

October 2008 Newsletter

Our PYP Program

As we enter our 7th week of school, we are all excited about completing our first Units of Inquiry, "Friends" in kindergarten and "Taking Care of Ourselves" in first grade. The teachers are hard at work planning the next Units of Inquiry. Each Unit is centered around a *central idea*.

Take a few minutes to ask your child, "What is the Central Idea of your current Unit of Inquiry?" While younger children may not be able to articulate this information concisely yet, as they progress through the grades, this will become common language. The "Central Idea" is the "big idea" or "big concept" that we would like each child to walk away from a Unit of Inquiry knowing. It is a concept that has meaning and importance to students, teachers and others as we learn and grow in understanding of how the world works.

The "Curriculum Framework" of the PYP has five essential elements. They are concepts, skills, attitudes, action and knowledge.

The first of these is "concepts" that we want students to understand. They are expressed as questions and are the same types "big idea" questions each PYP school throughout the world. These concepts drive the process of inquiry. Teachers develop planners to stimulate inquiry among the students while including curricular standards from both the Illinois State Standards and the International Baccalaureate Organization.

The concepts include form, function, causation, change, connection, perspective, responsibility and reflection. The children investigate the units of inquiry by learning about the concepts as they relate to each topic. They may tell you they "are still wondering about.." after reflecting upon the things they have

learned, generating more questions and curiosities. They may say things like, "we have a responsibility to use paper wisely," after studying the Unit "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle."

Enjoy and encourage their many questions and wonderings. No one has all the answers, so it's okay to say to them, "I don't know, but let's find out!" It is important for our children to know how to access information, ask good questions about that information (think critically) and take responsible action based on the new information they receive. This is the primary goal of the IB program!

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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.*

Saving Energy

AGC Families!

This month AGC students participated in their first assembly. We welcomed guests from the Lights for Learning organization. Lights for Learning is an education-based outreach and fundraising program. It is designed to develop children's awareness of energy efficiency through the use of Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs (CFLs).

Everyone needs to buy light bulbs! Here are some reasons why they should buy CFLs:

1. Last up to 10 times as long as incandescent bulbs
2. Use up to 75% less energy
3. Energy is created using light rather than heat
4. Less energy used means less air pollution
5. Using less energy means lower utility bills



IB Learner Profile

This month at school we've been learning about being CARING. This is one of the 10 traits of the IB Learner Profile. The IB states that caring people show a sensitivity towards the needs and feeling of others. They have a sense of personal commitment to action and service. You can talk about being caring with your student at home. **Post this on your refrigerator and discuss one of these quotes every few days):**

"The only way to have a friend is to be one." -Ralph Waldo Emerson

"A friend is gift you give yourself." -Robert Louis Stevenson

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." -Aesop's Fable

"A kind word can warm 3 months of winter." -Japanese proverb

"...Always try to be a little kinder than is necessary."-James Barrie, *The Little White*

Safety Reminders

There was minor accident at drop-off due to double parking this week! For the safety of our children:

1. **Do not park on the west side of the street. You will be ticketed.**
2. **Walk your student to the front doors.**
3. **Use the crosswalk.**
4. **Do not double park. You will be ticketed.**

We do not want our students to be hurt. Please take the time to use the parking lot and safely walk your students to the front doors.

Important Dates	October	November	December
	<p>3 Progress reports sent home</p> <p>8 Picture day</p> <p>13 No School-Conferences noon-7:00</p> <p>24 No School - Professional Development</p> <p>30 Parent-Teacher-Association Meeting 6-7:00</p>	<p>7 No School-Professional Development</p> <p>10-11 No School - Veteran's Day and Professional Development</p> <p>21 Report cards sent home</p> <p>27-28 No School-Thanksgiving</p>	<p>12 No School-Professional Development</p> <p>22- Jan. 2 No School-Winter Break</p>

Announcements

Family Volunteer Hours

At AGC, we believe that we are partners with parents in their child's education. Therefore, we are asking families to volunteer 20 hours throughout this school year. There are countless ways to help out! In the coming weeks, be on the lookout for a specific list of things you can do.

Halloween

Halloween is right around the corner! Students must wear their school uniform to school, but may bring a costume to put over their uniform in the afternoon of Friday, October 31st. We also

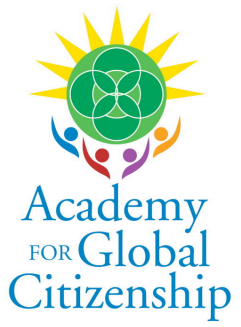
ask that students DO NOT bring candy or food to school.

Picture Day

Picture day is October 8th. Students do not have to wear their uniform on that day. The PTA is also asking for 2 parent volunteers to assist. If you are available from 9-11:30, please contact PTA President Therese Jimenez at 773-480-6556.

Supplies

We want to thank everyone who sent in shoe boxes, egg cartons, 2 liter bottles, and small plastic containers! They've been put to good use. At this time, we do not need any more.



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