## **School Talk**

## **April 5, 2019**

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**PATRICK HENRY TOUR THIS WEDNESDAY 4/10**

The ACMPTA is hosting a tour of Patrick Henry so that parents and students can take a look at our new home! Ms. Genove will be leading the tour and will be able to speak to specific locations of the incoming classes. Meet in the library at 6PM. We will have brief PTA business to introduce the slate for next year’s vote and then jump right into the tour. Patrick Henry Elementary School is at 701 S. Highland Street.

**WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD**

APS is celebrating the **Week of the Young Child** April 8th through 12th. The Week of the Young Child is an annual celebration hosted by The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) celebrating; early learning, young children, their teachers, and families. The purpose of the **WOYC** is to focus public attention on the needs of the young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs. APS has planned several activities during the week focusing on our early learners. From a magic show to petting zoo, to an Encore Theater performance to an afternoon at the Planetarium, there are a lot of FREE events available for you and your child(ren). See the attached flyers, in English and Spanish, for a calendar of events.

https://www.apsva.us/early-childhood-prek/calendar-events/arlington-week-of-the-young-child/

**MULTICULTURAL NIGHT**

This year’s Multicultural Night is expected to be amazing! But to make it amazing, we need your help. We need parents to lead or assist at interactive learning stations based on the 7 continents. We also need “museum” docents, hosts for the evenings and, of course, help with food, set up and break down. If you are available to help, please sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0848acac2ca4fe3-multicultural>

Want to help in other ways? Such as

* Give a performance from your culture?
* Teach a lesson about your culture?
* Prepare a food to share from your culture?

Then contact the Multicultural Night lead, Ms. Perkins at chandra.perkins@apsva.us and let her know.

**PROGRAM NEWS**

**-April is Volunteer Appreciation Month** There are currently over 3,100 volunteers and over 400 partners that help enrich the educational experience of students by volunteering in our schools. April is Volunteer Appreciation Month so join us as we celebrate all our volunteers and community partners who help make a difference in the lives of students.

-Science Fair Winners Last week the school hosted our annual Science and Engineering Fair. The 5th graders who submitted projects were interviewed and judged on their projects. Here is the list of Montessori students who placed 1st through 3rd place.

**First Place:**

* Beckett O’Neal *(Lopatkiewicz)*
* Iman Ali & Isabella Mehnert *(Pappafotopoulos)*
* Sawyer Buchanan & Oliver Kiker *(Lopakiewicz)*
* Kailyn Lutz *(Pappafotopoulos)*

**Second Place:**

* Eden Berstein, Julia Power & Ashlyn Rickert *(Hernandez)*
* Rhys Harbour *(Pappafotopoulos)*
* Ariel Tomas *(Ross)*
* Nathalie Medina-Saldias & Ziad Wanna *(Pappafotopoulos)*
* Daniel Garciaguirre *(Ross)*

**Third Place:**

* Ana Maria Corson *(Ross)*
* Tristan Stewart *(Lopakiewicz)*
* Audrey Bare & Maddy Dean *(Lopatkiewicz)*

**TEACHER’S CORNER**

You should have gotten a list sent home with your child for their 4-H Overnight Trip, but just in case, here it is. List is for both children and adult chaperones. **To check the weather for the 4-H Center, search “Front Royal, VA” or zip code 22630.**

* Shirts, either long sleeve or short sleeve, depending on weather.
* Pants/Shorts, either pants or shorts, depending on weather.
* Pajamas
* Sweatshirt/Jacket for nighttime activities as it can get chilly in the evening and mornings.
* Shoes, boots or tennis shoes for classes and activities. Bring an extra pair of shoes in case one pair gets wet.
* Sandals, only to be worn in lodge.
* Socks/Underwear to change every day, and bring an extra pair just in case!!
* **Water Bottle to keep you nice and hydrated! *LABEL IT!!!!***
* Rain Gear, to include jacket and pants or poncho.
* Bed Roll, either a set of sheets and a blanket or sleeping bag. Don’t forget the pillow and pillowcase!
* Bug Spray—AND HAT - gnats can be ferocious and our variety seems immune to bug spray!
* Hygiene Items: soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, hairbrush, shampoo, deodorant, etc.
* Towel/Washcloth for your showers!

