## **School Talk**

## **October 26, 2018**

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**WHAT IS A “GOING OUT”?**

*“When the child goes out, it is the world itself that offeres itself to him. Let us take the child out to show him real things.” – Dr. Maria Montessori*

A favorite practical life event that is eagerly awaited in Montessori elementary classrooms is the “going out.” The premise is fantastic – giving children the opportunity to go out beyond the classroom to learn and explore – usually done in small groups, and often to delve into a topic of interest. The children anticipate this experience from the moment the idea is introduced and learn invaluable life skills along the way.

The children participating in the going out are responsible for arranging transportation and identifying the materials or budget as needed. So many skills are being learned or fostered – from getting up the courage to ask a parent to drive and chaperone, to identifying the business hours and driving directions of the destination, to learning how to stick within a budget if shopping.

Our Lower Elementary and Upper Elementary teachers have expressed an interest in having their students do more of these, but they will need your help:

1. If your child is showing a deep interest in a topic or activity, encourage them to consider planning a going out. Without doing the work for them, give some guidance on how to research places to visit and planning a trip proposal to present to the teacher.
2. Be willing to help out with driving or chaperoning. APS school buses are not free, so having parents willing to drive is important. Please take the initiative to send your child’s teacher an e-mail and let them know that you are willing to be a driver. They know that you won’t be available all the time, but it is easier for them to have a go-to list of parents to reach out to.
3. If you work for a company or facility that hosts (or is willing to host small field trips) make that information available to your child’s teacher.

Some examples of going outs our Montessori students have arranged: A trip to the Virginia Museum of History and Culture in Richmond, VA; a Nationals baseball game; and a local pizza parlor to make pizzas and eat their creations.

**PROGRAM NEWS**

**Picture Day is Tuesday!** A reminder that picture day for the school is **Tuesday, October 30th**. If you would like to purchase pictures, please send your child to school with the Picture Day envelope from Lifetouch and payment. If you prefer to make payment online direct your browser to mylifetouch.com and enter in Drew’s Picture Day ID: **HJ278099Q0**. Also, we still need volunteers to be downstairs assisting the photographers. If you are able, please sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508094fa5af29a75-picture> We especially need help in the 12 to 2:30 slot. If you can only commit to working part of that time, that’s fine, just state it in the comments. Thank you in advance.

**Drew Field Access** The large field in front of Drew is reserved from 8AM to 6PM for Drew Model school use. We ask that you do not use the field during those times. We also ask that you prohibit your children from returning to school to use the field after school if they are not in the Extended Day program or are participating in an Arlington County rec program. Anyone on the property at those times without permission will be asked to leave.

**Gifted Services Information Night, October 29th -** Do you know the process APS follows for identifying gifted children? Do you know what happens once your child is identified? Do you know the role of the gifted resource teacher? All these questions will be answered at the Gifted Services Information night! 6PM in the Drew library. Contact Kristina Farrell, Drew’s gifted resource teacher (for both programs) with any questions at [kristina.farrell@apsva.us](mailto:kristina.farrell@apsva.us)

**New student and First Year recorders are in**! They were introduced to students this week. Lower Elementary recorders will live at school but will, on occasion, take a trip home for an overnight visit (I will notify you before this happens).   If you have not yet submitted your $5.00 recorder fee, please do so immediately!

**4th Grade Montessori Swimming** The 4th grade Montessori students will begin their swimming program at Wakefield on November 5th through the 13th. (No swimming on November 6th and 12th). The schedule for swimming is as follows:

* 9:30AM - 10:30AM, Lopatkiewicz and Pirro
* 10:30AM - 11:30AM, Hernandez and Ross

Students will need to bring a swimsuit and towel every day of the swim program. Permission slips will be going home soon. Volunteers to be in the locker rooms to assist students are also needed so please mark your availability on the forms when they go home.

**TEACHERS CORNER**

Meet the Music Staff at Drew!

