

# Academy of Math & Science

October 2011 Newsletter

## Greetings!

As part of our commitment to ongoing communication with parents, students, and the community, we are excited to share the latest edition of the Academy of Math & Science's electronic newsletter with you.



## News

### **Congratulations to Nicole Kerrigan and Mrs. Hartley**

Nicole Kerrigan, a 7th grade student at AMS, was recently selected as one of only 300 semi-finalists in the Broadcom MASTERS (Math, Applied Science, Technology, and Engineering for Rising Stars) program of the Society for Science and the Public. For this program, students compete in their local or regional SSP-affiliated science fair where the top 10% of the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade participants are nominated to be a Broadcom MASTER.

To be selected as a semi-finalist, Nicole had to complete several essay questions where she explained her science fair project demonstrating her use of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) principles in the development of her project and how she would apply the science principles she learned to everyday life.

Nicole credits Mrs. Hartley for inspiring her and developing her interest in science. As a reward for this stunning achievement, Elmer's Products, Inc. has agreed to donate over \$250 in project and presentation supplies for Mrs. Hartley and the students to use in Nicole's class.

All of us at AMS are very proud of Nicole for her accomplishment and of Mrs. Hartley for nurturing the talent and appetite for learning in her classroom.

### **An Extra Special November PAC Meeting Rescheduled Due to Parent/Teacher Conferences**

PAC meetings are usually held on the first Thursday of every month, however, November 3rd is scheduled for Parent/Teacher conferences from

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**Enrollment for 2011-2012!**

3:15-5pm, so the PAC meeting will be moved to the following Thursday, November 10th. Parents of Elementary students, please contact your child's teacher to set up a parent/teacher conference. For Middle and High School parent/teacher conferences, please call the front office at 520-293-2676 beginning October 24th to schedule a conference time.

This upcoming PAC meeting will educate parents on school performance and programs and will feature a game show hosted by Mrs. Hartley called "Are You Smarter Than a Middle Schooler?" Parents will have the opportunity to compete against our students to see the incredible amount of knowledge their children are gaining throughout the year. In addition to fun activities, AMS has an announcement to all parents that will be sure to make all parents even more proud to be a part of AMS!

### Letter Sent Regarding Parking Lot

Recently, parents received a letter regarding handicapped parking. We wanted to make sure all of our parents have read this letter in order to ensure the safety and prompt attendance of all of our students:

September 27, 2011

Dear parents,

The beginning of the new school year is going very well and we are very happy to see your children completing the first quarter with great results. We appreciate your effort to get your child to and from school on a timely manner. Our school is growing every year and the traffic flow in our parking lot has increased. Therefore, parking can be limited at times. We understand your challenges and we are trying our best to direct the traffic during rush hours.

To help us in our effort, we are requesting that all drivers "not stop, stand, block or park a motor vehicle within any specially designated and marked parking space provided for physically disabled persons unless the motor vehicle is transporting a person who has been issued a valid placard or international symbol of access special plates."(A.R.S. 28-884) Violation of this law may result in a fine of up to \$500.00. Please do not park in or block designated parking spaces for physically disabled persons. Wait patiently for an appropriate parking space to open up. We respect all of our parents and value your commitment to the school. Thank you for helping us ensure that all of our students get to school safely and on time.

Sincerely,

AMS Administration

### PSAT is Approaching

If you are the parent of a new AMS student, don't forget to complete your [registration packet](#) and return it to the front desk as soon as possible!

New students should also bring in a copy of their birth certificate and vaccination forms.

Due to an increase in enrollment, there is a waiting list for many grade levels. Please contact us with any questions at (520) 293-2676.



#### Quick Links

[Visit the AMS Homepage](#)



Our High School students have all received an official guide for preparing for the PSAT. The testing will take place Oct. 16. Information and additional preparation materials can be found at the [College Board Website](#).

## No School October 14th

Friday October 14th is a teacher in-service day and no school will be held. We hope students will enjoy their weekend, be safe, and return ready to learn on Monday.



## Box Tops and Labels for Education

Mrs. Keen, one of our beloved parent volunteers, is asking for parents to please save General Mills **Box Tops for Education**. Last year, this great program helped raise \$220 for the Art, P.E., and Music programs. Let's raise the bar even higher this year!

The next deadline to mail-in box tops will be October 15th. Therefore, please bring your box tops to the school's front office by October 1st. Also, please remember, General Mills does not accept expired box tops.

Also, Mrs. Todd, another wonderful parent volunteer, is requesting families to save **Labels for Education**. Please note the label should include the product name and the UPC bar code.

Many product labels qualify for this great program. To see the full list, please click [here](#).

Thank you Mrs. Keen and Mrs. Todd for your dedication and hard work.

We appreciate all the cooperation from AMS families in keeping your eyes open and your scissors ready to use!



## Teacher Spotlight

### Making History, Every Day

Our new Social Studies teacher, Mr. Edward Walter, grew up in Tucson and graduated from the University of Arizona in 1988 with a bachelor's degree in History. After graduation he moved to Phoenix to work on a Post-Bac in Secondary Education at ASU. He earned a masters degree in

Educational Leadership from Northern Arizona University. Mr. Walter moved back to Tucson in 1991 and has been teaching Social Studies, Special Education, and Teen Court ever since. He has also been a long-time swim coach in Tucson and around the state. He is currently the Head Coach for the Catalina Foothills Swim and Dive team as well as a club team here in Tucson. He recently competed with his daughter in the La Jolla Rough Water Swim in San Diego, a race he has participated in since the early '90's. Mr. Walter looks forward to working with students at AMS this year, exploring history, geography, government, and other social studies topics.

## Events



### Calendar

Take a look at the [calendar](#) for a list of all important 2011-2012 school year dates.

Also, check the [events](#) calendar for upcoming October activities.

### Lunch Order Forms and Menu

Lunch Order form for students can be found [here](#).  
The Lunch Menu can be accessed [here](#).



### Home and School Connections

The Home and School Connections documents provided below are an excellent resource for parents to continue to support your child's education from home.

[Home and School Connection October](#)

[Math and Science Connection 1](#)

[Math and Science Connection 2](#)

[Reading Connection 1](#)

[Reading Connection 2](#)

### Fall AIMS Test Information for High School Students

The Fall AIMS test is only for 11th and 12th grade students who did not pass the AIMS test last school year. 10th grade students will take the AIMS test in Spring, 2012.

The Fall AIMS test is scheduled for October 25-27, 2011.

## Other News



## Volunteer with AMS!

Volunteering is a great way to give back to AMS students and families!

We actively seek individuals to volunteer at the school to help enhance our programs and services.

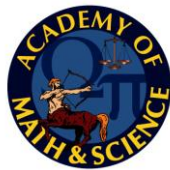
If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Melisa Davis at [mdavis@amstucson.org](mailto:mdavis@amstucson.org), or by calling (520) 293-2676.

In light of last year's success, all of us at AMS are working hard to make this school year even better!

If there is anything I can do to assist you or your child, please feel free to contact me.

**Sincerely,**

Mrs. Potter  
Academy of Math and Science  
<mailto:tpotter@amstucson.org>  
(520) 293-2976



[Forward email](#)



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