

February 10, 2024

### Inside this Edition

- **APS Celebrates Black History Month**
- **APS Go Survey**
- **MPSA Heritage Night Survey & Potluck Sign Up**
- **SEL Update**
- **DC Maxecuters Model Airplane Club Visit**
- **Music Notes**
- **Reporting Bullying & Harassment in APS**
- **Upcoming Dates**
- **Keep in Touch**

**Crittergrams deadline extended to Monday, February 12th! Have your student bring them directly to Ms. Kia in the office. Must be accompanied with cash (exact change please) or check made out to Hawksbill Hope.**

### APS Celebrates Black History Month



Throughout February, APS celebrates African Americans' contributions to our nation, especially to Arlington and our schools. We also take this time to recognize the trailblazing individuals who fought for progress and equity in their communities.

*Follow along on Instagram and X (Twitter) as we celebrate all month long with **#APSBBlackHistory***

MPSA is also celebrating! There will be displays, lessons and more available to students. We will share pictures and snippets about these throughout the month.

We once again thank MPSA parent, Nichole Noel, for loaning us her collection of beautiful African American Barbies to put on display. You can see them in the glass display case in the main lobby.

For more about how APS is celebrating this month, [click here](#).

### **APS Go! Survey**

Every three years, APS conducts a travel survey to understand how our students, families and staff get to and from school.

APS uses information from these surveys to develop plans and programs that increase safety, reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality around schools. The survey is voluntary and anonymous.

[Click here for the survey](#). Paper surveys are available upon request.

### **MPSA Heritage Night Survey & Potluck Sign Up**

We could still use more suggestions, ideas and volunteers for our upcoming Heritage Night! So please consider filling out our survey. (E-mail verification is now turned off so you can now register from any e-mail server.)

- Leading an event for MPSA Heritage Night
- Suggesting an idea for MPSA Heritage Night
- Volunteering for MPSA Heritage Night

**Fill out the survey here.** You will need to sign in to a Gmail account to access the survey. If you cannot access the survey, you can also send your idea directly to the chair of the Social Studies committee [here](#).

**Share a dish you love with the community!** The biggest event of our Heritage Night event is the community potluck, featuring the dishes of the many cultures in our school! *\*Regional American cuisine absolutely counts!\** If you are willing to participate, **please sign up!** Even if you aren't sure what you may be bringing, let our team know that something is coming so we can make sure we have enough food, utensils/plates and more to go around.

- Please make sure it serves at least 10-12 people.
- Food should be able to be served at room temperature and not need reheating or chilling.

- Please use a disposable serving container/utensils or **firmly and clearly label your dish** so that we may get it back to you!
- Please label dishes that contain
  - Meat (*especially pork*)
  - Nuts
  - Gelatin

[Sign up here](#). We thank you in advance and look forward to trying your dish!

*\*Preferably, we'd like to have the food set up by 6PM but we understand if you cannot get it to school until later.*

### **SEL at Home**

When we are developing the SEL competency, relationship skills, we are striving to:

- communicate effectively
- develop positive relationships
- demonstrate cultural competence
- practice teamwork and collaborative problem-solving
- resolving conflicts constructively
- resisting negative social pressure
- showing leadership in groups
- seeking or offering support and help

[Take a look at this video](#) about social-awareness and relationship skills at home.

*\*SEL is the acronym for "Social and Emotional Learning". It is the process through which children, adolescents, and adults learn skills to support healthy development and relationships.*

### **DC Maxcuters Model Airplane Club Visit**

Last Friday, February 2, **Dr. Mike Coplan, Mr. Doug Griggs, and Mr. Glen Simperts** from **DC Maxcuters Model Airplane Club** reviewed Virginia Science Standards of Learning related to force, motion, and aerodynamics. [The Maxcuters](#) encouraged MPSA Upper Elementary students to think like scientists and engineers. [Click here](#) to see students' excited responses to one of several flying demos.



