

\* Your monthly guide to school news, information and events.

# THE Monarch Annapolis CHRYSA LIS



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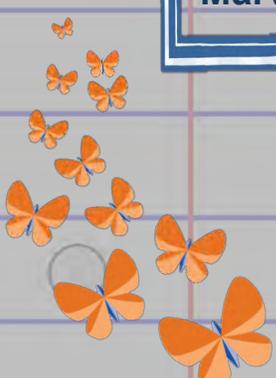
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Welcome to December! ☺ Let's make this month the best one yet! Please read through this month's newsletter closely to find out the awesome things going on this month. As always, please don't hesitate to contact us!

<http://monarchacademy.org/annapolis/>  
(410) 934-1444

## \*December 2020\*

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9 PYP and Parents Night Two-hour Early Dismissal	10	11 Favorite Holiday Sweater, Sweatshirt, or T-shirt Day!
14	15	16	17	18 Pajama Day! Assembly for Pre-K-2nd Grade Interims to be sent home
21	22	23	24 -----Winter Break-----	25
28 -----Winter Break-----	29	30	31	



## Who We Are

Monarch Academy Annapolis (MAA) is a Public Charter School contracted through AACPS, run by The Children's Guild. The Children's Guild programs are guided by Transformation Education (TranZed), MAA is approaching the authorization to become an official International Baccalaureate, Primary Years Programme School.

## Our Mission

At Monarch Academy Annapolis, we educate the whole child by empowering students to embrace diversity, inspire curiosity, and cultivate compassion.

**Exceptional  
Education for  
Every Learner!**

## A message from your principal!

Dear Marvelous Monarch Annapolis Families,

I hope that your family enjoyed the Thanksgiving Break and that you are rested and ready for the short journey to the next break. With just about three weeks until our Christmas/Winter Holiday break, we are fully settled into the 2<sup>nd</sup> Marking Period and you can expect to see interims come home on Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup>.

With the news in November that we will remain virtual through at least the end of January, we are working hard to refine our virtual learning practices. We appreciate your support in helping your child make the most of virtual learning and all the support you've provided to our teachers and staff! In the background, our team continues to work on Hybrid plans and will have more information about this for you in January.

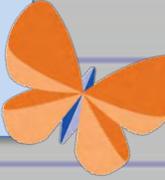
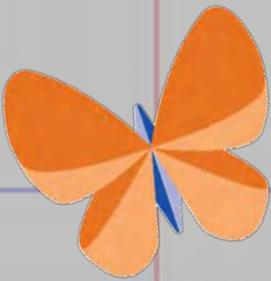
Just before we started the Thanksgiving holiday break, we launched a new celebration of students called the **Marvelous Monarch** award. Teachers and all adults on our faculty and staff were invited to recognize one student for their outstanding contribution to the classroom and/or school community! Congratulations to our 1<sup>st</sup> round of Marvelous Monarchs! For a full listing of students recognized, check out the list on the next page.

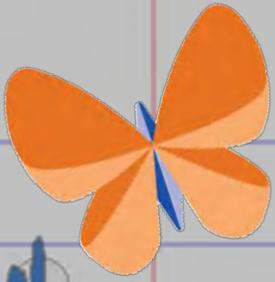
Recently I was struck by an article circulating on social media entitled "The 'Million Word Gap' for children who aren't read to at home" which highlights the importance of reading to and with young children. In summary, the article noted: "Young children whose parents read them five books a day enter kindergarten having heard about 1.4 million more words than kids who were never read to, a new study found. This 'million word gap' could be one key in explaining differences in vocabulary and reading development." As I continue to consider this article, I urge you to dust off that library card and log into the Anne Arundel County Public Library site (or use your child's student ID). Select as many books as you can and continue or start a family tradition of reading together every day! This is also a great time to add a book to any holiday gifts you are preparing!

May you have a joyful December! As always, if there's any way I can support your child please reach out at 410-934-1444 or [ramstutz@aacps.org](mailto:ramstutz@aacps.org).

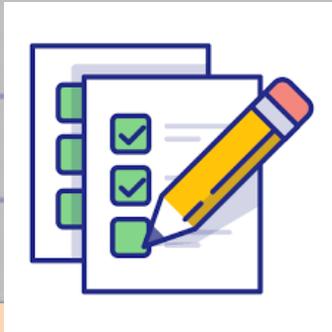
Have an amazing December!

