## **School Talk**

## **February 1, 2019**

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At 8:45 a.m. on **February 2, 1959**, four young students from the nearby Hall’s Hill neighborhood entered Stratford Junior High School in Arlington, Virginia.

When they stepped into Stratford that day, they became the **first students to desegregate a public school in the Commonwealth of Virginia**.



*Ronald Deskins, Michael Jones, Lance Newman, and Gloria Thompson walked into Stratford Junior High School on February 2, 1959.*

APS is commemorating the 60th anniversary of that day with their program **APS Desegregation: Honoring the Past, Envisioning the Future.** Join APS School Board Chair, Reid Goldstein, and other School Board members, along with community members, former students, and special guests to remember those who desegregated Stratford Jr. High and Arlington Public Schools in February of 1959. Hear the story of desegregation from the students who experienced it and attendees will received a commemorative print by visiting printmaker Amos Kennedy. Arrive at 6 p.m. to explore artifacts and art; the formal presentation will begin at 6:30 p.m.For additional information or questions, please contact Ellen Smith at 703-228-2106 or ellen.smith@apsva.us. ***February 4 at 6PM, H-B Woodlawn.***

It’s a very meaningful way to kick off Black History Month. Other way APS will be celebrating Black History Month can be found here: https://www.apsva.us/black-history-month/ *(updated often so check back frequently)*

At our school, we will be hosting **African American Read-In Days**. If you’d like to find out more information and volunteer to be a reader, contact our librarian, Ms. Black, at dorasue.black@apsva.us.

**PROGRAM NEWS**

**-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.

-**Order Your 2018-2019 Yearbook!** Orders are currently being taken for the 2018-2019 Drew Model School Yearbook. This yearbook includes BOTH Programs, so Montessori students should order this one if they would like a memoire of the year. Order forms went home in this past Thursday’s backpack mail. Send back to school with a check or money order (NO cash please!) made out to “Drew Model School”. Or you may order online at [www.ybpay.lifetouch.com](http://www.ybpay.lifetouch.com) today!

**-Kindergarten & Elementary School Applications** APS provides a number of educational options in which students may enroll, recognizing that individual students may thrive in varied educational settings. All countywide schools require an application process and admission may be based on a lottery. **The application period for the 2019-20 school year is between Feb. 1, 2019 to April 15, 2019**. For more information please visit here: <https://www.apsva.us/school-options/elementary-school-choices/area-and-countywide-elementary/how-to-apply/> If you know families who are interested in applying for Montessori, please share this information.

**GIFTED PROGRAM REFERRAL DEADLINE**

The deadline for gifted referrals is April 1st. Even if it falls on a weekend, that is the deadline. If you have questions, or need more information, contact our Gifted Resource Teacher, Ms. Farrell at kristina.farrell@apsva.us

**SAFETY PATROL SPIRIT GEAR AVAILABLE!**

Now is the ONLY chance you’ll have to order your Drew Model Safety Patrol hoodies! Just $18! Orders are due February 20th. See Ms. Tenita Chapman for more information or e-mail tenita.chapman@apsva.us.

**PTA NEWS**

**ALL** our enrichment classes have met their minimums and will run next week. Thank you to those of you who signed up!

**UPCOMING DATES**

* February 6: Montessori Info Night, 6PM
* February 8: Summer Activities Fair
* February 11-15: Crossing Guard Appreciation Day
* February 13: Winter Concert, 6:30PM
* February 20: After School Choir performance, 6PM at Washington-Liberty HS

**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**

**Human Tendency**: A central tenet of Montessori philosophy is that human beings exhibit certain predispositions that are universal, spanning age, cultural and racial barriers; they have existed since the dawn of the species and are probably evolutionary in origin. 'Montessori stresses the need to serve those special traits that have proved to be tendencies of Man throughout his history.'

**Isolation of a Difficulty:** Before giving a presentation, the Montessori teacher analyses the activity she wants to show to the child. Procedures or movements that might prove troublesome are isolated and taught to the child separately. For example, holding and snipping with scissors, a simple movement, is shown before cutting curved or zigzag lines; folding cloths is shown before table washing, an activity requiring folding. A task should neither be so hard that it is overwhelming, nor so easy that it is boring.

**The Beautiful Lunch**

*Featuring the students in Ms. Lila Ross’ Upper Elementary Montessori Classroom*

Children at Montessori schools generally eat in their classrooms, allowing them to skip the noisy school cafeteria. But this isn’t scrunched eating at your desk. The room is transformed at lunchtime, and students play an integral role in the set-up and clean-up rituals, gaining ownership over their meals. The students work cooperatively in creating elaborate arrangements and rearrangements of the plates and silverware. Children can use metal silverware and cloth napkins. Breakable items are also included, be it a vase or a pitcher to serve milk. Even young children can learn to treat breakable objects with respect. Montessori students practice pouring exercises in a progression of different pitchers in Primary until they are able to pour on their own. Some items will get broken in the learning process but when we empower young children to handle real materials carefully, we create a foundation of care and responsibility that will last a lifetime.



