



Kindergartners display their Let's Get Growing big book

## April 2009 Newsletter

### International Awareness at AGC

by Ms. Helma

Teachers, students, and parents belong to a community of lifelong learners and we study daily a variety of subjects. One subject that is not named specifically, but implemented in many moments throughout the day, is *International Awareness*. There are small moments, and bigger moments of standing still and reflecting on what we do and how we do it. In other words, it has a lot to do with our attitude towards others and ourselves. The teachers are always looking for moments to teach attitudes like appreciation, commitment, confidence, independence, respect and tolerance.

International awareness in kindergarten and first grade starts with understanding ourselves and learning from the people that are in our community. Only if one can

appreciate, tolerate and respect one's direct surrounding, he or she is able to embrace the differences in the world. Right now, international awareness in the classrooms does not focus on learning countries with matching capital cities for example, but we look at our own attitudes and celebrate the differences in the world.

Teaching attitudes is done using books, songs, art, and discussions. For example, kindergarten read a book titled *Swimmy* recently. The fish in this book learn to work together to survive and therefore, Ms. Ryan and Ms. Polley used this book to teach teamwork, tolerance, and confidence. In first grade, we are currently working on the unit *From Farm To Table*. We look at where our food comes from, and how it gets from there to here. The students observed a number of vegetables, grains, and dairy products. They found out that some food can be grown in our own garden, and other food like rice comes from another

country. This made us wonder about the food we eat at school and at home. We listened to each other and learned that we all have preferences for food. Students wanted to be risk-takers in the cafeteria and tried food they otherwise would not. Together, we learned about ourselves and about others.

In conclusion, international awareness is implemented in all subjects that are taught at AGC. We start with loving ourselves, friends and family, and our community. The students will develop into great people with a positive attitude to the rest of the world!

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The Academy for Global Citizenship

2009

The Academy for Global Citizenship empowers students to positively impact the community and world beyond.

In pursuit of this mission, AGC is committed to: *Serving the whole child, modeling excellence in academics, developing inquirers, cultivating international awareness, fostering environmental stewardship, and facilitating collaboration within the community.*

## PTA Corner:

The PTA would like to thank all parents that came to the meeting. We hope to see more parents at the next meeting. We will continue to meet every last Thursday of the month directly after school. If you have an email address and would like the minutes from the meetings emailed to you, please send an email to [teewestergren@sbcglobal.net](mailto:teewestergren@sbcglobal.net)

AGC and AGCPTA are proud to announce that we have adopted Archer Park as "our" park. We did it to be a part of the community, and we will have 4 events/year at the park.

1) Archer Park Clean Up, **Saturday the 18th of April, meet at Field House at 9 am-12 Noon.** Please bring gloves since we will be picking up trash from the playground. This will be a nice event for the entire family and it will teach our children the importance of keeping our earth clean and neat!!

2) AGCPTA and AGC will be putting "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" into action by hosting a rummage sale on **Saturday, May 30th from 9am-12 Noon.** If you have items at home that you no longer use you can rent a table for \$20.00 and all the money you make from selling the items goes to you. If you are interested in renting a table, please sign up in the office on the sign up sheet.



PTA President Therese Jiminez visits first grade to talk about event planning

## Announcements

International Awareness Family Night  
Tuesday, April 14th  
6:00-7:30

You are invited to attend a special evening about our International Awareness curriculum at AGC. You will learn about how international awareness is infused in all that we do here at school and how you can help at home.

## Earth Day Volunteering

We have many special learning experiences planned for Earth Day and are in need of parent volunteers to assist! If you are available at anytime on Wednesday, April 22nd please contact Anne in the office. We can really use you!

## Ms. Polley & Ms. Ryan's Peru Adventure

Ms. Polley and Ms. Ryan received wonderful news this week that they were awarded a Fund for Teachers Grant which will allow them to travel to Peru this summer! Only 20 out of 140 projects were selected.

Ms. Ryan and Ms. Polley will be collecting objects and experiences to bring back to the classroom next year so their students can explore the question: How is daily life in

Peru the same and/or different than in the US?

Their itinerary will include visits to other International Baccalaureate schools and Machu Picchu. They also hope to volunteer in some rural village schools to teach English.

We are so proud of our kindergarten team and their adventurous spirits and how they are modeling global citizenship for our students. More information about their trip will be sent out soon.

Important Dates	April	May	June
	<p>6-10</p> <p>No School - Spring Break</p>	<p>1</p> <p>No School - Professional Development</p>	<p>5</p> <p>No School - Professional Development</p>
	<p>14</p> <p>International Awareness Evening for Families 6:00-7:30</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Progress Reports sent home</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Summer Learning Evening for Families 6:00-7:30</p>
	<p>15</p> <p>Spring photo day-Group pictures</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Art and Music Evening for Families 6:00-7:30</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Last day of school!</p>
	<p>18</p> <p>Archer Park Clean-up Day</p>	<p>25</p> <p>No School - Memorial Day</p>	
	<p>23</p> <p>PTA Meeting 4:45-5:45</p>	<p>28</p> <p>PTA Meeting 4:45-5:45</p>	
	<p>24</p> <p>Family Coffee 10-11:00</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Family Coffee 10-11:00</p>	
	<p>30</p> <p>No School - Professional Development</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Spring Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Rummage Sale</p>	

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Using a parachute to work together in kindergarten



Ms. G and her students sing "Going to Grandpa's Farm"



Working together in Ms. Polley's room



First grade learned about materials by building houses



Parent volunteers help build houses in first grade