



Fall 2016
Volume 2, Issue 1

CHAMELEON CHRONICLE

WELCOME LETTER FROM THE CEO

Greetings AAS Family!

Welcome to our 2016-17 school year! This is an exciting time to be part of our family, as we work to expand and enhance the educational program we offer our scholars.

I hope you have seen some of these great enhancements, especially our engagement offerings. Not only have we increased our field trips and enrichment activities each month, but we are creating events and activities for our learning coaches as well. I hope you have been able to join one of our weekly Learning Coach Lounges, or listen to the recordings from these lounges.



J.J. Lewis
President & CEO

I am also proud to share some additional enhancements, starting with the formation of our Parent Advisory Council (PAC). More information can be found on our [website](#), including bio information for our parents who are serving on the PAC. They will meet monthly, and welcome input and feedback from all of our families! We are also forming our Scholar Leadership Council, and have information on our [site](#) for interested scholars who may wish to get more involved at AAS.

Connect with AAS! There are so many great initiatives going on this year, and I would be remiss if I did not encourage you to follow us on all of our social networking sites. A complete listing can be found on the last page of this newsletter. We have also expanded our [Meet Our Team](#) page and I encourage you to visit the page to learn more about all of our staff. I also welcome you to connect with me... please feel free to eMail me at jj.lewis@aascalifornia.org, message me in ParentSquare, or engage with me on Twitter at @lewis1jj.



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Academy of
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What's New At AAS



The 2016-2017 school year brings many new additions to AAS: ParentSquare, i-Ready, Learning Coach Lounge, and an updated offering of AAS Scholar Clubs.

ParentSquare: A safe and secure platform for all school-to-home communication between teachers, staff, and learning coaches. AAS teachers and staff use ParentSquare to reach learning coaches in their preferred communication methods whether it be e-mail, mobile, text, voice, app, or web portal.

i-Ready: A single K-12 adaptive diagnostic for reading and mathematics that pinpoints scholar needs down to the sub-skill level, and scholar ongoing progress monitoring showing scholars are on track to achieve end-of-year targets.

Learning Coach Lounge: A weekly virtual meeting presented by our school coordinators that teaches parents the skills and knowledge they need to help their scholar(s) succeed at Academy of Arts and Sciences. Learning Coach Lounge is every Wednesday at 10 am. This virtual presentation lasts 30 minutes, and is followed by a live Q and A with presenters and learning coaches.

AAS Scholar Clubs: AAS currently offers a wide variety of clubs: Scholar Leadership Council, Performing Arts, National Honor Society, Chess, Outdoor Activities, Dance, Photography, Fitness, Movie, Book, Cultural Exchange, Future Sciences, Creative Writing, and Running.

“The Enrollment Team has expanded in various ways! We have created new tools to help families...”

For more information regarding clubs, contact our Scholar Engagement Coordinator, Rebecca MacAlpine: rebecca.macalpine@aascalifornia.org.



AAS IS GROWING!

We currently have over 1,100 AAS scholars! We are now enrolling for Track C which starts on October 31st!



Message from the Enrollment Team



*Back row left to right: Dario Eminente and Benjamin Caudillo.
Front front left to right: Danielle DelNegro, Nicole Mitra, and Vanessa Plascencia.*

The Enrollment Team has expanded in various ways! We have created helpful tools to help families know what to expect during our enrollment process such as our Enrollment Packet Tutorial and Road to Enrollment Timeline which can be found on our [AASCommunicates](#) Youtube channel.

We are offering a new program this school year called Home Study. Our Home Study scholars receive instructional funds that are set aside and managed by an Educational Facilitator (EF) for each scholar to use towards the purchase of approved, non-sectarian educational materials, curriculum, and services. Parents, EF's, and scholars work together to make purchasing decisions based on scholar's goals, learning styles and academic progress. Parents should be fully committed to creating a compelling learning environment, selecting appropriate curriculum, and providing challenging lessons.

Our enrollment for the 2016-17 school year continues! We are currently enrolling for our both online and Home Study programs through March 3rd, 2017!



