



School Talk

WEEKLY UPDATE!

March 22, 2024

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

Let Your Voice Be Heard!

Your Voice Matters: APS has **EXTENDED** the [Your Voice Matters@APS Survey](#) through **April 5th!** If you have thoughts you'd like to share, this is your opportunity as a community! We are only at a **22.8%** completion rate for our school - don't miss the chance to have your voice heard.

Please complete the survey by then if you have not already done so. Links were sent to the e-mail addresses you have registered with APS - look for the email titled "**Arlington Public Schools Wants to Hear from You!**" in your inbox. It is available in multiple languages.

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.

Read more about the survey [here](#).

Congratulations to Andy Greenwood!

MPSA parent Andy Greenwood was chosen by the APS School Board as one of this year's APS Honors Citizens! Andy was nominated by MPSA for all his volunteer efforts and longtime advocacy of public Montessori in Arlington County. Andy, father of Wallace Greenwood in Ms. Ross class, and Wesley and Winston Greenwood who are currently attending the Gunston Montessori program, will be recognized and celebrated at the APS School Board meeting on April 25th at 7PM. Congratulations again, Andy! This was a well-deserved award!

Highlights from Arts in Schools Month

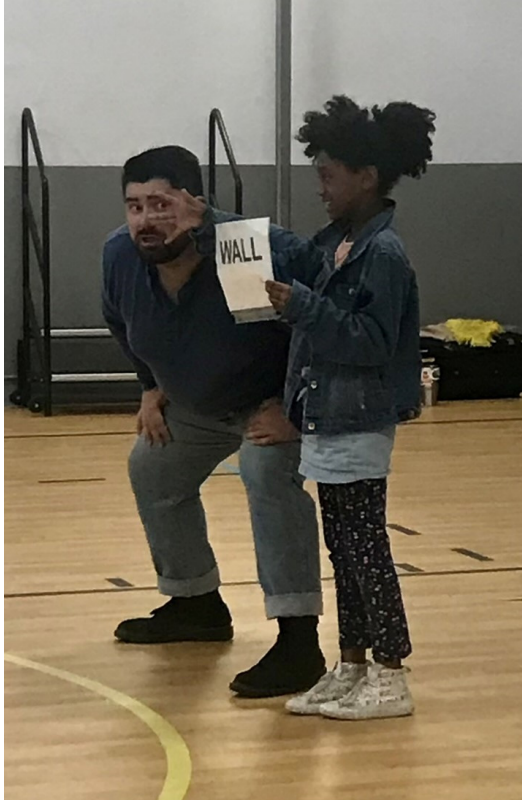
Reflections participants shared their work with MPSA community during our pop-up arts event *Artist's Alley*.

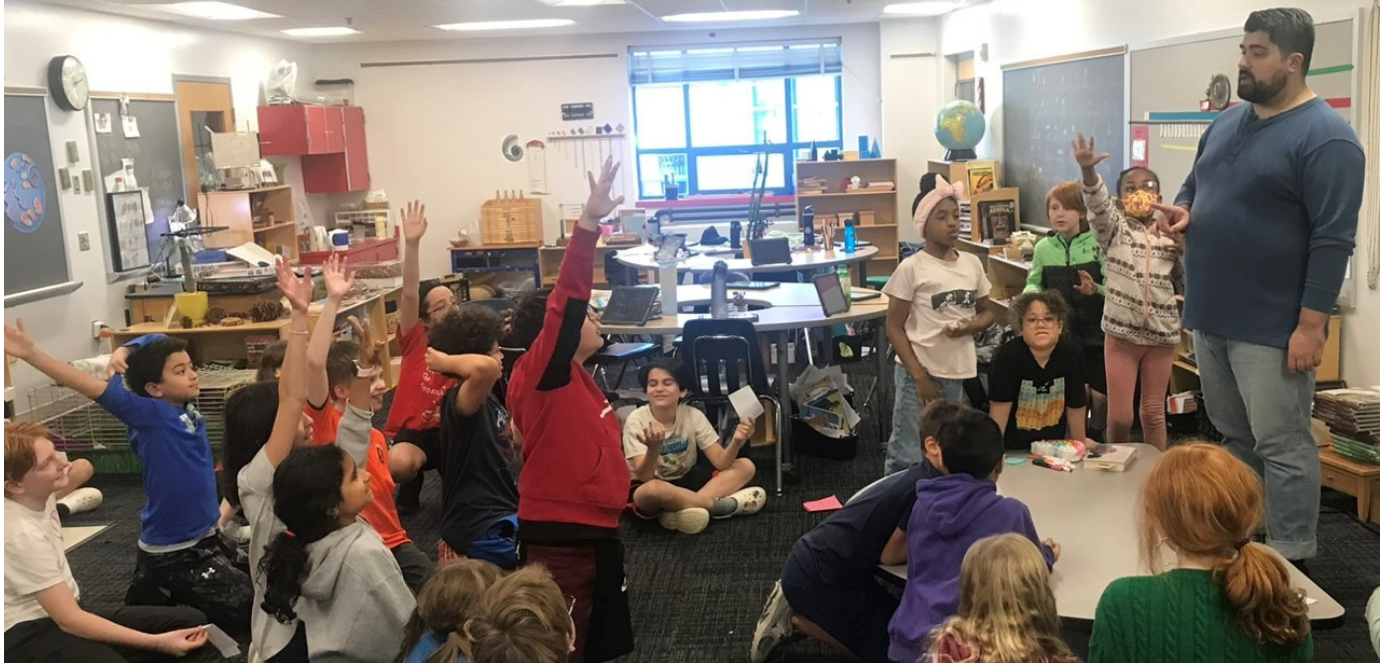






Education Theater Company's Shakespeare in Schools (SIS) program transformed our gym into a theater. Lower and Upper El students enjoyed an abridged version of William Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream*. Afterwards, teaching artists from SIS led improv/paraphrase workshops with the 4th and 5th graders.





