

# School Talk

WEEKLY UPDATE!

April 26, 2024

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**DON'T FORGET** the **MPSA S.T.E.A.M. Fair** is this coming **Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>**! It will be held from **2PM to 4PM**, right after the early release! We hope you can make it! More information is coming soon in a standalone School Talk!

### Report Cards Have Been Posted

Report cards have been posted and are available in ParentVUE under the "Documents" tab (not the "Report Card" tab).

**NOTE:** There are no report cards for Primary Montessori students.

If you would like a paper copy printed out, please send an e-mail request to Aimee Pangan at [aimee.pangan@apsva.us](mailto:aimee.pangan@apsva.us).

### Specialists' Comments

Due to spacing, our MPSA specials teachers cannot post comments on the report cards, so here they are for you.

#### Art w/Ms. Barbour

LEM: In Q3 we focused on printmaking and collage. We learned the process of transferring an image to a block, then carving, inking and pulling a print. In our collage unit we were inspired by the Fauve art movement to create colorful compositions featuring Washington landmarks.

UEM: In Q3 we focused on printmaking and collage. We were inspired by Andy Warhol to create images of endangered species, learning a reductive process to print in two colors. In our collage unit we were inspired by the Fauve art movement to create colorful compositions featuring Washington landmarks.

### **Art w/Mr. Russey**

Q3 LEM: Students continued to engage in Visual Art fundamentals of design through a variety of artmaking experiences, including: drawing; painting; and sculpture. Within those areas, the areas of exploration and engagement included: manipulation of materials; exploration of specific design elements (line, shape, color, texture) and design principles (balance, contrast, unity). In addition, cultural awareness and learning in the area of artmaking were explored.

Q3 UEM: During Quarter 3, UEL students in Visual Art explored fundamentals of design through a variety of artmaking experiences, including drawing, painting in watercolor and sculpture. The connection between art and world cultures was explored as related to art making (art history: Op Art, POP Art, and Photography).

### **Library w/Ms. Miller**

**Primary** students were taught about the features of fiction books. During story sessions, students recognized fiction elements and followed the storyline's problem and resolution.

**Lower Elementary** students have been exploring the distinctive features of picture books. They demonstrated an understanding of how words and illustrations collaborate to narrate a story. Meanwhile, third-grade students honed their dictionary skills by utilizing a printed dictionary to search for word meanings.

**Upper Elementary** students have been selecting books for the annual Monarch Book Awards. They read through many books but as a group selected five books for each category. the categories are: fiction, nonfiction, graphic novels, and picture books. For the STEAM fair, they wrote book reflections and recorded them into animations using Adobe Express.

### **Music w/Ms. Beth**

This quarter in Ms. Beth's **Primary** Music class we have been working on movement in self and shared space, as well as mirroring. We are excited to be singing call and response songs, and to perform solos independently. Ask your child about "I Went Walking."

This quarter in Ms. Beth's **Lower Elementary** Music class, we have been working on improvising musical phrases using rhythmic building bricks or question and answer form. We are practicing creative movement and folk dances like "Tideo." Ask your child about "My brother, your brother."

### **Music w/Ms. Shakepeare**

**Primary** classrooms focused on circles this quarter: clocks, buttons and drums. We sang and played the call-and-response/ question-answer children's game Button You Must Wander. In this game, children practiced pitch-matching, turn-taking and soloing.

**Lower EI** students are well on their way to reaching our group goal of knowing at least one folksong or dance from each inhabited continent. Using Carnegie Hall's Musical Explorers virtual resources, students learned traditional Chinese New Years song Gong Xi Gong Xi and Argentinian Chacarera Del Rancho.

**Upper EI** students spent a lot of time observing and thinking about how instruments initiate, amplify and manipulate sound. We practiced organizing instruments according to the Hornbostel-Sachs system's 5 basic classifications:

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

### **P.E. w/Mr. McGee**

The **Primary** students learned how their bodies reacted to vigorous physical activity and focused on spatial awareness and being respectful of each other. **All students** continue to learn how to use safe practices, cooperate with classmates and show respect to their classmates. They are still evolving with learning how to follow classroom rules. Currently 3rd graders are participating in the swim program at W-L high school. They are learning water safety and basic swimming skills. Coming up for LEM/UEM will be activities using long sticks, to include lacrosse and golf.

