



School Talk

WEEKLY UPDATE!

November 3, 2023

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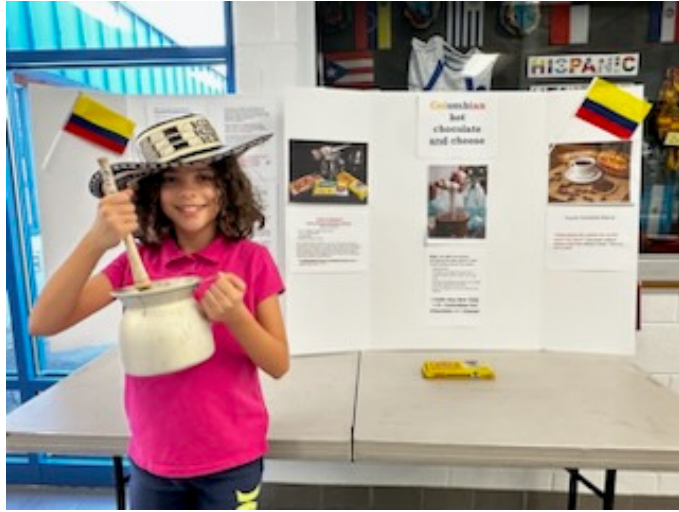
- Monarch Festival Fun!
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Reminder – Next week there is **NO SCHOOL** on Tuesday, **November 7th** and Friday, **November 10th**.

Monarch Festival Fun!

Tuesday, **October 31st** was **Monarch Day**, and what a fun day it was! The **Upper Elementary Montessori (UEM)** students in Ms. Collier's, Dr. Elsherbeen's, Ms. Hernandez, Ms. Lopatkiewicz and Ms. Ross' classes prepared and lead the Primary and Lower Elementary Montessori classrooms in craft and cooking activities, storytelling, and more! Each UEM classroom sent out cohorts of 5 children to different classrooms to lead the activities, which included making paper flowers, pipe cleaner caterpillars, yarn crafts, corn tortillas, playdough and putting on plays. As a reward for their hard work, the UEM classes got to eat their corn tortillas with hot Columbian style cocoa (with cheese!) which they thoroughly enjoyed. [Watch a video tutorial of how to make the hot chocolate here, by MPSA parent Arlyn Elizee!](#) All the activities tie into the life cycle of the monarch butterfly, the symbol of Montessori (not just MPSA) and their migration to Mexico. These are just a few pictures of the many taken. Please enjoy!







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.

School Pictures Have Arrived

Pictures Arrived! Picture Day Pictures were distributed this week, and the majority were sent home in yesterday's backpack mail. Some teachers may be sending it home next week at the latest.

Families who pre-ordered should receive their photos in the envelope that was sent home. Families who **paid at the camera** (sent in cash/check payments) or turned in a **payment late** will initially receive proof, and these orders will be processed together and sent to the school by the end of November/beginning of December.

Families who wish to order from the proof they received may do so online at <https://myLifetouch.com> and use the unique picture ID and access code on the proof. *Note: these pictures will be sent directly to the family and not the school.* If you wish to have your child's photo retaken OR you were not able to take a picture on the original picture day, retakes are scheduled for Friday, December 1.

Have a question that was not answered here? Missing portions of your order? Dislike your photos? Call Lifetouch at (800) 736-4753 Monday-Friday between 10am-7pm EST.

National School Psychology Week

The National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) has designated November 6-10, 2023, to be **National School Psychology Week (NSPW)**, with the theme "**Let's Grow Together**". This year's NSPW theme is inspired by the importance of both personal and shared strengths in our growth as individuals and school communities, in every season of life.

In APS, school psychologists bring high levels of expertise in supporting the holistic needs of students, individualized to each specific context and situation. In this way, they can support school teams in problem-solving learning challenges, behaviors, or social-emotional needs. Moreover, they view the student through a strengths-based lens, determining what assets a student possesses that can form the foundation of a plan to help them build new skills. Whether it is intervening in an immediate crisis or providing regular services to students for a specific social-emotional or behavioral goal, the APS school psychologists meet every day with professionalism, kindness, and the belief that all children are capable.

MPSA welcomes the opportunity to recognize our school psychologist, **Dr. Frances Colon Garcia**, and her many contributions to our school. She joined us this year and has immediately created a positive rapport with staff and students and has already ingrained herself as an asset to our community.

New MPSA Planters

Girl Scout, **Taylor Santorini**, built and donated planters to our school in an effort to earn the Gold Award, the highest award available to Seniors and Ambassadors in the association. Gold Award Girl Scouts in high school complete projects to make the world a better place. As our Montessori children do a lot of gardening work with a focus on the environment and sustainability, these planters have found a great home with us.



Upcoming Dates

- Monday, November 6: Last Day of the Marking Period
- Tuesday, November 7: **NO SCHOOL for Students** (Teacher Workday)
- Friday, November 10: **NO SCHOOL**, Veterans Day

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?

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UEM Students: Enter the Yearbook 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.

The NO STUFF Fundraiser is Back!

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!

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