



School Talk

WEEKLY UPDATE!

February 2, 2024

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Celebrating Our School Counselors

Next week, February 5-9, is **National School Counseling week!** The week was created to focus public attention on the unique contribution of school counselors within U.S. school systems and highlights the tremendous impact school counselors can have in helping students achieve school success and plan for a career. The 2024 theme for this week is "School Counseling: Standards-Based, Student-Focused."

We are happy to celebrate **Diane Reeser** and **Julia Kahn**, our two MPSA school counselors. From hosting lunch bunches, teaching SEL classes, helping with the middle school transition and crisis intervention – they do a lot! Warm and friendly with kind words and a solution at the ready, we are grateful to have them at our service.

APS is celebrating our counselors with a district-wide spirit day on **Wednesday, February 7th**. It is **College Spirit Gear Day** - students and staff are invited to wear their favorite college spirit gear.

Share With Arlington Friends: The Montessori Lottery Has Opened

If you have any friends or family in Arlington interested in the APS Montessori program, please let them know that the lottery window has opened. PreK through 5th grade can apply to MPSA (with PreK through

Kindergarten also able to apply for a Montessori spot at their designated satellite school). The lottery closes on **March 8th at 4PM**. They can read more about the lottery [here](#).

If you are a current MPSA family, you do NOT need to reapply or re-register!

Also let them know that MPSA is hosting a information session and tour for prospective families on **Thursday, February 15th** at 9:30AM. No need to reregister – just check in at the main office.

Welcome to Our New Staff Members

We are pleased to announce two new members to our MPSA family! **Madison (Maddie) Wincek** joins us as the new Instructional Assistant in Ms. Collier’s UEM classroom; **Ana Ramírez** is joining our custodial team as our new part-time evening custodian. If you happen to meet them, please give them a warm Monarch welcome!

AATD Sessions (formerly known as “Gifted Services Sessions”)

Interested in learning more about how students are screened and identified for Advanced Academic Services at APS? Well - you're in luck! Joanna Yamashita, MPSA Advanced Academics coach, along with MPSA's Bilingual Family Liaison, Henry Cardenas, will host two online information sessions on February 20th. There will be an overview of the screening and identification process at APS followed by a chance to ask questions. The times and Microsoft Teams links for the sessions are below:

- [February 20 Morning Information Session from 9:15 to 10:15](#)
- [February 20 Afternoon Information Session from 12:00 to 1:00](#)

Interested but can't make either session? No worries - videos of the sessions will be posted later in School Talk.

MPSA Heritage Night Survey (Improved!)

Earlier this week we sent out a survey that didn’t function quite as well as we’d hope. Here is a link to a new, improved survey for those who may be interested in

- 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](#).

MPSA's Spelling Bee Winner

During the 2nd week of January, MPSA held a spelling bee competition for our Upper Elementary students. All 4th and 5th graders had the opportunity to compete for the winning position. We are proud to congratulate 5th grader Tyler S. for finishing at the top. Tyler will be taking the Scripps National Spelling Bee (SNSB) regional qualifier test this month. The top finishers will advance to the SNSB Region 4 Bee on March 2. Good luck, Tyler!

Got Cardboard?

Ms. Barbour's art class could use some cardboard! She's seeking smaller items like cereal boxes, shoe boxes (or boxes around that size), paper towel and toilet paper rolls. Items can be brought to her room, #175, by your child or you can drop them off to the main office.

Upcoming Dates

- Wednesday, February 7: **NO SCHOOL, Grade Preparation Day**
- 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**

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?

- **Spring Theater Program for MPSA Upper Elementary Students!**
- **Voting in the ACMPTA Yearbook Cover Contest Ends Monday**
- **Speaking of Yearbooks, Order Yours Now!**
- **Join the PTA or Sponsor a Staff Member**

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 or scan the QR code below.



Voting in the ACMPTA Yearbook Cover Contest Ends Monday

Six finalists have been selected in the 2023-2024 ACMPTA yearbook cover contest! Voting is now open to all MPSA students via their iPads. Have them use the QR code below or type in the URL. Don't have your iPad at home? You will also have an opportunity to vote in school. The piece of art that receives the most votes will be our new cover.



Or use the URL: <https://forms.gle/nDJFM9dCy6iZBmrV8>

Voting must be done through their APS school account as we are restricting it to one vote per student.

Voting ends Monday, February 5th at 11:59PM.

Speaking of Yearbooks, Order Your!

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 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!