



Caurus Academy Newsletter

Vol. 5, Issue 7
May 2010

42302 N. Vision Way, Suite 110
Anthem, Arizona 85086
623-551-5083
www.azmontessori.org

Message from Mrs. Rides, Director

Rhonda Rides

This year is quickly coming to a close. I would like to take this chance to thank all of our parents, grandparents, and friends that have taken the time to volunteer in some way to our learning community throughout this year. The students benefit greatly when we can have volunteers on campus to help out. We appreciate all that you have done.

I would also like to take this chance to publicly acknowledge the wonderful staff we have here at Caurus Academy. They have worked hard and played hard all year long. They are the reason this school year has been so successful. You are all appreciated more than you know. Thanks you for all you do everyday, all year long.

Westwind Preparatory Academy at Anthem

*A College Prep High School Without
the Price Tag
Enroll now for the 2010/2011
school year!*

- *Opening August 2010 with grades 9 & 10
- *An International Baccalaureate Candidate School
 - *NCA accredited
 - *Uniforms
- *Foreign Languages (Spanish and Mandarin) will be offered.
- *AIA athletics (2010 Men's Basketball 2A State Finalists)
 - *Rigorous & Relevant Curriculum
 - *National Honor Society
- *IB Preparatory classes for freshmen & sophomores
- *Feels like a private school, but there's no cost to attend

Important Dates – May 2010

May 7th – Half-Day – Teacher In-Service
Early Release – 12:00PM

May 27th – Last Day – Early Release – 12:00PM

**Join us for an informational meeting
Tuesday May 11th
6:30pm at 42302 N. Vision Way
(South of Wal-mart)**

Call 602-864-1211 for information

Spirit Week May 24th – 27th

Monday – Sports Day (No uniforms)
Tuesday – Crazy Hair Day (Uniform Required)
Wednesday – Opposite (Inside-Out) Day
(Uniform Required)
Thursday – Free Dress Day (No uniforms)
- LAST DAY OF SCHOOL-

Caurus Academy Newsletter

Art & Science Fair

The Art & Science Fair was such an unbelievable event. The students' projects were amazing. It certainly was not easy for the judges to award prizes. We are very proud of all the students that had projects that were there. You all did a great job! Thank you to all those that helped make this such a successful event for the students! Here is a list of the Science Fair Winners!

Middle School

Overall

- 1st place – Mitchell Koop
- 2nd place – Hannah Nichols
- 3rd place – Joshua Cacciatore

Scientific Method

- 1st place – Summer Parker
- 2nd place – Kimberly Rowland
- 3rd place – Jeffrey Hicks

Creativity

- 1st place – Rachel Zajac
- 2nd place – Galen Richter
- 3rd place – Alexis Boni

4th – 6th Grade

Overall

- 1st place – Michael Gilbert & Brison Olsen
- 2nd place – Max Cooper & Ryan Godfrey
- 3rd place – Bailey Schmidt & Dara Griffith

Scientific Method

- 1st place – Brielle Dotson
- 2nd place – Reili Geiser & Maxine Taubman
- 3rd place – Jacqueline Hicks

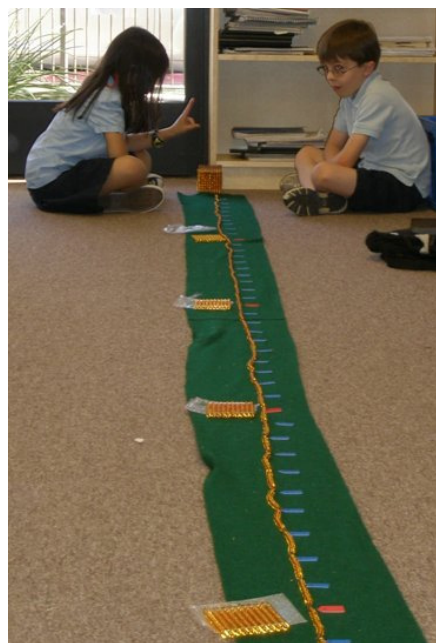
Creativity

- 1st place – Chase Gelbaugh
- 2nd place – Cameron Bell
- 3rd place – Chad Stroup

News from Suite C – Gr. K/1 Mr. Lance and Ms. Cynthia

It's hard to believe it's the end of the school year already. Many thanks to our many parent volunteers who have contributed towards making this a great year in our classroom. The children have thoroughly enjoyed participating in our egg science experiments. Many interesting and entertaining observations were made and a great time was had by all!

In language, the students recently learned the difference between singular and plural nouns and have done many activities to reinforce this new concept. In the math area, we've focused on geometry. The children are extremely interested in building on their existing knowledge of shapes. Again, thanks to everyone for a great year. Enjoy the summer vacation with your families!



