



1711 N. CALIFORNIA AVE.  
CHICAGO, IL 60647  
(773) 252-0970 EXT. 329, 322, 318

# School Newsletter

February, 2009

Karime Asaf, Principal [kasaf@mrcscs.aspirail.org](mailto:kasaf@mrcscs.aspirail.org)  
(773) 252-0907 ext. 324

## Inside This Issue

### Department News

- 1 Math and Science
- 2 Humanities
- 3 Computer Science
- 3 Physical Education
- 3 Spanish
- 4 Specialized Services
- 4 Advisors
- 4 Upcoming Events



---

*Freshmen students study  
the way variables affect  
the length of a shadow*

---

## Math and Science Department

### Malgorzata Gaj

#### *Geometry – 10<sup>th</sup>*

We are slowly exploring Geometry concepts. Hopefully, we will all find it interesting. During this quarter we will learn and review lines, segments, rays, bisectors, angles, segment and angle addition postulates, as well as triangles. We will use different Algebra skills to solve Geometry problems related to these concepts.

#### *Business Math – 14<sup>th</sup>*

Are you ready to earn some money while you are sitting in front of a laptop? Ok seniors, you all got accepted to the Stock Market Game! It will be enjoyable experience for all of us!

### Marea Fahey

In the beginning of February the juniors started a new unit on geometry in Math and Science PSAE Prep. This unit will specifically help prepare students for successful PSAE scores as a large percentage of the test is geometry. Regarding the PSAE, the big test is now about two months away and the students are only getting more prepared each day. We would like to request special encouragement from everyone to the juniors as they prepare to show us all that they can do it!

### Shyllimol Sabu

Mrs. Sabu's Math and Science application class students are learning Pythagorean Theorem to find length of a beam for a building and length of a ramp. They will work on different polygons by finding perimeter and areas and apply these in their upcoming project "Dream House".

### Pragna Trivedi

Experimenting with Shadows: In Mrs. Trivedi's math class students that variables really affect the length of a shadow and how changing the value of the variable affects shadow length. They use flashlight as a light source, and wooden blocks as an object. They measure the length of the shadow as they change one of the variables. They then record the data on an input output table and find the rule to the table. Out of the information from the graph, they developed the slope and the linear equation of the graph. They described the process and math concepts of the experiment they had done in the classroom.

### Christie Bobowski

This is a very exciting time for juniors. The ACT is right around the corner and students are working very hard to improve their score. They just completed their third mock test so be looking to hear how much their score increased! In math this month we are working on functions, factoring and then moving to quadratic equations—all the time focusing on ACT prep. In biology we will begin a POL on a pedigree analysis of your family and work on the two remaining passage types for science; Fighting Scientists and Experiments.

### Joshua Burke

In this quarter of Conceptual Physics we have changed gears. We are no longer focusing on the topics that involve movement in terms that we are used to. We have stepped into the second part of the course which deals with electricity and magnetism. Currently we are exploring the concept of static electricity and how you can create forces with it. From there the students will learn what is necessary to build a circuit and what all of the pieces in the circuit consist of. I hope that we can put together a Project of Learning where the students will be able to build their own electronic equipment by the end of the unit.

### John VanderHeide

Currently in Environmental Science we are wrapping up our evolution unit and preparing to begin studying energy policy and the carbon economy. This will dovetail nicely with our large research project that is really beginning to get underway. The Chemistry classes are finishing up our mole conversions and will be beginning chemical reactions in March.

## The Humanities Department



*Seniors welcome 8<sup>th</sup> Graders from our sister school, ASPIRA Haugan Middle School*



*Students participate in team-building activities during ASPIRA Haugan Middle School Shadow Day*

### Cameron Louis

The juniors have been reading mystery and horror selections. Selections include Dracula, Frankenstein, & others. Ooooooh... S-u-s-p-e-n-s-e-f-u-l! Throughout the second semester, they are also writing an essay each and every week. The goal is to craft competent, skilled writers. 1984,... no, not the year... the novel, is next.

### Peter Chen

In February, sophomores have been learning how to use questions to guide their reading. Because of the current economic situation, students have been focusing their attention on basic economics. We have been using questions to try to understand our world better, eventually culminating in a test that will take place on Feb. 13.

To put these questioning skills to good use, we will be starting a new unit soon to go along with the U.S. History unit on the Constitution. Sophomores will learn more about their rights. For their projects, students will choose one right guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and investigate it in its current state. Students will make presentations to show what they have found.

