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School Newsletter

December, 2008

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Senior Academy

Inside This Issue

- 1 Senior Academy News
- 2 The Junior Corner
- 2 News from the Sophomore Academy
- 3 The Magnificent Freshmen Class!
- 4 Specialized Services
- 4 Principal's Greeting
- 4 Upcoming Events

George Smith

As part of the senior IT Internship in January at Moraine Valley Community College (MVCC), the seniors will attempt to obtain the Security Awareness *ITAA I-ACERT* certification. Also, we currently have 10 seniors at Wright College taking an IT Essentials class with *CompTIA A+ (Essentials and IT Technician)* certification the goal this December.

Kristie Krall

I am looking forward to the new quarter with both the U.S. History and Latin America Studies courses. To ensure success in reading and analyzing, the History department is working closely with the English department to prepare lessons, projects and assessments. Seniors are currently studying *Dictators and Revolutions* throughout Latin American countries by analyzing a compilation of readings from various texts, lectures and essays. Our field trip this quarter includes a private tour of Mayan and Aztec art on display at The Art Institute of Chicago. The sophomore U.S. History class is working backwards from the *Cold War to the Turn of the Century* while preparing for the AMRCS History Fair early next year which will be open to the public. I am confident the sophomores are up to the challenge! I can be reached for questions, comments or concerns at: kkrall@mrcscs.aspirail.org. Here's to a challenging and productive academic future!

John VanderHeide

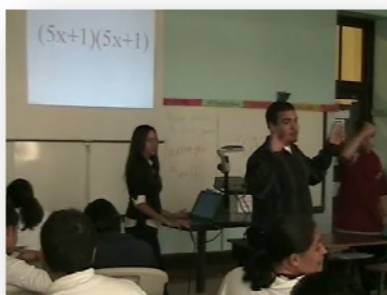
About three weeks ago I took over the Chemistry and Environmental Science classes taught by Ms. Gupta. I would like to thank all of the wonderful parents who stopped by to see me during the report card pick up day, it was very nice to meet you. In the time since I have taken over the Chemistry classes, they have been studying the structure of the atom. In the upcoming quarter we will be transitioning to studying the periodic table and chemical reactivity. During this time the Environmental Science classes have been studying environmental ethics and soil ecology. The seniors are also starting a large research project that will culminate in a 15 page college level research paper due in the spring. I look forward to working with the students this year.

Zachary Moran

Our seniors have been enjoying the nice weather we have been having so late in the season. We will continue our team sports even as the weather changes. We will be going to the local boys and girls club in the winter months to play basketball and volleyball in their facilities.

Joel Maisonet

Several AMRCS seniors made efforts to apply to colleges for early admissions and early action deadlines. Many others are on track to complete their applications for fall and early winter priority deadlines. Here is a list of students who have already been accepted to colleges and universities.



*Senior students teach
math lessons to
sophomore academy*

- | | | |
|-------------------|---|--|
| Cesar Gallardo | - | Purdue University Calumet |
| Jose Estrada | - | Bradley University (12k in Scholarships) |
| Merrell Misayah | - | University of Illinois Chicago |
| Magali Guerrero | - | Roosevelt University (20k in Scholarships) |
| Angelica Gonzalez | - | Roosevelt University |
| Edson Ramirez | - | Depauw University (Posse Scholarship Finalist) |

The Junior Corner



Junior students preparing for the ACT/PSAE test and college.

George Smith

The juniors are currently working on Chapter 12 programming exercises from the Java on-line curriculum. After-school tutoring is being provided by Ms. Fahey to help students improve their grade.

Cameron Louis and Alex Ames

In Junior English, students have been working hard on a POL about genocide and human rights. After reading two whole class Holocaust novels, *Maus* and *Night*, they began studying other genocides that occurred throughout history, as well as some that continue today. They are using that research and knowledge to create interactive museum exhibits, which they will present to the school and community on Monday, November 10th in Mr. Louis' Room 200. The purpose of this project is to create awareness in the school and community so that these terrible events will never happen again. In the next newsletter, we will have photographs from this exciting and educational event!

Christie Bobowski

This month the math students will say good bye to our student teacher, Ms. Vo. She will be missed by everyone! After she leaves, we will begin a unit on functions and graphing as part of our ACT prep curriculum. In biology, we are working together with Ms. Fahey to create a science museum! Please encourage your kids to keep up the hard work!

Marea Fahey

About a month ago, the Juniors finished their unit on *Charts & Graphs* in ACT Science and Math Prep. The unit was extended when only 53% passed a given assessment, but then after they put in hard work and study time the students significantly increased their skills and scores (almost 80% of the students passed with an A, B, or C grade). Now the students are learning just as much in our new unit on astronomy where they have just begun a POL for a Science Museum which you are invited to explore on December 12th.
- Have a Great Day!

Iliana Aviles

Junior academy had a successful POL for English with Mr. Louis in November. Students did projects on Genocide, students from the lower classes visited the project and gave their input. They will now be working on another POL for Ms. Bobowski and Ms. Fahey for the month of Dec. Juniors will also be having a Thanksgiving Potluck with the teachers. ASPIRA club is fundraising for their tickets to attend the annual Miguel del Valle Youth Development Center's Areyto banquet at the Regency. Meetings are every Wednesday from 2:45 - 3:45 pm in room 202 if anyone is interested.

