

School Talk

WEEKLY UPDATE!

April 12, 2024

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REMINDER that there is **NO SCHOOL** for students on **Monday, April 15**, due to it being a grade preparation day for teachers. The building will be closed but staff will be monitoring their e-mails.

Montessori Educators from Across the Country Visit MPSA



Montessori educators & administrators visiting from across the country spent the day at MPSA today. The visit coincided with the national conference hosted by the [National Center for Montessori in the Public Sector \(NCMPS\)](#).


During the visit, our visitors observed MPSA students using hands-on Montessori materials and methods to master the Virginia curriculum in ways that allow them to adjust their pace based on their understanding with the support of self-correcting materials, collaborative student support and Montessori-trained teachers. After the classroom visits, the visitors were able to participate in a Q&A session with our principal of the year, Catharina Genove, teachers from all grade levels, as well as with our educational leadership team.

The visit was organized by former School Board member Monique O'Grady, who also serves on the board of the NCMPS.

Friday S.T.E.A.M. Challenge for Families!



STEAM CHALLENGE
Science - Technology - Engineering - Art - Math



Each Friday until May 3rd MPSA is inviting students to participate in a STEAM challenge. This week is based on Caines Arcade. Create a game out of cardboard to bring to the STEAM celebration on Friday May 3, 2-4.

Each Friday until the May 3rd S.T.E.A.M. Fair, MPSA is inviting students to participate in a challenge! This week's challenge is based on [Caine's Arcade](#). Have your child look at the video and then see if they can create a game out of cardboard. Bring that with you to the fair!

The fair will be held on Friday, May 3rd from 2 to 4PM.

**S.T.E.A.M. stands for Science Technology Engineering Art and Math.*

Lexia Club Ended Today

Lexia Club ended today! We hope your children enjoyed their time with our tutors!

Purple Up! Day



April is the **Month of the Military Child**. There are more than 1.6 million military children who face many challenges and unique experiences as a result of their parents' service. Each year, the DOD joins national, state, and local government, schools, military serving organizations, companies and private citizens in celebrating military children and the sacrifices they make. At MPSA, we plan on showing recognition of our students of military families in many ways! We will be giving teachers lists of activities they can do with their classes and will create a display that will feature the artwork and stories of these students.

Purple Up! Day is officially on Monday, April 15th, however, since there is no school for students that day, APS countywide will celebrate it on Friday, April 19th. We are asking our students and staff to wear purple for the day as a way for everyone to show support for the military child! (*Purple is the result of mixing all the official colors of each branch of the U.S. Armed Forces into one.*)

For more information about Month of the Military Child, [watch this video](#) produced by the U.S. Department of Defense.

Extended: Field Day T-Shirt Design Contest

Open to **ALL** MPSA Students: Design the next MPSA Field Day t-shirt! Now you can submit your drawing to us by **Tuesday, April 16th** at the end of the day.

Requirements:

- Submissions must be your original art/design
- Must be in the school colors: Orange, black and white

- Must have a white background, so please don't fill in spaces/gaps with color
- Any written words must be in relation to Field Day and kept short (so no long phrases, sayings)
- Computer created art is okay!
- Letter size (8.5" x 11"), portrait or landscape.

All designs should be handed in to Kia at the main office. You must have your name and teacher written on the BACK of the art – **any art with the name or teacher written on the front will not be considered.** Art will be returned after judging.

Join the Lightspeed Parent Portal Pilot

Between April 12 – 19, families can join the **APS Lightspeed Parent Portal** pilot by opting in through [ParentVUE](#).

- These new tools will help keep parents informed about student use of internet resources.
- By opting in, parents will receive access to the Weekly Online Student Activity Report and the Lightspeed Parent Portal.
- Parents must opt-in by Fri, April 19.
- The first Weekly Report and access to the Parent Portal on Sun, April 21.

[Learn more about the Lightspeed pilot.](#)

Upcoming Dates

- Monday, April 15 – **NO SCHOOL for Students, Grade Preparation Day**
- Wednesday, April 17 – **3rd Grade Swim Program Begins**
- Monday, April 22 – **MPSA Celebrates Earth 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?

- **STILL TIME TO REGISTER! MPSA Market Fair & Swap!**
- **Collection Boxes for the Swap Are Ready for Your Donations!**
- **EXTENDED: Registration for AMAC's Annual Montessori Camping Trip!**
- **Join the PTA or Sponsor a Staff Member**

STILL TIME TO REGISTER! 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 * FUN

Join us to support our MPSA Students who will be showcasing their crafts and selling goods!
FREE: Clothing/Goods Swap tables as well!
Click on QR code below to learn more on how your child can participate!

We hope you and the family will join us for the **MPSA Spring Market**, held Saturday, April 20th at MPSA from 3PM to 6PM.

This event encourages students to make original items, and/or showcase and demonstrate their creative skill. The students desire, they also have the opportunity to sell the products that result from their drive to create.

Students do not have to create items to sell. Students are also encouraged display and explain their creations and to provide maker skill demonstrations. Examples of demonstrations include robotics, knitting, weaving, cake decorating, etc.

REQUIREMENTS

- Students need to have created the display and/or sale items themselves.
- Students should be able to demonstrate the process by which they created their products or display items in one of the following ways:
 1. Provide live demonstration at the event;
 2. Show pictures of the making process; or,
 3. Be able to share a step-by-step explanation.

Demonstrations alongside items for sale feed curiosity and spark greater creativity. Some examples of items that have been made for similar fairs include homemade dog toys or treats, handmade greeting cards, baked goods made from scratch or baked items altered with a creative flair, handmade soaps, and woven friendship bracelets or barrettes.

Examples of display and demonstrations that do not include sale items include cake decorating, robotics creations, weaving, slime making, etc.

PARTICIPATION FEE

There is a **\$10 non-refundable fee** per station to participate and includes one table and two chairs. This is not intended to be a PTA fundraising event. The fee will help to offset the cost of the cost of hosting the event. The fee will be returned only if the application is not accepted.

The application is not complete until the reservation fee is received.

The participation fee can be paid via cash/check to Kia in the front office or by Paypal (link on registration form).

Students signing up as a group need to have one person listed as the responsible party and must list all participating group members.

Applications will be accepted until 10:00 PM Monday, April 15.

[Fill out the electronic form here.](#)

Collection Boxes for the Swap Are Ready for Your Donations!

The MPSA Spring Market will also be featuring a clothing swap! Drop of your donation of clean clothes in good condition to the boxes found in the vestibule of the main entrance and just inside door #5 on Highland Street (available at drop off/pickup). There will also be one available in the main lobby where children may drop off items.

More information about the swap to come!

EXTENDED: Registration for 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>

**Note: Members of MPSA's ACMPTA are not automatically members of AMAC. You will need to join separately. [Click here to learn how to be a member.](#)*

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!