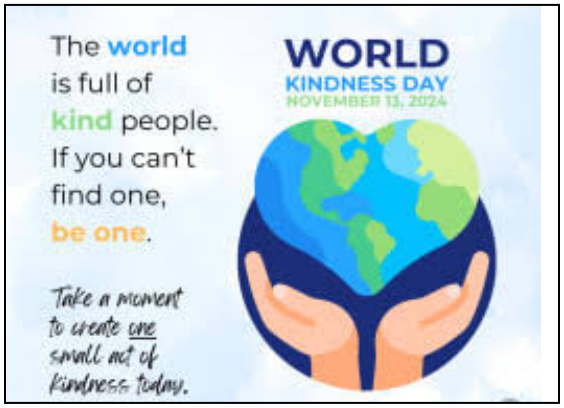
MSA Family Newsletter: Week of November 9th

Book Fair: Thank you to all who took part in our Scholastic Book Fair. We LOVE to see our students getting excited about reading.

World Kindness Day is a global observance highlighting the importance of compassion, community, and everyday acts of goodwill. World Kindness Day 2026 takes place on Friday, November 13, 2026. WKD was established in 1998 by the World Kindness Movement. Below are some common ways people celebrate. We hope you find some ways to spread kindness around Mark Sheridan and your community:

- **Compliment others:** Share kind words with colleagues, friends, or strangers.
- **Perform small gestures:** Pay for someone's coffee or hold a door open.
- **Volunteer or donate:** Support a local charity or community



Veteran Day Hero Board: In honor of **Veteran's Day**, our school would like to take time to recognize and salute the courageous men and women who have served in the armed forces. To celebrate these heroes, we are creating a special honor wall bulletin board, and we invite our families to participate by sharing photos of veterans in your lives, both living and passed. While submitting copies of photos is highly recommended, if you choose to send in an original photo that you would like returned, please ensure your student's name and homeroom are clearly written on the back so we can return it safely. Please submit any photos by Wednesday, November 11th. Thank you for helping us make this tribute meaningful for our students and community.



Louis Castillo Street Dedication Ceremony: On November 6th at 1:30 PM, the 11th Ward hosted a short street dedication ceremony at 27th and Wallace for Louis Castillo, a Mark Sheridan alumnus who was killed while serving in Vietnam at the age of 23. Louis was awarded both the Medal of Valor and the Purple Heart for his bravery and sacrifice. Our 6th Grade students attended the ceremony as representatives of Mark Sheridan. They listened to the family members share information about being a soldier, serving in the war, and more stories of Louis's life before the war and during. He served less than two years when he was sadly lost in combat. Many of his squad members also perished in that battle An honorary street sign was erected during the ceremony, which will be attended by many members of the Castillo family (several of whom also

attended Mark Sheridan), many veterans, the American Legion, all dressed in uniform, the 11th Ward, Mark Sheridan's 6th-grade classes and many of our teachers and staff. The Students were gifted American flag pins made by Louis's family. The 6th Graders listened raptly and gave their full attention and respect to this ceremony. At the close of the ceremony, the American legion played *Taps* and issued a three-shot rifle salute honoring Louis' service. A three-shot rifle volley—known as a **three-volley salute**—is a ceremonial military and police honor where a firing party fires three blank-cartridge volleys in unison over a casket or grave.



Care and Closure: *Firing the three volleys signifies that the fallen service member has been properly cared for by their comrades and can finally rest in peace.* ***Core Virtues:*** *The three individual rounds or shell casings are often understood to represent* ***duty, honor, and country*** *(or duty, honor, and sacrifice).*





Thank you to everyone who contributed to our **Ofrenda** with photos of our loved ones. An ofrenda (altar) traditionally includes the deceased's favorite foods, drinks, pictures, and personal items, but it is also filled with other elements that have different meanings. MSA is proud to welcome your loved ones in our special ofrenda every year.

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One Month Left to Submit Applications on GoCPS! Families can apply for a wide variety of academic options for the 2027–28 school year through **November 13 at 5 p.m.,** so head to **GoCPS** to explore all the options and apply for programs. Students who want to attend the general education program at their neighborhood school are guaranteed a seat and do not need to submit an application.

Ready to Apply? The GoCPS online application is where you apply for and rank programs and register for required tests/auditions. **Some programs give priority to students who have a sibling who attends that program, or if a parent is a staff member at that school.** Complete those sections on the application **in full** to qualify for priority.