**Sincerely,  
Ms. Rachel Amstutz**





# \*UPDATES from Mr. Clapper!\*



## **iReady Testing**

In September and October all Kindergarten - Grade 5 students took the iReady Diagnostic in both reading and math. The next diagnostic will likely be given in February. Students will again take reading and math. The results of this diagnostic will help to show the growth each student has made during the school year. Exact dates will be shared with families ahead of time.

## **Free and Reduced Meals Application**

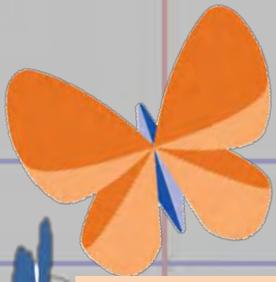
Thank you to all families who have completed their Free and Reduced Meals Applications. While students are not currently paying for school meals, when we return to the school building families who may qualify but have not completed the application for this year could be charged. As a Targeted Title I school, the Free and Reduced Meals Application forms also help to determine the amount of funding we receive. If you have not yet applied and wish to, please use the links below to access the website.

### [Free and Reduced Meals Application](#)

In addition, please remember that all students are eligible to pick up free meals at the many AACPS food sites. AACPS is serving free breakfast, lunch, dinner, and a snack to children, ages 2–18. There are no income restrictions. For more information on locations and times, check their website:

<http://aacpsschools.org/nutrition/>





# \*UPDATES from Mr. Johnson\*

## Building Access Update

At Monarch Academy Annapolis, we value your safety! Due to restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, visitors are currently allowed in the building by **APPOINTMENT ONLY!** All visitors must wear a mask and maintain all social distancing protocols. Students and children are not allowed to enter the building unless they are a part of our before and after care program facilitated by the YMCA. We are still asking that visitors remain outside for any assistance that they need. In addition, there is also construction going on in our building. These updates are below:

- Construction on the main level, adding classrooms where the county library had been, is almost complete!
- The construction on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor (the penthouse) is continuing and will now have two phases, one part now and one part that will occur over the summer.
- Construction on the property adjacent to us is progressing rapidly! Here's a [blog update about it with a picture!](#)

## Emergency Cards

Thank you to all the families who have turned in their child's Emergency Cards! Currently, we are still missing some cards for some of our students. Emergency Cards contain information that we have on file for your child. If we do not have your child's card, we have sent you an e-mail with the Emergency Card attached to it. We ask that you please send it back to us so that we can have the correct information in your child's file. If you have not received an email with your child's Emergency Card and you know that it needs to be updated, please contact Ms. Nyia Curtis via [ncurtis@aacps.org](mailto:ncurtis@aacps.org) or 410-934-1444. In addition, please contact Ms. Curtis if you have any other questions or issues.

## Attendance

Our Attendance team is continuing to work closely with our administration to remove all barriers to Virtual Learning so that every student is available and ready for learning each day. Our goal is to keep the lines of communication open with **ALL** families with regards to daily on-time attendance. As we progress through the rest of this school year, we are going to be sending attendance letters home to our students that have known patterns of unlawful absences. A list of what would be considered a lawful absence is below:

### Lawful Absences

- **Death in the family**
- **Illness**
- **Religion holiday**
- **Suspension**
- **State emergency**
- **Hazardous weather conditions**
- **Work approved or sponsored by the school**
- **Lack of authorized transportation (excluding students suspended from bus for disciplinary reasons)**
- **A visit with a parent/guardian who is an active-duty member of the uniformed services and has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting.**
- **Pregnant and parenting needs (student)**
- **Other emergency or circumstance approved by the Superintendent**

If you would like to provide documentation that would excuse your child's absences, please use this link to our Attendance Notes Form:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScSHFJL5IOUEpoS0KqaLmdw4xAUXPCV2AkJIO\\_YaOKBBsW5Lg/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScSHFJL5IOUEpoS0KqaLmdw4xAUXPCV2AkJIO_YaOKBBsW5Lg/viewform).

If you have any questions or need assistance with Attendance at Monarch Academy Annapolis, please contact Ms. Nyia Curtis via [ncurtis@aacps.org](mailto:ncurtis@aacps.org) or 410-934-1444.

# \*Important Dates\*

## Coming up in December:

12/9- Two-hour Early Dismissal  
 12/9- PYP and Parents Night  
 12/11- Favorite Holiday Sweater, Sweatshirt or T-shirt Day!  
 12/18- Interims to be sent home  
 12/18- Pajama Day!  
 12/18- Australia Down Under Assembly for Pre-K-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade  
 (1pm-3pm)  
 12/24 to 01/01- Winter Break

# \*Important Resources\*

[Coronavirus Information and Updates can be found here.](#)

<https://health.maryland.gov/coronavirus>



Not receiving digital communication from us? Please let us know immediately!