**Working on the 1000 chain in
Mr. Lance's class**

Caurus Academy Newsletter

News from Suite D – K/1

Ms. Debbie and Mr. Cadmus

It is hard to believe this school year is winding down to just a few weeks. It has been amazing to observe the progress of all the children. Such wonderful personalities have developed in all the children as well as the independence that will keep developing for the rest of their lives. As the year comes to an end, the children continue to work hard and are proud of what they have accomplished.

Our class has just completed a unit on the Solar System that was presented at the Science Fair. The children enjoyed learning about the details of outer space. We had many activities leading up to the final day of the Science Fair. The best part of the project was making the solar system and putting it all together. The children were paired off in small groups and researched their planet, wrote about it and then painted a planet, star, moon, or galaxy for the final presentation. It was great to see all of you at the Science Fair and see the children's proud faces of the outcome.

Ms. Debbie and Mr. Cadmus would like to thank all our families who have supported our classroom this year either by volunteering or donating supplies to our wish list. Thank you for the opportunity to serve your children. It has been a wonderful honor and privilege that will be cherished always. Have a safe and happy summer!

Bottled Water Drive at Caurus Academy

Caurus Academy held a bottled water drive last week sponsored by Boy Scouts of America and Water for our World. The water collected will be donated to Phoenix area homeless shelters to prepare for the summer months.

Our students were awesome – we collected just under 5,000 water bottles! Thank you to our wonderful students and parents for their cooperation!

News from Suite E – K/1

Ms. Lara and Ms. Suzanne

The year is drawing to an end. Our group has really come together and we feel we have a very special group of children. The Montessori philosophy embraces varied learning styles and allows for many personalities to coexist in the classroom and it makes us all the richer for it! We look forward to working again next fall with our returning students and happily anticipate meeting new faces, as well.

In the month of May we will focus on the study of invertebrates, particularly insects. This will conclude our zoology curriculum as we previously studied vertebrates: fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals. The students have done an excellent job in learning the nomenclature and have extended their learning by making booklets, doing additional research and making some beautiful artwork for our classroom. The children always have many original ideas when it comes to our science lessons...it's a wonderful example of "following the child," one of the cornerstones of the Montessori philosophy.

We will conclude the year's geography lessons by studying the continents of Africa, Australia and Antarctica, as well as an overview of the United States.

Thank you to Ms. Suzanne for coordinating our science fair project! It was a wonderful experience for the children and they enjoyed formulating their predictions and had some amazingly insightful input.

Happy Birthday to *Laura* and to our summer birthdays: *Aiden, Faith, Braiden, and William.*

Caurus Academy Newsletter

News from Suite G – Grade 2/3

Ms. Rayna and Ms. Carrie

Ms. Rayna's class has been very busy over the last couple of weeks. We worked together to design and build a rat maze for our class Science Fair project. This also allowed our new friends Helen and Goldie to have some quality mind and body exercise. Ms. Rayna built the exterior walls, two teams designed the maze interior by first setting out colored pencils to get an idea of how their maze would work. After that, they measured in inches the size of walls they wanted cut. Ms. Rayna cut the walls and the children attached them using duct tape. There was some definite trial and error through the process, but the children used their minds and their AWESOME sense of teamwork to produce a quality rat amusement park that will make two rodents very happy.

Speaking of animals, summer is coming! If your family would be interested in hosting an animal over the summer, please contact Ms. Rayna ASAP! rclark@azmontessori.org

Car Line Safety Reminder

Please use caution when driving through the parking lot and in the street in front of the school. As the weather turns warmer we tend to have more students walk or ride their bike so please remember to keep an eye out for their safety.

In an effort to further ensure your student's safety, we ask that if you are using the walk-up gate, please park to the north of the coned off area and escort your child to the gate using the sidewalk. You are welcome to continue to use car line as well. Thank you for your cooperation!

News from Suite H – Grade 2/3

Ms. Tracy and Ms. Caroline

May marks the end of the school year. It has been a wonderful journey of learning and exploration that I have enjoyed sharing with the children. April was the month of the science fair. Our class focused on Earth science this year. We began with an introduction to the Earth as a part of our solar system. We colored short books about the solar system and read about the planets. The class then learned about the three types of rocks (sedimentary, metamorphic, and igneous) and the layers of the Earth (the crust, mantle, outer, and inner core). The students made clay models of the Earth and examined real life examples of the three types of rocks and various minerals that make up the planet. Lastly the students made mock fossils with modeling clay and glue to explore the process of how one very special kind of rock, a fossil, is formed.

Last month also included the spring tests. The children did a great job of following directions and staying focused during test time. We are all very proud of how they conducted themselves. The children will take the DIBELS reading test in May as well. Reading practice is critical to helping students improve their reading comprehension and speed. We practice every day in the classroom but reading at home is important too especially during the summer months when we are not in class. Find out what interests your child and explore your local library. You would be surprised at the amazing variety of books there.

