



Djembe drumming in kindergarten

January 2008 Newsletter

Inquiry at AGC

by Ms. Ryan

The Academy for Global Citizenship utilizes a program of inquiry to educate our students. Inquiry is an approach to education that provides opportunities for children to construct their own knowledge by engaging in a variety of exploratory and investigative experiences. Children are encouraged to ask questions and seek ways to find the answers. This approach to education gives students strong connections to their own learning and gives them the tools to become life long learners.

Inquiry is applied to all aspects of the curriculum at A.G.C. and is an excellent tool for helping children discover things about the natural world and other scientific concepts. At A.G.C children are enhancing their scientific knowledge by taking care of classroom pets and plants, sorting compost from recycling, observing changes in weather and

exploring the garden. These may seem like routine activities, but they are actually laying the foundation for children's scientific thinking. In addition children will be participating in our "How the World Works" unit of inquiry. The kindergartners will be exploring the wonderful world of plants. First grade will be answering the question "What's the matter?" where they will explore what the world is made of.

The Academy for Global Citizenship's mission is to foster environmental stewardship in all of our students. As children interact with nature they are developing a relationship that will equip them with the knowledge and passion to take care of the environment and all its living things.

Here are some ideas for encouraging scientific thinking with your children at home:

1. **Sort** - Let children sort anything they can from coins and buttons to

leaves and rocks. See how many different ways to sort they can come up with!

3. **Observe** - Look closely at natural items such as flowers, pine cones, snowflakes, plants, and dirt and let them touch. Ask your child to describe what they see, what it makes them think about, and how it feels.

3. **Cook** - Let children help cook dinner. It is a perfect time to talk about where food comes from and the changes that happen between the farm and the table.

4. **Play outside** - There are endless opportunities for children to learn about the world when playing outdoors. Have fun!

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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.*

Introducing Family Coffees

Family involvement at AGC is very important to us!

To further facilitate good communication between home and school, everyone is invited to attend Family Coffees with Ms. Gillespie on the last Friday of each month from 10 am - 11 am.

There will be no presentations or agendas. This will be an informal opportunity to chat with a school administrator and for families to get to know one another, as well!

Family Coffees will be held at school from 10 am-11 am on the following dates:

Friday, January 30th
Friday, February 27th
Friday, April 24th
Friday, May 29th



First grade field trip to the Apple Store

Announcements

Inquiry Night
Tuesday, January 13th
6:00-7:00

You are invited to attend a special evening all about inquiry led by Ms. Ryan. Learn how your students explore new concepts at school and fun ways you can support this learning at home and in our city.

2009-2010 Enrollment

If your current student has a sibling who will be entering kindergarten or first grade next year, he or she has automatic enrollment at AGC. However, you **MUST** complete an enrollment form and submit it to the office by Friday, February 13th. If you do not, his or her space will be given to another applicant and your student will not be able to enroll at AGC until a space opens.

If you have any friends, relatives, co-workers, or neighbors who may be interested in enrolling their student in kindergarten, first grade or second grade for next year, enrollment forms are available in the office or online at www.agcchicago.org.

Mrs. Ellis Earns Fellowship!

Our Supplementary Education Coordinator, Mrs. Ellis, was awarded an EarthWatch Fellowship in the Arctic! EarthWatch is a non-profit organization that engages people throughout the world in scientific research and education to promote understanding and action for a sustainable environment. On February 27th, Mrs. Ellis will travel to the Arctic edge near Churchill, Manitoba, Canada. She will conduct research to help show how much and how fast climate change is affecting the Arctic – and what that means for the entire planet.

Traveling by gamutik (sled) towed by snowmobiles, she'll classify ice crystals, and measure snowpack thickness, density, and temperature. She will also learn how to build an igloo and sleep in it comfortably, even when the temperature outside is -30 or -40 degrees Celsius.

Throughout her fellowship, Mrs. Ellis will send daily e-mails, pictures, and videos back to AGC so our students can learn along with her. We will send more information about Mrs. Ellis's adventure throughout the month.

Important Dates

January

1-2

No School - Winter Break

13

Science Information Night for Families 6:00-7:30

19

No School - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

22

Progress reports sent home

23

No School - Professional Development

29

PTA meeting 6:00-7:00

30

Family Coffee 10-11:00

February

10

Health and Nutrition Information Night for Families 6:00-7:30

12-16

No School-Lincoln's Birthday, Professional Development, and President's Day

20

New student enrollment forms due to the AGC Office

26

PTA Meeting 6:00-7:00

27

Family Coffee 10-11:00

March

2

No School - Professional Development

5

2009-2010 New student enrollment lottery

10

AGC's Spanish Program Information Night for Families 6:00-7:30

13

Portfolios and Report Cards sent home

26

PTA Meeting 6:00-7:00

27

No School - Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences Noon-7:00

First grade field trip to the Apple store



Kindergarten djembe drummers



Doing yoga in first grade



Kindergarten celebrates the letter "P" in their P-ajamas



Sr. and Sra. Pantoja present to the first grade



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