**Tell Us How We Are Doing!**

As we move into our second semester of the 2016-17 school year, we would like to receive some feedback from you on our progress.  This year we are focusing on instruction, communication, school climate and community engagement.  We would greatly appreciate hearing how you feel we are doing as well as any suggestions that you may have for us!  Your time and effort will help us gauge how we are doing so far this year.  Please take a few minutes to complete the attached survey and return it to the collection box outside of the office. Thank you!

**GT Program**

The deadline for recommending your child for the Gifted and Talented (GT) program is April 1. If you have any questions please contact Doug Clarke at [douglas.clarke@apsva.us](mailto:douglas.clarke@apsva.us) or 703-228-2319. Information is also available at <https://www.apsva.us/gifted-services/> .

**IB Attitude**

The attitude of the month for March is creativity. Creativity is being able to create new and original things and using imagination. In school, students use creativity in art and music weekly. However, creativity applies to more than art and music. Creative thinking can be applied to math problems, reading strategies, or learning a new language. Scientists have to be creative to solve problems and test hypotheses. There are many ways to develop the attitude of creativity, such as writing poetry or stories, making art, learning a new song, or thinking about a math problem in a new way. Encourage your child to think creatively about situations at home.

**Registration for APS’ Whole Child Conference is now open!**

A Conference for Students (Grades 5-12), Families, Staff and Community Members

**Thursday, March 16, 2017**

**5:30pm to 9:00pm**

**Washington-Lee High School, 1301 N. Stafford Street, Arlington, VA  22201**

Arlington Public Schools is committed to educating the Whole Child – ensuring that each child is healthy, safe, supported, academically engaged and challenged.   Parents, students (Grades 5-12) and staff are encouraged to attend this **FREE** conference to learn more about supporting the needs of the Whole Child.

**Breakout Sessions will include:**

* Love the Skin You’re In: A session for girls and young women and their parents
* Healthy Dating and Relationships
* Teen Stress
* Yoga and Mindfulness:  An Interactive Workshop
* Heal Yourself: Healthy Eating and Active Living
* Personal Safety in Today’s World
* Creating a Culture of Respect for LGBT Students
* Ending the Silence: The Importance of Talking about Mental Health
* Teen Voices: The Truth About Substance Abuse and Middle School
* LUV: Listen, Understand and Validate – Building Trusting Relationships
* Coaching Boys Into Men
* A Community Conversation About Middle School and Substance

**Registration is required**. [Register online now](https://goo.gl/forms/a0F3yyUjS6jJXmFF3) as space in some sessions may be limited. Pizza and light refreshments will be provided.

For additional information, please visit the conference website: <https://www.apsva.us/whole-child-conference-2017/>, or call 703.228.7239.

**Join us for a Fantastic Inclusion Workshop!**

**Restructuring Schools for *All* Students: Taking Inclusion to the Next Level**

Led by internationally-renowned expert **Dr. Cheryl Jorgensen** who has over 30 years of distinguished service advancing research and best practices in inclusive education. You will learn about:

• Universal Design for Learning

• Presuming competence

• Modifying instructional materials

• Addressing disruptive behaviors

**Saturday, March 18, 2017**

**8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

**Gunston Middle School Theater**

**2700 S. Lang Street, Arlington, VA 22206**

• **Free** for APS teachers, staff, parents, students, and allies

• **5 recertification points** provided

• $10 box lunches available for pre-order

**Register by March 15 at: http://www.arlingtonsepta.org/cheryljorgenseninclusion-workshop/**

Sponsors: Arlington Special Education PTA, Arlington Inclusion Task Force, APS Office of Special Education

For questions: **inclusionworkshop@arlingtonsepta.org**

**Our First PreK-5 Yearbook is Underway!**

We are so excited to share the news about the design of our inaugural PreK-5 yearbook.  Under the leadership and guidance of Leila Vega, one of our talented instructional assistants, our upper grade students are creating our school-wide yearbook.  With the After School Enrichment (ASE) program offerings, many students selected the “Yearbook” as one of their clubs.  They work diligently each week on the various components of creating a polished and comprehensive yearbook!  As we plan for upcoming candid shots to be included in the yearbook, **please let us know by Friday, March 17th if your “Opt-out” preference has changed from the beginning of the school year**.  We have the school-wide “Opt-out” list where the yearbook is included as one of the opt-out choices.  If you would like to change the status of your opt-out for the yearbook, please let the office know by calling 703-228-5830 or sending a note to Dr. Snyder. If we do not hear of any changes, we will adhere to the selections made by families in September.

**It's Snow Much Fun to Read**

Our "It's Snow Much Fun to Read" school wide reading incentive will continue through mid- March. Our Randolph snowman will take shape in the Randolph lobby. Continue to encourage your child to read and bring in forms. Every snowball helps to build our snowman! To date, our students have read books that equate to 5,524 snowballs!

**Feel Like a Dinner Out?**

The PTA is planning a fundraiser at the local Chipotle on March 13th from 5:00-9:00 p.m. Stop by the restaurant on Columbia Pike and support Randolph!

**Conscious Discipline**

We had a fantastic turn out for session 1 of our Conscious Discipline parent workshop. The morning and evening sessions had over 75 families attend! Even if you couldn’t attend the first session, you are cordially invited to attend sessions #2 and #3. Please invite your friends and neighbors to join as well. The dates and topics for these upcoming sessions are listed below:

* Session 2: Preventing Power Struggles: Mar 6 at 8:15-10:15 a.m. **OR** Mar 8 at 6:30-8:00 p.m.
* Session 3: The Truth About Consequences: Mar 20 at 8:15-10:15 a.m. **OR** Mar 21 at 6:30-8:00 p.m.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**March 3:** NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS (parent-teacher conferences)

**March 6:** Club de Madres, 8:15-10:15 a.m., Cafeteria: Conscious Discipline Part 2, PreK - 5

**March 6:** Conscious Discipline Part 2, 8:15-10:15 a.m. (PreK – 5 parents), Cafeteria

**March 7:** 4th & 5th grade field trip to National Air & Space Museum, 6:15-9:30 p.m. **(students & parents)**

**March 8:** Early Release at 12:51 p.m.

**March 8:** Conscious Discipline Part 2, 6:30-8:00 p.m. (PreK – 5 parents), Library (light refreshments at 6:00 p.m. in cafeteria)

**March 10:** 1st field trip to Mt. Vernon Historic Site, 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

**March 12:** Daylight Savings Time (MOVE CLOCKS FORWARD 1 HOUR!)

**March 13:** Club de Madres, 8:15-9:30 a.m., Library: Arlington Transportation Options

**March 14:** Kindergarten Information Session #1: 12:45-2:15 p.m.

**March 14:** PTA Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Library

**March 15:** 3rd grade field trip to Brookdale Arlington Senior Living, 10:15-11:30 a.m.

**March 17:** *St. Patrick’s Day*

**March 17:** Math Dice Competition (grades 4 & 5) – *details forthcoming*

**March 20:** First Day of Spring

**March 20:** Club de Madres, 8:15-10:15 a.m., Cafeteria: Conscious Discipline Part 3, PreK-5

**March 20:** Conscious Discipline Part 3, 8:15-10:15 a.m. (PreK – 5 parents), Cafeteria

**March 21:** Conscious Discipline Part 3, 6:30-8:00 p.m. (PreK – 5 parents), Library (light refreshments at 6:00 p.m. in cafeteria)

**March 27:** Club de Madres, 8:15-9:30 a.m., Library

**March 31:** PTA Book Grab

