## **School Talk**

## **January 18, 2019**

**Inside this edition:**

* **Furloughed? Work for APS!**
* **Program News**
* **Academic Planning Nights for 5th Grade**
* **Teachers Corner**
* **PTA News**
* **Upcoming Dates**
* **Links**
* **A Montessori Moment**

**FURLOUGHED? WORK FOR APS!**

APS held a Substitute Teacher Recruiting Fair this afternoon at Syphax for furloughed FED workers. If you missed the fair, you can still apply! Create an account and submit an application online at [www.apsva.us/careers](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.apsva.us%2Fcareers%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR169a3n6ZGZnWD6gDFE_H4raMSefocRe0mY_LhFRKgwf6zGKOO-jsKIh2A&h=AT1URBCb2Z-7mq2rE9F6ACCZbOhon2zCzXa2nXqJnoFDpgfU_ycDdyTVoFxRu_lcxrnIW_p_cHACszad3msZK1SlvktOFTLJTJ0iEevV7zKcJ46b-JBGa1BgBFiZQ6Xd).

To become a substitute you will need the following:

* Copy of Official/Unofficial College Transcripts *(for consideration as a Substitute Teacher)* or Copy of High School Diploma/GED *(for consideration as a Substitute Assistant)*
* Two Letters of Recommendation/Reference *(signed and dated within the last twelve months, one letter should be from someone who recently supervised your work)*
* Recent TB test results.

**For those on furlough:** APS is aware that the ongoing federal government shutdown may be causing some stress for our families who may be impacted. We want to remind all families that our teachers, principals and school counselors are available to support students. Families and students are encouraged to talk with a school counselor to discuss any concerns or needs they may have. Below are reminders about meal services and extended day, which may provide some relief to families who have concerns.

* **Meals**  
  As a reminder to families who may be concerned about their student not receiving a meal, no student is denied a meal due to lack of funds. For more information on this, [see our policy](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/Jjp-cqCDhG-_reAPsZj_Gg~~/AAAAAQA~/RgReFkJsP4R5AWh0dHBzOi8vdXJsZGVmZW5zZS5wcm9vZnBvaW50LmNvbS92Mi91cmw_dT1odHRwcy0zQV9fd3d3LmJvYXJkZG9jcy5jb21fdnNiYV9hcmxpbmd0b25fQm9hcmQubnNmX2ZpbGVzX0IyNFE5UTY4M0Y5Q18tMjRmaWxlX0otMkQ4LjMuOC4zMC0yNTIwRm9vZC0yNTIwYW5kLTI1MjBOdXRyaXRpb24tMjUyMFNlcnZpY2VzLTI1MjAtMkQtMjUyMFVucGFpZC0yNTIwTWVhbC0yNTIwQ2hhcmdlcy5wZGYmZD1Ed01GQWcmYz1VMEcwWEpBTWhFa19YMEdBR3pDTDdRJnI9d2lYQTNjTjlfN3M3SklodjJCdFB3USZtPXVMb0V4ajJ6UVRHdkFjeUVQNXdZWFRkTFVGLU1pR0ZEbmxpeGRsdmZRakUmcz1ZaVZ2RURyTmhzSWd0dk50VklWdGw2YkM5dWZQVllHUl9Vd19PTlF0WlRjJmU9VwdzY2hvb2xtQgoAAOwONVxyl_pqUhxraWEuc3RldmVuc29uaGF5bmVzQGFwc3ZhLnVzWAQAAAAB) on unpaid meal charges. Families experiencing hardship during the federal government shutdown are also welcome to complete the confidential online application for the National School Lunch program at [www.myschoolapps.com](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/dJdo8FX4kDzgJXS_IXCv1g~~/AAAAAQA~/RgReFkJsP0QbaHR0cDovL3d3dy5teXNjaG9vbGFwcHMuY29tVwdzY2hvb2xtQgoAAOwONVxyl_pqUhxraWEuc3RldmVuc29uaGF5bmVzQGFwc3ZhLnVzWAQAAAAB).
* **Extended Day**  
  Families who have questions or concerns about Extended Day during the government shutdown can call the director to discuss fee relief or a temporary change to their child’s Extended Day schedule. Extended Day can be reached at 703-228-6069.

**PROGRAM NEWS**

**-Winter Concert has been postponed.** Due to circumstances, the Winter concert is being postponed until next month, date TBA.

**-Montessori Information Night is February 6th at 6PM**. Ever wonder what a Montessori child does at school? Come find out more! Families will have the opportunity to meet APS Montessori teachers, learn about the philosophy and ask questions. There will be two informative teacher led panel discussions for parents to chose from: *Primary Montessori* and *Elementary Montessori*. Volunteers from the Arlington Montessori Action Committee (AMAC) will be on hand to answer questions from a parents’ perspective. Plus you can tour Primary, Lower Elementary and Upper Elementary Montessori classrooms. All APS Montessori parents are encouraged to come. We also invite any Arlington families that are curious about the Montessori program to attend! Snow date is February 13th.