### **P.E. w/Mr. Miles**

Students are continuing to show high energy and maximum effort across grade levels. They are continuing to develop their motor skills, implement fitness planning, increase body awareness, and experience a variety of skill development through various games and activities. Our students' feedback on all activities has been fantastic and their enthusiasm has been nothing short of contagious! It's non-stop fun for all students through movement and exercise. Furthermore, the social-emotional development of students continues to be nurtured through social interaction among peers, including outside of their own class. Students continue to respond positively to constructive teacher and peer-to-peer feedback of proper techniques, playing by activity or game rules, gym rules, healthy competitive play, good sportsmanship, and fun while on the move! For the 4th quarter we will be starting soccer, golf, lacrosse, and baseball across the final weeks of school. We're looking forward to celebrating our PE program with the highlight of our school in the upcoming Field Day.

[View the specialists' quarterly newsletter here.](#)

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

This week's challenge: *Wings to fly!*

Students and their families are challenged to design a paper airplane that will fly with the best speed, distance, and accuracy. ***Bring your plane to the S.T.E.A.M. Fair and we will test it out!***

We look forward to having your creation be a part of the MPSA Experimental Air Squadron!

### Congratulations to MPSA's Honored Citizen Recipient, Andy Greenwood!

Last night, Thursday, April 25, longtime Montessori parent, **Andy Greenwood**, was recognized by the School Board as one of APS's **2024 Honored Citizens**. Andy was nominated by MPSA because of his continued advocacy for the APS Montessori program. He has sat on many working groups and advisory committees (including his current seat on the APS Facilities Advisory Committee). He was joined by his wife, Jennifer, and their three sons: Wallace (4<sup>th</sup> grade in Ms. Ross' UEM class); Wesley and Winston (6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders in the Gunston Montessori program); Principal Genove & Kia Haynes representing MPSA; and Michael Bruno, Vice President of Communications for the Arlington Montessori Action Committee (AMAC). It was an award well deserved!



It's Been a Busy Week at MPSA

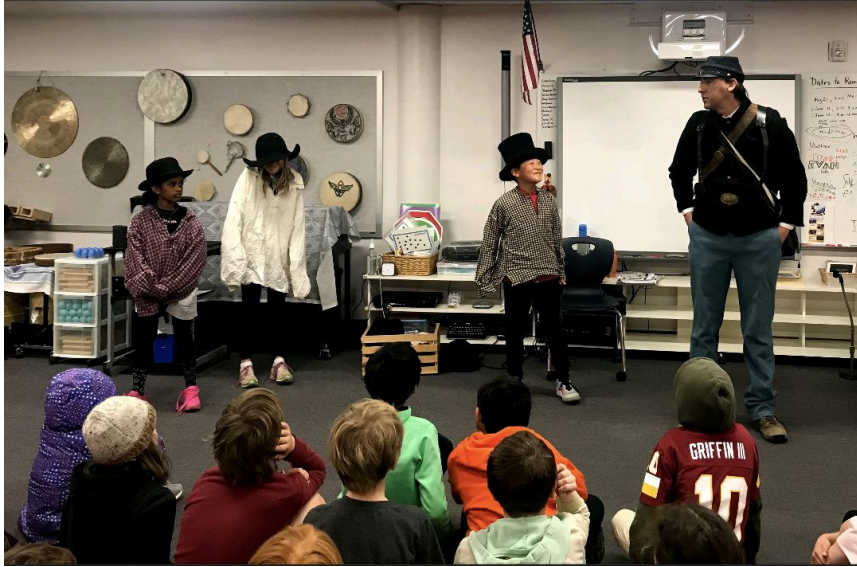


Earth Day performance of *Mother Earth and Me* by Smithsonian Discovery Theater. Thank you to APS Humanities Project for funding this performance.



Artist's Alley





4<sup>th</sup> graders work with Civil War educator, John McNair, from Fort C.F. Smith. Mr. McNair has been doing this presentation with our school since Montessori was housed at Drew!

