



# School Talk

WEEKLY UPDATE!

April 19, 2024

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### Monday is Earth Day!

Earth Day this year occurs on Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. This year's global theme is Planet vs. Plastic. The Upper Elementary classes will be going into the Lower Elementary and Primary classrooms to share some aspects of taking care of our earth.

To incorporate the celebration of our diversity into Earth Day, we would like to continue the tradition of having each student bring in a plant or seedling of their choice. If each child brings in one plant, we will be able to plant over 500 plants in our gardens. What a spectacular way to concretely illustrate our unique school culture and range of our beauty! Plants can be brought in all week as planting will happen throughout the week. Please do not send in vegetable or fruit plants. Herbs are okay!

Plants are widely available at almost every grocery store if you do not want to make a trip to a garden center. There are also plants sold at hardware stores such as Lowes and Home Depot. Wakefield High School is also having a plant sale! It opens at 10AM and is open through 2PM. Proceeds benefit their PTSA. If purchasing a plant is a hardship, a packet of seeds for flowers, plants and herbs, are welcome. You can varieties for about a \$1.

If your child has gardening gloves, please allow them to bring them to school next week. If you are willing to loan us the use of gardening tools for planting, please bring to the main office or hand them to a staff member at pick up or drop off. **Please do not send garden tools with children on the bus.** The Upper Elementary students will be assisting younger students with planting throughout the week. It will be a great way for Upper Elementary to connect with their younger fellow students.

Thank you for your participation! Here's to beautiful outdoor spaces at MPSA!

The Outdoor Learning and Sustainability Committee

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

This week's challenge: *What floats your boat?*

Students and their families are challenged to build a boat that actually floats! It can be made out of any materials you wish. If you successfully craft a boat that floats, bring it with you to our MPSA Steam Fair on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

We look forward to seeing a fleet of MPSA crafted boats!

### April is School Library Month

April is [School Library Month](#)! The theme for 2024 is "Ready, Set, Library."

As students go through the library doors, they discover so many possibilities. Libraries have spaces for independent reading, collaborative group work and space for whole classes to learn together. The library is a welcoming space for all students and is ready to meet the inquiry needs of each one.

Students can go to the library for so many reasons and each time their library staff is there to welcome and engage with them and support their individual needs. We thank and appreciate our school librarian, Kay Miller, and our wonderful library assistants, Becky Trytten (AM) and Richard Roberts (PM). They make visiting the MPSA library something to look forward to!

### **Would You Like to Be an MPSA Homemade Orchestra Donor?**

Over the last several weeks, UEM students spent a lot of time observing and thinking about how instruments initiate, amplify and manipulate sound. We've practiced organizing instruments according to the Hornbostel-Sachs system's 5 basic classifications:

1. Aerophones: sounds initiated via **vibrating column of air**
2. Chordophones: sounds initiated via **vibrating strings**
3. Electrophones: sounds initiated electronically or with **electronic** components.
4. Idiophones: sounds produced by the **vibration of an instrument's body**
5. Membranophone: sounds produced by **vibrating membranes/skins**

We've engaged in some exploratory problem-solving using VA Tech's Innovation Invention Design Process, and we've refined our ideas about instrument design. Now, it's time to start creating!! Please help us!

Our goal is to create instruments that are **musical** (not just noisy), **durable** and **attractive**. Our budget, \$0.00, provides an additional challenge. Consequently, we are looking for materials that are free to all students.

Please consider donating materials (containers, tubes, art supplies, beads, cords/strings, fasteners, fabric, films/membranes) that can help with the construction of durable and attractive aerophones, chordophones, idiophones and membranophones. Materials can be recycled or new; please make sure

they are clean and safe for children. All donated items may be sent directly to Ms. Shakespeare's classroom; leftovers will be donated to our art department for future, creative endeavors.

We can't wait to share our instruments with the MPSA community!

SPOILER ALERT: the grand unveiling of our "homemade" orchestra will be at MPSA's STEAM fair on May 3.

### Take Your Child to Work Day

Thursday, April 25, is [Take Your Child to Work Day](#). Parents wanting to take their children to work will need to let our attendance admin know by e-mailing [montessori.attendance@apsva.us](mailto:montessori.attendance@apsva.us) or calling the attendance hotline at [703-228-2037](tel:703-228-2037). Students will be excused for this occasion.

### Upcoming Dates

- Monday, April 22 – **MPSA Celebrates Earth Day**
- Wednesday, April 24 – **Middle School Tours for Rising 6<sup>th</sup> Graders**
- Thursday, April 25 – **Honored Citizens Celebration at the School Board Meeting**
- Thursday, May 3 – **Early Release, students dismissed at 1:30PM**
- Thursday, May 3 – **MPSA S.T.E.A.M. Fair, 2-4PM**

### 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](https://twitter.com/MPSA_Library)
- MPSA Science on Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/MPSA\\_Science](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/>

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# ACMPTA WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



## What's Inside?

- We Hope to See You Tomorrow!
- TJMS Invites You to a SO FETCH Event!
- There is STILL ROOM! Join AMAC's Annual Montessori Camping Trip!
- Join the PTA or Sponsor a Staff Member

### We Hope to See You Tomorrow!

## Don't miss MPSA's first SPRING MARKET!

This SATURDAY, April 20th at MPSA

3PM to 6PM

Come browse handmade crafts, baked goods and more made by students and staff while enjoying music & concessions!

It's going to be loads of fun!

## HAVE CLOTHES TO GET RID OF (OR LOOKING FOR CLOTHES)?

Take part in our FREE clothing & goods swap! We will have clothes, shoes and gear available for no charge!

\*See notes about this event at the end of this message.\*

**ACMPPTA**  
**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!**

Some of the items being sold:  
 \*Jewelry  
 \*Baked goods  
 \*T-shirts  
 \*Slime  
 \*International Foods  
 ....and more!

Price point for most items = \$1 to \$10

**ACMPPTA**  
**MPSA SPRING CONCESSIONS**  
**\$5 = 5 Tickets**  
 Water / Juice 1 ticket  
 Gatorade 2 tickets  
 Snacks 1 ticket  
 Pizza Slice 2 tickets  
**EXACT CHANGE APPRECIATED!**  
 \*Tickets for concession purchases, not market sales.\*

**Notes:**

- \*ALL children **must** be accompanied by an adult. You **cannot** drop your child off and leave.
- \*This event has a **hard stop** at 6PM, so please try to make it before then!
- \*Small bills/exact change appreciated. You can pay via Paypal for PTA concessions. *The proceeds from the concession sales go towards the PTA general fund, used to support our student & teachers throughout the school year.*
- \*Some of the families selling may take digital payment, but please be prepared to pay cash as we do not have confirmation of that.

**There is STILL ROOM! 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 14<sup>th</sup>** through **Sunday, June 16<sup>th</sup>** 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>

### **TJMS Invites You to a SO FETCH Event!**



### **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!