## **School Talk**

## **October 5, 2018**

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**A NOTE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL**

Hello Montessori Families!

By now, you should have received the invitation to give input to the Montessori Naming committee by giving us suggestions for names. As you think about your name suggestion, I would like to share with you a note from one of our longtime Montessori parents, Ms. Cindy Bare, to remind you who Maria Montessori was and her vision for the program she created. My hope is that, maybe, it will give you some inspiration in choosing the perfect name. From Ms. Bare:

Maria Montessori was a groundbreaking educator, one of the first female doctors in Italy. She was a tireless advocate not just for children, but for children with special needs and with disadvantaged backgrounds.  She was also an advocate for women's rights and for peace, and was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize three times.  She started an educational movement that has influenced education for over 100 years.  I like this quote from AMI:  "*What Montessori came to realize was that children who were placed in an environment where activities were designed to support their natural development had the power to educate themselves. In 1914 she wrote, “I did not invent a method of education, I simply gave some little children a chance to live.”* [[1]](#footnote-1)

Sincerely,

Catharina Genove, Principal

“*Biography of Dr Maria Montessori.” Association Montessori Internationale, montessori-ami.org/resource-library/facts/biography-dr-maria-montessori.*

**PROGRAM NEWS**

**Reminder:** There is no school on Monday, October 8 and an early release on Wednesday, October 10 where dismissal will be at 1:26PM.

**Name suggestions being accepted!** From today until midnight, October 10th, 2018, we are asking you to send any suggestions you may have for the name of the program to Principal Genove at catharina.genove@apsva.us.  All names will be reviewed. If you are choosing to submit the name of a person, we ask that you please include a short biography of said person. To read more about the naming process and review APS criteria on naming a school, direct your browser to [https://www.apsva.us/school-naming-and-renaming-processes/montessori-program-at-henry-site/](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/HJkdn1F8q_UjFlUYbgoPvg~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRdljYDP0RbaHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYXBzdmEudXMvc2Nob29sLW5hbWluZy1hbmQtcmVuYW1pbmctcHJvY2Vzc2VzL21vbnRlc3NvcmktcHJvZ3JhbS1hdC1oZW5yeS1zaXRlL1cHc2Nob29sbUIKAACDArVbKtpVeVITS2hheW5lczc0QGdtYWlsLmNvbVgEAAAAAQ~~)

A quick overview of the criteria to consider when choosing a name:

* **If suggesting an individual:** They must have been deceased for at least 5 years. The individual must have played a critical role or contributed to society in ways that supported the success and well-being of individuals who live in Arlington, Virginia, or the US at large now and in the future. Their legacy must align with the APS mission, vision, and core values and beliefs.
* **Based on Geography/Historical relationships:** Names must be places in the neighboring community, Arlington or Virginia. Emphasis on names of landmarks or places that have historic or geographic significance to Arlington's history and the site.
* **Other criteria:** Names may articulate aspirations of the educational outcomes for the Arlington students; reflect the instructional focus of the school; should consider the diverse community it serves; and should avoid duplicating names of other schools in the region to prevent confusion with those schools.

**Walk & Bike to School Day October 10th is Walk & Bike to School Day!** To promote the great health, environmental, community-building and the benefits of walking and biking to school, Arlington Public Schools will take part in [**Walk and Bike to School Day 2018**](https://www.apsva.us/safe-routes-to-school-overview/walkbike-to-school-day/) on Wed, Oct. 10. This year marks the 22nd annual international celebration, and students here in Arlington will once again join schools, families, community members, law enforcement and elected officials around the world in celebrating the joys of walking and biking to school. If you choose to participate, do share your story when you walk the walk on October 10 with our 2018 hashtag #APSWalk2SchoolDay! *\*In the event of severe inclement weather on Oct. 10, event will take place on Oct. 17.*

**Don’t forget!** Our new main number is 703-228-8871. Our Attendance Hotline is now 703-228-2037, with an outgoing message so that you will know you have reached the right number! And **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 remember to write your child’s name and teacher in the memo section.**