**Optional Stuff**

* Camera, Film: make sure to put your name on it!!!!!!!!
* Pen, Journal
* Sunscreen
* Flashlight
* Bathing Suit
* Fan, 2 of our lodges are NOT air-conditioned!!!
* Hair Styles: If you are participating in the Ropes Challenge Course, we recommend micro braids, straight plaits, natural hair, and extension-free hairstyles to facilitate a proper-fitting helmet

**Stuff You Don’t Need**

* Perfume/Cologne
* Tobacco/Tobacco Products
* Alcohol/Drugs
* Weapons of any kind
* Jewelry
* Expensive clothing
* Bad Attitude/Profane Language

**Please limit luggage to one suitcase, backpack or duffel bag plus one sleeping bag or bed roll. Avoid sending unnecessary items. Make sure all items are labeled. Only old clothes are needed. New clothes and shoes may be ruined by heavy outdoors use. Also avoid sending items of monetary or sentimental value. This prevents anything ending up in the wrong place at the end of the trip. Leave CD players or radios, computers, Ipods, televisions, and video games at home unless authorized by and under direct supervision of a chaperone. Cell phone service is severely limited! *The Northern Virginia 4-H Educational Center is not responsible for lost, stolen, or misplaced items.***

**REMINDERS**

 **-Last week to take the APS Transportation Survey** Arlington County is doing a school transportation survey to figure out how to plan and operate buses in the future. It is a quick survey, 5-7 minutes, and VERY IMPORTANT for Montessori parents to take, as option schools are some of the most complicated routes in the county. The survey will be open through April 12, but please don’t wait! <https://survey.k12insight.com/survey.aspx?k=SsSRTVsQQTRsPsPsP&lang=0&data>

The final APS Transportation Workshop takes place tomorrow, **Saturday, April 6th** at 10AM at **Patrick Henry Elementary School** *(701 S. Highland Street).* Everyone will meet in the gym.

**PTA NEWS**

Sign up for **Enrichment Session III** (Spring) now! <https://acmpta.com/enrichment>

**UPCOMING DATES**

* **4/6** Bus Transportation Workshop, 10AM at Patrick Henry ES
* **4/9** Budget Work Sesson #6, 7PM at Syphax Education Center
* **4/10** Patrick Henry ES Tour, 6PM
* **4/11** School Board Meeting/School Board’s Budget FY2020
* **4/12** Joint School/County Board Budget Work Session, 4PM at 2100 Clarendon Blvd/County Board

**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**

**Control of Error**: A way of providing instant feedback. Every Montessori activity provides the child with some way of assessing his own progress. This puts the control in the hands of the learner and protects the young child's self-esteem and self-motivation. Control of error is an essential aspect of auto-education.

**Learning Through Nature: The Montessori Philosophy**

*By the Montessori Academy*

Nature provides one of the biggest driving forces of curiosity and exploration while offering rich sensorial experiences for children.  For this reason, nature has always been an integral part of the Montessori learning process. Montessori education draws a deep connection between nature and childhood development.  Children come to appreciate nature and all that it has to offer.

**The Montessori Philosophy**

Dr. Maria Montessori considered the outdoor environment an extension of the indoor classroom. According to her philosophy, the natural world provided endless possibilities for experiential learning. “Only through freedom and environmental experience is it practically possible for human development to occur,” she wrote in The Absorbent Mind.

The Montessori Method stresses immersion in nature because of its effects on the growth of the whole child. According to the method, nature enriches the life of each child by supporting physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development.

By increasing a child’s interactions with the natural world, Montessori guides and Montessori parents are promoting the child’s development as a young naturalist. Spending more time in nature will also influence the child to lead an environmentally responsible lifestyle throughout childhood and into adulthood, as well.

**In a Cosmic Education**

Dr. Montessori stressed the interconnectedness between humanity and nature. “The land is where our roots are,” she wrote. “The children must be taught to feel and live in harmony with the Earth.”

In her explanation of cosmic education, Montessori emphasizes that the child should understand that they are part of a greater universe. By going outside and learning from nature firsthand, this profound understanding can be achieved.

“When the child goes out, it is the world itself that offers itself to him. Let us take the child out to show him real things instead of making objects which represent ideas and closing them up in cupboards.”

**How you can apply it at home**

As Montessori parents, you can continue this cosmic education outside of the classroom, too. Here are just a couple of ideas:

* Take your child on nature walks in or around the woods or beach (depending on where you live).
* Visit the nearest botanical garden or zoo together, and encourage them to keep nature journals and take photos of anything they see that catches their interest.
* Through these activities, your child will become more connected with nature, and begin to understand their place in the universe.