### 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!**

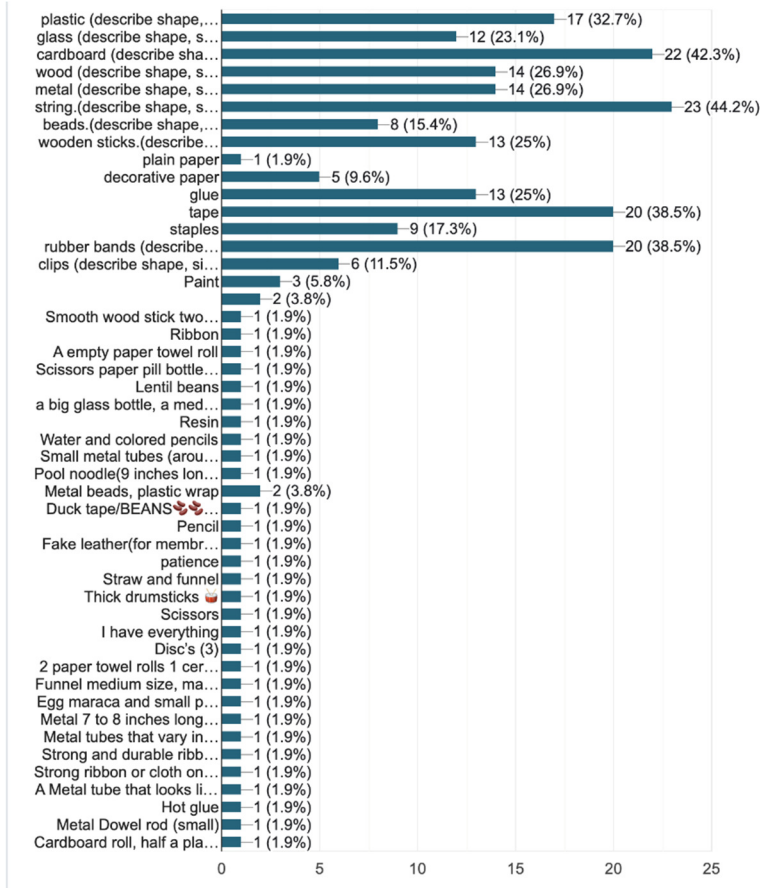
Our goal is to create instruments that are **musical** (not just noisy), **durable** and **attractive**. Our budget, \$0.00, provides an additional challenge. Consequently, we are looking for materials that are free to all students.

Please consider donating materials that can help with the construction of durable and attractive aerophones, chordophones, idiophones and membranophones. **To make the gathering process easier, we've graphed our basic needs and listed specific needs via Google Forms** (see pics below). 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 by Tuesday morning, April 30;** leftovers will be donated to our art department for future creative endeavors.

We can't wait to share our instruments with the MPSA community on May 3 at the STEAM Fair!

**SPECIFICS:**

- ❖ Paint
- ❖ One big glass bottle one medium glass bottle and one small glass bottle pretty ribbon
- ❖ A metal mouthpiece. Plastic that I can punch holes in for note chords. A small mini drum on the side I don't know which shape or material. And I need a support system
- ❖ A rectangle cardboard box
- ❖ 1 large string 2 medium 10 paper clips 1 plastic bottle 1 large cardboard box
- ❖ Glass: small glass bottle (1) Cardboard: paper towel roll(1) Beads: tiny wooden beads (4) Rubber bands: medium (4)
- ❖ one mini can
- ❖ Medium sized rubber band, duct tape
- ❖ a strong screen, silver or golden medal paper with moons stars and that style has to be Circle And I'll provide more decorative things
- ❖ 6 by 8 by 4 in of wood 4 feet of guitar string
- ❖ Markers
- ❖ String: preferably thin, preferably black (a roll of string)
- ❖ Beads: preferably black, sizes vary from small to medium (estimated 35-50 beads maximum)
- ❖ Metal tubes: small (1 to 2 inches long, maximum 1 inch wide) color: metallic gray or metallic black
- ❖ Metal beads are .5 centimeters around
- ❖ Beer bottle size
- ❖ Big wooden ring
- ❖ I need a plastic straw and maybe 5 to 8 thick rubber bands and a BIG plastic bottle plus any type of funnel
- ❖ I need large pieces of cardboard to cut, a foot long stick, small beads, and hot glue
- ❖ The rubber bands or string need to be colorful and maybe the bottles can be colorful too?
- ❖ Rubber bands colorful, paint colorful, cardboard paper towel role, wood long stick
- ❖ Plastic bag for the membrane (only one please), a pipe cleaner, one tissue box, one cardboard strip if possible, if not, a cardboard box.
- ❖ Spiky things
- ❖ Gallon bottle
- ❖ Rubber bands 3,stick1, beads 10, neon paint
- ❖ Paint brushes
- ❖ 3 long pieces of string, 1 toilet paper roll, 3 rubber bands.
- ❖ Plastic wet wipes container, stick of strong wood, and rubber bands that are short and thin
- ❖ Wood should be in tube shape
- ❖ 4x4 piece of cardboard, hot glue/super glue, duct tape/clear scotch tape, thick rubber bands (6), and screw rings (6). Thank you.
- ❖ 4x4 piece of cardboard, hot glue/ super glue, duct tape, clear scotch tape, thick rubber bands (7), screw ring (6), Thank you!!!
- ❖ Plastic: square 15 by 15 inch slightly flimsy ,metal:6 sphere's ,3feet of white string
- ❖ Metric paint
- ❖ The plastic bottle has to be the liter kind, and the cardboard roll has to be as big as the bottle



