

School Talk

WEEKLY UPDATE!

June 14, 2024

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This is the final School Talk for the 2023-2024 school year! We'll be back the week before school begins with information to get you ready for the first day of school!

MPSA Summer Hours: 8:30AM to 3:30PM, M-F (except holidays)

Thank You for a Remarkable Year & Summer Wishes!

Dear Montessori Families,

As we reach the end of another wonderful school year, I want to take a moment to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all of you for making this year truly exceptional. Your unwavering support and dedication have made a lasting impact on our school community.

First and foremost, I want to express my sincere appreciation to all the parents for their incredible support throughout the year. Your involvement and partnership have been instrumental in creating a nurturing and enriching environment for our students.

I am deeply honored to have been named Principal of the Year for Arlington Public Schools, and I am immensely grateful for your continued trust and confidence in me. It has been an extraordinary journey, and I look forward to continuing to serve our community with dedication and passion.

To our talented chorus and strings students who showcased their remarkable talents at the Celebration of Excellence, thank you for your dedication and hard work. Your performances were truly inspiring and brought joy to us all.

A special congratulations to our departing 5th grade students who celebrated their promotion ceremony yesterday. You have grown and achieved so much during your time here, and we are incredibly proud of

each and every one of you. We wish you all the best as you embark on the next chapter of your academic journey.

As we head into the summer break, I encourage all our students to take advantage of the wonderful learning opportunities that surround us. Whether it's exploring museums, hiking in state parks, or spending quality time with family, I hope you will continue to engage in activities that spark curiosity and foster growth.

Classroom assignment e-mails will be sent out by mid-August. Bus stop assignments should be available in ParentVUE around the same time. School supply lists will be posted on our website by the end of this month for those who already know their class assignments.

Please mark your calendars for our Open House on August 23rd, from 9:30-10:30 AM. It will be a great opportunity for students to reconnect with their classmates, visit their new classrooms, and drop off supplies. And don't forget, the first day of school for our PreK-4s through 5th grade is on August 26th!

Once again, thank you for your incredible support and dedication throughout the year. I am grateful for the privilege of serving as your principal, and I look forward to another amazing school year ahead.

Wishing you all a safe, relaxing, and enjoyable summer break!

Warm regards,

Catharina Genove, Principal

Farewells & Welcomes

Our MPSA Family is a solid one, so it's always bittersweet to send off staff who are moving on to new adventures. We will miss them, but we send them off with our well wishes as they embark on their new adventures.

Farewell to the following MPSA Staff:

- **Valerie Carroll** – Speech Language Pathologist
- **Mandy Downs** – Primary Montessori Teacher
- **Julia Kahn** – Guidance Counselor
- **Jason Kiker** – Lower Elementary Assistant
- **Matthew Rinker** – Band Instructor
 - **Note: Mr. Rinker plays in two bands! Follow them!*
 - [Stickman Band DC](#)
 - [Azil Rain](#)
- **Renee Shaw** – Instructional Technology Coordinator
- **Carlos Soles** – Special Education Teacher
- **Victoria Stephens** – Lower Elementary
- **Madison Wincek** – Upper Elementary Assistant

We are happy to welcome new members to the MPSA family this upcoming year!

Gizela Austin – Elementary Montessori Teacher



Gizela Austin began her Montessori journey in 2009 at an AMS-accredited school in Northern Virginia. She received AMS credentials for Lower & Upper Elementary from the Barrie Institute for Advanced Montessori Studies and AMS Primary credentials from Northern Virginia Montessori Institute. Mrs. Austin holds a Bachelor of Science in Teaching Physics from the University of Tirana and a Certificate in Advanced Marketing from Cornell University. Mrs. Austin loves reading, traveling, and spending time with her husband and two daughters. We are so excited to welcome her into our community!

Clinton Dickens – Instructional Technology Coordinator



Clinton Dickens holds a BA in Communications from Bowie State University and an MEd in Education Technology from Loyola University Maryland. With 21 years of experience in education, Clinton has spent 19 years as a classroom teacher and 2 years as an Instructional Technology Coordinator (ITC). He enjoys writing, watching sports, traveling, cooking, and values spending quality time with his family and friends while raising his two sons. Clinton is also a motivational empowerment speaker, life coach, and co-author of "Get Up While it Still Hurts".

Sheridan Roush – Special Education Teacher



Sheridan Roush has taught in Northern Virginia as a primary Montessori teacher for nine years and will complete her master's in special education this summer. Before moving to the area, she was an English teacher for several years in a bilingual Montessori classroom in Beijing, where she was so taken with the Montessori method that she completed her primary training there. Sheridan is a native of West Virginia and she likes listening to new musicians from Appalachia. Outside the classroom, she enjoys traveling and spending time outdoors with her 2 children and husband, trying out new recipes, and gardening. She is thrilled to be joining MPSA as a special education teacher this fall!

