

# School Talk

WEEKLY UPDATE!

May 25, 2024

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A reminder that **MONDAY, May 27<sup>th</sup>**, is Memorial Day and there is **NO SCHOOL!**  
We will see everyone on Tuesday!

## Congratulations (Again) to Principal, Teacher & Support Employee of the Year!

This past Tuesday evening, MPSA celebrated our **APS Award of Excellence** winners at a beautiful ceremony held at Washington-Liberty HS. **Catharina Genove** (*Principal of the Year for the District*), **Emily Hall** (*Teacher of the Year for MPSA*) and **Leslie Elgendi-Whiteside** (*Support Employee of the Year for MPSA*) were present with their friends and loved ones, as well as staff who supported their wins. It was beautifully staged, with each winner having a 3'x2' color portrait of themselves presented on either side of a red carpet that lead to a wonderful catered reception for them and their guests. The MPSA staff showed up wearing white tops, sat together and waved monarch butterflies on wands to show our support. The MPSA chorus and some members of the MPSA UEM Orchestra performed "Light a Candle for Peace" the official song of the Montessori community worldwide; and ended with a rendition of "Happy Birthday" as it was also Ms. Genove's birthday. Their presence was a surprise to the winners and beautifully orchestrated by music teacher **Amie Shakespeare**, with music teacher **Beth Ellis**, orchestra teacher **Erik Kamenski** and MPSA parent **Katie Lin** as support and accompanists.

View the official APS Announcement of Ms. Genove's win [here](#).

View Ms. Genove's acceptance speech [here](#).

View the chorus & orchestra's performance [here](#).

Please enjoy some pictures from the evening as well.







### The MPSA Math Dice Team Showed Up and Showed Out!

The **MPSA Math Dice** team, accompanied by coaches **Jennifer Collier** and **Eileen Lopatkiewicz** (and cheered on by our own Principal of the Year, **Ms. Genove**) competed at the APS Grade 5 Math Dice Tournament this month.

The **MPSA "Dicers"** attended extra practice sessions - tirelessly adding, subtracting, multiplying, dividing - not to mention designing a team T-Shirt and creating a team cheer - for weeks leading up the competition. Congratulations to all our dicers for a job well done!

See them perform their team cheer [here](#).

### MPSA's GoTR Team Rocked the 5K!

It was a rainy Sunday on May 19<sup>th</sup>, but the MPSA Girls on the Run team didn't let that bother them as they all ran the organization's celebratory 5K! The team showed up and ran with gusto, along with their coaches, LEM teachers **Julie Carson & Rebecca Rubilotta**, and UEM teacher **Jennifer Collier**; parents and even staff - we're proudly calling out LEM teacher **Suneeta Maheshwari** & math coach **Kathleen Habuki** for joining in! Principal **Catharina Genove** and her husband, Joel, were also there, cheering the team on. Everyone completed the 5K successfully and ended the season with a sense of accomplishment and pride. Way to go, team!





### News from the MPSA Library

Library check-outs will continue until **May 31**, but we are putting checkout notices in backpacks starting this week. Please help your students look for their books, it would be appreciated. Not all students have notices so you might not find one.

Some of these books were checked out long ago, so it is possible they are lost forever. We'll help search classrooms and extended day for copies that may have been misplaced at school.

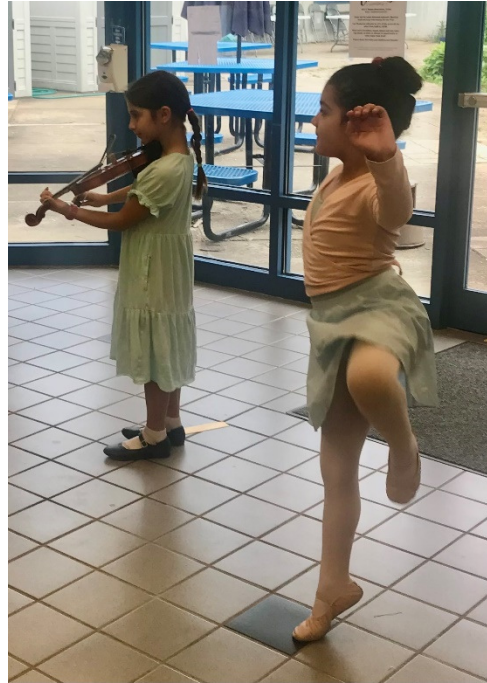
If you do find the books, please send them back. If you don't find them, it's ok, but please contact Kay Miller through ParentSquare or email about the lost book. If you would like to help grow our collection, we can share a list of books the kids would enjoy and you could get something from that list to replace the lost book. We also have an ongoing Amazon [wishlist](#) for library supplies that can be found [here](#).