[MonarchAnnapolis@gmail.com](mailto:MonarchAnnapolis@gmail.com)

- [MAA Virtual School Link](#)
- [AACPS Families Resources](#)
- [AACPS Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation Reporting Form](#)
- [Digital 2020-2021 AACPS Calendar](#)
- [AACPS Food and Nutrition Services](#)

# Student Support

## SEL Check In

The Student Support Team wanted to remind students and families about the Virtual Student Support Center. This month we wanted to highlight the four calming videos. These are a great to use for calming down or when working independently. To access the four videos, click on the plant in the student access classroom.

To access the Virtual Student Support Center:

- Open the virtual school: <https://sites.google.com/aacps.org/virtualmaa/>
- Click "To Classrooms"
- Click "Student Support"
- Click on any of the adults – welcome to our offices
- To get to the student access page click "Student Access to the Virtual SSC"

[Direct Link to the Virtual Student Support Center](#)

## Cultural Fact Collection

As you know on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings we celebrate **ALL CULTURES** on the morning announcements.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!** We are looking for anyone that wants to celebrate a cultural fact. Your fact might just be shared on the morning announcements! You could share anything from highlighting a country, a dish, a word/phrase, a famous person, **ANYTHING** that connects to a culture/heritage you want to celebrate.

All students and families are welcome to participate. Facts will be announced on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays. We will be giving shout outs for students whose facts are announced.

Sign Up Link: <https://forms.gle/f8dG7Baj9QG9PygU6>

## eClubs

This year we are working hard to offer a variety of club opportunities for our students. The possibility of starting the hybrid model paused planning but we are back to rolling out more clubs. Club opportunities will be pushed out to the grade levels as they become available. Please keep an eye out for more the latest club opportunities.

# Student Support



## \*MAA Diversity in ACTION Zone\*

Hello Amazing Monarch Academy Parents!

As the school year is moving forward without hesitation. We at Monarch Academy of Annapolis have been working diligently to make every effort to be all inclusive of the beautiful gifts of diversity that we have in our school and community.

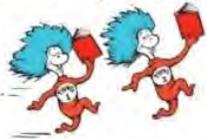
Cultural diversity is dear to my heart. Therefore, it is my greatest honor to introduce and lead our "Diversity in Action" efforts. One of the objectives of Diversity in Action is to provide a resource hub take will inform us of the diversity initiatives that are taking place in the MAA community.

The hub will be called the "Diversity Resource Guide." The DRG will be composed of links that will connect us to information, projects, programs, celebrations, heritage events, clubs, and various other resources. The Diversity in Action Team is working hard to embrace the many cultural gifts that are represented in our great school and communities. In conclusion, the DRG will be a great addition to our pool of resources and we look forward to sharing it with you. To access the DRG, please click on the link below:

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1e\\_o8Lpxw041qAFOYfvcIPeYSJNFkvnRoGh30Lwx\\_So/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1e_o8Lpxw041qAFOYfvcIPeYSJNFkvnRoGh30Lwx_So/edit?usp=sharing)

Sincerely,  
Mr. Rowel

The MORE  
that you read,  
the MORE things  
you will know.  
The MORE that you  
LEARN,  
the MORE places you'll go.



## \*Literacy in December\*

It is hard to believe that Winter Break will soon be here!

Looking for a new book to read? There are lots of options on Clever (www.clever.com). First, you can access over 2,000 books on Scholastic Literacy Pro. Look for the red logo with an open book and then launch Literacy Pro.



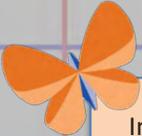
Another option to access fiction and non-fiction books is through Renzulli. Students can complete enrichment activities, take virtual field trips, and do research!



If you want to share what you are reading this month – please email Mrs. Nash [cnash@aacps.org](mailto:cnash@aacps.org) or Mrs. Good [ahgood@aacps.org](mailto:ahgood@aacps.org) and you can get a shout out on the morning announcements!

**HAPPY READING!**





# PYP

In December, the school is focusing on the Learner Profile attribute: Reflective. Reflective learners think about their own experiences and use what they learn about themselves, weaknesses and strengths, to support their own learning. Reflective people think about the past in a way that helps to inform the future. *What can we learn by looking back on 2020?* Is a question you can ask you student to reinforce reflective thinking with your students, especially as we close out this year of unprecedented change.

