

Math and Science Success Academy

June 2011 Newsletter

Greetings,

The Math and Science Success Academy is dedicated to ongoing communication with our parents, students, and the community. As part of this commitment, we are excited to share with you the latest edition of our electronic newsletter.



Math & Science Success Academy

Academics for Life. Values for Living.

News

Summer Reading Ideas and Resources

Believe it or not, summer is here. Instead of having our students pack up their books for the summer, I would like to share with you some summer reading ideas and resources.

Students need to read every day. The more they read the better. Research shows that... "Regardless of race, socio-economic level, or previous achievement, children who read more books fared better on reading comprehension tests in the fall..." (Education Week, May 5, 2004).

Ways Parents Can Promote Summer Reading

- Read aloud to your student(s):
 - Start by choosing a good book.
 - Keep it fun. Use different voices for different characters.
 - Predict... ask your student(s) to predict what may happen next.
 - Visualize... have your student(s) create a movie in their mind(s). Have your student(s) draw a picture about what they have read.
 - After finishing a story, ask your student(s) to think about how the story relates to a personal experience.
 - How does the story relate to self?
 - How does the story relate to the world?
- Read together by reading one side of the page and asking your student to read the other side.
- Read together at the same time. This is an excellent way to build fluency.
- Read around the house:

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- Cooking involves lots of reading, including recipes and shopping lists.
- Read directions on recipes and games.
- Take your student to the library once a week.

For a list of great websites parents may use to support summer reading, click [here](#).

In addition, click the link for information about using [Accelerated Reader](#). If you are new to Accelerated Reader, we encourage you to take a moment to familiarize yourself with this wonderful program designed for students for the purpose of maintaining and enhancing their reading skills.

New Early Release Days

In order to provide a better education for MASSA students, this upcoming school year will have seven half days and three full days devoted to MASSA staff professional development. During these sessions, teachers and staff will participate in training focusing on effective instructional strategies with an emphasis on providing rich content and curriculum.

Please be sure to mark these days on your calendars.

Half Days: August 26th, September 16th, November 18th, December 21st, January 13th, February 3rd, and May 25th.

Full Days: October 14th, March 9th, and April 27th.

You may also see the calendar attached under "Events" below which lists all important dates for the 2011-2012 school year.

Events



Calendar

Take a look at the [calendar](#) for a list of all 2011-2012 school year important dates!

Classroom Updates



MASSA Now Enrolling for 2011-2012!

If you are the parent of a new or returning MASSA student, don't forget to complete your [registration packet](#) and return it to the front desk as soon as possible!

New students should also bring in a copy of their birth certificate and vaccination forms.

Please contact us if you have any questions at (520) 889-1504.

Quick Links

[Enroll Today!](#)

[Join Our Mailing List](#)

[Visit the MASSA Homepage](#)

Find us on Facebook



Kindergarten, Mrs. Padilla's Class

I would like to start off by thanking all of the parents and students from my class. We have had such a great and successful year! The students in my class amazed me every day by the things they were able to achieve.

In addition, our graduation was a great success! The children did a wonderful job in their performance. They also had a wonderful time on our field trip to the zoo.

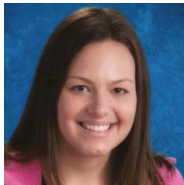
The things that our class has done throughout the school year would not have been possible without the support of all the families. I am looking forward to seeing the children continue their time here at MASSA in first grade. Have a wonderful summer!

1st Grade, Ms. Runde's Class

First grade has come to an end!

In the first grade, we wrapped up the year with division and multiplication in math. We showed how we can read alone by reading our very own book. We even read to the Kindergarteners! By the end of the year, the first graders were up to writing over six sentences on a single topic! We celebrated the end of the year with a movie day and party. Moving all of the desks and bringing our blankets, pillows and stuffed animals was a great way to end the year!

The first graders in Ms. Runde's class are definitely ready to begin second grade. I know every student will do a great job in second grade next year! Thank you to all of the supporting parents and wonderful students! I hope to see everyone next year.



1st Grade, Ms. Sobel's Class

To end the year with a little fun and to show off our talents we completed a big project! The students applied, interviewed, and then worked restaurant jobs for Ms. Sobel's third annual American Diner. This restaurant is really a culminating project where students apply their knowledge gained during the year along with their personal knowledge to a real life scenario. Students were hired for restaurant jobs ranging from bus boys, to cooks, and waiters. There was also a new addition to the American Diner this year; the students performed a song which showed their admiration for America as well as their excitement for the end of the school year. The students did such a wonderful job working in the Diner and they even earned fun crafts and snacks for the final week of school!



2nd Grade, Ms. Anderson's Class

This year has flown by for us in second grade! The last few months were very busy. We went to the Flandrau Science Center and we all learned so much. We learned about the constellations, the moon and our other seven planets. In the last unit of "Imagine It!" we learned about America's People including Cesar Chavez and Martin Luther King, Jr. We explored all the different cultures and traditions present here in America. We investigated the Chinese culture to help us relate to the story by trying to eat with chopsticks. We even had another second grader come in and share with us her Native-American culture.



2nd Grade, Ms. O'Brien's Class

Visiting the Flandrau Science Center was the perfect way to end our year of explorations. Students got to see how the constellations were "formed," according to legends of the gods, through a laser show. They participated in a scavenger hunt for minerals and received a mineral of their own as a souvenir. Students also enjoyed the Brain Teaser activities and got to test their wits through a series of hands-on activities.

As we explored America's People during the last month of school, students received several real-life examples. Our first story, titled "April and Her Family," was about a Chinese American family. In the story, April learns how to use chopsticks to keep up a family tradition. We practiced using chopsticks while playing a series of games and relays in the cafeteria. Another story we read, called "New Hope," was about a family coming to America and traveling across country in a covered wagon. We played the computer game "Oregon Trail" as a class and tackled different tough decisions as we made our way across the country. During the story, "Jingle Dancer," we talked about a girl who dreams of dancing at a Native American powwow. A student from our class brought in an actual Native American *jingle dress* from her aunt to share with the class. The students enjoyed seeing this beautiful regalia up close. We also had a grandparent visit to talk about his journey from China to America many years ago. We learned a lot about the diversity of our country and the many people that make up America.

Thank you to the many parents that made this year a success and for your continued support.



5th Grade, Mrs. Tumminello

5th grade had an excellent end to the year! The highlights of May were our field trip to see the Tucson Youth Theater perform *Pocahontas* and dancing the night away at the 5th and 6th grades' Spring Dance.

Thank you so much to the amazing volunteers that helped at both events. Neither event could have been possible without the dedication of so many wonderful parents. A special thank you goes to Armando Arce Parra for volunteering to DJ the Spring Dance. Over the summer there are some educational activities students can do to get ready for 6th grade. Students should read at least four Accelerated Reader books and practice their writing by journaling about what they read. Students may also journal about all the things they're doing over the summer. Just make sure to check over the writing for any mistakes! Students can also review multiplication and division facts and go to StudyIsland.com to review reading, math, and writing skills.

I hope everyone has a safe, happy, and healthy summer. Thank you for all of your hard work! Good luck in 6th Grade!

Other News



Volunteer with MASSA

Volunteering is a great way to give back to MASSA students and families!

We actively seek individuals to volunteer at the school to help enhance our programs and services.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Shannon Hunt, Dean of Students at shunt@massatucson.org or 889-1504.

With another successful school year past, all of us at MASSA are working hard to make the following school year even better! If there is any way that I can assist you or your child, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Adriana Rodriguez

Principal

Math and Science Success Academy

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