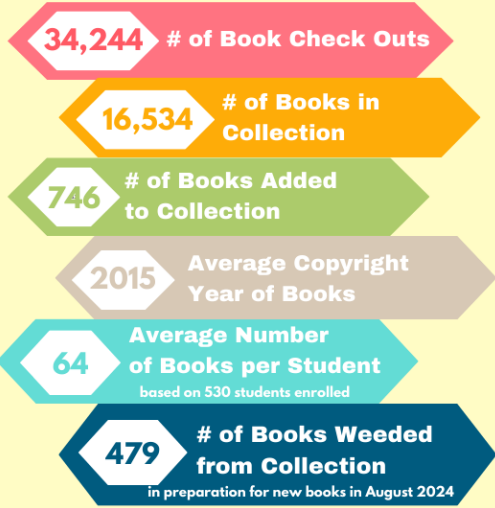
Sabine Wills – Primary Montessori Teacher



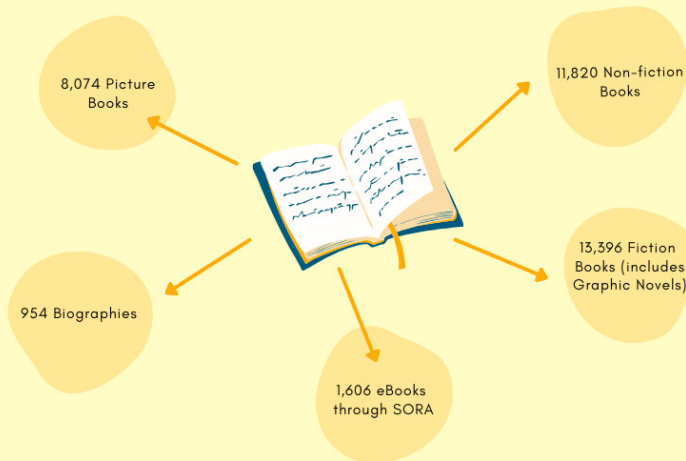
Sabine Wills is excited to join the MPSA family after moving from Richmond. She recently got married and is excited to live close to family and begin her Montessori journey! She loves to travel, hike, and sing, and is always willing to try a new restaurant or dish. She has lived in Germany and France and speaks a bit of French and German but wants to keep improving in both. Most importantly, she loves teaching and learning and sharing knowledge with her family, friends, and community. It's going to be a great year!

Library End-of-the-Year Statistics

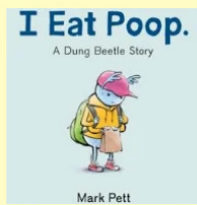
**MONTESSORI PUBLIC
SCHOOL OF ARLINGTON**
2023 - 2024
Library Stats



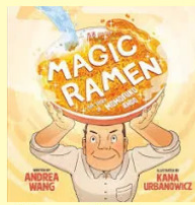
What did we check out?



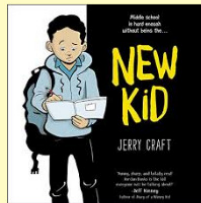
2023-2024 Monarch Book Award Winners



Picture Book



Non-fiction



Graphic Novel



Fiction

Watch the 2023-2024 Awards here:

https://www.canva.com/design/DAGGtqNWIN8/Frempt0zGix-9zQ90x_bhg/watch

MPSA's 2023-2024 Top Titles by Genre



Animal Stories



Historical Fiction



Scary



Humor



Realistic Fiction



Sports Fiction



Biography



Mystery



Science Fiction



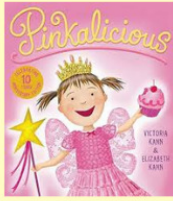
Non-fiction



Adventure



Fantasy



Top Ten Picture Books

- Pinkalicious
- Goldilicious
- Purplicious
- The Couch Potato
- Silverlicious
- The Duckling Gets a Cookie?
- Always Be a Unicorn
- The Sour Grape
- Aqualicious
- Pinkalicious: Eggstraordinary Easter

StepAfrika! Returns to Montessori

Thanks to an APS Humanities Project grant, each MPSA grade level participated in a stepping workshop perfectly tailored to their physical and cognitive development. StepAfrika!, our neighbors in DC and our nation's first-ever dance troupe dedicated to the artform of stepping, matched our energetic audiences with high-intensity performances and physical challenges. To learn more about [stepping](#), [the group](#), their current program [The Migration: Reflections on Jacob Lawrence](#) with Arena Theater or summer stepping [camps](#), click the hyperlinks or visit StepAfrika.org.

