## **School Talk**

## **February 8, 2019**

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**BUSES: INFORMATION REGARDING NEXT YEAR’S TRANSPORTATION**

This map for Patrick Henry ES shows the area around the school where students are not eligible for bus service *(pink)* as well as the bus eligibility zone *(tan)*.  When the Montessori program moves to this location next school year, the bus zone will expand to countywide. The area in pink, however, will not change.

<https://www.apsva.us/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/ES_Henry.pdf>

Families are encouraged to travel the route/s they plan to take before the first day of school to determine the best route for their student/s.

The ACMPTA will be hosting a meeting with the Director of Multimodal Transportation, Kristen Haldeman, at a short meeting on **February 28th** in the Bluemont Room of the Arlington Central Library where she will discuss the map, discuss upcoming changes to the Transportation policy and why APS will be reducing the number of routes to make the system work better for everyone. The meeting will begin promptly at **6PM** and end no later than 7PM. If you have any pressing questions or concerns, you may e-mail Ms. Haldeman at kristin.haldeman@apsva.us.

**PROGRAM NEWS**

**-Winter Concert** Please join us for the Drew Model School Winter Concert, Wednesday, February 13th at 6:30PM in the multipurpose room. Students from the After School Choir, band and orchestra (all featuring children from Model & Montessori) will be performing. There will be a preview showing at 9:30AM that morning that you are welcome to attend. There will be a bake sale & apple cider sold that night to benefit the After School Choir’s annual trip to the Chorale competition in Williamsburg, VA, so please remember to bring change!

**-Montessori Information Sessions**. In case you or and friends or family that missed the opportunity to attend Montessori Information Night this past Wednesday, we have 3 information sessions/tours scheduled for our program. Please arrive about 5 minutes prior to sign in so we can begin the session on time.

* Thursday, February 14, 2019 - 12:45PM to 2:15PM
* Tuesday, March 12, 2019 - 9:15AM to 10:45AM
* Thursday, April 4, 2019 - 12:45PM to 2:15PM

- **Order your Safety Patrol spirit gear.** 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.

**-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**

**-Amman Imman Collection** Children have been invited to participate in an Amman Imman, Wells of Love coin and card collection from now through March 22nd- World Water Day.  Amman Imman empowers and supports Africa’s most vulnerable indigenous peoples and engages students worldwide as socially conscious leaders. They establish points of civilization that flourish, beginning with the construction of permanent water sources. This project has many curricular connections including: the Fundamental Needs of Humans, the work of water, biomes, regions of the world, ancient Mali, water scarcity, global warming, economics, and counting coins, to name a few. Perhaps, most importantly, this project provides our students with an opportunity to join students around the world in helping bring water to the people of the Azawak (located between Mali and Niger). With the help of our art teacher, Ms. Walchak, students have made collection cups out of origami paper to use to collect coins at home. They can bring coins in at any time through the end of the collection period to add to the class collection. Read more about Amman Imman at <https://ammanimman.org/>.

**-Parent/Staff Talent Show** Mark your calendars for **Wednesday, March 6!** It’s our first **Parent/Staff Talent Show** where we get to see our school staff and families show us their special talents! If you have a talent that you don’t mind sharing, please contact Mr. Williams at jesse.williams@apsva.us ASAP! Singers, dancers, musicians, actors…if you have talent, sign up to strut your stuff! **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 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.

**-4th Grade Parents!** The 4th Grade Upper Elementary Team is looking for drivers to help with a multi-class Going Out to the Virginia Museum in Richmond on **Friday, April 5th**. Volunteers will need to arrive by **7:15AM** so that we may leave school promptly at **7:45AM**. We plan on returning to school in time for children to go home via their usual routes. If you are interested, please send your teacher an e-mail! *This is for 4th grade students and parents.*

-**Drew could win a visit from Jan Brett!** We would like to get author Jan Brett to come to Drew!

How do we do that? Parents, go to this URL (http://www.janbrett.com/contest\_2019/2019\_free\_school\_or\_library\_visit.htm) and enter! Simple as that! The school or library that has the most parents, teachers, friends, or supporters who enter the contest will win a free school or library visit from Jan! Last year we came SO close!

With over forty million books in print, Jan Brett is one of the nation's foremost author illustrators of children's books. Some of her popular titles are "Town Mouse, Country Mouse", "Cinders", and "Honey...Honey...Lion!"

Please encourage your friends, family, and neighbors to enter! Only ONE entry per e-mail address will be recorded. Contest end on April 8, 2019!

\*2nd to 10th prizes of 10 Jan Brett books; 11th to 100th prize of a signed Jan Brett Poster.

**SHOW THE LOVE NEXT WEEK!**

Next week brings two chances to show the love to the APS staff who are there to keep your children safe and sound. **Crossing Guard Appreciation** week AND **Love the Bus** week!

This is an opportunity to say a few kind words to our school’s crossing guard and your children’s bus driver and attendant. Money need not be spent as a note or handmade card or picture is the perfect way to say thank you!