As an International Baccalaureate candidate school, we the powerful language of The IB Learner Profile to support our goal within the IB Mission to “to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.” Please use the language at home to support your child’s learning and growth toward becoming capable and confident learners.

Here is a guide to help you learn the Learner Profile: English and Spanish

## To learn more about our IB Curriculum, please attend the next PYP and Parents Night on December 9 at 6 pm.

We have many new units underway, check out what Units our Marvelous Monarchs are currently inquiring into:

- PreK POI, [here](#). Current Unit’s transdisciplinary theme is How We Express Ourselves  
**Central Idea:** People take care of one another and themselves. (community, wellness, health, weather)
- Kindergarten POI [here](#), Current Unit’s transdisciplinary theme is How We Express Ourselves  
**Central Idea:** Celebrations reflect cultural, traditional and personal events. (seasons, culture, holidays, symbols)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Grade POI, [here](#). Current Unit’s transdisciplinary theme is How We Organize Ourselves  
**Central Idea:** People use their senses to perceive and organize the world. (Senses, organization, perception, cooperation)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade POI, [here](#). Current unit’s transdisciplinary theme How the World Works  
**Central Idea:** The properties of materials can be used to solve problems. (materials science, chemical and physical changes, resources)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade POI, [here](#). Current unit’s transdisciplinary theme is Sharing the Planet  
**Central Idea:** The sun warms our planet and powers ecosystems. (water cycle, energy, food chains)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade POI, [here](#). Current unit’s transdisciplinary theme is How the World Works  
**Central Idea:** Human life is affected by continual change. (outrageous acts of Earth, survival, social change, resilience)
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade POI, [here](#). Current Unit’s transdisciplinary theme is How We Organize Ourselves  
**Central Idea:** Settlements are shaped by the cultures and values of the inhabitants. (interdependence, survival, early colonial life)

# SCHOOL EVENTS

Monarch Academy Annapolis



## Spirit Days!

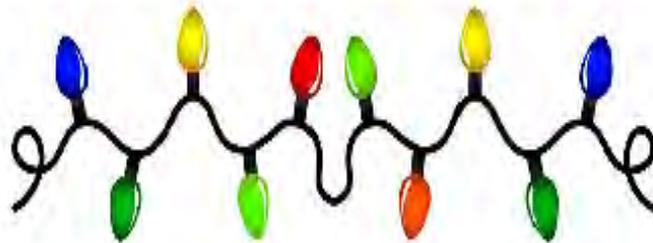
Building a positive school climate is one of our many goals here at Monarch Academy Annapolis. As an educational team we want our students and staff to come to school each day with an excitement for learning, teaching, and being an active service member of our community. Our monthly "Spirit Days" are just one way for our students to positively participate in something that makes our community great!

Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup>

Favorite Holiday Sweater, Sweatshirt, or T-shirt Day!



\*students wear their favorite "Holiday" sweater, sweatshirt, or tsirt. (students should wear uniform bottoms - khaki or navy)



Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup>

Pajama Day!



\*students and staff can wear their favorite PJs!  
\*students will participate in a special "Holiday Treat!"

*pajamas.  
all day.*

# HEALTH ROOM

## HEALTH ROOM HELLO!



HEALTHY CHILDREN LEARN BETTER

*Please remember to make sure you are up to date on vaccinations and that we have a copy of the most up to date documentation.*



*Center of disease control is reminding everyone 6 months and older that it is not too late to get the flu shot!*

*Please make sure we are keeping up with good hand hygiene!*



### *What's happening?:*

- \* Safe toy and gift awareness month*
- \* December 6-12th is Handwashing awareness week*
- \* December 6-12th is also National influenza vaccination week*



*Quote of the month:  
"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted" -Aesop*

# \*Tech Corner\*



High-speed Internet from Comcast, so you can be ready for anything.

## Internet Essentials from Comcast

Internet Essentials from Comcast brings affordable, high-speed Internet to your home so you can have greater access to homework, job opportunities, healthcare and benefits, education resources, and more. **When you're connected, you're ready for anything.**

# \$9.95

Per Month + Tax

No Contract  
No Credit Check  
No Installation Fee  
In-Home WiFi

Apply Now!