**Molly Jackson, Orchestra** Greetings, Drew musicians and families!  My name is Molly Jackson, and for those of you who I haven’t met year, I am the strings teacher here at Drew.  I am thrilled to be working with the Montessori team and having another fantastic year in orchestra with the Upper Elementary students. Just a little bit about myself: I earned my degree in Music Education from Miami University and have been working in APS for the past 4 years teaching general music, beginning band, and beginning orchestra. I am also a graduate student at George Mason University where I am working towards completing my MA in Arts Management. Aside from teaching and graduate classes, I love to spend my time playing the violin with the Symphony Orchestra of Northern Virginia (SONOVA), hiking/backpacking, and cooking up yummy new recipes. I am looking forward to a successful and FUN year in orchestra!

**James Pratte, Band** James Pratte, a native of northern Virginia, graduated from James Madison University with a B.M.E. and a concentration in clarinet performance. He is currently in his 22nd year of teaching and has taught in Fairfax, Prince William, and now Arlington County. He has been active as an instructor for marching bands throughout his career and currently serves on the Wakefield HS staff as woodwind specialist. In addition to maintaining a studio of private saxophone students, Mr. Pratte is the conductor of the APS Middle School honor band, and the jazz ensemble conductor for the Franklin summer music camp in Chantilly, VA.

**Jesse G. Williams, Jr., Model Music Teacher/ After-school Choir Director** Jesse G. Williams, Jr., was born in Washington, DC, but grew up in Wendell, NC, a small community outside Raleigh, NC.  He was surrounded by music his entire life, being influenced by relatives who sang and played instruments both at his home church and professionally in the gospel and jazz circuits. Jesse has taught music for nearly 18 years on the primary, secondary, and collegiate levels.  Jesse holds a B.S. degree from Barton College in Wilson, NC, an M.M.E. (Master of Music Education) degree from Shenandoah Conservatory in Winchester, VA, and is a candidate for a D. Min. (Doctor of Ministry) degree with an expected completion date of May 2019.  He is married with two children and two dogs.  Jesse also serves as Minister of Music and Fine Arts at his church in Maryland.  He is convinced that music is truly “the universal language!”

**Amie Flowers Shakespeare, Montessori Music** Amie Flowers Shakespeare has the great pleasure of working with all Primary, Lower Elementary and Upper Elementary classes at ACM.   As an Arlington resident and mother of 3, Ms. Flowers Shakespeare is well-acquainted with Arlington Public Schools’ robust musical offerings.  If you have questions about APS’s music programs, feel free to ask! Prior her time with Arlington Schools, Ms. Flowers Shakespeare worked for Arlington Symphony, Kansas City Chamber Orchestra, Kansas City Lyric Opera, Bisceglia Italian Cultural Center and Queensland Australia Arts Council in Arts operations and outreach.  As a classically-trained vocalist, she has also enjoyed—and still enjoys—making music as a soloist and ensemble member. Ms. Flowers Shakespeare completed Music Education licensure and level 2 Orff Schulwerk certification at George Mason University.  Additionally, she holds a Bachelor of Music from Wheaton College and Master of Music from University of Missouri, Kansas City.

**LIBRARIAN’S CORNER**

The next event for the library will be the **Bedford Falls Book Fair**.  This will be from **Tuesday, November 6th** **through November 14th**.  The students will use their Library times the week of November 5th to  preview books.  The Family Night at the Bookfair will be Wednesday, November 7th from 5PM to 7PM. We will also be having each teacher make a wishlist of books they’d like for their classrooms that parents may purchase at Family Night. Keep your eyes here on School Talk and in the various listservs for a Sign Up Genius to help with the Book Fair.

**PTA NEWS**

**Breakfast/Brunch was a success!** Thank you to everyone who brought in food this morning for the Teacher Conference Breakfast/Brunch. There was so much food! The teachers and staff were very appreciative and grateful for all that was done. It was a wonderful gesture showing them just how much they are appreciated!

**Odyssey of the Mind** Are you interested in coaching Odyssey of the Mind so that our program can have representation at this year’s competition? If so, e-mail [ArlingtonMontessoriPTA@gmail.com](mailto:ArlingtonMontessoriPTA@gmail.com) and we can chat! But act fast! The first coordinator’s meeting is in November!