Parent Suggestion Box



Scholar Suggestion Box

AAS always welcomes learning coaches' (parents) and scholars' feedback. For any questions, comments, concerns, or suggestions click on the links below:

[Parent Suggestion Box](#)

[Scholar Suggestion Box](#)

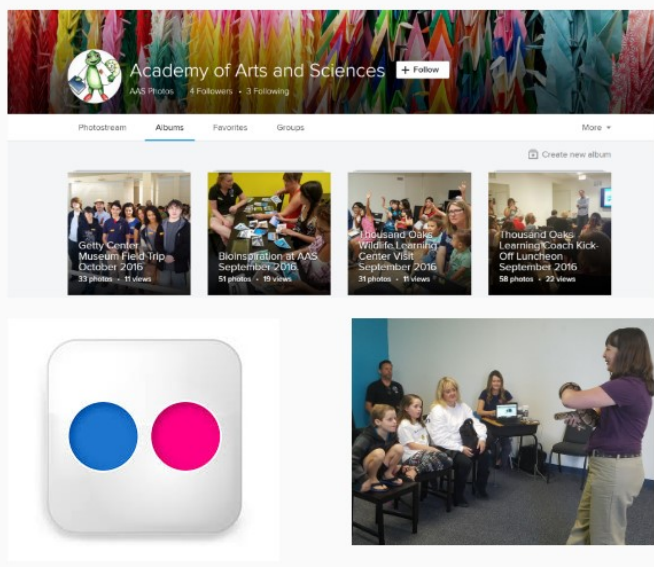
AAS HIGHLIGHTS

From AAS field trips to enrichment activities, AAS scholars have had the opportunity to meet, mingle, and participate in educational activities which inspire collaboration and growth.



From top left to right: AAS Getty Museum Field Trip, and AAS Thousand Oaks Wildlife Learning Center Enrichment Activity at the Thousand Oaks Learning Center.

From bottom left to right: AAS LA County Fair Field Trip, and BionInspiration Enrichment Activity at our San Diego Learning Center.



There has been no shortage of AAS Enrichment activities or field trips this year. Photos of all enrichment events and field trips can be found in our [Flickr](#) albums.

AAS PARTNERS WITH TEAMBONDING TO SUPPLY BACK TO SCHOOL!

Thousand Oaks, CA – AAS partnered with TeamBonding during their recent All-Staff Retreat to fill 30 backpacks with back to school supplies as part of a team building activity. Close to 100 staff participated in the activity and filled the backpacks for Mountain Empire USD. AAS selected Mountain Empire USD as the beneficiary because the retreat was in San Diego County, and they are the authorizer for San Diego County, in addition to being great partners in education.

“We truly value our partnership with the Academy of Arts and Sciences. We have already given out some of the backpacks to our students who need the school supplies and they were received with great enthusiasm and appreciation,” said Dr. Kathy Granger, Mountain Empire USD Superintendent. The “Tools For Schools” program is part of the TeamBonding’s Corporate Social Responsibility Team Building series. This program is a fun, interactive, and productive way to bring teams together and unite them toward a common goal of helping the local community. School supplies can be expensive, especially for middle and high school scholars. “Tools For Schools” provided a great way for AAS to help make a difference in our community.



Academy of Arts & Sciences

Elementary School (K-5)

AAS SCHOLARS HAVE APPEARED ON THIS YEAR'S AMERICA'S GOT TALENT!

Thousand Oaks, CA – Academy of Arts & Sciences (AAS) third grade scholar Brooklyn Nicole Rockett and her brother, fifth grade scholar Kadan Bart Rockett, will be the youngest magician/illusionists to be featured on NBC's America's Got Talent as contestants.

"As Brooklyn's teacher, I would like to say how very happy I am that she is in our program working very hard, and starting her career in show business," said Carrie Talcott, AAS Elementary Teacher. "She is showing great courage by going on national television to perform for America. I wish her great success during this contest, and we will be cheering her on."

"The entire AAS family is proud of our scholars Brooklyn and Kadan for being part of America's Got Talent and showcasing their talents as magicians and illusionists," remarked J.J. Lewis, AAS President & CEO. "I know I speak for their fellow scholars, and all of our staff, when we wish them to best of luck in this competition. All of our scholars have amazing talents and it is great to see Brooklyn and Kadan having the opportunity to showcase theirs on the national stage. We will all be watching and cheering them on!"



Welcome to the 2016-17 school year! I am very excited to be your Elementary School Coordinator. This year is going to be very exciting for our scholars. Our teachers are preparing exciting engaging lessons for all of you in our new learning labs. In addition, we will be having some very exciting projects in the near future. I am always available to talk to you by phone, email, or virtually in my classroom. This is going to be a great year!!