**ACADEMIC PLANNING & INFO NIGHTS FOR 5th GRADE**

* **Gunston MS**
  + - January 24 7-8:30 *(English session for Traditional & Montessori)*

***Gunston Middle School*** *will be holding a 6th grade orientation session for Montessori parents on the evening of January 24th at 7PM. Once the whole group session is finished, parents will break out into program groups so that Immersion, Montessori, and Traditional can get specific information. You will have the opportunity to understand what the transition is like from Upper Elementary to Middle School, be able to speak to some of the teachers, see the classrooms and talk to some current students.*

* **Kenmore MS** 
  + - February 7, 7 p.m.
* **Dorothy Hamm MS**

In mid-February *(date TBD)* **Dorothy Hamm** **Middle School** will hold academic planning/course information sessions for parents and students.  This will be an opportunity to ask questions about particular courses, explore the options for electives, and consider long-term course planning. The event will be held at H-B Woodlawn.

**TEACHERS CORNER**

Save the dates! **January 25-28 LOWER ELEMENTARY RECORDER SLEEPOVER**!

Lower Elementary recorders will "sleepover" with Lower Elementary students **January 25-28**. **Recorder Sleepover** is a periodic opportunity for students to spend extra practice time with their instrumental BFFs and to show you what they know.

Recorders and music binders will be transported via backpack **Friday, January 25** and returned to Ms Shakespeare **Tuesday, January 29**. Look for additional information on your child's SeeSaw account. If you have additional questions, please email [amie.shakespeare@apsva.us](mailto:amie.shakespeare@apsva.us).

**PTA NEWS**

**Eat YUMMY tacos for the ACMPTA!** Please plan on coming out to eat at our next restaurant night. **Monday, January 21st** is our fundraiser at **District Taco on Lee Highway**. This is a no-muss-no-fuss fundraiser since you don’t have to mention a thing – just come in between **4PM and 10PM** and order food! We get a percentage of the proceeds. It’s a holiday weekend! Why not end it by not cooking and eating some delicious tacos instead?

**UPCOMING DATES**

* January 20-26: Principals Appreciation Week
* January 21: No School in observance of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
* January 23: Reflections Awards Ceremony
* January 24: Gunston Info Night for Rising 6th, 7-8:30
* February 6: Montessori Info Night, 6PM
* February 8: Summer Activities Fair
* February 11-15: Crossing Guard Appreciation Day

**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**

**Montessori Vocabulary 101**

**Cycle of Activity**: Little children, when engaged in an activity which interests them, will repeat it many times and for no apparent reason, stopping suddenly only when the inner need which compelled the child to activity has been satisfied. To allow for the possibility of long and concentrated work cycles, Montessori advocates a three-hour uninterrupted work period.

**Repetition:** The young child's work is very different from the adult's. When an adult works, he sets out to accomplish some goal and stops working when the object has been achieved. A child, however, does not work to accomplish an external goal but rather an internal one. Consequently, she will repeat an activity until the inner goal is accomplished. The unconscious urge to repeat helps the child to coordinate a movement or acquire some ability.

**4 Ways Montessori Prepares Your Child for a Digital World**

*By Linda Mora*

When we choose the pathways for our children that ultimately result in a cumulative learning journey that prepares them for the real world, it’s important to make good decisions. Are the educational pathways we choose actually giving them the tools, skills and mindset to succeed, and even become great leaders?

There’s no doubt that, given today’s highly digital culture, one of the key elements of a child’s education should focus on the personality traits needed to thrive in this fast-paced world. While every child will no doubt learn to be technology proficient at a younger and younger age, with iPads and smartphones being the norm, you can do even more for them by giving them great digital leadership skills.

What does this mean exactly? Leadership consulting powerhouse, Heidrich & Struggles, characterizes a leader’s ability to thrive in a digital world as “digital dexterity.”  They define this as an ability to “stay ahead of emerging trends, embrace innovation, and constantly reinvent themselves…”

So, if you map some of these characteristics to a Montessori education, it’s easy to see that there are four ways that help build a child’s personality foundation for digital preparedness.

**Nurturing creativity:** The Montessori method has a strong focus on building a solid foundation of creativity in a child, which aligns perfectly with thinking “outside the box” in a digital world. The future will be led by those individuals who think differently, and can come up with new digital solutions for overcoming old problems.

**Collaboration skills:** One of the benefits of a more digitized world is how it has made it easier for individuals and teams to work together more efficiently, such as video conferencing. Montessori emphasizes collaboration between children, such as sharing ideas and information, and working together to discover new ways of thinking.

**Thriving independence:** At Montessori, children are allowed to work and learn at their own unique pace, and other aspects promote a true sense of independence, self-direction, and self-confidence in a child. These are valued traits in the digital world, giving them the confidence to forge ahead and “embrace innovation.”

**Loving to learn:** Heidrich & Struggles cites “a mindset of experimentation” as a key character trait of great leaders in a digital world. The Montessori method nurtures a true love of learning, using a child’s unique abilities and intuition to guide their learning with the skills to “constantly reinvent themselves.”

With so much focus today on technology, it’s easy to neglect the foundational and crucial character traits that children should begin learning at an early age to truly succeed in a digital world. With its enduring principals, a Montessori education is ideal for the future.

***Linda Mora*** *is the Owner and Director of Montessori of Plainfield and Montessori of Frankfort since 1996. She is also a member of the American Montessori Society and the Chamber of Commerce of Plainfield.*