**WTOP Junior Reporters.** WTOP and WTOP.com, along with Huntington Learning Center announced the first annual “**Junior Reporter**” promotion that gives kids in grades K-12 in the Washington area the chance to compete to become a junior journalist. Winners will be crowned in three grade categories: K-5, 6-8 and 9-12. Three prizes will be awarded (one per category) and consist of $500 for the student, $1000 for the student’s school, and VIP treatment for the winner at the WTOP Studios – including a tour and chance to be featured on-air and online at WTOP.com. APS students are eligible to compete. Entries will be accepted beginning midnight on Monday, October 1 through 5 pm, Sunday, October 14 at WTOP.com search “Junior Reporter” and must be submitted by a parent or guardian.  Kids that can compete to be a finalist will be selected from eligible entries by a WTOP panel of judges.  Voting for finalists will take place at the same website from October 22 through November 7 at 5 pm. The three winners will be selected from the top finalists at WTOP’s discretion (based on set criteria) from November 7-11. Click here for more information: https://wtop.com/contests/reporter/

**TEACHERS CORNER**

The schedule for **BAND** is as follows:

*Classes meet every Wednesday & Friday.*

* **Wednesday 1:45-2:10 Group ‘A’** 5th grade Model Beginner Clarinet & Montessori Beginner Flute/Clarinet
* **Wednesday 2:10-2:35 Group ‘B’** Montessori Beginner Trumpets
* **Wednesday 2:35-3:00 Group ‘C’** Model/Montessori Beginner Saxophones
* **Wednesday 3:00-3:35 Group ‘D’** Reserved for remediation by appointment, or: preparation for APS Elementary honors band audition, small group performance or additional 2nd year band full ensemble practice
* **Friday 1:45-2:10 Group ‘E’** Model Beginner Clarinets/Flutes
* **Friday 2:10-2:35 Group ‘F’** Model Beginner Trumpets
* **Friday 2:35-3:00 Group ‘G’** Model/Montessori Beginner trombones and baritones
* **Friday 3:00-3:35 Group ‘H’** All 2nd year band students – Model and Montessori

**Drew Band, Chorus & Orchestra Concerts (4th and 5th Grades)**

**WINTER,** Drew Model School Multi-Purpose Room

* Wed. Jan 23 Drew day concert 2:00-3:30 PM
* Wed. Jan 23 Drew evening concert 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

**SPRING,** Drew Model School Multi-Purpose Room

* Thursday June 6 Drew day concert 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM
* Thursday June 6 Drew evening concert 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Contact James.Pratte@apsva.us for more information about 4/5th grade band.

Contact Jesse.Williams@apsva.us for more information about 4/5th grade chorus.

Contact Molly.Jackson@apsva.us for more information about 4/5th grade string orchestra.

**JR. HONORS ENSEMBLE AUDITIONS**

**Junior Honors Ensemble Dates (4th and 5th Grades)**

**AUDITIONS, Kenmore Middle School**

Mon 10/22- Elem Honors Chorus, 4:00-7:30 PM

Tue 10/23- Elem Honors Chorus, 4:30-8:00 PM

Wed 10/24- Elem Honors Chorus, 4:00-7:30 PM

Mon 11/5- Jr Honors Orchestra, 4:00-7:00 PM

Tues 11/13- Jr Honors Band, 4:30-7:00 PM

CONCERT, Kenmore Middle School

Tues. Mar 19- Junior Honors Band, Chorus and Orchestra Concert, Kenmore MS, 7:00 PM

Contact amie.shakespeare@apsva.us with questions or for additional information.

**PTA NEWS**

**The PTA is kicking of our Armchair Fundraiser!** It’s called an Armchair Fundraiser because you don’t need to leave your chair to support the new Arlington County Montessori PTA. If we raise enough funds, we will be able to focus on community building and education support, rather than asking you to buy wrapping paper, candy bars, and magazine subscriptions. We plan for this fundraiser to be our primary fundraiser. If we receive enough donations, this could be our only fundraiser! We will be sending home information on this fundraiser in next week’s backpack mail, however, you can read all about it on our website: <https://acmpta.com/donate>. We have an ambitious budget this year as we really want our PTA to be able to bring as much support to our Montessori teachers, students and you, the parents, by providing education, resources and materials, so please consider making a donation. Thank you.

