

December 8, 2023

### Inside this Edition

- **Let's Make the Best of the Last 8 Days!**
- **MPSA Artists Showcased in Syphax Art Show**
- **Hello from Our Newest MPSA Staff Member**
- **Wrapped Books Start Going Home Next Week! (Not for Keeps!)**
- **Lost & Found Pictures Available**
- **Upcoming Dates**
- **Keep in Touch**

#### **Let's Make the Best of the Last 8 Days!**

Winter break is almost here! We know that our students are excited about their time off but it's crucial that we continue to encourage our students to stay committed to their education. As a key part of our educational community, your support plays a vital role in reinforcing the importance of following directions and staying focused on learning.

If you would kindly take a moment this weekend to discuss with your child the significance of maintaining their commitment to schoolwork, even amidst the holiday celebrations, it would be greatly appreciated. Emphasizing the value of following instructions and concentrating on their studies will greatly contribute to their continued academic success.

If you have any concerns or questions about your child's progress or if there's anything specific, you'd like to discuss, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher. Thank you for your continued partnership in your child's education.

#### **MPSA Artists Showcased in Syphax Art Show**

Art teachers **Ms. Heather Barbour** and **Mr. Richard Russey** are proud to announce that some of their MPSA artist have had their work installed in the annual APS School Art Exhibition at the Syphax Education Center. The exhibition is open from 8AM to 5PM now through January 11, 2024. Read more about the exhibition [here](#).

The students featured are below. Congratulations to them all!

**From Ms. Barbour's Class:**

**Choudhary**

*Winston B.*

*Henry G.*

*Margaret L.*

**Ellis**

*Jasmine I.*

**Elsherbeeney**

*Leah B.*

*Lilian F.*

*Jack F.*

*Richard R.*

*Harper S.*

*Boran Y.*

**Hambleton**

*Rudr M.*

*Kaiden S.*

**Hernandez**

*Evan B.*

*Sarai T.*

**Joshi**

*Hannah G.*

**Ross**

*Juniper B.*

*Ariana K.*

*Langston W.-V.*

**Stephens**

*Anungoo E.*

*Jazmin Ihmeidan*

**From Mr. Russey's Class:**

**Collier**

*Alaa A.*

*Natalia C.-A.*

*Nicodemus D.*

*Aliya-Kay F.*

*Cora F.-M.*

*Olivia S.*

**Downs**

*Ayman H.*

*Abby B.*

**Howard**

*Remy R.*

**Kain**

*Bella B.*

*Oliya S.*

**Lopatkiewicz**

*Wynn A.*

*Joshua A.*

*Matthew D.*

*Cecile D.*

*Mabel M.*

*Kira P.-M.*

*Tyler S.*

**Maheshwari**

*Harrison M.*

*Eliana T.*

*Nathan T.*

**Pfefferman**

*Isra S.*

### Hello from Our Newest MPSA Staff Member

We are pleased to introduce Mr. Carlos Soles, the newest member of our MPSA Special Education team. Mr. Soles introduction:

As a father of three children, with one attending MPSA and two who have completed the program, I have a deep affection for the school, and I look forward to being a part of this community as a provider of support to our students.

I have 20-plus years of working experience in public health, organizational development and group dynamics with adolescents and adults nationally and internationally. I will use my knowledge and abilities to assist our students with learning in context, giving them choices and guiding them in their own interests - I will go beyond only saying "You did a good job" because every child is so unique and deserves personalized feedback. I aim to provide guidance to your children in effort to inspire greatness in their future endeavors.

There is a motto from that I have always used as inspiration:

*"There are four kinds of people in the world: those who make things happen, those who watch things happen, those who wonder what happened and those who don't know that anything happened! I knew from a very early age that I wanted to be first on that list."* **Mary Kay Ash**

Personally, about me: I am a multicultural Boy Scout, seasoned Peace Corps Volunteer, and I love to dance to Latin music and traditional dances from Colombia. I look forward to making your acquaintance.

Cordially,



**Carlos E. Soles**

### Wrapped Books Start Going Home Next Week! (Not for Keeps!)

We're continuing the tradition of wrapping library books for students to check out as a surprise before the Winter break. **They are not books to keep**, but by not being able to see the book they choose since they are wrapped, they are getting the gift of trying new books! These wrapped books get checked out in a flash, so don't be surprised if you see a wrapped book come home next week!

### Parent Resources for Talking to Children About Violence

The tragic house explosion that happened this past Monday in the Bluemont area was an unfortunate topic of conversation among many students. It can be difficult navigating discussions about violence so the APS Office of Student Services has provided the following articles that they hope families may find helpful.