Seniors are hard at work trying to get through a Shakespeare play, *The Tempest*. So far, students have begun reading their own copies, while we act out portions in class and decode Shakespeare's difficult language. We have been working through the often-difficult language, and we are starting to use a college format to prepare seniors for their next steps.

Senioritis *is* starting to set in, but seniors have many challenges ahead of them. Students will need to recite a large section of Shakespeare's text, as well as perform a section of the play that they choose. Attendance and in-class participation are essential to success for this challenging unit.

### Kristie Krall

Great news! Now parents and students can keep track of daily work, assignments and class news via our new website: [www.classnotesonline.com/teacher/kkrall](http://www.classnotesonline.com/teacher/kkrall). This site is uploaded daily and is accessible 24/7. Recently, the seniors were shadowed by eighth graders interested in attending AMRCS next year. Some seniors gave genuine advice to the eighth graders while the entire class engaged in teambuilding activities like the human knot. Thank you to all the seniors as your demeanor, energy and compassion shined! The seniors are looking forward to the upcoming History Fair, focusing on Conflict and Compromise in Latin America. Sophomores recently wrapped up the Vietnam War with music video slideshows and are currently discovering the Roaring 1920s. We are developing our note-taking skills from texts, documents and lecture this quarter in preparation for the upcoming constitution tests.

### Robert Bindewald

#### History Fair is Coming Soon!

The Freshman and Senior classes are working hard on their History Fair essays in preparation for the presentation of learning on March 12. They are studying Ancient Civilizations, Global Economics, World Wars, Genocides, Apartheid, Female Mutilation, Global Warming, Human Causes for Extinctions, Child Labor- just about anything that you can think of that relates to our theme of "Conflict and Compromise."

We would like to encourage you to join us between 4 and 6 PM on March 12th to see all the hard work students have put into their research presentations; the cafeteria will be our very own museum of global conflicts and compromise.

We are also looking for parent volunteers to judge projects between 9AM and noon on Friday, March 13th. This is a unique opportunity to help with your child's education; please email me if you are interested at [RBindewald@MRCSCS.Aspirall.org](mailto:RBindewald@MRCSCS.Aspirall.org). See you there!

### Shauna Lager

Ms. Lager's College Literacy class is currently working on a novel study of *Monster*. Students will write a persuasive essay as the culminating project of this unit. In addition to reading the novel, students are learning research skills such as how to cite sources and how to create a works cited page to aid them in writing their papers for the history fair project they are working on in Mr. Bindewald's class.

### Linda Cook

The Freshman English classes are wrapping up our unit on "A Long Way Gone," and celebrating the great success of Red Hand Day! On Red Hand Day (Feb 12), students were divided into groups giving informative PowerPoint presentations, displaying posters, handing out brochures, and running our bake sale and hand-painting stations. Most of the sophomore, juniors, and some of the seniors came downstairs to hear the presentations, donate some money, and stamp their hands on our banner. As a result of our event, we raised \$549 and got over 350 hand prints on our banners! The banners and the money are going to The Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, a non-governmental organization that helps stop children from being recruited for war, as well as helping to rehabilitate them when they get out. Our contributions show world leaders that people in Chicago are paying attention to what's going on in the world, and that we expect them to do something about these tragedies! If you would like to see the complete collection of pictures from our Red Hand Day Event, please email Ms. Cook at: [cook@mrcscs.aspirall.org](mailto:cook@mrcscs.aspirall.org). If you came to Red Hand Day, thank you for supporting

## Computer Science

### George Smith

There are four AMRCS seniors that have been selected for the Cisco Mentoring Program: Araceli Mendez, Jocelyn Mendoza, Albert Rosario, and Jose Estrada. Each student will be paired with a Cisco Systems Engineer or Sales Associate. Mentors will talk one-on-one with each student on issues such as: what to expect in a job, how to apply for college, real-world projects, and how to choose a career.

### Jackeline Sanchez

Seniors - Seniors are beginning to formulate their groups for the thinkquest project. We are coming up with topics, ideas, and website practice pages in order to get ready for this project. We will continue with Dreamweaver and building websites throughout the quarter.

Sophomores - Sophomores are learning the basics of Dreamweaver and building a website. They are practicing by creating sample websites and by copying the formats of already created websites. It is very important that each student have their own jumpdrive. Sharing a jump drive may lead to loss and work, thereby creating more work for the student.

### Bernadette Medina

Freshmen computer classes are creating brochure on their "Ideal University". The outcome of this activity is two-fold. First, this serves as a creative way to learn about the features of a college and what makes them unique. Secondly, in an indirect way, this activity gives staff members a glimpse of some interests, or ideals that a particular student may possess.