To learn more about DC Maxcuters and their affiliates, visit the following links:

- [DC Maxcuters.org](http://DCMaxcuters.org)
- [FlyingAcesClub.com](http://FlyingAcesClub.com)
- [Maxfliart \(youtube\)](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqj8K8K8K8K8K8K8K8K8K8K)

## Music Notes

**MPSA Sings at the Columbia Pike Library!** Chorus would like to thank Librarian Ripley at the Columbia Pike Branch library for facilitating our pop-up performance on February 5. We'd also like to thank Ms. Katie Lin, MPSA parent and volunteer extraordinaire, for providing Chorus the opportunity to perform with live accompaniment. Click the links to see and hear portions of our pop-up performance: [Winter Troika](#) and [Light a Candle](#)



*Thank you, Ms. Katie!*



*Our choir, patiently waiting to perform.*

**MPSA Students Only “Informance”** On Tuesday, **February 13**, Upper Elementary music ensembles (Band, Chorus, Strings) will host a winter "Informance" for our student body. During this event, the ensembles will focus on teaching other students about being a member of a performing ensemble-- while there will be a performance aspect to the event, we will primarily highlight the educational process.

***We do not have the physical capacity to accommodate families and friends during the "Informance."*** We will, however, video the event and happily share it with you via ParentSquare. Additionally, we will repeat our performance repertoire (plus a few more songs) at the Spring concerts held **June 11th**, with another in-school performance and one for the families to attend that evening at 7PM.

### **Reporting Bullying and Harassment in APS**

APS is committed to ensuring all students learn and thrive in safe, healthy, and supportive environments. All students participate in lessons to strengthen their understanding and awareness of recognizing, refusing, and reporting bullying behavior; the role of bystanders in bullying prevention; and strategies for building positive, respectful relationships. Any student, parent/guardian, or school staff may initiate a complaint for themselves or another party by completing the [Bully Harassment Incident Form](#). You can also find this link on the front page of the [MPSA website](#) all year. Read more about bullying and harassment on the [APS website here](#).



## What should I do if I think my child is being bullied or harassed?

### WHAT IS BULLYING AND HARASSMENT?

Actions or words, done on purpose, that hurt another person physically or emotionally. It can happen in-person or online.

#### SAY SOMETHING!

Report the situation.  
Contact your school or go to the APS website and complete the Bullying and Harassment Report form.

website:  
[apsva.us/bullying-prevention](https://apsva.us/bullying-prevention)  
report form:  
[bit.ly/APS-report-bullying](https://bit.ly/APS-report-bullying)



#### What happens next?

The report will be sent to your child's principal or school-based administrator. They will let you know they have received it within 24 hours.

The principal or school-based administrator will investigate the report and contact the parents/guardians of the student(s) within 2 school days. They will either share the results or provide an estimate of how many more days the school will need.

#### After the investigation...

Both parties will be contacted in writing with the result of the investigation, any policy violations, and how they may appeal a decision.

For more information, contact your school or visit [apsva.us/bullying-prevention](https://apsva.us/bullying-prevention)



**APS held a Community Information Night on Safe, Inclusive Learning Environments on January 22, 2024. [Watch the presentation here.](#)**

### Upcoming Dates

- Tuesday, February 13: **MPSA Winter Concert In-formance (for Students Only)**
- Thursday, February 15: **MPSA Information Session & Tour for Prospective Families**
- Monday, February 19: **NO SCHOOL, Presidents' Day**
- Tuesday, March 5: **NO SCHOOL for Students, (Teacher Work Day due to Primary Voting)**
- Thursday, March 7: **Class Picture Day**
- Thursday, March 7: **MPSA Heritage Night**
- Thursday, March 14: **EARLY RELEASE, Parent-Teacher Conferences**
- Friday, March 15: **NO SCHOOL for Students, Parent-Teacher Conferences**

