



School Talk

WEEKLY UPDATE!

April 5, 2024

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REMINDER that all APS schools and offices will be **CLOSED** next **Wednesday, April 10**, in observation of **Eid**.

[Monday's Solar Eclipse: A Note from the Administration](#)

Dear MPSA Families,

There is a lot of excitement around the solar eclipse that will take place this Monday, April 8th, as it provides a rare opportunity to learn more about this extraordinary natural phenomenon. In our area, the eclipse will occur between 2-4:30 p.m. It will not be a total eclipse, but it is somewhere between 80-90% totality. The peak will be around 3:20.

We are providing all students with protective solar-viewing glasses and want to ensure they understand the importance of safe viewing practices. Therefore, APS provided the following resources that you may view with your children prior to school on Monday.

- [Eclipse Resources](#)

- [National Science Teaching Association \(NSTA\)](#)

Your child's teacher will review a few information about the Eclipse with a focus on safety precautions, such as only looking at the sun for short periods of time even when wearing the eclipse glasses. Teachers have been given instructions that any students taken outside must be accompanied by a teacher and only for approximately ten minutes and in small groups to ensure they can enforce safety precautions.

We feel fortunate for this learning experience with our students. However, if you do not want your child to participate, please email your child's teacher, and CC the instructional assistant as well. **Please do not rely on your child to let them know that they should not view the eclipse.** Students not participating will be provided with another activity. Please note, regardless of participation, all students will be part of the educational lessons and will be provided with Solar Eclipse glasses, which they will be bringing home with them.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to your child's teacher.

Thank you,

Catharina Genove, Principal
John Koutsouftikis, Assistant Principal
Mandy Downs, MPSA Science Lead Teacher

Week of the Young Child

The week of April 6th through April 12th is celebrated as Week of the Young Child! It is a fun-filled week celebrating early learning, young children, their teachers, families, and communities. There are several events happening for APS Pre-K families that you are invited to take part in.

Monday, April 8th

I've Got a Feeling: Wolf Trap Family Workshop

4:30 PM-- Hoffman-Boston Elementary

Everyone has lots of feelings inside – and it can be helpful to share them with trusted friends and family. Play and sing along with Mr. Elias in an exploration of feelings and emotions we all have, through music and puppetry. [Sign up here!](#)

Tuesday, April 9th

Moving and Learning Through the Rainforest: Wolf Trap Family Workshop

4:30 PM--Fleet Elementary

Adults and children will take an imaginary journey to a rainforest, where they can explore a variety of animals and natural elements and learn about the importance of protecting this unique forest environment and other ecosystems. [Sign up here!](#)

Wednesday, April 10th

Children's Story Time

11:00 AM- Arlington Central Library

Please join us for a fun children's read aloud at the Central Library.

This is an APS school holiday so there is no school.

Friday, April 12th

Dinosaurs: A Story of Survival (Arlington Planetarium Show)

Limited seats available so pre-registration is required (FREE)

3:00 PM and 4:00 PM showings

1426 North Quincy St.

Come learn all about dinosaurs! Families [MUST pre-register here](#) to attend this show.

April SEL Notes for Families

We are all faced with making decisions on a daily basis. As we get older those decisions can become more complex. Supporting our children in developing decision making skills can equip them with the skills and tools they need when faced with choices or making decisions on their own. Read this article to learn more ways to help children develop healthy decision-making habits.

- [Why Developing Decision-Making Skills at a Young Age Is Important](#)
- [Responsible Decision-Making](#)

**SEL is the acronym for "Social and Emotional Learning". It is the process through which children, adolescents, and adults learn skills to support healthy development and relationships.*

Tutoring/Lexia Club END Dates

All **in-person SOL** tutoring (morning and afternoon) will **end** the week of April 22nd, with the last tutoring session ending on Friday, April 26th. You should be hearing from your child's tutor.

Lexia Club will end next Friday, April 12th, both morning and afternoon session.

Field Day T-Shirt Design Contest

Open to **ALL** MPSA Students: Design the next MPSA Field Day t-shirt! Submit your drawing to us by **Friday, April 12th** 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.

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.

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.

Upcoming Dates

- Wednesday, April 10 – **NO SCHOOL** (*Eid*)
- 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?

- April 20th: MPSA Market Fair & Swap!
- Baroodly Enrichment Begins this Monday, April 8th
- There is **STILL ROOM!** Join AMAC's Annual Montessori Camping Trip!
- Call for Poetry – Moving Words Poetry Competition
- The Yearbook Deadline is Coming!
- Join the PTA or Sponsor a Staff Member

April 20th: 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.](#)

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 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>

Call for Poetry – Moving Words Poetry Competition

Students enrolled in the Arlington Public School System are invited to submit poems for Moving Words, a poetry competition co-sponsored by the Arlington Public Schools Humanities Project, Arlington County Cultural Affairs, and the Arlington Transit. The competition is the culmination of the Pick a Poet project, a partnership between Arlington Cultural Affairs and the Humanities Project, which places professional poets in APS classrooms.

The deadline to submit poems to the Moving Words competition is Wednesday, May 15, 2024.

Poems will be selected by a panel of literary professionals from each of the following categories: K-2nd, 3rd–5th, 6th–8th, and 9th–12th.

***** Ten winning poets will have their poems displayed inside Arlington ART Buses for five months between October 2024 and March 2025. *****

Eligibility

Arlington students in grades kindergarten through twelve are eligible to submit poems.

Judge

Simon Shieh is a poet, writer, and educator, and the author of *Master* (Sarabande Books, 2023). His poems and essays are published in *Poetry*, *American Poetry Review*, *Best New Poets*, *Guernica*, and *The Yale Review*, among others, and have been recognized with a National Endowment for the Arts Literature fellowship and a Ruth Lilly and Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Fellowship from the Poetry Foundation

Guidelines

1. Students must be enrolled in Arlington Public Schools and may be in any grade.

2. Poems must be written by one student and may be on any subject.
3. Poems must be no more than 10 lines including stanza breaks.
4. All poems must be submitted using the links below, and up to 3 poem submissions

Deadline: All entries must be received by Wednesday, May 15, 2024

Reserve a Poet through Pick-a-Poet:

- Website: <https://www.apsva.us/pick-a-poet-program/>
- Form: <https://forms.gle/kNc38pgJr1riWiU27>

Submit a Poem to Moving Words contest:

- Website: <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Arts/Programs/Humanities/Moving-Words-Student>
- Form: <https://us.openforms.com/Form/97da8061-cc93-4caf-b510-0765e13aec26>

For more information, please contact **Christopher Monroy**, Humanities Project & Honors Music Program Coordinator, at christopher.monroy@apsva.us

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!