



Winter 2017
Volume 2, Issue 2

CHAMELEON CHRONICLE

Greetings AAS Family!

Happy 2017! We are so honored that you are part of our family, working to become innovative, creative, self-directed learners! The start of 2017 has been busy for us, as we celebrated National School Choice Week, the Great Kindness Challenge, and National School Board Recognition Month. Thank you for celebrating with us! I would like to take a few moments to thank our Board of Directors for their continued dedication and service to AAS – THANK YOU Dr. Cohen, Mr. Cummings, Dr. Granger, Mr. Koblick and Mr. McDonald. I encourage everyone to visit our [Board](#) page to learn more about our governing board and the work they do to support our scholars.



J.J. Lewis
President & CEO

Speaking of 2017 – preparations are being made to celebrate our 8th graders who will be entering 9th grade next year, and our graduating seniors who are part of the Class of 2017! We have commencement ceremonies and 8th Grade Promotion ceremonies planned for June, in Fresno, Rohnert Park, San Diego, and Thousand Oaks. Our amazing Counseling Services staff will be connecting with eligible scholars and families in the coming weeks to talk about these opportunities to celebrate your achievements.

And while we are at it, we have started to think about the start of the 2017-18 school year! I will be hosting Parent Town Halls in February to share exciting updates and information on our plans to be your educational partner in the next school year. Watch your mailboxes, and inboxes, for more information soon. I am excited to share what we have in store during these Parent Town Halls next month!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Welcome Letter from the CEO	1
What's New At AAS	2
Enrollment Team Message.....	2
AAS Highlights	3
Elementary (K-5).....	4
Middle school (6-8).....	5
High School (9-12)	6
AAS Counseling.....	7
Home Study.....	8
Engagement At AAS.....	9
Scholar of the Month.....	10
SBAC Testing.....	11
Stay Connected With AAS.....	12



Academy of
Arts & Sciences

What's New At AAS

The 2016-2017 school year continues to bring many new additions to AAS: Success Academy and 8th grade promotion ceremony.

8th Grade Promotion Dates & Locations:

Thursday, June 8: Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park
 Friday, June 9: Fresno State University, Fresno
 Monday, June 12: Sunset Hills Country Club, Thousand Oaks
 Tuesday, June 13: San Diego State University, San Diego

Our Class of 2017 Commencement Ceremonies will be held on the same dates at the same locations.
 More information coming soon!

Success Academy: An opportunity for additional academic online i-Ready instruction for those that could benefit from curriculum that spans grades Kindergarten - 8th. Our recent i-Ready diagnostic helped us to identify scholars that are working at or above grade level, as well as those who could use additional support to reach grade level mastery in certain skills. This program can meet the needs of all types of scholars as it is adaptive to each scholar's individual needs. For more information, contact Scholar Intervention Coordinator, Crystal Villegas: crystal.villegas@aascalifornia.org

Success Academy

Weekly Strive for 45! Goal-achievers

Week of January 9-13

Anabella S	Andrew S
Alexis G	Dylan S
Wyatt D	Selah G
Ember G	Thomas C
Matthew S	Ryan C
Nathan G	Giovannie A
Kyle W	Kallel B
Seeri H	Vanessa W
Zakary P	
Aiyana B	

“The Enrollment Team is delighted to be on the forefront assisting current, returning, and prospective families,” said Nicole Mitra, Enrollment Coordinator.

Message From The Enrollment Team

Enroll Now

AAS CONTINUES TO GROW!

We currently serve over 1,200 AAS scholars!

The Road to Enrollment
 Academy of Arts and Sciences

Check out the [Road to Enrollment](#) video!



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

Greetings from The Enrollment Team,

Many things are changing at AAS, and the Enrollment Team is glad to be on the forefront assisting current and returning families. With the enrollment season coming to an end, our team is very excited for the 2017-2018 school year.

The Enrollment Team is still currently enrolling scholars for the 2016-2017 school year! We will be enrolling scholars up until March 6, 2017, with paperwork submitted no later than February 28, 2017 in order to qualify.

If you are interested in enrolling a sibling, or referring AAS to family and friends, we will begin enrollment for the 2017-2018 school year towards the end of March 2017. Stay tuned for more information!