News from the Sophomore Academy

Malgorzata Gaj

We are getting to the end of this 'exciting-for-all' Algebra review. I can see Geometry on the horizon, and we will get to it soon... Just bare with this for the next few weeks. Not to worry, we will get through it together. And just keep in mind that a few weeks is like nothing compared to the entire school year. Right? **The best offers just for YOU**

Things on SALE*: Free knowledge, extra help, passing grades or better grades, higher GPA, better chances for enrollment in universities of your choice! Come and shape your future through education:

MATH TUTORING (10th and 12th)

Monday - Thursday 2:45-4:15pm

Monday and Friday before school

Room: 204 or 206

See you there ☺

Zachary Moran

Our sophomores have enjoyed being able to play softball outside in this unexpected nice weather we have been having in late October and early November. As the weather turns and gets colder we will be starting Health Education. The students are looking forward to learning more about their own bodies and how to make healthier decisions in all aspects of their lives.

Nicolette Rivera

Congratulations to the sophomore academy! Thirty two of our sophomore students were on the honor roll for the first quarter. Thirty seven students had perfect attendance! Parents, please continue to make sure your child arrives to school every day and on-time! Also, do not forget that the Afterschool Tutoring Program has begun and takes place Monday-Thursday from 2:45 to 4:15. Please encourage your child to attend. Contact me if there are any questions at ext. 312.



Sophomores learn about slopes with real-life applications

The Magnificent Freshmen Class!

Pragna Trivedi

Integrated Mathematics: In the second quarter math class, students will learn how probability impacts the outcome of events in life and how to solve problems based on probability. A dice game called Pig forms the core of the unit. Playing and analyzing pig involves students in a variety of mathematical activities.

In math lab, students will create an Insurance Company and develop a simulation to understand the risks associated with an insurance company. In math project, students will develop a game called "wheels of fortune" and "Likely Letters", this project will help students use experimental probability to determine the letters with the highest frequency of use in English.

Josh Burke

Hello and welcome to Applied Physics. For the past two months in physics we have been working through the science of motion which ended with an exploration into projectiles. We are starting our second quarter project which involves designing and constructing a catapult. This project will tie in our current unit on forces with our old unit on motion.

Ms. Lager

In College Literacy class, students are currently working on a nonfiction unit. In this unit, students will read a variety of nonfiction texts including, but not limited to, newspapers, magazines, memos, personal essays, biographies, and ACT prep materials. Before reading these texts, students will learn about the different characteristics and text structures of nonfiction texts and how they aid in the comprehension of the text. While reading the texts, students will practice summarizing, questioning, connecting material to their own lives, finding main ideas and many other strategies as well.

Please encourage your student to participate in the after school tutoring program on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 2:45 to 4:15. I am here during that time to help students with their reading skills and any assignments they are having problems with in my class. It also provides students with an opportunity to make up missing assignments.

Linda Cook

The freshman English classes have just begun a multicultural literature unit, and we are going to be very busy this quarter! Our main text is "The House on Mango Street" by Sandra Cisneros, and we are supplementing this with a variety of stories and poetry from around the world. Our focus during this unit is to discover how other cultures write about community, family, sacrifice, friendship, and other values, and then to compare them to our own lives. Please contact us with any questions!

Michelle Figueroa

- Congratulations Freshmen Academy! We had 74% attendance for report card pick up!
- Rev. Matos will continue working with Team 1, 3 and 5 every Tuesday until the end of the semester. **Students, make sure that you turn in the permission form to your homeroom teacher if you have not done it yet. This is very important!**
- Remember to turn in the Intake Form given to you during report card pick-up.
- I would like to e-mail you some information about universities and scholarships, please send me your e-mail address at mfigueroa@youth.aspirail.org

**I am here to help you achieve your academic goals!
Feel free to visit me in my office before/ after school or during lunch!**



Students engaged in hands-on activities that help them understand physics concepts.

Specialized Services

Laura Edwards

The special education team continues to go into classrooms and work one-on-one and in small groups with students. The general education teachers have been great collaborators in making accommodations and modifications to the curriculum in order to differentiate the material effectively. After school tutoring is an extremely valuable time for students to meet with us and other teachers, where we can spend more time breaking down concepts into easy to understand steps, create processing cards and review assignments. With the rigorous daily class schedule, this time is an essential component of student success, so please come by!

Principal's Greeting

Dear Parents,

Please continue to support the school by:

- Making sure your child comes to school on time and in uniform every day.
- Staying in touch with the teachers
- Ensuring time to complete work and study at home

On behalf of the AMRCS, we wish all our students and their families a safe and happy Holiday Season. Karima Asaf, Principal

Upcoming Events

We have made some changes to the school calendar. We will have early dismissals every month on Fridays instead of Thursdays. Please make note of it.

Thanksgiving Holiday	Nov 27, 28
Picture Retake	Dec 3
Professional Development (No school for students)	Dec 4
Early Dismissal for students (12:00 p.m.)	Dec 5
Interim Assessment	Dec 10, 11
First Semester Final Exams	Dec 17, 18
Winter Assembly	Dec 19
Winter Break	Dec 22, 2008 to Jan 2, 2009
Classes Resume	Jan 5, 2009
End of first semester	Jan 16, 2009

DECEMBER 2008						
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

JANUARY 2009						
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

FEBRUARY 2009						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

AMRCS is now accepting applications for the 2009-2010 School year. Please contact Ms. Otero for further information (773) 252-0970 ext. 322
