

# Math and Science Success Academy

## October 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.



### Events

#### National Day of Writing Thursday, October 20th

On October 20, MASSA encourages you to put something, anything, in writing. The date signifies the third-annual National Day of Writing. You can participate by texting, tweeting, writing an email, writing a letter, making a grocery list or starting that short story you have been meaning to write. Share what you wrote with your child. Talk about how you use writing in your life to communicate or enhance messages. You may also choose to use this day to reflect upon the routine writing that consumes your day. Track how much you use writing to communicate with others. You may be much more of a writer than you realize. You can visit the Web sites below for a wealth of writing information.

\* [http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=tovvuffab&et=1108019940374&s=-1&e=001rlkCB9RCn1vSySpOaMjnwqe2Z38vkvVWRMNfol4N59A15wJFPEQMvaOGSLQznl60LN4yobcMx4Sn\\_a8kpHXkQ2SkHPJZs0u1uFivuwHTPZpM9HZ2ZLhfw==](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=tovvuffab&et=1108019940374&s=-1&e=001rlkCB9RCn1vSySpOaMjnwqe2Z38vkvVWRMNfol4N59A15wJFPEQMvaOGSLQznl60LN4yobcMx4Sn_a8kpHXkQ2SkHPJZs0u1uFivuwHTPZpM9HZ2ZLhfw==)

\* [http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=tovvuffab&et=1108019940374&s=-1&e=001rlkCB9RCn1uwtYHX9O-IQUhQd6CqTnV8aYeNNz6miB65YY2Hw3vOwwMTYt0pF3qXx1Q9zidp9J50ncGNhcDTu565zQfV4ftGalDJOltow73xrssSn\\_QoPDvK9Bmvsac](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=tovvuffab&et=1108019940374&s=-1&e=001rlkCB9RCn1uwtYHX9O-IQUhQd6CqTnV8aYeNNz6miB65YY2Hw3vOwwMTYt0pF3qXx1Q9zidp9J50ncGNhcDTu565zQfV4ftGalDJOltow73xrssSn_QoPDvK9Bmvsac)

#### Dates to Remember!

- October 13- End of Quarter 1
- October 14- No School
- October 25- Picture Re-takes

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## Classroom Updates

### Kindergarten- Mrs. Schiavone

This month in Kindergarten, we are learning how to add and subtract using word problems. In order to help us, we memorized a "Doubles Rap". In reading, we are blending sounds to make words, and learning new sight words. We practice the letter sounds every day!

We will be reciting a poem called "Pumpkin Moon" at the PAC meeting on October 7, 2011. Families and friends are encouraged to watch us recite our poem!

On October 19, 2011, the Kindergarteners, first graders, and second graders will be taking a field trip to the pumpkin patch. At the field trip, we will be able to pick our own pumpkin and take it home! Parents will be needed to drive to the pumpkin patch. More information will be given.

### First Grade- Ms. McMillen

We are almost two months into school and I couldn't be more pleased with the progress our class has made. Our first grade class has been learning how to blending sounds to make words.

We are doing some final tuning on our sounds and progressing nicely. Our first grade class has been learning comprehension skills to help understand stories that are being read. We will be transition into becoming more independent readers and increase our comprehension skills. In language arts, we have been discussing the rules of writing and how to create pieces of writing.

In the month of October, we are going to continue working on sentence structure and other rules of writing. Together, we will create poems and increase our appreciation of poetry. In mathematics, we will continue working on our addition and subtraction facts. Our class is will start to understand the use of money and our fact family.

In science, we will be transitioning out of plants and start working on animals. We will learn about different species of animals and the important role they play on Earth. I'm thrilled at the successes our class has made together.

### A Glance at Second Grade

In class we have been talking a lot about responsibility and respect. We have written paragraphs on how to be respectful to everyone around us and why being respectful is important.

In math, we are learning more about polygons, money and elapsed time. In science, we are learning all about animals. We are learning about mammals, insects, amphibians, and reptiles. We are reading so many interesting and intriguing stories. We read a story called "Pop's Bridge". This story was about a little boy's father who built the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco. I have been to the Golden Gate Bridge and I was able to share my experiences with the class. They really enjoyed the

pictures and shared in my excitement of a great United States landmark. Please check the website for current homework and poem, "All But Blind".

### **3rd Grade- Mrs. Roper**

3rd graders have been working very hard this month! We just concluded our literature unit on "Friendship" in which we explored the value of true friendship and how to establish and maintain it. Our reading of Teammates, the story of the friendship of Jackie Robinson and Pee Wee Reese, generated insightful discussion about the history of racial segregation in our country.

Friendly letters were drafted, edited, rewritten and mailed as part of our writing unit. Very creative fantasy stories are in their final draft, and some have already been posted on our writer's wall outside of our classroom. Be sure to stop by and read them!

