

## September 2008 Newsletter

### Greetings AGC Families!

It is hard to believe that we've already completed three weeks of school. I cannot send out enough thank yous to everyone who has made this first month so successful. From our dedicated crossing guard volunteers to our amazingly talented group of teachers, the community we've built is unlike any other. As we move into the fall months, I look forward to continuing to build community in all that we do at AGC!

### Our PYP Program

AGC is the third school in Chicago to implement the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program, or PYP for short. We join 2,000 other schools in 124 countries around the world who are also offering this way of learning and

teaching. The PYP curriculum is divided into 6 Units of Inquiry.

The first kindergarten PYP unit at AGC is called "Friends." In this unit, teachers and students think about how we can come together as a class and interact in friendly ways. The first first grade unit is called "Taking Care of Ourselves."

Throughout this unit, students will ask questions about how we can take care of ourselves by eating well, exercising, having good hygiene, and feeling good about ourselves.

Everyday in school, we are also talking about the PYP *Student Profile*. This is a list of 10 characteristics the PYP and AGC feel students must have in order to be successful in the world today. The traits are:

- + Inquirer
- + Knowledgeable
- + Thinkers
- + Communicators
- + Principled
- + Open-minded
- + Caring
- + Risk-takers
- + Balanced
- + Reflective

Be on the lookout for ways you can help support student's growth in these areas!

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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 Healthy Food Program

## AGC Families!

AGC is fortunate to be one of the few public schools in the city to offer organic and nutritious meals, which are prepared fresh daily at school. We are asking families to participate in this innovative program. We would also like to inform you that any food brought into AGC must follow these guidelines:

### Examples of what to send:

- Whole wheat bread
- Cheese
- Fresh fruit
- Fresh vegetables
- Yogurt
- 100% fruit juice
- Granola
- Low-fat or fat free milk

### Examples of what **NOT** to send:

- Deep fried foods
- Chips
- Cookies
- Foods containing corn syrup
- Candy or gum
- Foods containing trans-fats
- Foods containing peanuts

Thank you,  
Anne Gillespie  
Associate Principal



## Garden Happenings

A lot is happening in AGC's organic garden! The students are discussing what plants need to survive and how to take care of the garden.

First grade is about to begin a year-long project on what types of objects and food are biodegradable. We will put items that families think are biodegradable in the ground and check on them from time to time throughout the year to record how fast they are biodegrading. I think we might all be in for a surprise!

Every week, the kindergarten classes are recording their gardening experiences by drawing pictures in their Garden Journals. Late summer was a busy time, and we are looking forward to even more fun and learning in the garden this fall.

-Mrs. Megan Ellis  
Supplementary Education Coordinator and Garden Teacher

## Safety Reminders

Keeping our students safe at pick-up and drop-off is extremely important to us. Signs have been placed along Keeler Avenue to alert cars that children are present. **We need your help, as well!**

Please follow these guidelines:

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.

Please help us to ensure all of our students come to school safely!

Important Dates	September	October	November
	<p><b>13</b> Solar Celebration! 1-4 at school</p> <p><b>18</b> Open House 6:00-7:30</p> <p><b>25-26</b> No School-Teacher Professional Development</p>	<p><b>3</b> Portfolios and progress reports sent home</p> <p><b>8</b> Picture day</p> <p><b>13</b> No School-Conferences noon-7:00</p> <p><b>24</b> No School-Teacher Professional Development</p> <p><b>30</b> Parent-Teacher-Association Meeting 6-7:30</p>	<p><b>7</b> No School-Teacher Professional Development</p> <p><b>10-11</b> No School</p> <p><b>21</b> Report cards sent home</p> <p><b>27-28</b> No School-Thanksgiving</p>

### 3 Easy Tips For A Greener Back-to-School Season

Your kids are excited to start their first day of school. And you want to start them off on the right foot. Here are some simple tips for a greener, healthier back-to-school season. (From [TheGreenOffice.com](http://TheGreenOffice.com))

#### 1. Creativity is in.

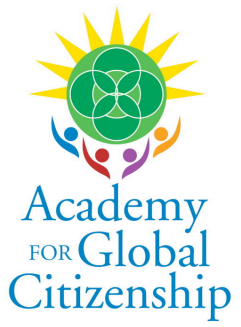
Toxins are out. Make sure to only use art supplies that are labeled "AP Certified Non-Toxic". You may also be able to reuse some of last year's school supplies instead of buying everything new. Check to make sure there isn't a set of markers lurking in your student's room somewhere!

#### 2. Eco-friendly transportation.

Encourage your kids to ride their bikes, take the bus or walk with friends to school. It's easier on the environment... and your budget!

#### 3. Mighty little energy savers.

Teach your kids how to be mighty little energy savers by encouraging them to turn off lights when they're not needed, unplug machines and chargers and power down their computers at night. By replacing your incandescent light bulbs with energy-saving compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs), you'll be using 75% less power with a bulb that lasts up to 10 times longer.



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