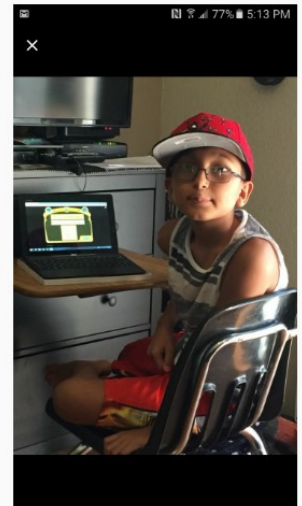


Steven Thompson
Elementary School
Coordinator

Our AAS elementary school scholars have had no shortage of educational fun and learning since the start of the 2016-2017 school year!

Bio Poem Planning Page

First Name katherine
 3 Words That Describe You funny, curios, and awesome
 Who enjoys walking the dog Olivia
 Who is able to build a robot
 Who feels happy
 Who wonders _____
 Who fears sharks
 Who cares about mommy
 Who dreams of unicorns



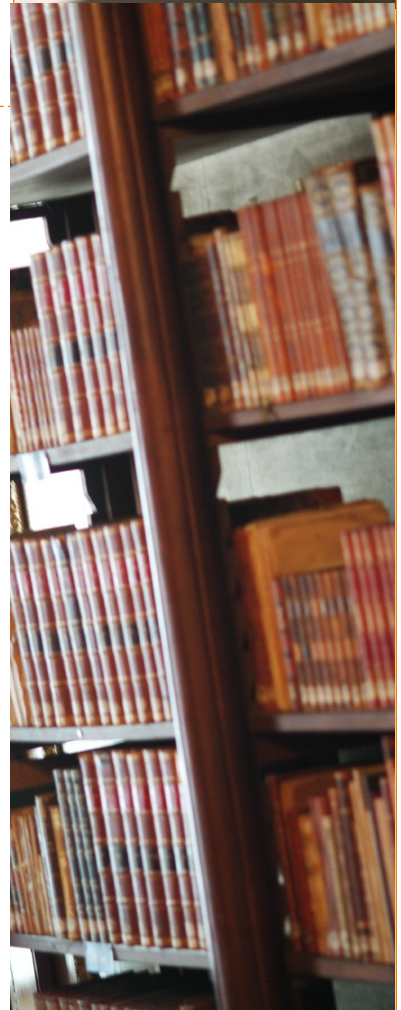
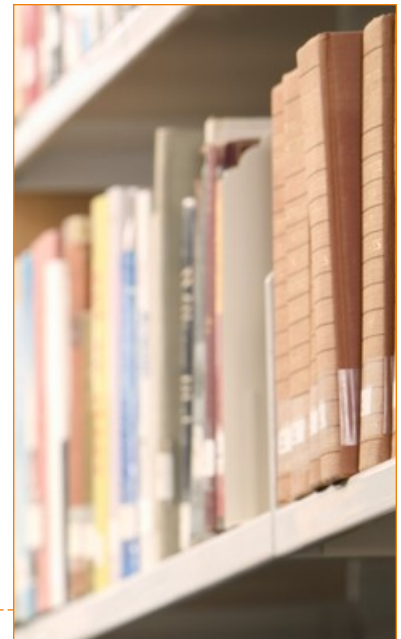
Our elementary scholars include artists, creative thinkers, dojo champions, and enthusiastic learners!

Middle School (6-8)

Melissa Blitzstein here, your Middle School Coordinator, so excited for what is ahead in the 2016-2017 school year! There are so many ways for scholars and learning coaches to get involved this year and I look forward to meeting many of you there. Scholars, be sure to attend your weekly Learning Labs run by your content teachers. This is a time for you to learn something new, connect with your teacher and peers, and participate in exciting activities. Parents, sign up for Parent Square, if you haven't already, to be informed of Field Trips and Enrichments that are going on in your local area. Should you have any questions, feel free to e-mail, call, or text me and I will be happy to assist. This school year is going to be our best yet! Go AAS Chameleons!