We had a fun (and messy) science lab in which we investigated different fruits as part of our "Plant Life Cycle" unit. The next unit, "Animal Life Cycle" dovetails nicely with our next literature unit, "Animals and their Habitats."

Math marches on as we learn about radius, diameter and how to use those challenging compasses! The number of inductees to our math "Wall of Fame" grows every week.

### **Ms. Saathoff's Third Grade News**

Happy October! In Language Arts, we have begun Unit II in the Imagine It! curriculum. This unit explores animals and their habitats. Students are encouraged to bring in any pictures that they have of animals to add to our bulletin board. Also, students can bring in their questions about animals to put on the board. In Science, we are still exploring living things, plants, and the life cycle. In Math, we have just finished lessons on measurement. We are now working on multiples, writing three-digit numbers, writing story problems, graphing, telling time, and identifying different U.S. time zones.

**Reminder!** Please be sure that your child's planner is signed nightly along with the reading log.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call (520) 889-1504 or email at [ssaathoff@massatucson.org](mailto:ssaathoff@massatucson.org). Also, you may write notes in your child's planner and I will respond.

### **4th Grade- Mrs. Coleman**

Math: During the month of October we will be working through lessons 29-50. Lesson will include angles, polygons, rounding, division, fractions, classifying triangles, measurement, quadrilaterals, and data interpretation.

Language Arts: We will conclude our second unit entitled "Nature's Delicate Balance"

and complete our 3rd Benchmark assessment by the end of the month. This unit incorporates many themes from our science curriculum including, energy, plant pollination, food chains, forest preservations, and ecology.

Science: In science we will be concluding our study of our first unit, "Living Things", which included the Kingdoms of Life, Cells, Animals with and Without Backbones, Animal systems, and Animal Life Cycles. We will then begin our second unit, "Ecosystems". This is an exciting unit that includes Biomes, Relationships in Ecosystems, Animal Adaptations, and Changes in Ecosystems.

Social Studies: We will be exploring Chapter 3 in our Discovering Arizona textbook, which is about the ancient people of the region including the Anasazi, Mogollon, Hohokam, Aztec, Patayan, Salado, and Sinagua Tribes.

### **4th/5th -Ms. Peña's**

This past month our Reading curriculum focused on cultures, traditions, and heritages. We read stories that talked about how traditions had changed from one generation to the next and discussed our own family traditions and cultures. We worked hard on creating good visual descriptions in our mind and summarizing the main ideas of the stories.

This month we will be reading about and discussing the exploration of energy. Students will have the opportunity to learn about the use and conservation of energy. This unit will also tie into our Science curriculum and students will be studying the scientific process and experiments of early and modern-day scientists. We will also be reading about weather patterns and tornados to better understand the world around us.

We are continuing to learn about our state, Arizona! Last month we learned about the state symbols, the animals and plants that lived here millions of years ago, and the 3 regions of Arizona. This month we will be learning about the first people who lived here in AZ dating back to 9500 BCE, continuing through modern-day citizens.

### **6th grade- Mr. Fox**

6th grade just finished their first reading unit on "Talking a Stand." Students got the opportunity to read and learn about great people who chose to "fight" nonviolently for their beliefs. Great leaders, such as Martin Luther King, Gandhi, and Cesar Chavez reveled to us that even the most complex problems can be solved through nonviolent actions.

Our next unit is on "Early Civilization," which plays perfectly into our social studies classes. 6th grade has already learned about the Paleolithic Age and moving forward into the raise of great civilizations, such as Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece and China.

## **Other News**



## BOX TOPS!

It's time to collect box tops! Please bring your clipped box tops to school by Oct. 21st and earn money for MASSA. You can also earn eBox Tops by shopping online. Go to [http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=tovvuffab&et=1108019940374&s=-1&e=001rlkCB9RCn1s7W5IKJi2IV7dz9HtSI9KxA\\_AtWMotQKIHNCiLcE3Wo5KiFRWK6Uv5xK2GnMh67xN76f8ptBsSMOAa2z4n2SNsl\\_7Ts8KstDx4b5bIATHRA==](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=tovvuffab&et=1108019940374&s=-1&e=001rlkCB9RCn1s7W5IKJi2IV7dz9HtSI9KxA_AtWMotQKIHNCiLcE3Wo5KiFRWK6Uv5xK2GnMh67xN76f8ptBsSMOAa2z4n2SNsl_7Ts8KstDx4b5bIATHRA==). All shopping sessions conducted through the Box Tops for Education website earn money for our school.

## PUT YOUR TAX DOLLARS TO WORK-HELP YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION

Use your tax credit donation to enrich what MASSA has to offer. IT'S EASY! Arizona law allows taxpayers to receive a tax credit of up to \$200 for individual filers and up to \$400 for married filers. You can claim the tax credit when filing your 2011 Arizona State Income Tax. The school must receive the funds by December 31, 2011. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact the school office at (520) 889-1504.

Sincerely,

**Adriana Rodriguez**

*Principal*

Math and Science Success Academy

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