issued this year will not have an App Catalog. Instead, they will have the Self Service App which has an icon that looks like this



VEA Article by Mr. Russey

Mr. Richard Russey, one of our wonderful art teachers, has written an article that was featured in the most recent issue of the Virginia Education Association (VEA) newsletter, and has given us permission to share with families. It is titled. ***Change: It's All in Your Head*** and can be read by [clicking here](#).

Got Cardboard?

Our other fabulous art teacher, **Ms. Heather Barbour**, is seeking small cardboard boxes to use for future school projects. Cereal boxes, shoe boxes, small Amazon boxes and the like. Please send them to school with your child and have them delivered to her classroom (#175) or you can drop off in the main office. Thank you in advance!

Our ITC, **Ms. Renee Shaw**, is also seeking cardboard boxes of the larger kind so that UEM students can use them as a stage for stop-action animation projects. She's looking for standard size moving boxes or the size of boxes that reams of paper come in. These can be taken to her office in the library by your student or dropped off at the main office.

School Cash Online

Is still being set up so, for the time being, please pay for school field trips with check, money orders or exact change cash. We hope to have the system up and running soon.

Reminders! Don't Forget About These Events!

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 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 1st**.

The ACMPTA is organizing volunteers to help during picture day. If you are interested, e-mail info@acmpta.com.

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, **October 3**: Yorktown HS, 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.
- **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.

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 10th at 7PM - please keep an eye on ACMPTA communications for details.

Upcoming Dates

- 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
- 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 Classes – ENROLL BY TONIGHT'S DEADLINE!
- Reflections Contest is Underway!
- Reminders!
- 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.

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 Classes – ENROLL BY TONIGHT’S DEADLINE!

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-5th grade students. Sessions begin October 10th and run through December 7th, 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)

Reflections Contest is Underway!

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

Reflections is a national competition organized annually by the National PTA to encourage arts in education. This competition is open to kids in grades Pre-K through 12 and entries are encouraged from all children across six different categories:

- *Dance Choreography*
- *Film*
- *Literature*
- *Music*
- *Photography*
- *Visual Arts*
- *Special Artist (Category for our students with special needs that is hosted by the Arlington Special Education PTA (SEPTA). Their works will be submitted with the Arlington Special Education PTA (SEPTA).*

More information on how to enter will come when we return to school, however, we encourage your young artists to begin working on their entries now! 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.

Reminders!

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.

Our school picture day for individual portraits is October 11th. 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 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 10th 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.

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>