



School Talk

WEEKLY UPDATE!

November 18, 2023

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Report cards are now available in ParentVUE. Make sure the focus is on the child whose report card you wish to view and scroll down to **Documents** (not Report Card) to view.

Keep Up the Routine of Attendance

As we prepare to take time off from school for the Thanksgiving break, we are grateful for everyone who has helped to restore a routine for showing up to school while supporting students and families. **Daily routines are essential for reducing stress and creating a sense of security.** If your child is healthy, please encourage showing up to class when school is in session. Every day of school is an important opportunity for students to learn as well as connect to peers and their teachers. For more information, [review this resource from Attendance Works](#).

All attendance should be reported to Montessori Attendance by either calling **703-228-2037** or e-mailing montessori.attendance@apsva.us. You can also report an absence in ParentVUE. **If you only e-mail your child's teacher, we might not be aware of the absence or tardy and you'll receive a robo-call.** Attendance should be reported before **10:30AM** to avoid the call.

A reminder that 15 consecutive absences will result in your child being unenrolled from APS, regardless of whether the absences are excused, or you return to school on the 16th day. Your child will be able to be enrolled back into APS upon return, however, you will lose your spot in our program and will have to attend your neighborhood school (if eligible). The only caveat to this is if the absences are health related and addressed in a student's IEP or 504 plan.

Sharing Info/Events from Our Specials Teachers

Specialists Webpage: Our school specials teachers have prepared this wonderful webpage where families can read about the goings on in Art, Library, Music and PE this past quarter. [Click here to check it out!](#)

Book Character Balloon Parade: In library, Lower and Upper students read Balloons Over Broadway: The True Story of the Puppeteer of Macy's Parade. They planned a way to create a book character out of a balloon. After they constructed their design, students recorded their balloons floating past a painted Columbia Pike skyline. Enjoy the [parade!](#)

[Storytelling through Classical Indian Dance with Prakriti Dance](#) (MPSA's November 6 Humanities Assembly)

Sponsored by a grant from The Humanities Project

From their website: **Prakriti Dance** is an innovative performing company that takes the movement vocabulary of India and interprets modern stories and issues in order to bring relevance and context to the ever-evolving Indian art. Drawing inspirations from nature, philosophy, poetry, and other genres of art, Prakriti weaves a multi-layered tapestry to transcend cultural boundaries and communicate the human experience.



Head Lice Questions & Tips

What is the lice management plan for APS?

The role of School Health staff in lice management is to:

- Provide education to parents/guardians, children and staff about head lice
- Help identify students with head lice
- Make recommendations to parents/guardians about treatment of head lice
- Work in conjunction with families and teachers to identify lice and with health providers to treat and manage lice infestations.

What happens if my child is discovered to have nits/lice at school?

If your child is noted to have head lice or nits in school, you will be notified by clinic staff who will provide recommendations regarding treatment. Your child will not be publicly embarrassed or singled out, nor will they be required to leave school early.

Will the school notify families if a child with lice is discovered?

The clinic will send home a letter notifying the parents of the classroom the child with lice is in. If there is an unusually large number of infestations, a notice to the entire school community would be sent out.

What are some ways we can help prevent the spread of lice?

- Avoid head-to-head (hair-to-hair) contact during play and other activities at home, school, and elsewhere (sports activities, playground, slumber parties, camp).
- Do not share clothing such as hats, scarves, coats, sports uniforms, hair ribbons, or barrettes.

Everyone should practice these prevention measures. People with any hair type can get lice. A person's degree of cleanliness or personal hygiene also has nothing to do with getting head lice.

Inclement Weather Procedures

Please review our [inclement weather procedures here](#) and ensure you have a plan in place should we need to close schools or change arrival or dismissal due to weather.

Based on the number of minutes available, we have **13 days** available for weather events and other unexpected school closures. We will therefore allow for 13 traditional snow days. After 13 days off due to weather (should we reach that amount) we will transition to **distance learning** on any additional snow days to meet our required 990 hours of instructional time and to avoid extending our school year.

View how APS makes their decision to close/delay school [here](#).

Gift Card Drive for Winter 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.

Upcoming Dates

- Wednesday, November 22-Friday, November 24: **NO SCHOOL, Thanksgiving Break**
- Monday, November 27th-Friday, December 1: **4th Grade Swimming at W&L**
- Friday, December 1: **Picture Day Make Ups/Retakes**

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?

- **Reminder: UEM Cover Art Contest**
- **MPSA Girl Scout Troop Forming!**
- **Purchase MPSA Themed Swag!**
- **Teacher Wish Lists**
- **Join the PTA or Sponsor a Staff Member**
- **Stay in Touch With the ACMPTA**

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.

MPSA Girls Scout Troop Forming!

Girl Scouts create the world they want to live in and strive to make it better every single day. They explore their strengths, take on new challenges, and can always be themselves, regardless of background or ability. Supported by adult volunteers and mentors right here in our community, as well as millions of alums around the globe, Girl Scouts lead the way as they discover who they are and how they can make the future a brighter place. Is your family interested in joining a troop? Join us on December 5 at the Columbia Pike Library to learn more.

- Girl Scout Informational Meeting for MPSA Families: **Tuesday, December 5** at 6pm. Drew Room - Columbia Pike Library.
- Contact: Isatou Manneh (Membership Specialist for Girl Scouts of Nation's Capital Council) Imanneh@gscnc.org; or Christina Malin (MPSA parent) christinammalin@gmail.com

Purchase MPSA Themed Swag

You can still order through the PTA’s On-Demand sale! Prices are slightly higher and you will have to ship to your house, so consider consolidating your purchase with another family to save on shipping costs! Already bought swag? Keep an eye on the site as more designs coming soon!

https://spirithero.com/collections/montessori-1?fbclid=IwAR2kKdhpfsJgMRbsUsNhWR8lKbPrs4b3B9yZEQ1nPjLn5pmMiHMj-c7dG_c

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>