And all MPSA students celebrated the science of sound with Hot Horns, a concert sponsored by a grant from The Humanities Project.

Save the Date: Earth Day at MPSA

EARTH DAY falls on **Monday, April 22nd**, and MPSA will be planning activities to commemorate the occasion. More details to come, however, we want to let our families know in advance that we will be asking for seedlings, plants, and seeds, so that the students can help make our outdoor spaces not only look beautiful, but also provide habitats for some of our outdoor friends.

Wakefield High School is hosting a sale of seedlings and plants. If you'd like to support MPSA in our Earth Day efforts while simultaneously supporting Wakefield's PTSA, please consider ordering plants! You can order online or go to their in-person sale on April 20th. Take a look at what they have to offer:

<http://www.wakefieldPTSA.org/plantsale>

If you would like to order plants but won't have time to pick them up, send an e-mail to Kia Haynes at kia.stevensonhaynes@apsva.us as she has volunteered to pick up plants that day.

More information about Earth Day to follow in a future School Talk. We will definitely need volunteers that day so mark your calendars!

STEAM Fair Details – May 3rd

Reprint from the flyer sent home this week.

STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) Fair **May 3 from 2-4pm**

Welcome to the 2024 MPSA Steam Fair! This is a school-wide event featuring student-led projects that relate to STEAM. Participation in the fair is free and open to all MPSA students. Students must register for the fair individually or in small groups (not to exceed 3 students). All projects will be an extension of a lesson. Submitting work that has previously been completed as part of the APS curriculum (i.e. Stemsscopes experiments) is not accepted.

Participation Guidelines:

- Registration is required
- Students submitting art or technology must create an original project that explores a science, engineering, or math concept. All artistic mediums are accepted (clay, paint, construction paper, yarn, beads, popsicle sticks!).
- Students are encouraged to create their own math manipulatives to explore/reinforce a math concept
- Parents are openly permitted and encouraged to help their children with their projects at an appropriate level. The bulk of the project should be completed by the student, but parents can give encouragement as well as practical assistance. The level of assistance will vary by age of the student.
- The STEAM Fair is a non-competitive event – each student’s participation will be recognized, and the reward is in the enjoyment of the project and having fun at the fair!
- In the interest of safety, the following are NOT permitted: hazardous chemicals, live electrical wires, flammable liquids, or open flames.
- Projects should be easy to display on a trifold board or a table top so that students can present their work.

Volunteers

A big event like the STEAM Fair is only possible with help from volunteers. Specifically, we need speakers in a STEAM career field to talk to the students the day of the event and we need people to help with set up, execution, and clean up. Please contact Dr. Mandy Downs at mandy.downs@apsva.us for more information on how you can help make the STEAM Fair a success.

Outdoor Lab Summer Experiences for UEM

There are still a few slots available for 4th and 5th graders in session B and session C for the outdoor lab camp. Registration deadline is April 15th.

- Session B: July 8 – 12
- Session C: July 15 - 19

For more information or to apply, visit <https://www.apsva.us/curriculum/outdoor-lab/>.

Lightspeed Parent Portal

Keep an eye out for the **Lightspeed Parent Portal** pilot! The Lightspeed Parent Portal meets the requests of families and the School Board for a tool that provides more insight into student internet activity on APS-issued devices. Ahead of the district-wide release in Fall 2024, families will have the opportunity to participate in the Parent Portal pilot that begins on April 21, 2024. More information coming after Spring break!

Old Magazines Needed

If you are planning on spending Spring break catching up on reading, please DO save your magazines! Ms. Barbour could use them for her art class. Please send magazines to school with your child when we return. They can drop them off directly to her in her room, number 175. Thank you in advance!

Upcoming Dates

- Monday, March 25 - Friday, March 29: **Spring Break - NO SCHOOL** (*Offices are closed*)
- Monday, April 1 – **Return to School** (*Welcome back!*)
- Wednesday, April 10 – **NO SCHOOL** (*Eid*)
- Monday, April 15 – **NO SCHOOL for Students, Grade Preparation 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?

- **SAVE THE DATE: MPSA Market Fair & Swap**
- **Call for ACMPTA Officers!**
- **Join AMAC's Annual Montessori Camping Trip**
- **The Yearbook Deadline is Coming!**
- **Join the PTA or Sponsor a Staff Member**

SAVE THE DATE: MPSA Market Fair & Swap



ACMPTA
MPSA SPRING MARKET
SATURDAY, APRIL 20TH 3PM - 6PM
LOCATION: MPSA SCHOOL

CRAFTS → **BAKED GOODS** →
FLOWERS PLANTS → **& MORE!** →

LIVE DJ * FOOD TRUCKS * FUN

Join us to support our MPSA Students who will be showcasing their crafts and selling goods!

FREE: Clothing/Goods Swap tables as well!

MORE DETAILS TO COME

Call for ACMPTA Officers!

Elections are coming up soon! The ACMPTA Nominating Committee is seeking those who are interested in being officers for the 2024-2025 Executive Committee.

- President
- 1st Vice President of Programs
- 2nd Vice President of Outreach & Communications
- Secretary
- Treasurer

If you are interested in any of the positions below, please e-mail Kia Haynes at khaynes74@gmail.com.

Elections will happen at the May PTA General Meeting.

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>

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!