

School Talk

WEEKLY UPDATE!

May 3, 2024

Inside this Edition

- It's Teacher (&Staff) Appreciation Week!
- ...and Wednesday is National School Nurse Day!
- Field Day T-Shirt Winning Design
- May SEL Notes for Families
- Congratulations to Our Invent Virginia Winners!
- Updated APS Respiratory Illness Guidance
- Upcoming Dates
- Keep in Touch

Grab your helmets and pump up your tires! It's time for **National Bike & Walk (& Roll) to School** day! **Wednesday, May 8th**! Students are encouraged to walk, bike, or roll to school to raise awareness about the importance of pedestrian safety education, safe routes for school, well-maintained walkways and traffic calming in our neighborhoods and around schools. Safety is the priority for this event!

It's Teacher (& Staff) Appreciation Week!

It's that time of year when we come together as a community to thank our fabulous teachers for all their hard work and investment in our children! They work tirelessly to help guide our children to success and this week we shower them with affection, praise and gifts from the heart to show our gratitude. At MPSA, we also add "& Staff" to Teacher Appreciation Week because as Montessorians, we know that it takes a community, and all the employees at MPSA play a big part in the lives of the students.

Our tradition of simple daily giving continues! The schedule for the week is as follows:

Monday, May 6



THANK YOU NOTE DAY: Write a thank you note/card for your teachers & assistants.

Tuesday, May 7



FLOWER DAY: Give your teachers & assistants a flower. (You can make one if you'd like!)

Wednesday, May 8



THANK YOU, MPSA STAFF! Today's the day to thank the staff that are not classroom teachers! Write a note/ card for a custodian, counselor, extended day or office worker; librarian, art, PE, music or resource teacher; school nurse.

Thursday, May 9



FEED THE SOUL DAY: Contribute to the PTA Breakfast Potluck! Sign up here: <https://tinyurl.com/cpvr7bx3> or send a Venmo & we'll do the buying for you. Venmo = @sonalisingh45

Friday, May 10th



PICTURE DAY: Draw your teachers & assistants a picture!

These are just suggestions for how to celebrate the day – no family should ever feel obligated to give gifts or participate in the TAW activities.

The PTA also has planned a week worth of pampering for the staff.

...and Wednesday is National School Nurse Day!

Wednesday, May 8 is **National School Nurse Day** and a wonderful time to thank our school nurse, **Sohilah Soliman**, and clinic aide, **Maria Cake**, for all their hard work. Public school nurses do more than put bandages on boo-boos! They sit in IEP & 504 meetings, give training and talks, and do many types of required health screenings. APS school nurses play a key role in providing daily support and care for students' physical well-being, managing complex health conditions, connecting families with health resources in the area, and working to eliminate health disparities. If your children are making a card for Thank the MPSA Staff Day, please don't forget the school nurses!

Field Day T-Shirt Winning Design

Congratulations to 5th grader, **Langston W.-V.**, as his design was chosen for this year's field day t-shirt. P.E. teachers Mr. McGee and Mr. Miles, along with 3 randomly chosen staff members chose the winning design. Langston, who has a passion for art, drew and colored his design by hand. All the other submitted art was amazing as well, so those will be displayed at school for all to enjoy.



BTW...if you have not submitted your child's t-shirt size for their field day t-shirt, please do so now by clicking here: <https://forms.gle/TuG8sLNdQW9FVxTo7> (one form for each child).
Thank you!

May SEL Notes for Families

As parents, we worry about whether our kids will make friends and will be equipped to adapt to life's challenges. Social emotional learning, commonly shortened to SEL, represents the set of skills your child needs to thrive throughout their life. SEL is commonly described by five core competencies: self-awareness, self-management, responsible decision making, relationship skills, and social awareness. Very simply put, SEL allows children and adults to understand their own emotions and the emotions of others, and to use this understanding in their choices and relationships.

While “SEL” has become a common buzz word among educators, social emotional learning does not just occur in the classroom; it is an important part of our home, as well. Here are five easy social emotional learning activities for children (and adults!) to support SEL in your home.

<https://betterkids.education/blog/5-easy-social-emotional-learning-activities-for-kids-to-do-at-home>

Congratulations to Our Invent Virginia Winners!

Invent Virginia/Invention D.C. announced its winners in the 2023-2024 invention education statewide event after judges completed a week of reviewing inventions submitted by students ranging from grade 2 through the final years of high school.

The following were recognized for their inventions, listed by categories:

Pets - Young Inventor Award*

Collar Keys by Ariana K.

Agriculture - Team Inventors Award

Automatic Plant Waterer by Adrian K., Charlie L., Sai N.

Consumer Goods - Sustainable Design Award

The SoapSlicer by Aliya-Kay F.

Health Device Inventor Award*

Petite Fidgets by Natalia T.

Tools Invention Award

Self Hitting Hammer by Sebastian A., Henry C.

The two projects with an * in the list above are nominated to attend the [national Invention Convention Worldwide event](#) on June 5-7, 2024 at The Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan.

Updated Respiratory Illness Guidance

APS has updated its Respiratory Illness Guidance based upon recent updates from the Centers for Disease Control and the Virginia Department of Health. Please review this guidance, which removes the requirement for students and staff to remain out of school/work for five days following a diagnosis of COVID. Please note:

- Students and staff must remain out of school/work until they are fever free for 24 hours without the aid of fever reducing medication and symptoms are improving.
- When returning to school/work after a respiratory illness, mitigating measures are recommended such as localized air filters, masking, and a re-emphasis on hygiene practices.
- Attendance clerks should continue to ask about the nature of an illness when a parent/guardian calls in to report an absence, and communicable disease such as COVID, influenza, and RSV should continue to be reported to the school nurse.

- Families who have children with significant health concerns may reach out to the school to discuss their child's individual needs and possible mitigating measures

[APS Respiratory Illness Guidance](#)

[Upcoming Dates](#)

- 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
- 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?

- Sign Up to Help w/the TAW Breakfast for Staff
- Do Good While Eating Mexican Food!
- Community Notice: Drew's Bike Rodeo Event
- There is STILL ROOM! Join AMAC's Annual Montessori Camping Trip!
- Join the PTA or Sponsor a Staff Member

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 21st** 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.*

Community Notice: Drew's Bike Rodeo Event

Sharing this lovely event being held at Charles Drew Elementary School. We are sharing with families in support of this Eagle Scout project. Eagle Scout Projects have given us many of our beautiful additions, such as our lovely bridge.

**BIKE
RODEO**

**JUNE 8, 2024
11AM-2PM**

**DR. CHARLES R. DREW
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
3500 23RD ST S. ARLINGTON, VA**

SELF PACED, ARRIVE ANY TIME

LEARN BIKE SAFETY SKILLS

**PRACTICE ON OBSTACLE
COURSE***

***CHILDREN MUST PROVIDE THEIR OWN BIKES, WEAR A
HELMET, AND BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT**

BSA Troop 647 Eagle Project

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>

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!