We do care about our books, but we don't want to create tension at home or discourage students from using the library and checking out books. We LOVE that your kids love the library books (and almost always return them). We want to encourage reading and exploration, so please don't let anyone feel guilty for misplaced books. It happens to all of us. We want to make sure our students always feel welcome here, and we'll welcome lost books back if they ever turn up.

## May 23rd Artists Alley

This month's Artist's Alley spotlighted Lower Elementary students.

Artist's Alley is a monthly pop-up showcasing student talent and creative interests.



## School Health Survey

From **May 17 to June 7**, Arlington County's Public Health Division, in coordination with APS, invites families to complete a survey on the School Health Program (SHP). School Health promotes a healthy learning environment for all APS students by offering a clinic in every school and the opportunity to achieve a lifestyle that will lead to a satisfying and productive life. SHP strives to provide the best service possible in the school clinics.

To help us understand what we do well and areas where we can improve, please take a few minutes to tell us about your experiences with your student's school clinic during the 2023-24 school year. All results are anonymous. If you wish to talk with someone about the School Health program, please contact (703) 228-1651.

- English: <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7846123/2023-2024-School-Health-Parent-Survey>
- Spanish: <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7846123/bf7d35b4a7b1>
- Amharic: <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7846123/0eb493d39c3f>
- Arabic: <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7846123/5c9e69ece26a>
- Mongolian: <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7846123/f3c06287d88d>

### Upcoming Dates

- Monday, May 27 – **NO SCHOOL**, Memorial Day Observance
- Friday, May 31 – **MPSA Spring Play**, 6:30PM
- Wednesday, June 5 – **Early Release**, *dismissal is at 1:30PM*
- Friday, June 7 – **MPSA Field Day** (*raindate, Monday, June 10*)
- Wednesday, June 12 – **Early Release**, *dismissal is at 1:30PM*
- Friday, June 14 – **Last Day of School & Early Release**, *dismissal is at 1:30PM*

### 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?

- **Help Clean Up Our Pond! (ACMPTA Gardening Day)**
- **There is Still Time to Register for HOPEFEST!**
- **We Still Have a Handful of Yearbooks Left!**
- **Join the PTA or Sponsor a Staff Member**

### Help Clean Up Our Pond! (ACMPTA Gardening Day)

Let's work together to get the pond up and running again and a happy place for fish and our friendly turtle escapee, Squirt!

Please join us Saturday, **June 1<sup>st</sup>**, at **9am** (until 12) to clean out the pond and remove muck from the bottom. We'll bail water out first then clean it out.

APS Facilities will soon put in a new pump and water replenishment system (for when water levels get low)! This will enable the pond to be a habitable environment for fish once again, restoring the pond to the beautiful outdoor space it was meant to be.

If you can come, please RSVP to [gardening@acmpta.com](mailto:gardening@acmpta.com)

Please bring, if you have them: work gloves (mud gloves), shovels, brooms, squeegees (for cleaning bottom) and buckets! We will supply garbage bags!

We would love to get a good group out to knock this out at one time! So please join!

*\*Please bring a water bottle. The school will be closed but there are restrooms available across the parking lot in the Columbia Pike library. Children are welcome to come along.*

### There is Still Time to Register for HOPEFEST!

Join MPSA for a community event for **ALL** our families and staff! **Hopefest**, hosted by the same non-profit that hosted our wonderful holiday party this past December. The event is **June 1** from 4PM to 7PM at Jennie Dean Park off South Four Mile Run Drive. There will be food, games and much more! The event is FREE but you will need to register to attend. [Register here](#) or scan the QR code in the flyer. Don't wait as we will close the registration soon to firm up a head count.

SUPPORT HOPE'S INSECURITY FOOD PROGRAM

SCAN

# HopeFest

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR!  
FREE EVENT FOR ALL MPSA FAMILIES

BBQ · MUSIC · GAMES  
INFLATABLES · RESOURCES  
FACE PAINTING  
BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT  
TENNIS WORKSHOP  
& MORE!

## June, 1 2024

4 - 7 PM  
JENNIE DEAN PARK  
3630 27th St S, Arlington

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

HOPE MULTIPLIED

SCAN

Arlington County Montessori

**We Still Have a Handful of Yearbooks Left!**

We have 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.](#) The requests are coming in fast so don't delay!

**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.

**We will sell until we are sold out.**

### 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!