

Math and Science Success Academy

May 2011 Newsletter

Dear Sabrina,

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 our new electronic newsletter.



Math & Science Success Academy

Academics for Life. Values for Living.

News

Summer Learning Opportunities at MASSA

This Summer, MASSA will be hosting learning opportunities for new, existing, and prospective students entering grades K-6.

Space will be limited, so be on the lookout for more information!

If you believe you may be interested in tentatively signing your student up for these programs, or to get more details, please call Brenda at 889-1504.

Did You Know?

During the 2010-2011 school year, MASSA has done some amazing work! Here are just a few of the accomplishments our school can be proud of:

- The Student Council hosted the Rodeo Family Fun Night in February and raised \$121.
- The 2nd Grade classes raised \$136.12 for the Tsunami victims in Japan.
- The school has collected over 400 books from the Book Drive. Thank you to all the families that donated.
- MASSA hosted the Jump Rope for Heart event and raised \$3,194.26 for the American Heart Association.
- The Environmental Club has collected about 7,000 chip bags and about 9,100 drink pouches for recycling.

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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

We look forward to more successful service-related projects during the 2011-2012 school year!

Events



Calendar

We are springing into the final weeks of the school year. Take a look at the [calendar](#) for a list of all May has to offer!

Classroom Updates

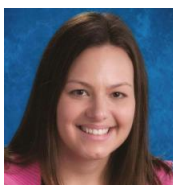


Kindergarten, Mrs. Padilla's Class

As the school year winds down, we are reviewing all of the concepts we have learned throughout the year.

In Math, we are reviewing reading time, counting money, reading graphs, addition, and subtraction. We are finishing our Kindergarten Language Arts program, so we will be moving on to the beginning of the 1st Grade curriculum.

The students have done such a great job this year and I am so proud of them! We are looking forward to our Kindergarten Graduation on May 20th at 9:00 a.m.



1st Grade, Ms. Sobel's Class

We have finished our Math lessons for the year, so we are now reviewing what we have learned over the past nine months.

In Reading, we will venture into the last unit for 1st Grade titled "I Am Brave". During this unit, we will talk about facing fears and what it takes to be a hero.

From now until the end of the year we have a special project, so please plan on visiting us as we show how we use our 1st Grade knowledge.



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

As we finish the last month of the school year, our concluding theme in the *Imagine-It!* program is "America's People". This unit is a great way to end the year because it encourages self-exploration. Students

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

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are asked to relate their own culture and heritage to the texts we read in class, as well as write their own realistic fiction story and biography to accompany this theme.

Our next texts in the "America's People" theme are a biography about Martin Luther King, Jr. followed by *Jingle Dancer*, the story of a young girl who dreams of dancing at a Native American pow wow. Lastly, we will read a biography titled *Cesar E. Chavez* which is a nonfiction selection about the Mexican-American hero.

Our concluding Science unit is about Earth and space. In class, students used flashlights to demonstrate how day and night occurs on Earth, and we also made flip-books to show how the moon appears to move across the sky. We will be visiting the Flandrau Science Center and Planetarium as a way to wrap-up what we have learned about our world.



3rd Grade, Ms. Peña's Class

As we get ready to close out this school year, we will be very busy in our class!

We recently received ten caterpillars that we are observing and we are eagerly awaiting for them to cozy up into their cocoons. The students are keeping "Butterfly Life Cycle" journals and recording all the changes they see through drawings and notes. We are looking forward to the day we can release our butterflies!

In Reading we are focusing on communities and how communities will change over time. We are looking at how actions from the past affect communities later in time. We will also explore how we can help protect the area we live in for people of the future.

Please have your child continue working on memorizing their Math facts. Flash cards and skill workbooks are a great investment for the Summer and will keep your child's mind working.

Lastly, we will be having an End of the Year Celebration. More information about the celebration will be sent home during the second week in May.

4th Grade, Ms. Reid's Class

For the month of May, students will be working on a new project about Arizona. Students will create a brochure on a tourist attraction in Arizona. This assignment will incorporate the Arizona Technology, Math and Social Studies standards. Students will first go on a mock "road trip" through Arizona, solving real-life problems using their Math and problem-solving skills. On May 10th, students will be taking a trip to Downtown Tucson to the Joel D. Valdez Library to learn researching skills. In

particular, students will learn how to cite sources and take out Accelerated Reader levelled books.

Recently during a project for Earth Day, students cooperatively created solar ovens out of pizza boxes and baked chocolate chip cookies. To continue developing our understanding of sustainability, students will be learning about hybrid cars and different types of energy as part of the Science curriculum.

In Language Arts, students will be focusing on the theme "America on the Move". As part of this theme, students will be learning about immigration in the United States, the Expansion Era, and the Dust Bowl of the 1930s.



5th Grade, Mrs. Tumminello's Class

The 5th Grade class has a lot of exciting events during the month of May! They are looking forward to the Spring Concert, a field trip to see *Pocahontas* performed by the Tucson Youth Theater, our Grades 5-6 Spring Dance, and then Field Day!

Between all of the fun events that are happening, students will still be continuing with the regular curriculum and need to make sure that they work hard to finish the year strong! Please review the progress report grades and see Mrs. Tumminello with any questions.

To help your child be successful the final weeks of school, please check the planner and online homework daily to confirm that your child has completed all of their assignments. Reading, Spelling, Vocabulary, and Math practice at home is vital to a student's success. Weekly reading logs are due the following Monday and late work is not accepted. Accelerated Reader tests are every Tuesday. The Accelerated Reader book does not need to be brought to school; however, the student should know the title and author of the book.

Thank you so much for all of your support this year!

6th Grade, Mr. Fox's Class

The last month of 6th Grade is here, but school isn't over yet!

Right now, we are finishing up the last unit in Reading. The unit theme is all about art and its impact on society. Students have the opportunity to read biographies of famous dancers, painters, sculptors, architects, and writers. In addition to learning about these influential people, we will also be discussing how their art has changed and shaped society in a positive way.

In History, we are working our way toward modern times. We recently began a unit about the Middle Ages and are currently learning about the Magna Carta, the Crusades, feudalism, and the Norman Conquest. When we finish this time period, we will learn about the Renaissance period.

For Science, we are learning about water and the atmosphere. We will be spending a good portion of the time talking about oceans, lakes, rivers, and ground water, as well as air pressure, density, the troposphere, stratosphere, mesosphere, and thermosphere. We will conclude our 6th Grade Science year with knowledge about the transfer of energy through radiation, convection and conduction.

End of the year finals are approaching! Finals are an accumulation of all the material we have covered throughout the year and students will be provided the opportunity to review the information before the tests.

We hope to conclude the year with a fun Field Day, which will give all the students one last chance to enjoy the splendors of elementary school before the ever-important jump to middle school!

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.

As you can see, it is going to be a busy and important couple of months here at the Math and Science Success Academy. Our students will have many opportunities to shine. 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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