### Upcoming Dates

- Friday, May 3 – **Early Release, students dismissed at 1:30PM**
- Friday, May 3 – **MPSA S.T.E.A.M. Fair, 2-4PM**
- Wednesday, May 8 – **Bike & Walk to School Day**
- Saturday, May 18 – **Arlington Family & Youth Mental Health Fair ([Register here](#))**
- Sunday, May 19 – **Girls on the Run 5K, Pentagon City ([Sign up to run here](#))**

### 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/>

**\*\*SCROLL DOWN FOR THE PTA NEWSLETTER\*\***



# ACMPTA WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



## What's Inside?

- **Did You Miss the Yearbook Sale? ABSOLUTE LAST CHANCE TO ORDER NOW!**
- **Sign Up to Help w/the TAW Breakfast for Staff**
- **Do Good While Eating Mexican Food!**
- **There is STILL ROOM! Join AMAC's Annual Montessori Camping Trip!**
- **Join the PTA or Sponsor a Staff Member**

### Did You Miss the Yearbook Sale? ABSOLUTE LAST CHANCE TO ORDER NOW!

We will order a few extra copies of the yearbook, so if you missed your chance, order now! [Please fill out this Google form to reserve a copy.](#)

**Your copy of the yearbook is not guaranteed until payment is received.** Indicate how you will be paying on the form.

The cost is now **\$25** per yearbook.

**All yearbooks must be purchased by Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

### Sign Up to Help w/the TAW Breakfast for Staff

It is time for the annual **Teacher Appreciation Week (TAW)** breakfast potluck! It is one of the ways the PTA and the community show our teachers and staff just how much their hard work is appreciated! So please sign up to contribute an item if you can. The breakfast will be held on **Thursday, May 9th** at MPSA.

**Sign up here:** <https://tinyurl.com/cpvr7bx3>

Don't have the bandwidth to cook or shop for this event? No worries! You can send our PTA VP of Events a **Venmo** contribution, and she will take care of purchasing items for you! Send a **Venmo** payment to Sonali Singh at [@sonalisingh45](#). **Please put "TAW Breakfast" in the notes.** *You can also send in a cash contribution to Kia in the main office.*

We thank you in advance!

### Do Good While Eating Mexican Food!



The ACMPTA will be having an **ALL-DAY** restaurant fundraiser on **Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>** at **Los Chamacos Mexican Family Restaurant!** Come out for some delicious authentic Mexican food and help raise money for our PTA. This is the restaurant that MPSA teacher gather at once a month to enjoy food and fellowship after work and comes highly recommended!

Los Chamacos will give us 15% of the proceeds for sales from **9AM to 10PM!** They serve breakfast, lunch, dinner and late evening meals, so there is always an opportunity to come enjoy their food for this fundraiser! Look for a flyer coming soon! Be sure to share it with all your local friends and family.

*\*Dine in or carryout orders directly through the restaurant only. Uber Eat/Grubhub/DoorDash/Postmates orders are not counted towards this fundraiser.*

### 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>

### 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!