- [Talking to Children About Violence: Tips for Parents and Teachers \(English\) \(NASP\)](#)
- [Talking to Children About Violence: Tips for Parents and Teachers \(Amharic\) \(NASP\)](#)
- [Talking to Children About Violence: Tips for Parents and Teachers \(Arabic\) \(NASP\)](#)
- [Talking to Children About Violence: Tips for Parents and Teachers \(Spanish\) \(NASP\)](#)
- [Helping Children Cope with Frightening News \(English\) \(ChildMind\)](#)
- [Helping Children Cope with Frightening News \(Spanish\) \(ChildMind\)](#)
- [What to Say to Kids When the News is Scary \(English\) \(NPR\)](#)
- [ASCA: Helping Students in Troubling Times](#)

### Lost & Found Pictures Available

Today, office staff took pictures of all **213** items in the **MPSA Lost & Found** and posted them on the school Lost & Found Instagram here: <https://www.instagram.com/mpsalostnfound/>. This inventory is current as of 2PM this afternoon. The pictures include all the items from both the **cafeteria** and **gym** lost and found. You do not need to have an Instagram account to view the page. ***Be sure to swipe through each post as each post has several pictures.***

We will have the items on display in the main lobby all next week. We encourage parents to also come in and take a look through the items. **You may do so at any time during the school day.** If you cannot make it in but see an item on the Instagram that belongs to your child, please encourage your child to go retrieve it. For our **Pre-K and Kindergarten** students, you can take a screen shot of the item and e-mail it to your child's teacher with a request to help your child retrieve it. ***All items not retrieved by Friday, December 15th will be donated to local charities.***

To help keep the lost and found empty, we encourage you to **label** your child's items - **especially coats, jackets, hats and gloves.** Thank you.

### Upcoming Dates

- Friday, December 15: **Lost & Found Purged** *at the End of the Day*
- Thursday, December 21 through January 1: **Winter 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](https://twitter.com/MPSA_Library)
- MPSA Science on Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/MPSA\\_Science](https://www.instagram.com/MPSA_Science) **\*NEW!\***
- Principal Genove on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/CSGenove>
- Arlington Montessori PTA: <http://acmpta.com/>
- Arlington Montessori Action Committee (AMAC): <http://www.arlingtonmontessori.org/>

---

# ACMPTA WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



### What's Inside?

- **Registration CLOSED for the Holiday Party for \*ALL\* MPSA Families!**
- **URGENT: AMAC Still Needs the Community's Help**
- **Teacher Wish Lists**
- **Join the PTA or Sponsor a Staff Member**
- **Stay in Touch With the ACMPTA**

**Registration CLOSED for the Holiday Party for \*ALL\* MPSA Families!**

*Jingle & Mingle*

HOSTED BY  
**HOPE**  
MULTIPLIED

JOIN US FOR  
**MPSA HOLIDAY PARTY**  
SAT, DEC 16, 2023  
11 AM - 2 PM

St. Timothy and St. Andrew's Episcopal Church  
2640 Shillington Rd, Arlington, VA 22206

ACTIVITIES: GAMES, PAINTING, SANTA PHOTOS,  
and HOLIDAY MEAL

STAFF & FAMILIES ARE INVITED  
Free event

RSVP REQUIRED BY DEC 9  
[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/3CSRVCB3](https://tinyurl.com/3CSRVCB3)

CONTACT  
VPPROGRAMS@ACMPTA.COM



The registration for the **MPSA Holiday Party** on Saturday, December 16th has now been **CLOSED** because the response has been overwhelming and we are now at capacity. We hope this is the first of more community events to come, so please keep an eye out for future opportunities!

Those who have RSVP'd already will get a confirmation of registration. **Please do not attend if you have not registered.**

Thank you! *This is not a PTA or MPSA sponsored event, however, it is being held with their support and APS approval. This party is sponsored by **HOPE Multiplied**, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to building up communities. They have partnered with several APS schools. Read more about them [here](#).*

-

### **URGENT: AMAC Still Needs the Community's Help!**

The **Arlington Montessori Action Committee (AMAC)** is hosting a holiday open house on Wednesday December 13th from 3:30-6:30pm for our wonderful Montessori teachers. This annual event is one that is looked forward to by the staff at both public and private Montessori schools in Arlington, as it is a grand thank you given to them by the families of the Montessori community.

It cannot be done without help from you! AMAC is looking for volunteers and donations to make this day a success. Look at the sign up genius link to see how you can help out.

Thank you! <https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/904094EAEA72AA0FE3-46296085-amac>

-

### **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>