



School Talk

WEEKLY UPDATE!

February 17, 2024

Inside this Edition

- Report Cards Posted in ParentVUE Yesterday
- Applying for Siblings to Attend MPSA Next Year?
- The Great Backyard Bird Count
- Meet Our New “Scientist in the Classroom”
- Smaller Ask for MPSA Heritage & Potluck Sign Up
- Congratulations to Dr. Mandy Downs!
- Upcoming Dates
- Keep in Touch

A reminder that there is NO SCHOOL on Monday, February 19th!

Report Cards Posted in ParentVUE Yesterday

Kindergarten through 5th grade **report cards** were posted yesterday in ParentVUE. You will be able to find them under “Documents”, not the “Report Card” tab.

Due to lack of space, specials teachers could not post their comments on report cards so you can read them here.

ART (LEM/UEM): Ms. Heather Barbour

In the second quarter, Lower Elementary artists explored sculptural materials including clay, paper and cardboard, creating clay pinch pot animals, holiday pop up cards and Native American rainsticks. They also created a mixed media collage with the theme “sweet treats”. We finished the quarter with drawing human figures in action.

In the second quarter, Upper Elementary artists explored clay from a scientific perspective, creating unique vessels and reflecting on their process in artist statements. They also drew designs based on their initials, created pop up cards and a mixed media dessert collage inspired by Pop artist Wayne Theibaud.

ART (PM/LEM): Mr. Richard Russey

During Quarter 2, Kindergarten students in Visual Art: expanded art-related vocabulary; reinforced knowledge of color and shape; and engaged in a wide variety of drawing, painting, collage, and sculpture activities. We continued to learn how to communicate using art, and the benefits of curiosity about world cultures.

During Q2 students built on learning during Q1, and engaged in a wide variety of artmaking activities, including various forms of drawing, painting, collage, and sculpture. A focus on how 2-D art can be the basis for a 3-D form (paper sculpture, for example) was part of the learning process for Lower Elementary students.

LIBRARY: Ms. Kay Miller

Primary: Primary students learned about different types of nonfiction books: informational, biography, and 'how to' books. To help them memorize characteristics and different types of nonfiction books they learned the Nonfiction Song. Ask your student to sing it for you!

LEM: Lower students learned how to find print and digital books in the library using the catalog, Destiny Discover, and Sora, an ebook and audio book platform. They are beginning to identify books that are Windows or Mirrors to their lives.

UEM: Upper elementary students explored the concept of how books are like Windows and Mirrors. Books are like windows and mirrors because they offer us glimpses into worlds both familiar and unknown, while reflecting back to our own experiences and identities.

MUSIC (PM/LEM): Ms. Beth Ellis

In Ms. Beth's music class, Primary has been practicing the steady beat, moving through the space and in place (locomotor vs. non-locomotor movements), and singing and playing echoed rhythms vocally and on instruments. Ask your child about "You are my Sunshine."

Lower Elementary has been working on arranging forms in music, improvisation, singing in canon, and reading rhythms. Ask your child about "Tongo."

MUSIC (PM/LEM/UEM): Ms. Amie Shakespeare

In Quarter 2 Ms. Shakespeare's students continue to add to their inventory of folksongs and dances from around the world. So far, we've danced a growing pattern from Denmark (Syvspring), sung a song from Mali that uses layered repeating patterns of rhythm and pitch (Kelefaba), traced the migration and evolution of Little Sally from England to the USA. Our goal is to end the year being able to know—and teach—at least one folksong or dance from each inhabited continent. Many students express interest in sharing folk music that is special to their family or close community. If families or adults are interested in helping students document this music—especially with MPSA's Heritage Night celebration quickly approaching-- please contact Ms. Shakespeare via ParentSquare.

In addition to singing and dancing in weekly music class, LEM & UEM students practiced compositional skills using the educational platform Flocabulary. Upper Elementary created raps and/or music videos reviewing the scientific concepts of Force & Motion. Lower Elementary flexed their vocabulary related to musical instruments.

Primary students worked on creating and categorizing voicing: high, low, loud, quiet, short and long. These concepts were reviewed orally in song, chant, and storytelling; aurally in instrumental pitch-matching; and physically in dance.

P.E. (PM/LEM/UEM): Mr. Sean McGee

The primary students learned how their bodies reacted to vigorous physical activity. Students learned to use safe practices, cooperate with classmates and respect others, as well as follow classroom rules. They began to learn key movement concepts that will help them perform a variety of activities. Motor skill development, fitness concepts, spatial awareness, and energy and balance is a part of their weekly class learning.

P.E. (LEM/UEM): Mr. Kevin Miles

With great enthusiasm and effort across grade levels, students continue to develop their motor skills, implement fitness planning, increase body awareness, and experience a variety of skill development through games and activities. Furthermore, the social emotional development of students continues to be nurtured through social interaction among peers outside of their own class. Students continue to respond positively to constructive teacher and peer-to-peer feedback of proper techniques, playing by the rules, gym rules, healthy competitive play, good sportsmanship, and always experiencing the most fun through movement!