Melissa Blitzstein
Middle School
Coordinator

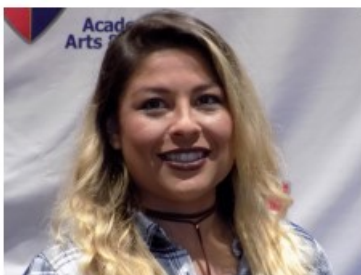


“Scholars, be sure to attend your weekly Learning Labs run by your teachers.”



Nancy Cisneros
Middle School Advisor

Important reminder from AAS 8th Grade Middle School Advisor, Nancy Martinez: After October 14th AAS staff will only send emails to scholars newly assigned AAS email addresses. If you haven't already done so, please reach out to your advisor to receive your new email address and temporary password, or if you need help logging in to your new AAS email address. Please start using your new AAS email address for all AAS related communication today!



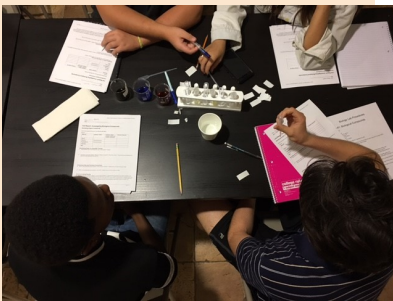
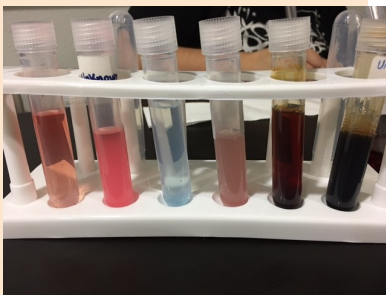
Crystal Nunez
Middle School Advisor

7th Grade Advisor, Crystal Nunez, has some great advice for our middle school scholars! Click [here!](#)



Saturday, October 1st, marked our first in-person Science Wet Labs. About 50 scholars participated in the opportunity to work alongside their peers (live and streamed) as they discovered how to see the different biological compounds that make up all organisms (living things).

Our next Wet Labs will be on **November 5, 2016**. Please keep an eye in [ParentSquare](#) for announcements!



HIGH SCHOOL (9-12)



Charlotte McClain
High School Coordinator

Hello, I'm Charlotte McClain, the High School Coordinator for AAS, and I'm excited for the great year ahead with AAS. This 2016-2017 school year promises to be a year filled with growth, success, and opportunities for our AAS high scholars. I look forward to unlocking opportunities, embracing potential, and inspiring excellence!

From mock trials, inspirational quotes, and science wet labs, our AAS scholars are continuously given the resources they need to be set up for success!

AAS Advisors are always there to offer positive reinforcement!

Anastasia-

Awesome job! Congrats on getting that test re-taken. I love how motivated you always are to stay on top of things!

Have a wonderful rest of your day,

Mrs. Humpherys

Hello Lavaghn,

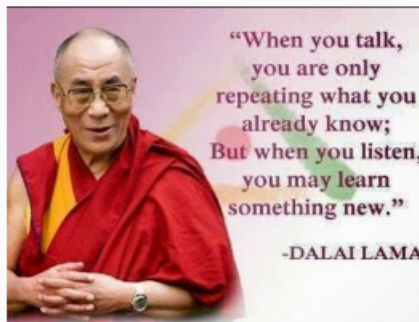
How are you today? I am excited to let you know that you're one of my high performing scholars! All of that hard work is paying off! Keep going strong, and if there is anything I can do to help you please let me know!
Laurie Pompa

Hello Sandy,

I'm so glad you were able to print out the assignment pacing guides for each class. That's such an important first step! Please feel free to reach out to me again with any other questions.

Have a great day,

Melody Duran



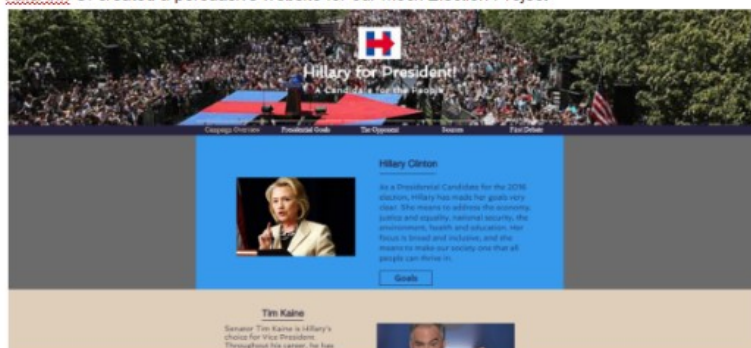
Math Scholars –

Congratulations on starting the new semester. As we start this journey of new and exciting math, remember this quote from Albert Einstein: "It's not that I'm so smart, it's just that I stay with problems longer". Keep trying! Keep working on your assignments! Ask your teacher if you have questions! Learning Labs are a great way to review and learn new material – come to the live sessions, learn and interact with other math scholars. You can do it! – Ms. Woodley

"It's not that I'm so smart, it's just that I stay with problems longer."