**UPCOMING DATES:**

* Monday, October 29: Gifted Information Night, 6PM in the Library
* Tuesday, October 30: Picture Day
* Tuesday, October 30: Montessori Naming Committee Meeting, 6:30PM in the Montessori Cottage
* Wednesday, October 31: Monarch Celebration (Primary classes – check with your teacher)

**LINKS**

* Arlington Montessori Program on APS: <https://drew.apsva.us/the-montessori-program/>
* Principal Genove on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/CSGenove>
* Engage with APS https://www.apsva.us/engage/
* Lunch Menus: https://apsva.nutrislice.com/menus-eula-splash
* Arlington Montessori PTA: <https://acmpta.com/>.

**A MONTESSORI MOMENT**

**This week’s Moment features a blog post about a famous Montessorian, Chef Julia Child, and how her approach to life and work embodied several tenants of the Montessori philosophy.**

**Julia Child**

*John Long, as featured on amiusa.org*

I'm going to see the new movie about Julia Child because ... she was such a character (I remember watching her on tv cooking with a blow torch!)...and I truly admire Meryl Streep (who plays Child in the movie)...and I love to eat...and I love what changes she provoked in the American diet since my boyhood days when canned chop suey was considered adventuresome (at least in my family)...and because she was a Montessori child.

That's right, Julia Child attended Montessori school and credits that education (in her book Julia Child and Company) for her love of working with her hands.

Actually, I see much more Montessori than that in Mrs. Child.

Several Houston chefs were interviewed about Julia Child for a story in today's Houston Chronicle.

Michael Cordua (chef and owner of Cordua Restaurants) said, "Julia was a role model to me in that she broke away from the homogenization of the American diet in the ‘50’s--white bread, canned veggies, etc. She was a pioneer in taking an ethnic cuisine center stage and paved the way for the rest of us to express our culinary heritage to mainstream America.”

A pioneer. Montessori kids have the courage and the creativity to be pioneers. How about Montessori kid Jimmy Wales who invented Wikipedia? He reinvented the old fashioned book-based encyclopedia written by experts and revised every couple of years. Everyone said everyone can’t collectively write an encyclopedia. It will be worthless...

Ryan Hildebrand (executive chef at Bistro Don Camillo and Bistro Provence) said, “I remember watching her show with my mom. Her character added a sense of fun to cooking, which generated an interest in me. She made an omelet look fun. It didn’t look like work. She showed you could spend your day in the kitchen and it was a fun and happy place to be. She put a happy spin on what can be a very taxing career.”

A sense of fun. It didn’t look like work. When a group of parents and teachers sat down together to describe Post Oak graduates, one of the characteristics was, “They are fun to be around. Their enthusiasm, civility, and respect for others are contagious.”

Stacy Crowe-Simonson (executive chef and owner of Chez Nous) said, “Her history of going into the kitchen so blind and becoming such a master of it definitely gives women an inspiration. It did for me....She takes the fear out of trying something new.”

Montessori wanted kids to develop “a friendly relationship to error,”--to understand that mistakes are a normal part of learning, and that to learn, you must be willing to make mistakes, and then to move forward. Unfortunately, traditional schools are more concerned with knowing than with learning. And when that is your concern, mistakes are an embarrassment, a red mark on the page, a poor grade on the report card. And the result is resentment, shame and fear-rather than encouragement to accept mistakes as the price of admission to the steep part of the learning curve.

Robert Del Grande (chef/owner of RDG + Bar Annie) said, “Julia was the same person on TV or in front of a group or having coffee with her. There wasn’t a stage persona. If you were talking to her one on one, it was the same as if she were on a TV show. She had no pretense at all. She was completely genuine.”

Del Grande’s observations echo loud and clear another characteristic our parents and faculty observed in Montessori grads: “They are comfortable in their own skin. Post Oak grads have grown up in a nurturing culture that encourages selfmotivation, independent thinking, and the experience of taking on big challenges—all great preparation for whatever life has in store for them.”

Popcorn anyone?