### Special Note:

Mr. Conner will be substituting in the two freshmen classes during computer science periods until we find a permanent replacement for this vacancy.



*Junior students engaged in Computer class*



## News from the Physical Education Department

### Zachary Moran

Our senior physical education classes have been going well this winter thanks to our friends at the Logan Square Boys & Girls Club. They have been kind enough to open their doors for us during the day and allowed our seniors to use the gym. We just finished our basketball unit and are just beginning our volleyball and soccer units.

This month I am going to start taking our sophomores over to the boys & girls club at least once a week to get some exercise back into their routines. We will continue their health education in the classroom the days we do not go to the gym. They are just starting a nutrition unit where they are learning all about the differences between the foods they eat and the foods they should be eating.

## We Have New Spanish Teacher!

### Eduardo Rodriguez

I'm very excited to be part of the AMRCS community and I look forward to a great beginning. Mr. Galvan, the Spanish student teacher and I have many plans and ideas that will keep students interested in learning about language, culture and our rich Latino heritage. We will also be working with a group of our English Language Learners assisting them and their teachers in the classrooms.

We are organizing the first AMRCS play!  
*La Casa de Bernarda Alba* - Federico Garcia Lorca

If you think you can act and be a great performer, please see me in room 001 for more details. We need actors, stage managers and stage workers. Be part of this great event! All students are welcome!!! Dateline: Friday, March 6, 2009



## 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!

## News From the Advisors

**Joel Maisonet (Senior Advisor Ext. 315)**

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.

**Nicolette Rivera (The New Junior Advisor Ext. 312)**

Juniors will be attending a number of college/university visits in the upcoming months. As we continue to prepare for the ACT and senior year, students participate in weekly meetings with their advisor for college readiness. This will help in their transition from high school to college. We are almost half way through the quarter. Students should continue to attend afterschool tutoring to improve their grades and increase their GPA.

**Candice Ramirez (The New Sophomore Advisor Ext. 326)**

It is great to be part of the AMRCS community! I will be informing you of an upcoming Parent Empowerment Program at our school in which you will learn ways to support your children as they go through high school. The students will be receiving frequent progress reports to monitor their academics.

**Michelle Figueroa (Freshmen Advisor Ext. 330)**

Freshmen parents must attend an important workshop regarding the importance of the GPA, standardized tests, attendance and college.

Every parent will receive a slip with the different dates available by mail.

Please, make sure that your parents fill out the form and return it to your advisor, Michelle Figueroa.

For any questions or concerns you can contact me at 773-252-0970 ext.330 or

[mfigueroa@youth.aspirail.org](mailto:mfigueroa@youth.aspirail.org)

**To Contact us visit our website at [aspirail.org](http://aspirail.org) or call us at (773) 252-0970**

Staff and extension	Position	Email Address
Asaf, Karime (ext. 234)	Principal	<a href="mailto:kasaf@mrcscs.aspirail.org">kasaf@mrcscs.aspirail.org</a>
Edwards, Laura (ext. 351)	Case Manager	<a href="mailto:ledwards@mrcscs.aspirail.org">ledwards@mrcscs.aspirail.org</a>
Otero, Gloria (ext. 322)	Registrar	<a href="mailto:geotero@aspirail.org">geotero@aspirail.org</a>
Figueroa, Michelle (ext. 330)	Freshman Advisor	<a href="mailto:mfigueroa@youth.aspirail.org">mfigueroa@youth.aspirail.org</a>
Candice Ramirez (ext. 326)	Sophomore Advisor	<a href="mailto:cramirez@youth.aspirail.org">cramirez@youth.aspirail.org</a>
Rivera, Nicolette (ext. 312)	Junior Advisor	<a href="mailto:nrivera2@aspirail.org">nrivera2@aspirail.org</a>
Maisonet, Joel (ext. 315)	Senior Advisor	<a href="mailto:jmaisonet@youth.aspirail.org">jmaisonet@youth.aspirail.org</a>
Lugo, Zaira (ext. 318)	Student Advocate	<a href="mailto:zlugo@mrcscs.aspirail.org">zlugo@mrcscs.aspirail.org</a>
Miranda, Janet (ext. 329)	Attendance Clerk	<a href="mailto:jmiranda@aspirail.org">jmiranda@aspirail.org</a>
Lugo, Osvaldo (ext. 328)	Head of Security	<a href="mailto:olugo@mrcscs.aspirail.org">olugo@mrcscs.aspirail.org</a>

### 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

### MARCH 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
29	30	31				

### APRIL 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	29	30		