## **School Talk**

## **February 22, 2019**

**Inside this edition:**

* **The Science & Engineer Fair is Coming!**
* **Superintendent’s Budget SY2020**
* **Program News**
* **Teacher’s Corner**
* **Be a Substitute for APS!**
* **Nominate Your Favorite APS Music Teacher for a Grammy!**
* **Feel the Heritage Festival**
* **PTA News**
* **Upcoming Dates**
* **Links**
* **A Montessori Moment**

**SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FAIR (MANDATORY FOR UEM)**

The 2018-2019 Drew Science and Engineering Fair will be held on **Wednesday, March 27, 2019 from 4-6pm**. ***Fourth and fifth grade students are required to participate***. Participation is *optional (but encouraged)* for students in pre-kindergarten through third grade. The Drew Science Team will be available *(upon request)* to provide before and during school support to students in fourth and fifth grade. Primary students who develop individual projects must complete work at home. To provide the primary grades with an opportunity to participate in the fair, students will conduct class projects in school under the supervision of their teachers.

As part of the STEAM initiative, students have been exposed in varying stages to the Scientific Method or the Engineering Design Process. Details regarding each method will be available in student packets for your reference. Students in Pre-K through 4th grade will have flexibility to select from either method to complete a project. **However, fifth grade students must use The Scientific Method for their project, and will be judged based on this criteria *(more details will be provided to fifth grade students).***

On the day of the Science and Engineering Fair *(March 27)* the displays will be set up in Drew’s multipurpose room between **4 and 6 PM** for parents, friends, and staff to view. Students will be asked to remain with their projects for part of this time in order to explain their projects and answer questions. The fifth grade projects will be formally judged and awarded *ribbons (first place, second place, third place)*.

Please keep in mind that we want these projects to be student led in order to provide a meaningful learning experience for your children. If you have any questions, please e-mail our Science Lead, Ms. Mendolia at eve.mendolia@apsva.us. For downloads pertaining to the Science & Engineering Fair, direct your browser here: https://acmpta.com/science-fair.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S BUDGET SY2020**

At next Thursday’s School Board meeting on February 28th, the Office of the Superintendent and Office of Budget & Finance will present the Superintendent’s Proposed Budget for SY2020. The meeting begins at 7PM and is open to the public. Can’t make it? You can live stream the meeting here: <https://www.apsva.us/school-board-meetings/watch-school-board-meetings/>

The first School Board Budget Work Session will follow immediately after the presentation. You can live stream that session as well here: <https://www.apsva.us/school-board-meetings/school-board-work-sessions-meetings/>

The School Board Meeting/Work Session will be held on the second floor of the Syphax Education Center at 2110 Washington Blvd. (22204). Get more information, view a brief online video about the budget process, and review the schedule of School Board Work Sessions and Public Hearings at [www.apsva.us/budget-finance/](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/1cJjVyqvxTn-fl8cKJUxzw~~/AAAAAQA~/RgReUD0pP0QjaHR0cDovL3d3dy5hcHN2YS51cy9idWRnZXQtZmluYW5jZS9XB3NjaG9vbG1CCgAAqQlvXHcGoTNSHGtpYS5zdGV2ZW5zb25oYXluZXNAYXBzdmEudXNYBAAAAAE~).

**PROGRAM NEWS**

-**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.

-Mark your calendars for the first **Parent & Staff Talent Show**! Wednesday, **March 6** at **6:30PM**. This is going to be loads of fun…and rumor has it your PTA president will be dancing in it. Come out to see all this talent hidden within our walls but also to support a very good cause. This event is a fundraiser to help our **After School Choir**, *comprised of both Montessori & Model students*, fund their annual trip to this year's Chorale Music Festival in Williamsburg, VA, **where our choir has prevailed as multi-year 1st place winners**! Your attendance will help with this! Tickets are $1 for students, $3 for adults. Sold at the door. Concessions will be sold. All are welcome to attend! *Mr. Williams says there is still room for you if you want to perform! E-mail him at* *jesse.williams@apsva.us**!*

**-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!

**TEACHER’S CORNER**

**MONTESSORI THIRD YEAR FAMILIES: SAVE THE DATE!**

**Monday, June 3rd, 7:00PM Performance**

**EagleBank Arena at George Mason**

On Monday, **June 3rd**, Montessori 3rd Years will perform with the National Association for Music Education’s accredited **American Young Voices**.   For over 20 years, Young Voices has inspired young singers around the world through massive, regional concerts.  On June 3, Montessori students will join voices with thousands of DC Metro 2-8th grade children at George Mason’s EagleBank Arena. Look for details from Ms. Shakespeare in next week’s Thursday Folder and SeeSaw Blogs!

