## **School Talk**

## **August 31, 2018**

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**PRINCIPAL’S NOTE**

Hello Montessori Families!

As the Principal of the Arlington County Montessori program, one of my greatest pleasures is to welcome everyone back to school! We are all very excited to have the students back in our classrooms and the hallways filled with the excitement and hustle and bustle of children filled with energy and enthusiasm to learn, and it is our personal goal to make every child feel welcome, connected and know that they are an important part of our Montessori family. We are fortunate to have wonderful teachers, some veteran and some new, who have spent the past couple weeks planning and creating classroom activities to engage your student in learning.

I am aware that some of the changes we will be undergoing as a program functioning separately from the Drew Model program may take some time to get used to, but Ms. Nashid and I are dedicated to helping make transitions go as smoothly as possible for our students and staff. You are always free and encouraged to reach out to us if there are any concerns, as we know there will be some, and we will work it out together to find compromises and solutions. We recognize that it is truly a privilege to be a part of a community where parents, teachers and students care for each other and strive to build positive relationships that support academic and social growth.

Once again, welcome back! And let’s work together to make this a great year!

Sincerely,

Principal Catharina Genove

**PROGRAM NEWS**

School starts on **Tuesday, September 4**. Everyone should come to school on Tuesday **except** 3-year olds entering Primary Montessori who received a welcome letter with a different start date.

If your child has been registered for afternoon Extended Day, you may not receive a bus assignment letter from APS Transportation. Please call 703-228-8670 or 703-228-6640 to find out your child’s bus assignment.

A reminder of some changes that will be occurring this year:

* The administrative offices for Montessori will now be located in the portable to the right of the school, just past the cafeteria. Please continue to check in/check out your children from the main office inside Drew Model School with Ms. Karina Valdez, our Montessori administrative assistant.
* Our new main number is 703-228-8871. Our Attendance Hotline is now 703-228-2037. Our new address is Arlington County Montessori; 3500A 23rd Street S; Arlington, VA 22206.
* All checks and money orders written to the school (for classroom/snack fees, fieldtrips, etc…) should be made out to Arlington County Montessori unless otherwise specified. Do NOT make them out to Drew Model School any longer.
* **Please review the first day packet and return the requested items on Wednesday, September 5.** Some of these forms may be completed online here: https://www.apsva.us/family-access-center/
* For those not on free or reduced meals, the cost of breakfast this year is $1.70 for the breakfast plate and the cost for lunch is $3.00 for the lunch plate. There will be a la carte options available at varied cost.

**TEACHERS CORNER**

The Montessori Primary team will host a short information session at Back-to-School Night to introduce Montessori to first year parents. The session will be from 7:30PM-8:00PM and will discuss the Montessori pedagogy and discuss Freedom within Limits. Back-to-School Night is Wednesday, September 12th.

**PTA NEWS**

Rather than have an announcement listserv, the PTA will be sending out a weekly newsletter via School Talk, starting next week. This newsletter will be sent out on Mondays. The newsletter will include all our important announcements, information and more! If you have anything you'd like included in our newsletter, please send an e-mail to arlingtonmontessoripta@gmail.com. If you'd like to join our parent "chat" listserv, you can sign up here: https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/ACMPTA/info

**UPCOMING DATES:**

* Tuesday, September 4: First Day of School (YAY!)
* Sunday, September 9: Montessori Welcome Back to School Playdate (with the PTA) 12PM at the Patrick Henry ES playground (701 S. Highland Street)
* Sunday, September 9: PTA Organizational Meeting (to ratify bylaws and be officially chartered) 1:30PM at the Columbia Pike branch library, 2nd floor.

**LINKS**

* Arlington Montessori Program on APS: <https://drew.apsva.us/the-montessori-program/>
* Lunch Menus: https://apsva.nutrislice.com/menus-eula-splash
* Arlington Montessori PTA: https://acmpta.com/