



April 6, 2025

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Happy ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL APPRECIATION WEEK, MR. K!

Make sure to let him know how much you appreciate his hard work when you see him! MPSA will be celebrating him all week!

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 25th** at the end of the day.

Requirements:

- Submissions must be your **original** art/design – any art containing licensed characters will be rejected.
- Must be in the school colors **only**: 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!
- Please spell check – we won't be considering tees with misspellings
- Letter size (8.5" x 11"), portrait or landscape.

All designs should be handed in to Kia at the main office by the **end of the school day** on the 25th. If you are going to submit digitally, please make sure it's in a high resolution – if we cannot enlarge it to make it look good on a t-shirt, we can't consider it. 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.

Extended: Collecting Field Day Shirt Sizes & Orders for Families!

The school is preparing to order the annual Field Day tees next month. We will need your child's t-shirt size so please fill out the size survey here: <https://forms.gle/5fA9wjLcK43uKESB7>

The t-shirts are being paid for with a portion of the class fees collected at the beginning of the school year. **Please pay the \$20 school fee if you haven't yet as it covers more than just t-shirts.**

You have until Sunday the 27th to submit your child's size!

Parents: Want to buy a **matching field day t-shirt** for yourself or a non-MPSA sibling/family member? See the PTA newsletter below for how to purchase!

Attendance Communication Update

To support all schools in reducing chronic absenteeism, both for accreditation and strategic plan goal, we are implementing a universal attendance messaging system beginning after spring break. This initiative ensures that families receive timely and consistent communication about student absences.

Key Updates to Attendance Communication:

Quarterly Attendance Reports

- a. All families will receive an Attendance Report posted in ParentVue alongside the quarterly report card.
- b. This report will include the student's cumulative absences (excused and unexcused/unverified) and benchmark data.
- c. It will also provide information on the importance of regular school attendance.

Automated Text Messages for Students with High Absences

- a. At 10 Absences: Families will receive the following text message:
Hello! Our records show that [Student's Name] has reached 10 full-day absences (excused/unexcused) this school year. Regular attendance is essential for academic success. If there are challenges preventing attendance, please contact [School]. Thank you!
- b. At 15 Absences: Families will receive an additional text message:
Hello! [Student's Name] has now reached 15 full-day absences (excused/unexcused) this school year. Frequent absences can impact learning. Please contact [School] as soon as possible to discuss next steps and available support. Thank you!

Ongoing Notifications

- a. These messages will only be sent each time a student reaches the specified absence thresholds to maintain clear and proactive communication with families.

Hazel Health & DHS Same-Day Access

As spring recess approaches, this is a reminder that this time may be especially difficult for some students, and they may need additional support while schools are closed. Arlington Department of Human Services (DHS) offers **same-day access** support for students with mental health and substance abuse needs, and Hazel Health provides virtual mental health services for all students in grades 6-12. View [flyer](#) (English). View [flyer](#) (Spanish).

REPOST: Summer Skills Boost Program

The **Summer Skills Boost Program** through ExactPath will be available for all K-7 students **from July 7-August 1st**.

What is the Summer Skills Boost Program? It's an asynchronous and self-paced educational program where students K-7 can work on math, reading and language arts (with some writing support). All students are eligible. *This is not summer school – APS is only providing the platform.*

Participation is completely voluntary. Families who would like their student to participate must register **no later than May 2nd** using the [2025 Arlington Public Schools \(APS\) Summer Skills Boost Registration Form \(Grades K-7\)](#).

Upcoming Dates

- Monday, April 14th -18th: **NO SCHOOL**, *Spring Break*
- Monday, April 21st: **NO SCHOOL for Students**, *Grade Prep 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

April 6, 2025

What's Inside:

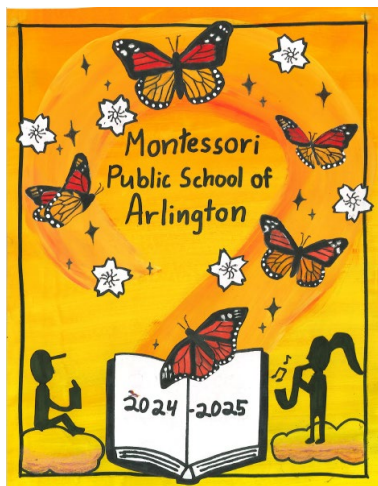
- Winner of the PTA Yearbook Cover Contest
- EXTENDED: Order a Field Day T-shirt!
- Sponsor a Teacher to Get Them Teacher Grant Eligible!
- Staff Wish Lists
- Snacks for Staff Meetings – Please Sign Up!
- Keep In Touch

Save the Date: The 2nd Annual Makers Fair & Market will be on [Saturday, May 3rd](#)!
More details to come in a standalone message soon!

Winner of the PTA Yearbook Cover Contest

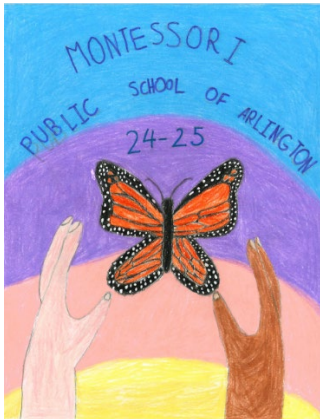
The ACMPTA had so many beautiful pieces of art submitted for the yearbook cover contest, and choosing just one was not easy! The Executive Committee narrowed the choices down to 6, and from those 6 we have our winner!

Congratulations to 5th grader Lina B.! Her art will grace the cover of this year's yearbook and she will also be receiving a complimentary copy as well. Here is the winning piece:



We'd also like to recognize the 5 finalists who will have their art featured as a part of the yearbook for as well. (Listed alphabetically by first name, not by rank.)

Annette N.



Dhilan K.



Elianna G.



Ilyas H.



Juniper B.



EXTENDED: Order a Field Day T-Shirt!

Buy a MATCHING field day t-shirt for **yourself or a non-MPSA sibling**/family member from the PTA!

Sizes from **Youth XS** to **Adult 4XL**!

[Click here to purchase!](#)

Sale ends on April 27th - there will not be a second chance to order.

Paper orders accepted by Kia in the office until **Friday, April 25th ONLY**.

Baroody After School Enrichment Starts This Week!

Baroody Enrichment begins THIS WEEK! You should've received your confirmation from Baroody last week. **This is a reminder that children need to be picked up by 5PM.**

Sponsor a Teacher to Get Them Teacher Grant Eligible!

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.

Sign up for a membership for your child's teacher (or for 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.

Please talk to your teachers first to make sure they don't already have a membership.

Staff Wish Lists

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>

Snacks for Staff Meetings – Please Sign Up!

MPSA instructional staff must meet at least once a month for after schoolwork & collaboration meetings. The ACMPTA would like to revive the tradition where our families would provide snacks for the teachers to have during these meetings. We are looking for at least 4 families to donate snacks to the cause. *Examples of snacks: Granola bars, fruit snacks, nuts, cheese & crackers, cookies, etc. We will also be asking for fresh fruit/vegetables as well.*

Snacks can be dropped off as early as the day before to the Kia in the main office. The PTA will provide paper products.

[Sign up here!](#)

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>