



School Talk

WEEKLY UPDATE!

March 15, 2024

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SPRING BREAK begins on March 25th! The school and all APS offices will be **CLOSED** from March 25th through March 29th. Please mark your calendars!

If you are willing to take home our community Hawksbill turtles, located in the main lobby, for Spring break, please e-mail Suzanne Stork at suzanne.stork@apsva.us. Habitat and food for the week will be provided. They are very low maintenance animals!

A Lost & Found Purge Happening Next Week!

Friday, **March 22nd** will be the **last day** you can come look through the MPSA Lost and Found. We will be donating all the items to an area church at the end of the day.

You can view the pictures of all the items on the school Lost & Found Instagram here: <https://www.instagram.com/mpsalostnfound/>. The pictures items from both the **cafeteria** and **gym** lost and found. You do not need to have an Instagram account to view the page. *Not all items are shown as the L&F grows daily!*

Starting on Monday, the items will be put on display in the main lobby. Parents can come in and 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 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.

In the future, 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.

Your Voice Matters Survey

Time is running out to make your voice heard in the [Your Voice Matters@APS Survey](#).

Please complete the survey by next Fri, March 22, if you have not already done so. Links were sent to the e-mail addresses you have registered with APS - look for the email "**Arlington Public Schools Wants to Hear from You!**" in your inbox.

Your participation will be instrumental in steering the future of APS. The insights gathered will be pivotal in shaping policies, enhancing educational programs and ensuring a supportive and safe environment for students and staff.

Virginia Growth Assessment (VGA) Information

Growth Assessments are computer adaptive tests, shorter than the Standards of Learning tests, that were developed in grades 3-8 reading and mathematics as a result of legislation passed in the 2021 Virginia General Assembly. The growth assessments consist of test items that measure the Standards of Learning, have been reviewed by Virginia teachers, tried out with Virginia students, and accepted for use on the growth assessments.

Beginning with the second year of implementation (2022-2023) and beyond, the legislation requires that the grades 3-8 reading and mathematics growth assessments be administered to students once in the fall and once in the winter (mid-year) during the school year. In addition to the growth assessments, the SOL tests for grade 3-8 reading and mathematics will continue to be administered.

The fall 2023 fall growth assessments will focus on content from the student's previous grade level. For example, a student taking grade 5 mathematics in the 2023-2024 school year will be administered a fall growth assessment that focuses primarily on grade 4 mathematics content. The winter 2023-2024 growth assessment will focus on content from the student's current grade level giving priority to content taught first semester.

However, in compliance with the 2021 legislation, the computer adaptive test (CAT)* algorithm has been configured so that the student might be administered some items from below or above the current grade level depending on the student's responses to the on-grade-level content items. For example, students taking the grade 5 mathematics growth assessment will primarily be administered

grade 5 test items; however, depending on the student's responses to the on-grade-level test items, the student may also be administered some grade 4 test items or some grade 6 test items.

**Computer Adaptive Testing (CAT): A computer adaptive test or CAT is an assessment that is customized for every student. How a student responds to questions determines the difficulty of the next question. Correct responses lead to more difficult test questions, while incorrect responses result in the selection of less difficult items for the student.*

Additional Information can be found here: [Parent & Caregiver Resources for Virginia Assessments](#)

Music Notes

Well done to Avi, Casper, Kira and Saidarshan - this year's MPSA representatives at the **APS Junior Honors Ensemble** concert on **May 12** at Kenmore Middle School! We are proud of you all!

Another shout-out to Camilla R., this year's Junior Honors Orchestra Concertmaster. Camilla is a 2023 grad of MPSA currently continuing her Montessori journey at Gunston Middle School.

Hawksbill Turtle Fundraiser Total

Thank you to everyone who bought Crittergrams to support Marymount University's Citizen Turtle project for the Belize Hawksbill turtles. Thanks to your purchases and generous donations, we raised **\$774** in the fundraiser! That covered the \$700 suggested donation for the 14 pairs of turtles, equipment and food plus extra. Ms. Sinclair delivered the funds to Professor Todd Rimkus at Marymount this past Wednesday and he and his research team were beyond grateful. They are headed on their research trip to Belize next Friday the 22nd, where they will also be putting in some community efforts by repairing and painting houses for local citizens.