### 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)
- 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



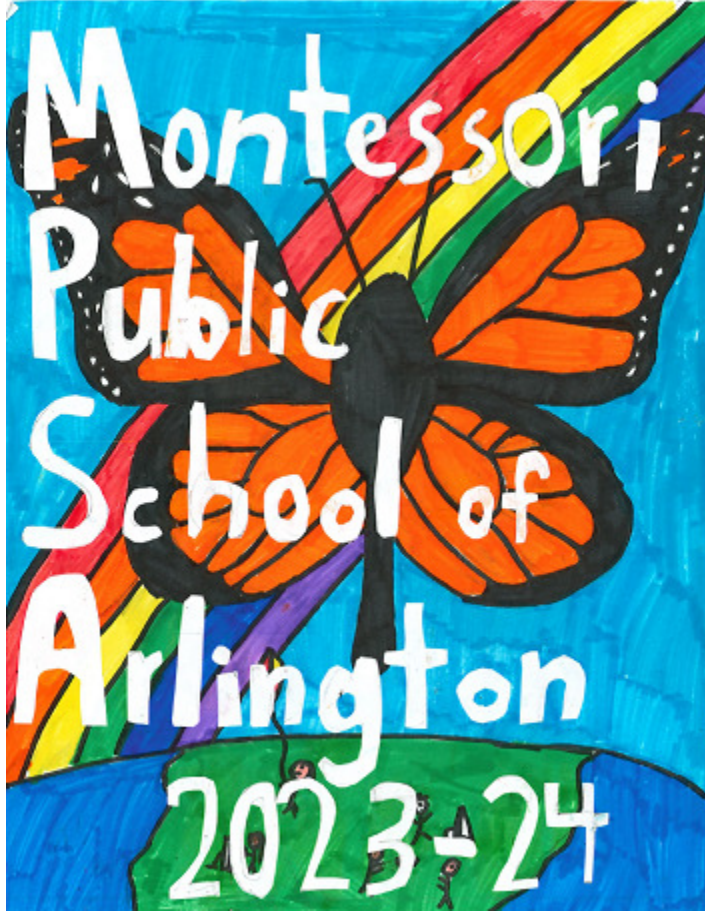
## What's Inside?

- **Yearbook Cover Contest Winner**
- **There is Still Time to Sign Up for GOTR**
- **Spring Theater Program for MPSA Upper Elementary Students!**
- **2nd Girl Scout Formation Meeting Next Week**
- **Order Your Yearbook Now!**
- **Join the PTA or Sponsor a Staff Member**

## Yearbook Cover Contest Winner

We had so many wonderful submissions for the ACMPTA Yearbook Cover Contest! Thank you to all the artists who took time to put their vision to paper and share with. We are pleased to announce a winner! With 18% of the vote, our winner is UEM student, **Lina B.!**





*Cover by Lina B.*

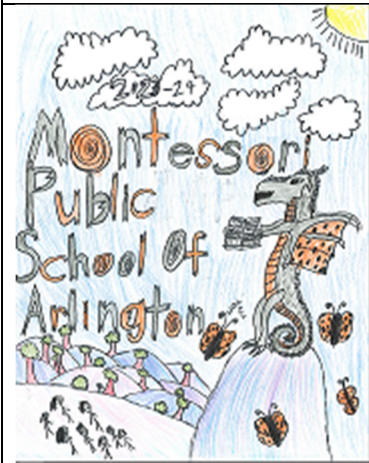
The 5 runners up will have their submissions featured within the contents of the yearbook. Their art shared below, alphabetically by last name.



Aliya- Kay F.



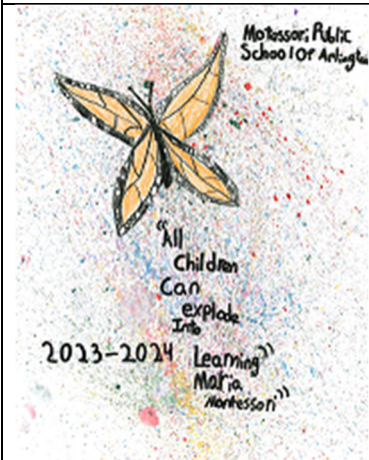
Lark G.



Elianna G.



Dhilan K.



Sophia M.-W.

Any artist who submitted an entry who would like their artwork back should see Ms. Kia in the office to retrieve it.

