



School Talk

WEEKLY UPDATE!

November 10, 2023

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MPSA is Turtle Central

MPSA is proud to announce a partnership with **Marymount University's Department of Biology!** We are helping their students with their research for the Citizen Science Turtle Project. 13 classrooms across MPSA, from Primary to Upper Elementary, were each given 2 baby Hawksbill Sea Turtles with instructions to observe their growth. Everything has been provided by the university: the turtles, the tanks, the food, and all the supplies to keep the turtles happy and healthy. The measuring equipment has also been provided. The data collected will be emailed back to the turtle lab at Marymount where it will be recorded and analyzed to determine growth rates for sets of turtles being reared under different conditions.

Professor of Biology, **Todd Rimkus**, came to MPSA on Wednesday to deliver the turtles and give training. 12 of the tanks are inside of classrooms – you'll be hearing from your teacher if they have one! – but one is in the main lobby for everyone to enjoy observing.



Giant's GIVE BACK Community Bag Program



Pictured: The bag display at the Penrose Giant

MPSA has been selected to receive all donations from the **Giant Food GIVE BACK Community Bag Program** for the month of November! All month long, if anyone purchases a purple “Because You Care” reusable bag from the **Penrose Square Giant (2501 9th Road S, 22204)**, we will get **\$1** of the \$2.50 purchase! So please consider picking up a couple the next time you go shopping, and encourage your family, friends, and community to do the same. The bags are located just outside of the self-checkout area, just before the customer service desk as you are leaving the store, so remember to pick one up first before you start shopping! Thank you in advance for supporting this fundraising effort!

Gift Card Drive for Christmas Break

Winter break is a fun time for most of us, but for some of our families, it's a time of stress because access to two hot meals a day will be missing for 10 days. It is for this reason that we are continuing our annual tradition of collecting **grocery store gift cards** to help keep our food-insecure families stocked up for the additional burden of having to provide 20 more meals per child during the break. At this time, we have identified 13 families who will need help this season. We anticipate more reaching out for help as the break gets closer. Our goal is to collect enough gift cards to supply each family with at least \$100 to supplement their food budget.

With that said, if you are willing to **donate a grocery store gift card** (or gift card to a store that has a grocery section, like Target or Walmart) please drop off to **Kia Haynes** in the main office. Please keep the denominations for each gift card small (\$25 or less) so we can more evenly divvy up the cards amongst our families. **A tip to get more bang for your donated buck:** Purchase gift cards from **Aldi's**, where the food quality is still great but for much less than a typical chain store.

We will also take cash donations. Those will go directly to our social worker, Kristin Decker, who will purchase the gift cards and provide receipts of purchase if you would like. We will not be issuing cash to any families. **We need all gift cards in hand by December 11th.** We humbly thank you in advance.

Sharing for Cardinal ES



eTC + **CARDINAL**
EDUCATIONAL
THEATRE CO.

CHILDREN'S THEATRE

40th

Production

Giant Tales

November 16 & 17
7 pm
Cardinal Gymnasium



arlington on arts



Upcoming Dates

- Friday, November 10: **NO SCHOOL**, Veterans Day
- Wednesday, November 22-Friday, November 24: **NO SCHOOL**, *Thanksgiving Break*

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/>

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ACMPTA WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



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Swag is Here!

If you ordered MPSA swag during our flash sale, it's here! We will distribute the items next week. Missed our sale? You can still order swag and have it sent to your home. [Click here to order.](#)

PTA General Meetings for the Year

Mark your calendars with the upcoming PTA meetings for the school year! All meetings (except for June's) will be on Zoom and begin a 7PM.

- November 28th: *Featuring MPSA Counselor Diane Reeser and AMAC Updates*
- January 9th
- February 6th
- March 5th
- May 7th
- June TBA

The NO STUFF Fundraiser Will Wrap Up Soon

This year we are once again holding a **NO STUFF** fundraiser. This means families **will not** need to sell **anything** to participate (e.g., chocolates, cookies, wrapping paper, etc.) Instead, this is a flat donation fundraiser with a suggested price of **\$75** per family. You can also choose another amount that works for you.

There are two ways to submit funds:

- Write a **check** made payable to ACMPTA and send it in an envelope made attention to Kia Haynes, Front Office at MPSA, and send it via backpack mail.
- Submit funding **online** [here](#).

If you know of any organizations (e.g, employers) or individuals seeking a charity to make donations, please refer them to info@acmpta.com so we may connect with them.

Last year, funding went toward:

- Gardening upkeep for the school grounds
- Teacher grants that purchased Montessori school supplies for the classroom
- Staff professional development
- Staff appreciation day and holiday gifts
- 5th grade promotion
- Parent-Education

Thank you for supporting our community!

Thank You to Our Dance Donors! (Listed)

Families have asked, so here is a list of our wonderful donors

Retail donors

- Autobahn Speedway
- Baroody Camps
- Bowlero, Arlington
- Casual Adventure
- DJ L Boogie
- Nothing Bundt Cakes
- Scramble, Falls Church
- Total Wine & More

MPSA donors

- Lindsay Adeyiga
- Leonardo Caputi
- Kelley Litzner
- Tenley Peterson
- Rebecca Winn

And thank you to Two Smooth Dudes and Sweet Frog Frozen Yogurt who donated part of their earnings to the ACMPTA since they had such a prosperous night!

Reminder: UEM Cover Art Contest



We're inviting **4th and 5th graders** to participate in the yearbook cover contest. Draw, paint or sketch a piece of art for the 2023-2024 yearbook cover!

The theme: "Anything But Ordinary"

The winning design will be used as the cover for the 2023-2024 yearbook and the winning artist will receive a free yearbook!

Contest Rules

All entries must be submitted to Kia in the office by Nov 28th!

Submit art on:

- 8.5" x 11" piece of white paper.
- "Portrait" format (not landscape) to fit the cover.
- Picture must fill up the entire 8.5" x 11" page.

All entries must include:

- Picture on front must include "Montessori Public School of Arlington" and "2023 - 24" on it.
- On back please include student name, teacher's name, email address to contact the winning student's family

Other important details:

- The picture must be an original, hand drawn piece of art. **No computer-generated graphics permitted.**
- Parents and/or teachers may not assist students in the creation of the artwork.
- Individual submissions only - students **may not** work together.

Depending on space, many or all of the submitted artwork will appear in the yearbook. The top 4 entries will be chosen and will then be voted on by all MPSA students the week of December 4 - 8th.

Contact info@acmpta.com if you have any questions.

Teacher Wish Lists – Check Them Out

The generosity of families who shopped our MPSA teachers' wish lists have helped teachers get the supplies they desired to help give your child a full, educational experience. If you are so inclined to give, please look at our Wish List page for teachers [here](#). Your child's teacher may be listed!

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/ArCoMontessori>
- Sign up for our Chat listserv: <https://groups.io/g/ACMPTA>