



Composting in the AGC garden

November 2008 Newsletter

Our PYP Program

"I teach my students how to ask questions. In the word question is a beautiful word - quest. I love that word. We are all partners in a quest."

-Nobel Prize winner and Boston University Professor Elie Wiesel

In our last newsletter, I presented the idea of asking your child what **questions** and what **big ideas** they think about in school. The process of asking questions leads children to deep and lasting understandings. This forms the backbone of teaching and learning at AGC. Rather than relying solely on rote memorization of facts, inquiry-based learning sparks children's curiosity and allows them to make real-life connections with what they are learning. In this way, lesson content becomes an integral part of our student's life.

To make this come alive in the classroom, our teachers design learning experiences for students that first expose them to the big idea and then lead them in asking questions about that topic. In this way, PYP students are able to take a concept, such as "People live in different parts of the world. What is it like where we come from?" and learn about it in a way that is interesting to them and can connect it to their own interests.

For example, our kindergarten teachers asked their students to observe pictures of families from around the world at the start of their current unit called *Where in the World*. The students' observations led to questions such as, "Do they have books?, Do they have bikes?, What food do they eat?, and Do they have ice cream?" In the current first grade unit, *Then and Now*,

students asked, "Did Native Americans wear shoes?, Did they have tables and chairs?, What did the Illinois eat?, and How and why did Native Americans plant new nature?"

For the remainder of the unit, our teachers lead students in finding answers to these questions to thoroughly understand the big idea and the unit's objectives. Then, after 6 weeks students demonstrate what they learned!

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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.*

AGC's Solar Panels

Did you know that 75% of our school's energy usage is powered by the sun? AGC is very fortunate to have a 5 kilowatt solar panel installation on our roof! You are able to see the panels from the parking lot on the south side of the building. Here are some fun facts about solar power:

- * As early as 1921, the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Albert Einstein for experiments with solar power and photovoltaics.
- * Today, more than 10,000 American families get all of their electricity from solar power.
- * The typical components of a solar home system are the solar module, an inverter, a battery, a charge controller (sometimes known as a regulator), wiring and support structure.



Our afternoon community circle

Autumn Healthy Eating

Autumn is a wonderful time to enjoy the company of friends, family, and the wonderful foods of harvest time. Here are some suggestions to enjoy the holiday season in a healthy way!

- * In a standard stuffing recipe, substitute two cups of the bread with a cup of cooked bulgur and a cup of cooked wild rice for great texture and flavor.
- * Make a simple beet salad by combining cooked beets with bleu cheese, balsamic vinaigrette, and a dash of olive oil. Beets are high in vitamins and antioxidants, and olive oil is a monounsaturated fat (it reduces your cholesterol). Bleu cheese is very flavorful, so not a lot is needed to get the effect!
- * A healthy, holiday proportion is two-thirds vegetables, fruits, whole grains and beans to meat. Try steaming vegetables. Use whole grains and dried fruits for stuffing, and cook it separately so it doesn't absorb fat and drippings from the turkey.

Announcements

New Dismissal Exit

Please be reminded that all students must be picked-up from the south side parking lot doors at 4:30.

Uniform Shirts

The PTA is now collecting orders for long-sleeved uniform shirts. Please contact PTA President, Therese Jimenez (773-480-6556) for more details.

Outstanding lunch payments

Please see Margarita in the main office if your monthly lunch payment is outstanding.

Family Volunteer Hours

Thank you to those who have signed up in the office for our monthly 2 hour volunteer commitment. We have a wide variety of activities to sign-up for. Some can even be done from home. Please visit the office on Monday mornings to sign-up if you haven't already.

Important Dates	November	December	January
	<p>7 No School - Professional Development</p> <p>10-11 No School - Veteran's Day and Professional Development</p> <p>13 Primary Years Program Information Night for Parents 6:00-7:30</p> <p>17 First Grade-Yoga Performance 4:10-4:30</p> <p>21 Harvest Fest - 3:00-5:30 Report cards sent home</p> <p>27-28 No School-Thanksgiving</p>	<p>9 Literacy Information Night for Parents 6:00-7:30</p> <p>12 No School-Professional Development</p> <p>17 Storytelling Festival - 3:00-5:00</p> <p>22- Jan. 2 No School-Winter Break</p>	<p>1-2 No School - Winter Break</p> <p>13 Science Information Night for Parents 6:00-7:30</p> <p>19 No School - Martin Luther King Jr. Day</p> <p>22 Progress reports sent home</p> <p>23 No School - Professional Development</p> <p>29 PTA meeting 6:00-7:00</p>

Contact Us:

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Learning about solar panels!



Visiting author Tim Wagner



Harvest time in our garden



Building longhouses in 1st grade



Kindergarten composting



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