Community Input Sought for New ACC Building Name

Arlington Public Schools has formed a naming committee to conduct a naming process for the Arlington Career Center, located across the parking lot from MPSA, as construction begins on the new facility. The committee is seeking community input on potential names. The survey takes a few minutes to complete and closes on April 10.

[Click here to complete the survey.](#)

The committee will review survey feedback at the final meeting on April 17 as they finalize the name(s) to recommend to the School Board for a final vote in May. Learn more.

Construction Notice: 9th Road S Midblock Sidewalk Improvements

Starting next week, an Arlington County crew will begin construction on a project to upgrade a [midblock driveway on 9th Road S](#). (between S. Walter Reed Dr. and S. Highland St.) to provide ramped curbs. This

will provide an accessible and safe sidewalk on the south side of 9th Street S., near the Arlington Career Center, Columbia Pike Library, and the Montessori Public School of Arlington.

The project is anticipated to take one week to complete, weather permitting. During construction, the sidewalk on the north side of the street will remain open. **Travel lanes may be narrowed.** Please be alert to changes in the area. Construction hours are 9 am to 4 pm.

The project was nominated by a community member, recommended for funding by the Neighborhood Complete Streets Commission, and approved by the Arlington County Board. [Learn more about the Neighborhood Complete Streets Program.](#)



Yarn Donations Wanted for Art

Ms. Barbour is seeking skeins/balls of yarn for an upcoming art project she'll be working on with students. If you are able to donate any yarn, please send it in with your child and have them deliver to either Ms. Kia in the main office or directly to Ms. Barbour's art room #175. Thank you in advance!

Pics! Pics! Pics!

As promised in last week's School Talk, we are sharing some pictures from our two big events last week – **MPSA Heritage Night** and **Ms. Genove's Principal of the Year surprise assembly**. Enjoy!

There are so many fabulous pictures from **MPSA Heritage Night** – too many to post here, so please enjoy them by clicking this link:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/18tQZhHVjPXdoMvphmBBIGdaqUKg3Paj?usp=sharing>

Here are a few of our favorite pictures from **Ms. Genove's Principal of the Year assembly**. This event is also currently being featured on the APS website home page!







Upcoming Dates

- Monday, March 25 - Friday, March 29: **Spring Break - NO SCHOOL** (*Offices are closed*)

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?

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- **The Yearbook Deadline is Coming!**
- **Join the PTA or Sponsor a Staff Member**

Join AMAC's Annual Montessori Camping Trip

The annual **Arlington Montessori Action Committee's (AMAC)** camping trip for Montessori families is now open for registration. This is an annual event that is well attended and lots of fun for members of the Arlington Montessori community, both public and private sectors.

This year's dates are **Friday, June 14th** through **Sunday, June 16th** and it will be held at **Lake Fairfax** in their group camping section.

The cost is **\$115** for **current** AMAC members, **\$130** for **non-members**. It includes 2 nights of camping for up to 6 people per site; all you can eat hot dogs and s'mores at their Saturday night potluck.

Don't like camping? You can still join AMAC for their Saturday night potluck! Price is \$15 per family of 6 or less. This price includes all you can eat hot dogs and s'mores for your registered family members.

To read more about the event and for the link to book, please visit the event page on AMAC's website here: <https://www.arlingtonmontessori.org/camping2024>

It's NOT TOO LATE to Purchase Class Pictures

If you forgot to purchase your class pictures, you can still do so by sending in \$12 (check preferred but cash is okay) for each classroom picture you would like by **Wednesday, March 20th** to Kia in the main office. Please put payment in an envelope with your child's name and teacher listed. If you miss this chance, you will have to call customer service and order a picture, but you will also be responsible for shipping costs. Sending a payment through MPSA provides free delivery to the school.

Still Need ONE MORE Nominating Committee Member!

It's almost time for PTA elections! The ACMPTA needs ONE MORE nominating committee member to help recruit and screen candidates for the PTA's Executive Committee for the SY2024-2025. If you are interested, please e-mail info@acmpta.com

This committee will need to present their slate for next year's candidates before the end of April so members can vote in May. The new Executive Board, except for the Treasurer, would begin their service immediately after election.

The Yearbook Deadline is Coming!

Every year we have families who decide not to order because they want to see the yearbook first...***and they end up missing out!*** **Deadline to purchase is April 12th.**

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.

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!