*FYI: For those who use Metro/ART – “Love the Bus” week is a national effort to recognize ALL bus drivers!*

**SUMMER ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITY**

**Global Village Summit at McKinley, July 8th to August 2nd**

The Global Village Summer Enrichment Program is an exciting opportunity for students to explore and learn about countries around the world that are reflected in the Arlington local community. This program is open to all students who are **currently** in grades K-4. Registration Opens **March 7th** at <http://bit.ly/GVS2019> Questions? Contact the Social Studies Office 703-228-6139

**PTA NEWS**

**BOX TOPS Sweepstakes!** Please help our school win **5000 Box Tops** – that’s **$500!** Direct your browser here to read more and enter: <https://www.boxtops4education.com/earn/sweepstakes/2019/i-love-my-school> It only takes a few minutes and the payoff could be worth **$500!**

Also remember that February is the **LAST** month for your child to win a Sweet Frog gift card and help their class win a prize from the PTA. Bag your Box Tops up in bags of 50 and clearly label them with your child’s name and teacher. Drop them off to the Box Tops receptacle on the front office desk.

**UPCOMING DATES**

* February 11-15: Crossing Guard Appreciation Day
* February 13: Early Release. School dismisses at 1:26PM.
* February 13: Winter Concert, 6:30PM
* 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**

**Prepared Environment**: The Montessori classroom is an environment prepared by the adult for children. It contains all the essentials for optimal development but nothing superfluous. Attributes of a prepared environment include order and reality, beauty and simplicity. Everything is child-sized to enhance the children's independent functioning. A trained adult and a large enough group of children of mixed ages make up a vital part of the prepared environment.

**Work:** From an evolutionary perspective, the long period of childhood exists so children can learn and experiment in a relatively pressure-free environment. Most social scientists refer to this pressure-free experimentation as play (e.g., see Groos, 1901), although Montessori preferred to call this activity the work of childhood. Children certainly are serious when engaged in the kind of play that meets developmental needs and, given freedom and time, will choose purposeful activities over frivolous make-believe ones.

**Practical Life**

*by Ms. Catherine Kalkus & featuring her Primary Montessori class*

**WHEN WILL MY CHILD LEARN TO READ?**

Caught ya. Everyone is interested in reading an article about getting our kids to read better, faster, stronger. Well, let me tell you how we accomplish that in Primary Montessori.

We all want our children to be successful learners and Practical Life is the cornerstone of the Montessori Philosophy. Practical Life prepares the children for learning in a multitude of ways.

People ask “Why is my kid washing tables?” and the answer is the following: Did you know that washing a table teaches children to sort, sequence, concentrate and works on their small motor control? Yup, it’s true. In addition, it indirectly prepares the children for reading! The children lengthen their focus with increasingly longer tasks. They don’t just wash the table any old way - this is a scientific method after all. They wash the table from top to bottom, left to right, like we……READ! Yeah! It is incredible the science and purpose Maria Montessori put into every single lesson more than 100 years ago.



*Do you see the amazing concentration the children are using to complete their task?*

The cooking exercises allow children the opportunity to be successful and independent. Food can be a wonderful social studies lesson. The kids love to prepare food from the various countries where the food comes from. They love to discuss who eats it, how it looks in its natural state versus when we get it in the super market. It can be part of science, too. The children can keep the seeds to dry and grow. We can root sprouts and then eat them. Just like your child goes to another friend’s house and eats something they never would eat for you, the same is true at school. When we can grow the lettuce and tomatoes, everyone somehow loves the food as if it has never been offered before. They can explore the food with all of their senses - sight, touch, smell, sound, and taste – more science! Sometimes the older children make bread and then gift it to other classes in a wonderful display of selflessness. With cooking, the children learn to focus, to wait, and to follow directions. They learn math and measurement. They learn to take care while pouring, spooning, and stirring. Body control, both small and large, is also a benefit of cooking. In a Montessori class, children use real utensils - spoons, forks and even knives! When taught proper care, the children can successfully use just about anything in the kitchen - ok, and with adult supervision, too.

Practical Life extends to the garden, to self-care and to many other parts of a child’s day. Putting on their own shoes, even if they cannot tie them, is still an accomplishment. The feeling of success and strength the kids feel after doing something for themselves builds confidence. With higher confidence, better motor skills, and concentration, you can see how your child will be more successful in all academic areas.

What can you do? Let your child help you cook. Let them stir, cut, mix, crack eggs (into a separate bowl works best, in case you have to fish out shells). Use a pizza cutter to cut bread or tortillas. Show them how to measure and sift flour, and pack brown sugar. Even if you cannot do this on a daily basis, leave time in your day, once or twice a week, when you know you are not stressed, to get a meal on the table. Make no mistake, this will slow you down, but the rewards are worth it. Maybe, at the end of the meal, you can offer to let your child wash the dishes. Let your child put on their own shoes (again, even if not every day, then maybe on a day like Saturday or Sunday when you are not in a rush), coat (“Tag to toes, over your head it goes!”) and gloves. Yup, let them put every finger in the right place - this is learning. If something in your house needs attention, maybe a plant needs watering, ASK them if they can water it. If they say no, that’s fine - maybe next time. Or ask them to make their bed, etc. The list is endless once you open the door.