

School Talk

WEEKLY UPDATE!

November 23, 2024

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There is **NO SCHOOL** from **Wednesday, November 27th** through **Friday, November 29th** in observation of the Thanksgiving holiday. We hope you enjoy your 5-day weekend!

Please Be Respectful of Our Neighbors

MPSA is working hard to foster positive relationships with the surrounding community, and one of the ways we can do this successfully is to be mindful of our neighbors. Please drive and park responsibly during drop off and pick up – adhere to speed limits, pay attention to signage and don't double park or block driveways, even if you plan on being quick. Also, this time of year is when most Arlington neighborhoods have county scheduled leaf pickups – please be careful to not park in (or block access to) leaf piles. Give the MPSA neighborhood the same respect you'd like to receive by visitors in yours. Thank you.

Helpful Information for Parents of Rising 6th Graders

Here are some links that 5th grade families may find useful while researching middle school options for the next school year 2025-2026.

- Middle School and Middle school options: <https://www.apsva.us/middle-school/>
- Transfer options: <https://www.apsva.us/transferring-to-another-school/>
- Optional school data : <https://www.apsva.us/school-transfer-data/#H-B-grade6to8>
- Boundary Locator: <https://www.apsva.us/registration/maps-boundaries/>

Conveying Gratitude & Sharing Food Assistance Resources

We are pleased to share that the [Adelola “Lola” Adeyiga Memorial Fund*](#), created in the memory of a beloved MPSA student, will be donating all the grocery store gift cards we are in need of to distribute to our Montessori families at risk of food insecurity during the upcoming winter break. We heartily thank Lola’s parents, **Lindsay and Adeleke Adeyiga**, for choosing our annual grocery card drive as one of their charitable acts this year. 19 families identified by our counselor and social worker as being in severe need will be receiving a \$100 gift card to a local grocery store for supplementing their grocery budget.

As this year’s winter break will be an especially long one, **lasting 16 days from start to finish**, with no access to schools for our free-and-reduced-lunch families to get breakfast and lunch, APS would like us to share the way families can find help supplementing their food supply. If you know of families or communities who could use this information, please pass it along.

AFAC Holidays: Holiday turkeys and chickens are available only to families & individuals already enrolled for AFAC’s usual grocery program. [Click here to find out how to enroll.](#)

- November 18 – 23: AFAC households will receive 1 whole frozen turkey the week (Mon-Sat) before Thanksgiving. AFAC is closed Thanksgiving Day only, open the usual schedule Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat.
- December 16 – 21: AFAC households will receive 1 whole frozen chicken the week (Mon-Sat) before Christmas. AFAC is closed Christmas day, Christmas Eve’s evening distribution, New Years Day, and New Years Eve's evening distribution.

Arlington Bridge Builders will be doing a holiday luncheon with gift bags the Saturday after Thanksgiving (December 1). The luncheon will be held at the Mission NOVA community center at Greenbrier Baptist Church. If you’d like to donate items to this event, [click here for their Amazon wish list.](#)

Arlington Assembly of God Dinners – held at 4501 N. Pershing Dr., Arlington, VA 22203.

- On **Thanksgiving Day** (November 28) - Thanksgiving service at 11 and a free hot Thanksgiving Day meal at 12:30 pm. Open to everyone, regardless of religious denomination.
- **Christmas Meal** - December 20th @ 5 PM - Free gifts & toys for the children - Santa will be there to pass out the toys and the kids will be able to see the train display - Free hot meal with desserts. Open to everyone, regardless of religious denomination.
- Their **Corrine’s Kitchen** program serves a hot meal Monday through Friday, from 5PM to 6:30PM. Open to everyone, regardless of religious denomination.

Directory of Food Pantries. The Food Security Coalition has compiled a list of food pantries in Arlington, including location, day of the week and hours. The flyer is available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) and 11 additional languages:

- [አማርኛ \(Amharic\)](#)
- [বাংলা \(Bengali\)](#)
- [Française \(French\)](#)

- [Монгол \(Mongolian\)](#)
- [Русский \(Russian\)](#)
- [Tiếng Việt \(Vietnamese\)](#)
- [한국어 \(Korean\)](#)
- [عربي \(Arabic\)](#)
- [دری \(Dari\)](#)
- [اردو \(Urdu\)](#)
- [ትግርኛ \(Tigrinya\)](#)

List of Monthly Food Distributions Provides a monthly overview of available food distributions, with dates, times and locations for each monthly distribution. Currently lists additional holiday specific distributions for November and December, including the distributions listed above.