On our wish list this month are rulers. When we do measurement or craft activities we often have to borrow from other classes because we don't have enough. If anyone would like to donate some, it would be greatly appreciated! We could also use new donations for the auction. This has been a fun way to reward the kids for working hard and I would love to be able to continue it through the end of the year. Cupcakes (no nuts), toys, books, anything would be appreciated.

Caurus Academy Newsletter

News from Suite I – Grade 2/3

Ms. Nicole , Ms. Julia, & Ms. Barrie

The end of the year is approaching quickly! We have had such an amazing year, and have grown so much...academically, socially, and in length as well. As we finish up the year we will be studying the solar system by researching all of the different planets and analyzing Earth's moon phases.

We will continue working on important math and reading skills, and will review all of the concepts we have learned throughout this year. Please keep your child reading during the summer and practicing flash cards too, so next year we can get off the a great start! Thank you for such a great year. It has been an honor working with your child!

News from Suite F – Grade 4

Ms. Lauren

The fourth grade class has been working very hard! We have been working on long division, poetry, our student government, and the Science Fair just to name a few things. I was amazed to see how much effort and time students put into their Science Fair projects! Great job to all!! The students have grown a great deal over this school year and I will be excited to see where they end up in the future, as I expect to see great things from all of them. Thank you for your continued support in the quest for knowledge!!

News from Suite A – Grade 5/6

Ms. Kelsall and Ms. Barrie

It's hard to believe that this long and very productive school year is coming to its end! AIMS testing is over but there is still a lot of fun learning ahead. Our students have mastered the art of writing reflective and interpretative essays and, most importantly, enjoyed reading and analyzing the great stories in our Great Books reading program.

We are almost finished with our year-long math program: It is pride and joy to observe their growing confidence at solving different types of problems. In Social Studies, the students are working on their country reports and are preparing a cultural festival!

Finally, our after-school piano/music appreciation club Merry Little Notes is having their Spring recital at Roberto's restaurant in Anthem (details are in the school office). Everybody is invited to support our little performers on Cinco de Mayo at Roberto's!

Six Pillars of Character

The Character Counts trait for April was **Responsibility**. All of our educators presented lessons and discussed with their students, the importance of **Responsibility** in becoming a good person. The Character Counts trait for May is: **Fairness**. We hope that you will discuss with your children these important pillars of character at home.

Caurus Academy Newsletter

News from Suite B – Middle School Mr. Dotson

The students of Caurus Middle School are excited to have only one month left until summer. We are beginning a Project Based Learning (PBL) project of creating our own businesses. In this lesson, students will create a business they think is needed in our community. They will learn to understand the costs that go into creating a business. They will discuss issues relating to the name, location, and kind of businesses they hope to co-construct and identify the best method to sell their products.

This PBL effort will introduce students to cooperative groups. Each member will have a specific task that they will be leading. Each is a partner in their new business with an area of concentration in Real Estate, Management, Financing, and Marketing / Advertising. The students will be creating their own business plans, models. They will create an advertising campaign by filming commercials for their products. Final presentations will be on May 21st.

We will also begin reading and discussion of *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson.

We have upgraded to a new website thanks to our Caurus Chronicle team. The website has updated home work and links to some of the student work.

<http://www.caurusacademy.webs.com/>

Montessori at Anthem Teaching Staff

Debra Slagle, Superintendent

Debra.Slagle@westwindacademy.org

Rhonda Rides, Director

rrides@azmontessori.org

Nicole Bowen, Lower Elementary Educator

nbowen@azmontessori.org

Rayna Clark, Lower Elementary Educator

rclark@azmontessori.org

Lee Dotson, Middle School

ldotson@azmontessori.org

Debbie Fox, K/1 Educator

dfox@azmontessori.org

Joyce Keegan, Art/Humanities Educator,

jkeegan@azmontessori.org

Irina Kelsall, Upper Elementary Educator

ikelsall@azmontessori.org

Miriam Pissas, Spanish Educator

mpissas@azmontessori.org

Lance Taubman, Lower Elementary Educator

lstaubman@azmontessori.org

Lara Taubman, Lower Elementary Educator

ldtaubman@azmontessori.org

Brandon VanGalder

[bvangelder@azmontessori.org](mailto:bvangalder@azmontessori.org)

Tracy Wagner, Lower Elementary Educator

twagner@azmontessori.org

Lauren Walkenhorst, Upper Elementary Educator

lwalkenhorst@azmontessori.org

Dress Code Reminder

- Powder blue or white collared shirt (with sleeves)
- Solid navy bottom
- Close-toed shoes

Students must be in dress code while at school. If not, phone calls will be made to parents to either bring appropriate items – for the first offense – or to be sent home or in-school suspended for multiple offenses.