



Using teamwork to sort seeds

## December 2008 Newsletter

### Literacy at AGC

by Ms. Polley

With so many young students learning to read and write for the first time, literacy at AGC is an exciting part of the day. Our goal during this time is to help students build a love of books as we give them the tools to be successful readers and authors. To do this, both grade levels have created balanced literacy programs that engage students in guided reading, working with words, and writing.

During literacy time, students meet together on the carpet to review concepts like letters and sounds or to learn new strategies for reading. Then students work at independent centers, building their own knowledge, as teachers work with small groups to meet each student's individual needs. We are lucky to have an amazing tool for analyzing what our students know in the STEP assessment. Teachers use the data gathered from these one-on-one reading conversations to

pinpoint areas where students excel or need extra support. In this way, your child is working with other students who have similar strengths and challenges.

This unit's "big idea" has a literary focus. As students think about How We Express Ourselves, first graders are looking for similarities in the ways stories are told and structured—especially in terms of winter holiday traditions around the world. Kindergartners are learning to tell stories by exploring the job of authors and illustrators. We will showcase some of our learning at a Storytelling Festival, December 17.

You too can be a part of your child's first magical experiences with language. Come to a Family Literacy Hour from 6 p.m. to 7, Tuesday, December 9. Learn great ways to read to your child and talk to them about books. Make games to take home and practice skills in a fun, easy way. Discover the wonders of literacy!

### First Annual Harvest Fest—A Big Success!

A thousand thanks goes to our hard-working PTA Board and all family members who helped make our Harvest Fest a successful event. Students and family members had a wonderful time with all of the great activities including face painting, bracelet-making, and musical chairs.

As a new school, it takes many hours of preparation to plan events for the first time. However, how exciting to be the founders of AGC traditions that will last for years to come. Thank you again!

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The Academy for Global  
Citizenship

2008

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.*

## Season's Greetings from AGC

This is such a wonderful time of the year filled with many different cultural traditions! Here are some of the special ways people around the world celebrate.

### Sweden

Role-plays are performed for St. Lucia Day by wearing wreaths and candles

### Israel

Kids spin dreidls to celebrate the eight days of Hanukkah

### Mexico

Pinatas are burst during traditional Las Posadas parties

### Saudi Arabia

Families fast and give to charity to honor the month of Ramadan, a time of giving and sharing

### Netherlands

Sinterklaas and his assistant Peter ride around the country on a horse giving presents to children

### India

Diwali, "The Festival of Lights," is celebrated by lighting small clay pots filled with coconut oil to honor goodness in all people



First grade field trip to the zoo

## Announcements

### Storytelling Festival

Wednesday, September 17th

3:00-5:00

You are invited to attend our Storytelling Festival! Kindergarten and first grade students will share what they have been learning about stories and storytelling.

### Dressing for the Winter Weather

Now that winter is here, please send a hat, mittens, and boots to school with your student. Students will be kept in from recess if they are not warmly dressed. **Also, please write your student's name on their belongings, including hats and mittens!**

### Information Nights

To share what we are all about at AGC, we will hold monthly information evenings from 6-7:30. See the "Important Dates" section of the newsletter for upcoming dates. Reminders will also go home in the Friday Folder. All family members are encouraged to attend.

### Family Volunteer Hours

Many thanks goes to family members who have come in to volunteer. There are many ways for you to fulfill your 20 hours. Stop in at the office to sign-up! You may also call Margarita if you have any questions (773-582-1100).

### Food Policy Reminder

With our commitment to health and wellness, we have implemented a food policy at AGC. If you do send a

breakfast, lunch, or snack with your student, we ask that it follows these guidelines:

What to Send: Whole wheat bread, cheese, fresh fruit, yogurt, granola, 100% fruit juice, fresh vegetables, low-fat or fat free milk, or soy milk

What Not to Send: Deep fried foods, chips, candy, foods containing corn syrup, gum, cookies, or food containing peanuts

Important Dates	December	January	February
	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>Literacy Information Night for Families 6:00-7:30</p>	<p><b>1-2</b></p> <p>No School - Winter Break</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>Health and Nutrition Information Night for Families 6:00-7:30</p>
	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>No School-Professional Development</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>Science Information Night for Families 6:00-7:30</p>	<p><b>12-16</b></p> <p>No School-Lincoln's Birthday, Professional Development, and President's Day</p>
	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>Storytelling Festival - 3:00-5:00</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>No School - Martin Luther King Jr. Day</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>New student enrollment forms due to the AGC Office</p>
	<p><b>22- Jan. 2</b></p> <p>No School-Winter Break</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>Progress reports sent home</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>PTA Meeting 6:00-7:00</p>
		<p><b>23</b></p> <p>No School - Professional Development</p> <p><b>29</b></p> <p>PTA meeting 6:00-7:00</p>	

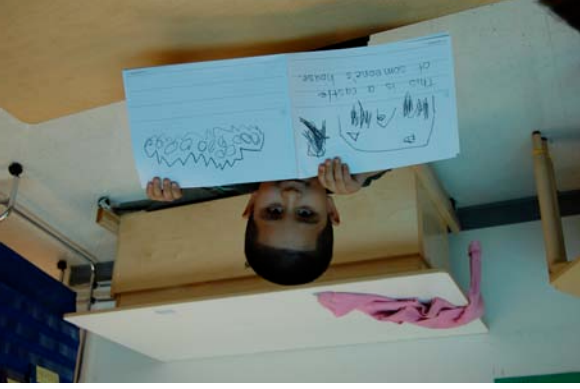
**Contact Us:**

773-582-1100

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Learning to write in kindergarten



AGC artist at work



First annual AGC Harvest



First ride on a school bus



First grade yoga performance



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