To donate to the **Adelola Adeyiga Memorial Fund, [click here](#). The fund relies on donations to be able to continue their commitment to the betterment of the children of the community through charitable contributions to social programs.*

Introducing More New Faces at MPSA

Hana Woolley is a museum education master's student at the George Washington University who is currently working with Ms. Shakespeare and Lower Elementary students. She is originally from Los Angeles, CA and just graduated from her undergraduate studies at Vanderbilt University. She loves teaching, learning, and exploring new things. She is excited to help students find connections between art, music, and other subjects through museum-inspired learning!



Emmanuel Yeboah is our new in-house IT specialist. His role is to work on troubleshooting all our tech issues. He is a local, hailing from Dumfries, VA. In his free time he enjoys watching sports and playing basketball.



Music Notes (Music Department News)

Wakefield Choral Pyramid Concert: This past Thursday, November 20th, second year choristers performed in Wakefield High School's Choral Pyramid Concert. Congratulations to these students for proudly representing our school and for performing enthusiastically and masterfully. Thank you to Vaneshree Moodley, Heather Schimmel and April Everett for feeding our kids, assuring a happy, satisfying experience for all.



The Arlington Public Schools Pyramid Concert is an annual event in which 5th grade chorus students from several south Arlington elementary schools are invited to perform with Gunston, Thomas Jefferson, HB and Wakefield High School choristers. Singers perform a concert for each other and their parents.

Honors Music – Band, Chorus, Orchestra Selection Announced! Congratulations, to the following students for their acceptance into **APS Junior Honors Music Ensembles**:

- Arianna K., *Chorus*
- Alexander H., *Orchestra*
- Luisa R., *Orchestra*
- Zoe R., *Orchestra*

Honors music programs give elementary and middle school students the opportunity to grow and challenge themselves musically. These are auditioned groups; auditions are held in the fall of each school year, with rehearsals and performances beginning in January.

Music Department Request: We see hundreds of students each week! Your students and music teachers would greatly appreciate donations of tissue and sanitizing wipes— our inventory is running low.

Got Cardboard? We'll Take Your Small Boxes!

Attention all creative families! We need your help to bring some imagination to life in the art room! If you have any small cardboard boxes (think smaller than a shoe box) hanging around your house, we'd love to put them to good use. Boxes from all packaged food (e.g. cereal boxes, mac & cheese boxes, etc...) are fine.

These boxes will be the foundation for our next artistic adventure. Thank you for helping our young artists build their masterpieces!

Applying for SIBLINGS Next Year? Let Us Know!

If you have a child **CURRENTLY** attending MPSA in grades PreK-3 through 4th grade this year and are applying for their sibling to attend here **NEXT YEAR**, please fill out this form.

<https://forms.gle/2kZArLQ5i7dZg9ck9>

MPSA will give sibling preference to those children **we have spots available**.

IMPORTANT: This is not an application. You **MUST** fill out an application [here](#) to be entered into the lottery.

**Current 5th graders are not eligible for sibling preference as they will not be attending MPSA next school year. Any questions? Call or e-mail Kia Haynes in the office at 703-228-8818/kia.stevensonhaynes@apsva.us.*

Upcoming Dates

- Wednesday, November 27th through Friday, November 29th: **NO SCHOOL** for APS – *Offices closed (Thanksgiving Break)*
- Wednesday, December 4: **Picture Make-ups/Retakes**

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



November 23, 2024

What's Inside:

- Spirit Wear Sale Ends WEDNESDAY!
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- No Selling, No Buying – NO STUFF!
- Donate to the Montessori Teachers' Holiday Party
- Teachers Wishlists
- Does Your Teacher Have a PTA Membership? Do You?
- Keep In Touch

Spirit Wear Sale Ends WEDNESDAY!



Get your fresh new gear now! We have several options, including hoodies and Dri-Fit tees! From sizes **Youth extra small to Adult 3XL!** You can purchase items online by [clicking here](#), or you can wait for the paper form coming home in Thursday's backpack mail and place your order by cash or check.