**UPCOMING DATES:**

* Monday, October 8: No school for children; Teacher work day.
* Wednesday, October 10: Early release
* Monday, October 22: Middle school information night. 7PM, Washington-Lee High School
* Thursday, October 25: Early release/Parent-Teacher Conferences
* Friday, October 26: No school for children; Parent-Teacher Conferences

**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 feature focuses on bullying and teaching our children how to handle conflicts in the school environment.** While Montessori schools are no exception to bullying behavior, our approach to dealing with these issues turn these challenges into opportunities for teaching respect and empathy.

**Bullying Issues: Helping Children with Peer Conflicts at School**

*[Practical Life](http://ageofmontessori.org/from-the-montessori-classroom/structure-of-montessori-classroom/practical-life/%22%20%5Co%20%22View%20all%20items%20in%20A.%20Practical%20Life),* [*Blogs by Parent Coach*](http://ageofmontessori.org/parents/parent-coach/)*,* [*D. Grace and Courtesy*](http://ageofmontessori.org/from-the-montessori-classroom/structure-of-montessori-classroom/grace-and-courtesy/)

A new school year is a great time to assess how you are helping your child to become increasingly competent with various life skills.  Montessori principles focus on how to help a child be more independent with skills such as washing dishes and putting away their toys. These skills all depend on the child having appropriate tools to complete the tasks, i.e. a stool so they can reach the sink or tubs and shelves that are labeled so they know where to put toys away.  The same is true for helping a child face social-emotional tasks.  It is important that we take time to consider whether the child has the social-emotional tools to handle the challenges that may come up each day.

Now, more than ever, it is important to equip our children with the skills to deal with conflict because bullying is on the rise in our society.  According to a Clemson University study released in October of 2010, 17 percent of kids between 3rd and 12th grade reported on anonymous questionnaires that they were being bullied two to three times a month or more ([msnbc.msn.com](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/39758956/ns/health-childrens_health/t/students-regularly-bullied-survey-shows/)). That means approximately 1 out of every 6 children is struggling with bullying issues at school and in other peer settings.

Rick Shaw, the founder of [Awareity](http://www.awareity.com/), emphasizes one key aspect to help your children with bullying:

“Ask your children if they know what to do in different bullying settings (on the bus, at school, at sporting events, away from school, online) and if they know how to report bullying incidents that they have witnessed”.  *(*[*Huffington Post, 9/6/2012*](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/marlo-thomas/bullying-it-begins-on-the_b_1844459.html)*)*

In line with Montessori principles, Mr. Shaw is emphasizing the power of giving our children the appropriate tools to handle the situation.  Two great tools that can help teach your child such necessary skills are Jane Nelson’s Positive Discipline Wheel of Choices and Anger Wheel of Choices.

First, Nelson’s “Wheel of Choices” offers many choices for what to do when a peer is bothering you.  Options include, but are not limited to: Walk away, count to 10, and ask them to stop.  With this tool, when children get frustrated with their peers, you can keep yourself out of becoming judge and jury in their conflicts and, instead, encourage their independence by providing guidance on the various ways they can address the issue.  Pull out the Wheel of Choices or point to it on your wall and lovingly ask, “What do you think you want to do to handle this situation?” Teaching a child that they can’t control when others are mean, but they can control how they respond is empowering and teaches a valuable life lesson.

Second, the Anger Wheel of Choices gives children ideas for how to deal with being angry, hurt, or disappointed.  Sometimes our own actions and assertiveness don’t improve the situation with peers, and it is important to have skills to deal with those difficult feelings.  The wheel doesn’t say, “Just deal with it.”  Rather, it encourages children that you can do something to improve these difficult feelings.  Examples include: Ask for a hug, draw a picture of your feelings, or take some deep breaths to relax.

With these tools, you can become more of a” Conflict Coach” instead of the ongoing judge and jury. Remember:

*“Everything you do for the child that he can do for himself is an obstacle to his development.”*   – Maria Montessori

By coaching, you are empowering your children to be able to manage conflict more competently on their own, and an empowered child is a more self-directed and happy child.

*Flora McCormick is a Professional Counselor and Parenting Coach in Bozeman, Montana (www.sustainableparenting.com). She completed her masters in counseling in 2009 and has taught Positive Discipline parenting workshops for 5 years. She has 15 years of experience working with children in various capacities and is excited to be enjoying life in Bozeman with her husband and son.*

1. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)