View videos of the workshops here:

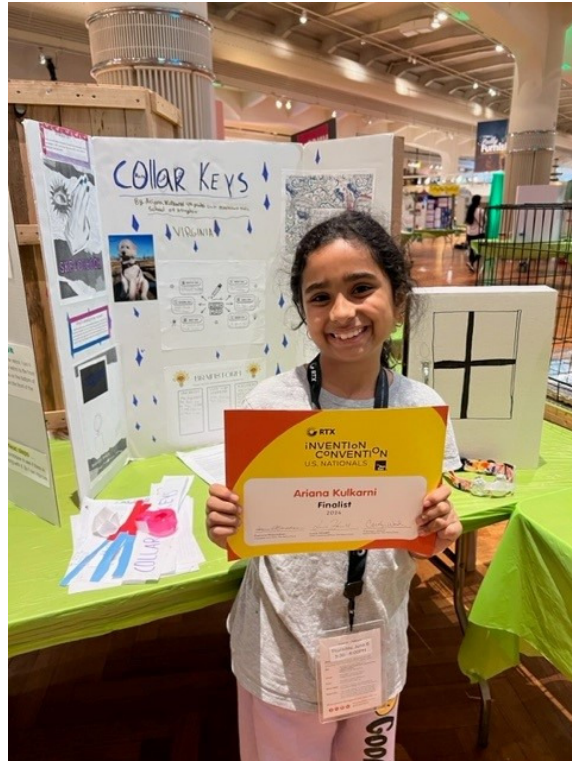
- [Primary Montessori](#)
- [Lower Elementary Montessori](#)
- [Upper Elementary Montessori](#)

MPSA Finalists Attend the National Invention Convention

Two MPSA students, 4th grader **Ariana K.** and 5th grader **Natalia T.oen**, of Ms. Ross' Upper Elementary Montessori class, were finalist at the Invention Convention Nationals sponsored by RTX (Raytheon). Out of 178,500 national participants, only 438 were nominated to compete at Nationals at the Henry Ford

Museum of American Innovation in Dearborn, Michigan, June 5-7. Of the 5 Virginia/DC finalists, the 2 girls were the only ones from Arlington, from the same school and class!

Natalia's invention, "Petite Fidgets" won the Virginia Health/Medical Device Award. Ariana's invention, "Collar Key" won Virginia's Pet Device Award. They also got to audition & pitch their inventions for the ABC show, "Shark Tank"! Stay tuned.



Special Note: Natalia's pod of five 5th grade girls at Nationals, all who invented Health/Medical Devices were specifically asked to hang back before the awards ceremony because the Chief Technology Officer (CTO) of RTX Raytheon wanted to come by personally to speak to each of them & hear their presentations. He only spoke to a select few kids total. Here is Natalia presenting it to him.



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>

[View the MPSA Spring Play HERE!](#)

Thank you to ITC Renee Shaw for editing and uploading the live recording of the MPSA Spring play, What Happened After Once Upon a Time, performed by MPSA students lead by Encore Theater. We hope you enjoy it!

<https://vimeo.com/956530470?share=copy>

[Car Seats – It's Not for Convenience, it's the LAW](#)

Child restraint devices are required for children through the age of seven (until 8th birthday). Safety seats must be properly used and approved to meet Department of Transportation standards. The Virginia law is based on age and proper usage. Proper selection and use of a safety seat regarding weight and height is in accordance with the instructions of the manufacturer of the safety seat.

More information about child passenger safety can be found [here](#).

Need help getting a car seat? Resource information can be found [here](#).

[Upcoming Dates](#)

- Wednesday, June 5 – **Early Release**, dismissal is at 1:30PM
- Monday, June 10 – **MPSA Field Day** (raindate, Monday, June 10)
- Tuesday, June 11 – **MPSA Spring Concert**, 7PM
- 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
- 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?

- **Second Round of Yearbooks Will Be Ordered**
- **Giant Food Community Bag Program**

Second Round of Yearbooks Will Be Ordered

Good news! We received enough requests and payments for yearbooks to order a second shipment. Yearbooks will be delivered to MPSA sometime in July. When they arrive, you will receive an e-mail from the PTA, so be sure to be on the lookout.

If you've requested a yearbook but haven't paid for it, you need to do so in order to guarantee your copy. Send payment via PayPal to @acmpta or bring a check/cash to Kia in the main office by June 28th.

Sales are closed for now, but we may have some to sell once we see how many are left once the shipment arrives.

Giant Food Community Bag Program

Have you heard the news? The ACMPTA has been selected as a beneficiary of the [Giant Food Community Bag Program](#)! For the month of July, we will receive a \$1 donation from each purchase of the \$2.50 reusable Community Bag at the Giant Food store located at [3131 Duke Street, Alexandria VA](#) – in the Landmark area of Alexandria.

In addition to purchasing one yourselves, please encourage friends and family to purchase a reusable bag to help our environment and our school!

The ACMPTA wishes you a wonderful summer break! Be sure to follow our Facebook page [here](#), or join our listserv [here](#), so you can keep in touch with our summer and beginning-of-the-school year activities!