The online sale will close at midnight on Wednesday, November 27th, however, all cash/check orders are due by the end of the day **Tuesday, November 26th**. **THERE WILL BE NO EXTENSIONS** so please don't miss out and order your swag **TODAY!**

Season's Greetings from the Arlington Outdoor Lab

Have your students recently participated in an Outdoor Lab field trip and returned raving about their adventures? Or maybe they're already looking forward to their spring overnight trip. Did you know that the Outdoor Lab is supported by a non-profit, the Arlington Outdoor Education Association (AOEA)? The AOEА owns and stewards the 226 acres of land students visit during 3rd, 5th and 7th grades. We also build and maintain the buildings – including the Animal Lab. We are thrilled that generations of Arlington students have benefitted from this strong partnership.

At the Outdoor Lab, students engage in hands-on STEM applications by applying what they learn in the traditional classroom to real life situations. The Outdoor Lab welcomes all APS families to visit and experience the Lab at our twice-yearly Open Houses.

To find out about our Spring 2025 Open House, and stay informed on other happenings and ways to support the Lab, please [join our Lab Notes email list](#) or visit www.OutdoorLab.org. You can also find us on Facebook ([Outdoor.Lab](#)) and Instagram ([@arlingtonoutdoorlab](#)).

No Selling, No Buying – NO STUFF!

NO STUFF FUNDRAISER

NO SELLING!

NOW THRU DECEMBER 20TH

It's time for the annual
NO STUFF FUNDRAISER!
NO wrapping paper,
NO chocolates, NO STUFF!

This is an armchair effort that relies on your generosity to help raise funding so the PTA can continue to provide programming/events/activities such as

- * Admission-free events
- * Grants and supplies for our teachers/staff
- * Running the Reflections program
- * Hospitality efforts to keep teacher and staff morale lifted
- * 5th grade promotional materials
...and much more!

The **NO STUFF** fundraiser is back! It's an armchair fundraiser run by the PTA to help raise money for all the activities and programs we put into place for our school community. Our budget doesn't only fund the fun activities – we do a lot to support our staff and their classrooms by the way of supplies, grants, materials and hospitality.

We are asking each family to consider giving a **\$75 to \$100** donation each to help us reach our goal of **\$5,000**. Of course, no donation is too small or too big, so if that range is not what you have in mind, we'll gladly take any amount!

You can pay by cash or check/money order (made out to "ACMPTA") and deliver to Ms. Kia in the main office. (Please be sure to put it in an envelope labeled "No Stuff" with your child's name.) You can also pay online via [Paypal here](#) or, if you prefer, through [Memberhub here](#). This fundraiser will run until **Friday, December 6th**.

We thank you for your support!

[Donate to the Montessori Teachers' Holiday Party](#)

Every year, the **Arlington Montessori Action Committee (AMAC)** holds a holiday open-house party for ALL the Montessori teachers in the county. It's a wonderful event that teachers in both the public and private sectors look forward to. However, AMAC needs you to help make this party a success. Please [click the link here](#) and consider signing up to donate something from the list. AMAC appreciates your time and support!

[AMAC Holiday Party Support](#)

[Teachers Wishlists](#)

Several teachers have created Amazon wish lists of items they would like to have that APS cannot fund. If you are willing to shop for them, please do take a look! *(Updated regularly)*

<https://www.acmpta.com/mpsa-news/teacher-wish-lists>

[Does Your Teacher Have a PTA Membership? Do You?](#)

The PTA does a lot to support the school community, such as providing free programming and events for children and families, appreciation gifts for staff, educational advocacy with partner groups, and hosting parent-ed conversations. One of the big things we do is provide teacher grants! But teachers do need to be a paid PTA member to be able to receive the grant. Consider gifting your child's teacher a membership so they can apply! Grants help provide funding for supplies, programs and fees that APS won't cover.

We can't do any of these things without your support, so please consider signing up for a membership yourself by [clicking here](#) or by sending a check or money order (preferably not cash)

to Kia Haynes in the office. Please place in a sealed envelope with your name and your child's name on it.

Keep In Touch

- PTA Website: <https://www.acmpta.com/>
- PTA Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ACMPTA>
- Private PTA Forum on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1614926128674543>
- PTA Twitter: <https://x.com/ArlCoMontessori>
- PTA Listserv: ACMPTA+subscribe@groups.io
- Montessori Caregivers Group (Parent-lead Private Forum):
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1419402838207257>