### **There is Still Time to Sign Up for GOTR**

Girls on the Run (GOTR) is coming to MPSA! GOTR has fun, evidence-based programs that inspire girls in Upper Elementary grade to build their confidence, kindness, and decision-making skills. Dynamic lessons instill valuable life skills including the important connection between physical and emotional health.

Starting the week of March 4th, the team will meet every Tuesday & Thursday from 7:45am until school begins. The program culminates in a celebratory 5K at the end of the season!

The standard program fee is \$185 and includes 20 lessons/practices, a t-shirt, GOTR giveaway, entry into the 5K, a 5K medal, and more. Financial assistance is available for anyone who needs it, with the lowest program registration cost being \$22 for the season.

Registration began on February 5th at [www.gotrnova.org](http://www.gotrnova.org).

#### **ENGLISH:**

- [SP24 GOTR Flyer](#)
- [More than a running program](#)
- [Financial Assistance Options](#)

#### **ESPAÑOL**

- [Folleto SP24 GOTR](#)
- [Más que un programa en ejecución](#)
- [Opciones de asistencia financiera](#)

### **Spring Theater Program for MPSA Upper Elementary Students!**

Registration to participate as Cast or Technical Crew for the play “*What Happened After Once Upon a Time?*” is open for Upper Elementary students at MPSA! **Please see the flyer** for more details, including the registration link. Below is some additional information that may be helpful for planning purposes.

#### *Schedule:*

- The theater program at MPSA will run from April through May 2024.

- Regular rehearsals will take place after school at MPSA on Wednesdays and Fridays until 5:45pm, beginning April 3rd. Students will need to be picked up promptly at 5:45pm from the front entrance of MPSA.
- Final dress rehearsals (in place of regular rehearsals) will take place on Friday, May 24, Wednesday May 29, and Thursday May 30 from 5:30pm-7pm at the MPSA gym.
- Two performances will be held on Friday, May 31: One during the day for students and staff, and one in the evening for families.

*Registration and Cost:*

- Registration opens Friday, February 2nd, 2024, and is first come, first serve.
- **Space is limited** to 30 Cast members and 10 Technical Crew.
- Cost is **\$275** per student; scholarships are available.
- Please only register Upper Elementary (4th and 5th grade) students for this production.
- **Please see the flyer** for the registration link.

**2nd Girl Scout Formation Meeting Next Week!**

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: **Thursday, February 15** at 6:30pm. Drew Room - Columbia Pike Library.
- Contact: Isatou Manneh (Membership Specialist for Girl Scouts of Nation's Capital Council) [Imanneh@gscnc.org](mailto:Imanneh@gscnc.org); or Christina Malin (MPSA parent) [christinammalin@gmail.com](mailto:christinammalin@gmail.com)

girl scouts  
nation's capital

**YOU  
BELONG  
in  
GIRL SCOUTS!**

Girl Scout Troops are now forming at  
Montessori Public School of Arlington

For more information come to the Troop Formation Meeting  
Columbia Pike Library.(Drew Room)  
Thursday, February 15, 2024 6:30 PM

or contact  
Isatou Manneh  
Membership Specialist  
Imanneh@gscnc.org 202-274-3334

Scan the QR Code to RSVP for the meeting!

Arlington Public Schools does not sponsor or endorse the individual or group providing this material, or any message contained herein.

gscnc.org 4301 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington, DC 20008 (202) 237-1670 @gscnc

### Order Your Yearbook Now!

**The 2023-2024 MPSA yearbook is on sale now!** Every year we have families who decide not to order because they want to see the yearbook first...and they end up missing out! The PTA is not given extra yearbooks to sell – we must purchase them ourselves in the hopes that we sell them all, which is why our supply is limited. Don't hesitate – order now! Our past yearbooks have always been well received as they are colorful, beautifully designed and full of stunning pictures.

Go to [ybpay.com](http://ybpay.com) and enter yearbook ID code **13279124**. There are several packages to choose from.

**Deadline to purchase is April 12th.**

**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 to receive a PTA grant. Help them out by purchasing them a membership!