–Albert Einstein

AllieAnn C. created a persuasive website for our Mock Election Project



AAS Counseling Team



Back Row left to right: Counselor, Edith Cruz, Counseling Services Manager, Debra Stephen, Counselor, Jacob Samples.

Front row left to right: Counselor, Gabriela Ayala, Counselor, Gabee Gonzalez.

The AAS Counseling Team has a lot of important information to share with our high school scholars, such as but not limited to: Acceleration Course Options Program (ACOP),

college entrance exams, CollegeGo app, financial aid, CA Dream Act, scholarships, Cal States, UC's, and virtual tours. For more information, click [here](#).

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, October 19th-Counseling Road Trip

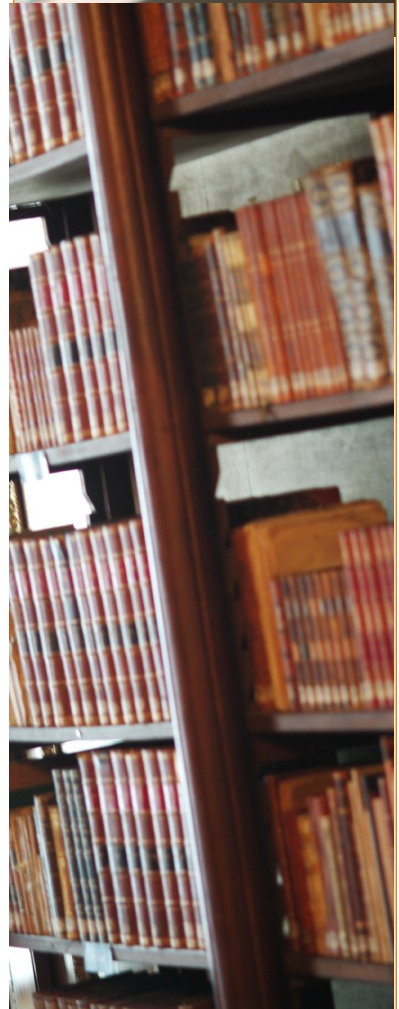
Friday, October 21st-Harvest Celebration and Pumpkin Decoration Contest at Thousand Oaks Learning Center

Friday, October 28th-Harvest Celebration and Pumpkin Decoration Contest at San Diego Learning Center

Monday, December 12th- Charter School NBA Night, Clippers V. Trailblazers

Tuesday, December 20th-Charter School NBA Night, Warriors V. Utah Jazz

Visit [ParentSquare](#) to RSVP for these great events & **more!**



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ACADEMY OF ARTS & SCIENCES

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to inspire and develop innovative, creative, self-directed learners, one scholar at a time.

VISION STATEMENT

Our vision is to create a collaborative virtual learning community, inspiring scholars to appreciate the ways in which arts and sciences nurture a curiosity for life-long learning, and prepare scholars to take responsibility for their future success.

CORE VALUES

Achievement

Communication

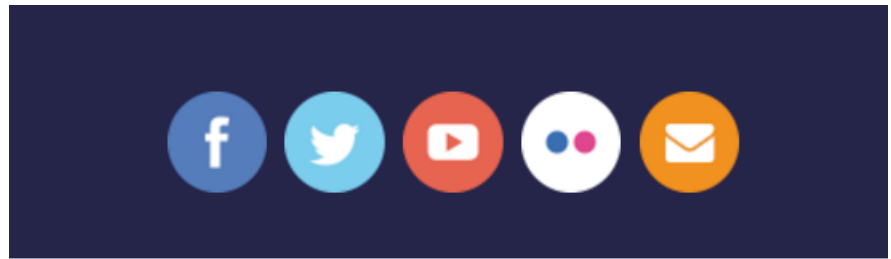
Integrity

Respect

Teamwork

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