To see pictures and even more information about goings on in the specials classes, check out their Specialists Newsletter [here](#).

Applying for Siblings to Attend MPSA Next Year?

If you have a child **CURRENTLY** attending MPSA in grades **PreK-3 through 4th grade** this year, and are applying for their sibling to attend here **next year**, please fill out this form.

<https://forms.gle/gzBsgZSwV6SK2Rsu5>

MPSA will give sibling preference to those children **if we have spots available**. Your spot is not guaranteed until you receive your notification from the lottery in March.

Siblings of current 5th graders are not eligible for sibling preference as the 5th grader will not be attending MPSA next school year. Any questions? Call or e-mail **Kia Haynes in the office at 703-228-8818/kia.stevensonhaynes@apsva.us.*

The Great Backyard Bird Count

If you are looking for a fun way to spend time with your children connecting to nature, the **Great Backyard Bird Count** might be just what you are looking for! The Great Backyard Bird Counts is this **Friday, February 16th through Monday, February 19th**. People of all ages around the world are invited

to observe and count the bird species in their schoolyard, backyard, or nearby park. Scientists use this data to better understand bird population around the world!

Here is all you need to do to participate in the GBBC:

1. Use the activity sheet provided by the school OR bring some paper and an iPad, iPhone or field guide to help identify bird species.
2. Choose a place to observe birds. It can be from your window, your backyard, a neighborhood park, or a nature center. You need to observe for at least 15 minutes.
3. Help your child count all the birds of different species during this time.
4. Write the number of birds observed and fill out the date, time, and location of your observation.
5. Send your observation sheets back to school and teachers will put them in Ms. Stork's mailbox. She will enter the data. If you prefer, you can enter the data with your child at BirdCount.org or <http://ebird.org/>

If you have any questions, please email Ms. Stork at suzanne.stork@apsva.us. Happy Birding!!

Meet Our New "Scientist in the Classroom"

We are happy to introduce **Dr. Michael Shapiro**, this year's MPSA "Scientist in the Classroom". He will be visiting classes throughout MPSA to teach science-based lessons, many including experiments and activities. A little about Dr. Shapiro:

Dr. Michael Shapiro retired from a 37-year career at the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 2017. Between 2002 and 2017, he was the senior career official responsible for EPA's water pollution control and safe drinking water programs. Prior to his responsibilities in water programs, Michael served in EPA's programs dealing with hazardous waste, air pollution, and toxic chemicals control. Since retiring from government, Michael has continued to engage in environmental issues through volunteer work with a number of organizations, and has volunteered with Arlington's Scientist in the Classroom program.

Michael has a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Lehigh University. He received Masters and Doctorate Degrees in Environmental Engineering from Harvard University, where he also served on the faculty of the Department of City and Regional Planning before joining EPA.

Michael and his wife Julie live in Arlington and have two wonderful daughters who went to Arlington public elementary, middle, and high schools.



Dr. Michael Shapiro

Smaller Ask for MPSA Heritage & Potluck Sign Up

Are you itching to share your culture with the school community, but don't have the bandwidth to lead an activity or project? Consider creating a display instead! You and your student can have a small space to put up a pre-made display – whether it be artifacts, a posterboard of information, a library of books – anything you'd like! The display should be able to fit on a regular sized desk or small table and should not need to be manned. If you are interested, 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.*

Congratulations to Dr. Mandy Downs!

We are sending hearty congratulations to Primary Montessori teacher, Mandy Downs, on her graduation!

Mandy began her doctorate in Educational Leadership in 2021. As a Montessori teacher, she knew that she wanted to contribute to the growing body of research related to Montessori education. Over the past two years, she researched *Equitable Access to Montessori Education*. In August of 2023, Mandy completed her doctorate. As a summer graduate, her ceremony was held this past December. Mandy is very appreciative of the MPSA staff who supported her as she achieved her goal. Although her name now has the official prefix of doctor, she still wants her students to call her Ms. Mandy! Congratulations!



Upcoming Dates

- 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
- MPSA Science on Instagram: 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/>

****SCROLL DOWN FOR THE PTA NEWSLETTER****

ACMPTA WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



What's Inside?

- **Very FEW Extra Yearbooks Ordered This Year! Don't Miss Out!**
- **SAVE THE DATE: Class Pictures, March 7th**
- **Join the PTA or Sponsor a Staff Member**

Very FEW Extra Yearbooks Ordered This Year! Don't Miss Out!

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 will be limited. ***So 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 and enter yearbook ID code **13279124**. There are several packages to choose from.

Deadline to purchase is April 12th.

SAVE THE DATE: Class Pictures, March 7th

Class pictures will be taken during the morning of March 7th. Order forms will be sent home in this Thursdays backpack mail. Chorus, Orchestra, Band and Patrol pictures will be taken on this day as well!

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!