**BE A SUBSTITUTE FOR APS!**

**Substitute for APS!** Want to spend more time in our classrooms and get paid for it? Apply to be an APS substitute teacher or assistant. It’s a straightforward process. You only need a college degree (for substitute teacher) or high school diploma (for substitute assistant) and 2 letters of reference. More information at <https://www.apsva.us/careers-aps/substitutes/> We are always running short of substitutes and our school would love to have a pool of parents to work with.

**NOMINATE YOUR FAVORITE APS MUSIC TEACHER FOR A GRAMMY!**

Supported by the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) and the National Education Association (NEA), the **GRAMMY Music Educator Award** is highly coveted and like the other national awards, just being nominated is a true honor and worthy of note.

Current, full-time educators in the United States who teach music in private or public schools – kindergarten to college – are eligible to be nominated. Does your APS school have a Grammy award recipient in your music department? Click here to submit their name! <http://www.grammyintheschools.com/programs/grammy-music-educator-award/apply>

The 2019 Music Educator Award Winner will be announced during GRAMMY Week, 2019. If you need help/information to fill out the application, e-mail Kia at khaynes74@gmail.com.

**FEEL THE HERITAGE FESTIVAL**

It’s time for the annual **Feel the Heritage Festival** here at Drew. On Saturday, **February 23** from **1PM-6PM**, Arlington County and the Nauck Civic Association present the **27th Annual Feel the Heritage** **Festival**, a celebration of Arlington’s African American history and culture. Come walk through the Hall of History; listen to live music by various local musicians; peruse the tables of many African American vendors and eat some great food! There will be tons of **FREE** activities for kids and a giveaway. And don’t forget to enter the 2nd annual **Soul Food Cook Off**! This is an annual event you don’t want to miss! Full flyer here: <http://ncaarlington.org/index_htm_files/2019FTHCook-OffFlyer.pdf>

**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 23: Feel the Heritage Celebration, 1PM-6PM at Drew
* February 23: PTA Fundraiser at the 7 Corners Chipotle, 5PM-9PM
* February 28: APS Transportation Meeting at Central Library, 6PM
* February 28: School Board Meeting – Superintendent’s Budget for SY2020
* March 6: Staff/Parent Talent Show, 6:30PM
* March 7: Early Release – Parent/Teacher Conferences. Students dismissed at 1:26PM
* March 8: No School for Students – Parent/Teacher Conferences all 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**

**Concrete to Abstract**: A progression both logical and developmentally appropriate. The child is introduced first to a concrete material that embodies an abstract idea such as size or colour. Given hands-on experience, the child's mind grasps the idea inherent in the material and forms an abstraction. Only as the child develops, is she gradually able to comprehend the same idea in symbolic form.

**Deviations:** Behaviour commonly seen in children that is the result of some obstacle to normal development. Such behaviour may be commonly understood as negative (a timid child, a destructive child, etc.) or positive (a passive, quiet child). Both positive and negative deviations disappear once the child begins to concentrate on a piece of work freely chosen.

**The Binomial Cube**

*by Montessori East*

The **Binomial Cube** is one of those amazing Montessori materials! It introduces abstract maths concept to children asyoung as 4 without them even knowing it! The early sensorial experience with the cube inspires them again at age 8 or 9 when they use the cube for algebra.  The material provides the all important bridge between concrete and abstract thinking.  And not so amazingly (because it’s logical) the child develops a much deeper understanding of the maths.



**What is it?**

The cube is composed of 8 wooden blocks which fit together in a binomial pattern, representing the cube of two numbers, (a + b), or tens plus units.  All the blocks fit into a natural wood box.

Each box contains colour coded blocks:

* One red cube a³, One blue cube b³
* Three red and black blocks “a²b”
* Three blue and black blocks “ab²”



The algebraic expression represented is: (a + b)³ = (a + b)(a + b)(a + b) = a³+3a²b+3ab²+b³

**Purpose of the Material**

**Cycle 1:**  Introduced at around 4 years of age, the purpose of the material is not to teach maths, but instead, to provide a challenge for a child's ability to find patterns and relationships. Therefore, the material is presented as a sensorial activity. It is presented like a three dimensional puzzle. People who are masters at puzzles will tell you that they take out, and organize, puzzle pieces very carefully. This is what is modelled for the child in this activity.

The child is not asked to understand the formula, but is using the cube in a mathematical way. The child will build up a predisposition to enjoy and understand mathematics later.

**Cycles 2 & 3:**  The Binomial is used in the primary years to understand and experience algebraic concepts. The numerical activities allow the children to cube numbers like 34 or 67 or 89, and the whole process is logical because the Binomial’s cubes and prisms are used as a literal representation of the numeric values. This work ultimately prepares them for high school mathematics.

**Got it?**

Don’t worry if the algebra above sends you starry eyed!  Just remember that the purpose of this material is to progress the children towards an understanding of cubing and early algebra which then flows into high school maths.