## **School Talk**

## **February 15, 2019**

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**HAVE YOU ACCESSED PARENTVUE?**

The cost for printing out First Day packets every year is about $50,000. APS has decided that those funds could be put to better use elsewhere and it will not be included in the upcoming year’s budget, which means that everything will need to be done via ParentVue online. To access ParentVue, every parent will need to have an e-mail address. Why is it important to be able to access ParentVue? Because you will want a way to keep the latest up-to-date information on your child at the schools instant access. The update every year is so we know how to contact you in cases of emergency.

You can create a free e-mail address from services such as Yahoo and Gmail. Teachers, if you have parents in your class who do not have an e-mail address, you may want to reach out to them to help them create one. You can take advantage of our bilingual resources to assist you if needed.

If you have an e-mail address and have yet to access ParentVue, we ask that you please sign on. ParentVue is not only a means for updating your school year info, but you will be able to see your child’s attendance and scheduling. If you have any secondary school students, you will be able to view grades, test scores, attendance and class assignments. Go here for more information: <https://www.apsva.us/family-access-center/>

**PROGRAM NEWS**

**-No school on Monday for President’s Day!** A reminder that school is closed on February 18th in observation of President’s Day, so see you all on Tuesday!

-**After School Choir to perform at APS’s Black History Month Celebration.** APS presents *Arlington: Past, Present, and Future Excellence* this Wednesday, **February 20th** at Washington-Lee HS, 6PM. At APS, the story of the African American experience comes from the heart. From music and arts, to education and family, discover the trailblazers and legacies that make Arlington great, and come hear the stories of courageous students and community members who have been change agents in the local community. This event will feature “My Halls Hill Family: More Than a Neighbor” Author Wilma Jones, Jazz Musician Rick Franklin, musical and dance selections from several APS schools, poetry, student and community recognitions. Our wonderful After School Choir has been invited to perform. Please visit the following link to register to attend: [tinyurl.com/APSBHM19](http://tinyurl.com/APSBHM19)

-**Parent-Teacher conferences are being scheduled now.** Spring Parent-Teacher conferences are being arranged now. **Thursday, March 7** is an **early release** day and conferences will be held in the afternoon. **Friday, March 8** is **no school** for students and conferences will be held throughout the day.

**-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!

**TEACHERS CORNER**

**TALENT COMES IN ALL FORMS!** If you have a talent that you don’t mind sharing, please contact music teacher Mr. Williams at jesse.williams@apsva.us ASAP! We are looking for:

* Singers/Rappers
* Dancers
* Musicians
* Poetry Recitations/Spoken Word
* Comedians
* Artists
* …any talent that’s not on this list that you think would be a great addition to this show!

**This event is for both Model & Montessori families to attend and participate in**. *Please Note: All performances will be previewed for appropriateness, and all performers must be Drew/Montessori staff/parents!*  Concessions will be sold at the event to benefit the After School Choir’s annual trip to the Chorale competition in Williamsburg, VA.

**PTA NEWS**

Our next ACMPTA restaurant fundraiser is **Saturday, February 23** at the Seven Corners Chipotle! The fundraiser is from 5PM to 9PM and all you have to do is say you are there for the “PTA Fundraiser” to earn us some $! What a lovely way to end a day of shopping! So mark your calendars! Chipotle Grill, 6299 Seven Corners Center *(near Home Depot and Red Robin).*

**UPCOMING DATES**

* February 18: No School, President’s Day
* 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**

**Discipline from Within**: Self-discipline. The discipline in a well-run Montessori classroom is not a result of the teacher's control or of rewards or punishments. Its source comes from within each individual child, who can control his or her own actions and make positive choices regarding personal behaviour. Self-discipline is directly related to development of the will.

**False Fatigue:** A phenomenon observed in Children's Houses around the world-often at approximately 10 a.m. The children seem to lose interest in work, their behaviour becomes disorderly and the noise level rises. It may appear as if the children are tired. However, if the directress understands this is simply false fatigue, they will return to work on their own and their work will be at an even higher level than before.

**The Pink Tower**

*by Montessorium*

The Pink Tower, iconic to the Montessori classroom, embodies the direct and indirect purpose of most Montessori materials. Stacking the cubes calls for visual discrimination, coordination, and precision. Indirectly, a child is preparing himself or herself for understanding cubed roots in later math.



The smallest cube measures 1cm cubed, and the largest is 10cm cubed. In this way, the Pink Tower introduces the concept of base ten, which is also present in other Sensorial materials such as the Brown Stair.

When beginning the activity, the child carefully takes each cube, one by one, to their work mat. As the child builds the tower, biggest to smallest, he or she might transpose one cube for another, but will quickly discover their error when the tower doesn’t look quite right. Another control of error!

Visually appealing and engaging, the Pink Tower is a foundational material from the Sensorial Area of the Montessori classroom.