## **School Talk**

## **November 30, 2018**

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**MONTESSORI NAMING UPDATE**

At the School Board meeting last night, Principal Genove and ACMPTA president Kia Haynes presented the Montessori Naming Committee’s suggestion for the program: **Arlington County Montessori School,** along with the second name choice of **Montessori School of Arlington County.** The School Board asked questions and good answers were given in response. They will render their decision to accept or reject the name at the next School Board meeting on December 20th. The School Board was impressed to hear that once the Montessori program moves to Patrick Henry, we will be the first and only public Montessori school in the Commonwealth of Virginia!

**PROGRAM NEWS**

**-Winter Weather Reminders**

* Delays and closings will be announced by 5AM.
* New this year: If the AM storm time is uncertain, APS will call a delay by **6PM the night before** the storm, with an update by **6AM the day of**.
* Early dismissals from school due to weather will be announced by **11AM**.
* Check for updates via APS website, Facebook, Twitter or app.
* Announcements will also be made via School Talk and text. You can also find news of delays and closings via local TV news and radio.
* APS also has a hotline *(in English & Spanish).* Call 703-228-4277
* Breakfast will be served even if school is delayed.

**-Make sure we can contact you!** Sign on to **ParentVue** *(or call the school)* to make sure your contact information has been updated for each child. Also, make sure you have agreed to receive School Talk to ensure you receive e-mails. **Not signed up for texts?** Text the word **YES** to 67587. This will verify that you can receive text messages to that phone.

**-5th Grade to Visit Gunston** The Montessori 5th graders will be going to visit and tour Gunston Middle School on Wednesday, December 19th at 9:30AM. This is a visit to allow the children to see the facilities, talk with administration about the school and meet and speak to students.

**-The deadline for Middle School transfers is January 18th**. This includes applications for the H-B Woodlawn lottery. Go to <https://www.apsva.us/school-options/middle-school-choices/request-a-transfer/> for more information and to the link to the online application portal.

**-Gift Card Drive through December 17th** The Drew & Montessori counselors are collecting grocery store gift cards to help sustain our families at risk of food insecurity over the 2-week holiday break. If you are so inclined, drop off your gift card(s) to either Ms. Reeser or Ms. Grogan in the main office by December 17th. Visa/AmEx gift cards are fine. Please no cash/check donations. Please no restaurant gift cards. Gift cards from stores with a grocery store within, like Target or Walmart, are also welcome.

**SAFETY PATROL CANNED FOOD DRIVE**

The **Drew Safety Patrols** are holding a canned food drive from now through December 20th. The food will be disbursed to families in need in our community. Drop off your canned goods and non-perishable items to the collection area in the lobby in front of the main office. This is a whole school effort. Any questions? E-mail Tenita Chapman or Leroy Dewitt or call 703-228-8135.

**TEACHERS CORNER**

Entries for the APS annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. 2019 Literary & Visual Arts contest are being accepted. The deadline is Thursday, December 13th by 5PM. It is open to all K-12th grade students. Check with your child’s teacher to see if it is being done as a classroom assignment. If not, feel free to have your child enter on their own. More information and drop off locations can be found here: <https://www.apsva.us/mlk-contest/>

**PTA NEWS**

**-One more week until the MAKERS FAIR!** Our crafters are excited to show you what they can do! We will have all sorts of handmade goods, from smoothies to magic wands, handcrafted pillows to baked goods, and more! We are also glad to announce that **Silver Knights Enrichment** will be offering for **FREE** two LEGO Robotics classes *(space is limited).* **Saturday, December 15th in the auditorium of the Central Library, 11AM to 1PM**. Open to everyone! Spread the word!

**-Before you shop for the holidays, change your Amazon Smile donation to us!** Please sign up for Amazon Smile and choose Arlington County Montessori PTA as your charity! To make it easier, direct your browser to <https://tinyurl.com/MontessoriSmile>. Every time you shop, we earn money, so please remember to sign up and ask your friends and family to sign up as well.

**UPCOMING DATES**

* Wednesday, December 12: EARLY RELEASE. Dismissal is at 1:26PM.
* Monday, December 24 – January 4th: Winter Break

**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**

**For the most part, our students do very well with practicing grace and courtesy but, like all children, there are times when they need a little help remembering graciousness when they aren’t in the classroom. Here are some things you can try at home to encourage kind behavior outside the classroom and to help firmly implant the tenets of kindness within them.**

**Grace and Courtesy Beyond Please and Thank You**

*by P. Donohue Shortridge*

A few weeks ago, I arrived at a hotel to check in, only to find that my room would not be ready for quite some time. There had been a pop concert nearby the night before, attended mostly by moms and their teenage daughters. Apparently, the moms spent their after-event time at the bar, while their teens proceeded to trash their hotel rooms, blast loud music, and run wild in the hallways until 3:00 a.m. The next morning, housekeepers were overwhelmed by a tsunami of debris: lipstick on mirrors, teepeed beds, and wet trash everywhere. As I sat in the lobby contemplating this uncivilized behavior, I asked myself, How does this happen?

Parents want children to be polite, kind, and civilized. But what does it take to foster that outcome? Mammals, especially humans, are social learners. We gain knowledge from our environment and from other people, especially from those whom we love. Unfortunately, we learn both antisocial as well as pro-social behaviors by watching others.

 So if there is anything you want your child to know how to do, or a way you want him or her to behave, you should first model it, then show him or her how to do it, offer lots of opportunities for practice, and finally, hold the child accountable.

First, modeling: In the early years of life, we learn mostly by taking in the sensorial impressions of the world around us. A series of neural connections helps us imprint that which we see. The child watches what other people do and attempts to do it too. Research has shown that mimicry increases pro-social behavior in very young children (Carpenter, Uebel & Tomasello, 2013). If you want your children to wait their turn to speak, do that yourself. If you want your children to stay at the table during dinner, turn off your cell phone and stay seated yourself.

Second, practice: Think about what you want your child to learn—everything from when and how to say “excuse me,” to carrying on a phone conversation with Grandma, to holding the door open for someone with an armload of packages, to conducting oneself at a restaurant, in a theater, on an airplane, and at a hotel. We Montessorians call it adaptation to one’s culture (Montessori, 1964). Take it slow; you will have many years to inculcate these habits. Start with simple daily activities: “In our family, when we need to sneeze, we sneeze into our sleeve. Watch me. Now it’s your turn.”

Other examples include: For a young child—pushing in one’s chair after getting up from the table. For an Elementary-age child—lessons on how we treat those different from us. For an adolescent—house rules on texting and driving.

After you have modeled and practiced, hold your children accountable. If you use inductive statements, it will help the child discover for himself how to make the correction.

Some examples:

* For young children—“When you go back to the table and push in your chair, then you may be excused.”
* For an Elementary-age child—“Before we go over to the neighbor’s house to apologize for that bullying incident, you’ll come up with how you will make amends, which, as you remember, is part of apologizing.”
* For an adolescent (Dad, looking at a ticket for texting and driving)—“What happens now with your phone and car keys?”
* Finally, remember that your children really do want to learn all this. It’s how they feel competent and socially adept.

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