InternetEssentials.com  
1-855-8-INTERNET  
(1-855-846-8376)

## You may qualify if you:

- 1 Are eligible for public assistance programs like the National School Lunch Program, housing assistance, Medicaid, SNAP, SSI, and others.
- 2 Live in an area where Comcast Internet Service is available.
- 3 Have not subscribed to Comcast Internet within the last 90 days.
- 4 Have no outstanding debt to Comcast that is less than one year old.



### Low-cost computer

Once you are an Internet Essentials customer, you have the option to purchase a laptop or desktop computer for only

**\$149.99 + Tax**



### In-Home WiFi Included

Limited access to Xfinity WiFi hotspots

internet»  
essentials

FROM COMCAST

## \*GOOGLE RESOURCES\*

- **Intro to Google and Other Online Tools**

<https://sites.google.com/aacps.org/studentintrotodigitaltool/s/home>

- **Family Help Site - AACPS Digital Resource Information for Families**

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1igVJ2kotPH05soBxGCMDU4wYy8m0GrIDn4nF9wd58EE/edit#>

# \*Marvelous Monarchs\*

At MAA, we want to recognize the efforts of our students and this is just one way OUTSIDE of grades to do just that! Our Marvelous Monarch nominations are for students that demonstrate the qualities we want to see in the IB Learner Profile and in our Social Emotional expectations taught in Second Step. These are not academic performance awards. We really want to celebrate and recognize our students who demonstrate behaviors that we always like to see.

Below is our first round of Marvelous Monarchs. **CONGRATULATIONS!!**

## Pre-K

Cicilia V. – Mrs. Troast and Ms. Bailey  
Justus J. – Mrs. Black and Ms. Simon

## Kindergarten

Abraham Ani – Ms. McBride  
Henry (Jadiel) Morales-Mendoza – Mrs. Snapp  
Hugo Pollicino – Mrs. Smith  
Lucy Barry – Ms. Bailey  
Chadrick Whaley Jr – Ms. Hornowski

## 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

Brooke Yeshitila – Ms. Connelly  
Cameron Rich – Ms. Tolliver  
Chloe Green – Ms. Soper  
Jaxton Santos – Ms. Camela  
Mariana Molina – Mr. Fincher  
Natalia Blazonis – Mrs. Nash  
Olivia McKeown – Ms. Fellenbaum  
Sofia Garcia Hernandez – Ms. Stohl and Ms. Massa

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

Chase Powell – Mr. Stickel  
Diego Melar- Gomez – Ms. Danick  
Hannah Weber – Ms. Shaffer  
Henry Knitt – Ms. Brooke  
Jacob Burrell – Ms. Connelly  
Jay'len Hill – Mrs. Hess  
Jessey Williams – Ms. Conley  
Quinton Presley – Ms. Belnomi

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

Adetola Adegoroye – Ms. Wilt  
Aliyah Shepherd – Ms. Roe  
Angel Mancía-Ramirez – Ms. McFaul  
Carter Griffin – Ms. Stone  
Cori Boyd – Mrs. Brimhall  
Emma Christodoulos – Ms. Bruner  
Givanni Oliver – Ms. McElree  
Laila Steed – Ms. Butler  
Logan Coates – Ms. Wilt  
Mia Poole – Ms. Weskalties  
Ofunneka Ossai – Mrs. Slavik  
Oluwafikayomi (Joshua) Ogbonlaiye – Ms. Crawson  
Tristan McGhee – Ms. McElree  
Tyion Taylor – Ms. Thumel  
William Felder – Mrs. Mimms

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

Adrian Allen – Mrs. Brimhall  
Alexia Ruiz – Mrs. Costello  
Ashley Avelar Mendoza – Ms. Laws  
Azriel Margaret- Ephraim – Ms. Foster  
Joanna Adejumo – Mr. Vickers  
Megan Ayenu – Mrs. Sherman  
Samaria Boateng – Mrs. Canter (Olsen)  
Taylor Parker – Mrs. Brimhall  
Zyllynn Williams – Ms. Young and Mrs. Rulo

## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

Anai Day – Mr. Greenberg  
Camden Ripple – Mrs. Rulo  
Cameron Merritt – Mrs. Rulo  
Cy'Miera Engram – Ms. Lundien and Mr. Clay  
Darius Woods – Mrs. Merritt  
Emmie Land – Mrs. Mouring  
Gavin Ensor – Mrs. Mouring  
Johnny Davis – Ms. Jacobs  
Joseph (Rocco) Costello – Ms. Rudis  
Madyson Williams – Mr. Roberts  
Mia Gaspar Souto – Mr. Kallen  
Traniya Brown – Ms. Feinstein