- Families of current CPS students should log in with an existing account and reset the password the first time they visit the application website. Once logged in, you can add students to your account.Please email us at gocps@cps.edu if you need help or have any questions.
- You do not have to complete the application in one sitting. Just hit Save & Continue at the bottom of each page to save your information.
- Rank all programs and schedule an exam or audition(s) if required.
- The deadline to apply is **November 13 at 5 p.m.** You can make updates until this time. Make sure you've clicked "submit" on your application by the deadline to be considered.

Get Protected this Respiratory Illness Season: COVID-19 and flu cases are increasing. The updated COVID-19 and flu vaccines are the best way to help protect yourself, your family, and our school community. A list of minimum health requirements is attached to this email. = You can also find a Health Center at findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov or contact Healthy CPS Hotline: 773-553-KIDS (5437) with any questions.

Key Reminders:

- Stay up to date on recommended and required vaccines.
- Get tested for COVID-19 before and after large gatherings and before returning to school after breaks.
- Wash hands often, cover coughs and sneezes, and stay home when sick.
- Consider wearing a mask if you have symptoms or are around medically vulnerable individuals.

MSA Attendance: Our current Attendance Rate this week as a WHOLE school is 97.10%, which is a bit under last week's attendance. Our goal is to keep our attendance rate above 98%. Please make sure to prioritize your child being at school every day and on-time! We can do even better with everyone's support. Please see the guide below for when you should keep your child home.

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Student Fees: Please make sure to pay your $125 student fee by **November 13th** through Aspen. If you need additional information, there is guidance attached to this email. If you are new to the Aspen Parent Portal or need technical support, please contact **Ms. Christy Zhang** in the Main Office at **LZhang10@cps.edu.**

After-School Care: **Apollo Afterschool:** For families seeking after-school care, Apollo Afterschool provides fantastic on-site care for Sheridan students.

Registration: You can register your child directly through the Apollo Afterschool Registration Portal.

Questions? Please visit their website at www.apolloafterschool.com or call their main office at 1-855-543-7277

Key Transportation Reminders:

Please adhere to these

guidelines in the interest of SAFETY.

Please do not double-park when dropping off or picking up your child. Also, do not let students out of the vehicle on the street side. This is dangerous and may result in a serious injury.

Drop-off & Pick-up: Doors open at 7:30. We do provide supervision after 7:15 AM. Please review the below information and our arrival map [link] to help traffic flow safely. VERY IMPORTANT: Please do not park in handicapped spots, as these spaces are reserved for those with accessibility needs.

Morning Drop-Off

- Student Morning Drop-off is one-way on 27th Street going East.
- Pull up your vehicle as far as possible to the person stopped before you.
- Be fully stopped before your child(ren) exits the vehicle.
- We will have Student Ambassadors helping us with this starting next week.
- Always use the crosswalk when crossing the street (students & parents).
- Cars may not be double-parked in the street. You may be ticketed.
- Never leave your child or vehicle unattended.
- You may not exit your vehicle in the pick-up line or during the dismissal window.
- Note that U-turns are both illegal and very dangerous.

Car Drop-Off & Pick-up Route/Map

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Dismissal Procedures: Please be considerate and follow these procedures faithfully. Failure to do so will create a traffic backup that poses a potential danger.

27th Street is a One Way STREET going East during the dismissal window of 2:15-3:00 PM.

- ➢ Dismissal for non-bussed students begins at 2:35 PM.
- ➢ Pick-Up Line: The only entrance for the pick-up line is from Wallace onto 27th Street.
- ➢ Arrive at your designated pickup time & do not cross in front of buses.
    - Vehicle Pick-up for Families is at 2:30 PM
- ➢ Pull to the curb and behind the vehicle in front of you.
- ➢ At approximately 2:45 PM, after the car pick-up line has cleared, the vans and buses going to after-school program locations will be allowed to move through the same pick-up line.
- ➢ Make sure your child can identify your car.
- ➢ Be courteous to other drivers when entering and exiting the pick-up line.
- ➢ For your safety, please use the crosswalk at all times.

General Reminders:

- There is a CPS Parent Tech Support Hotline available to parents Monday-Friday from 7:30 AM- 4:30 PM. They can be reached at 773-417-1060.
- **Family Handbook & Website:** Please review the attached Student & Family Handbook, which serves as your comprehensive guide to being an active part of our school community. This handbook should be your go-to resource for school policies and information throughout the year. You can also visit our official school website anytime at **www.sheridan.cps.edu**.



Mark your Calendars!

Dates	Event
Friday, November 13th	World Kindness Day
Wednesday, November 11th	No School for Students
November 23rd-27th	Thanksgiving Break