Questions? Email: enrollment@aascalifornia.org

Track	Start Date	All Paperwork Due <small>(All paperwork submitted on this date must have NO errors)</small>
C10 <small>(Late Start Cohort; still includes Mon-Sat work)</small>	February 7th, 2017	January 31st, 2017
C11 <small>(Late Start Cohort; still includes Mon-Sat work)</small>	February 22nd, 2017	February 14th, 2017
C12 <small>(Late Start Cohort; still includes Mon-Sat work)</small>	March 6th, 2017	February 28th, 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](#)

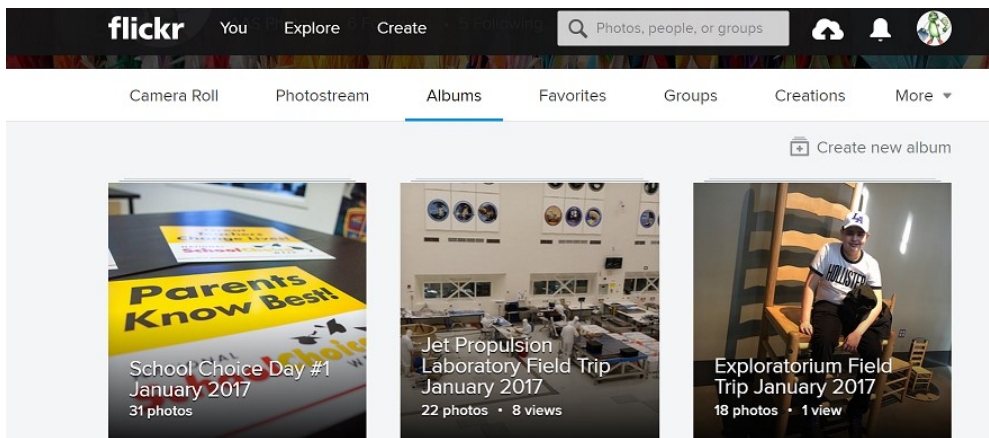
AAS HIGHLIGHTS

Our AAS scholars have enjoyed our monthly field trip and enrichment activities.



From top left to right: Underwood Pumpkin Patch Field Trip and California Space Center Field Trip.

From bottom left to right: Color Me Mine Field Trip and Beatrix Potter Enrichment Activity at our Thousand Oaks Learning Center.



Photos of all of our field trips and enrichment events can be found in our [Flickr](#) albums.

[MOUNTAIN EMPIRE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT RENEWS ACADEMY OF ARTS & SCIENCES' \(AAS\) SAN DIEGO CHARTER!](#)

Thousand Oaks, CA – The Mountain Empire Unified School District approved the renewal of the charter petition for Academy of Arts & Sciences: San Diego at their regularly scheduled board meeting on Tuesday, December 13, 2016. Their decision continues the partnership between AAS and the district to serve the needs of scholars looking for unique educational opportunities.

“It is a great honor to have our AAS San Diego charter petition renewed by our partners, the Mountain Empire USD,” said J.J. Lewis, AAS President & CEO. “We are committed to providing a robust educational experience to the scholars we serve throughout the region and look forward to growing these opportunities for our current and prospective scholars and their families.”

The board approved the charter renewal for another five-year term after a comprehensive review by district staff, along with comments from AAS scholars, parents, partners, and staff during last month’s Public Hearing. AAS currently serves close to 400 scholars who reside in San Diego, Imperial, Orange, and Riverside Counties through its virtual program.

AAS is a growing independent study charter school providing a rigorous virtual education to scholars in grades TK through 12. Scholars come from various backgrounds and experiences and are looking for individualized educational choices that fit their schedules, lifestyles, and interests. AAS teachers and staff provide direct instruction in virtual classroom sessions, offer field trips and enrichment activities, and use research-based programs to benchmark and support scholar success throughout the year.



Academy of Arts & Sciences

Elementary K-5

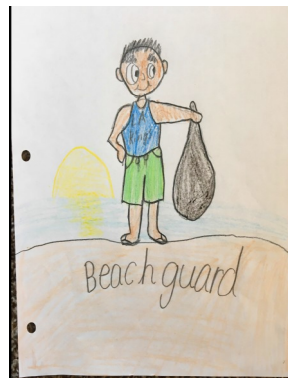
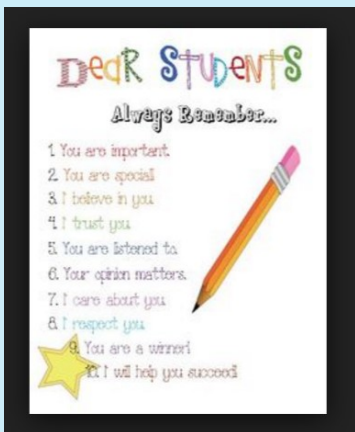
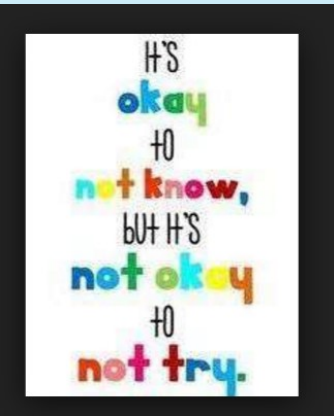
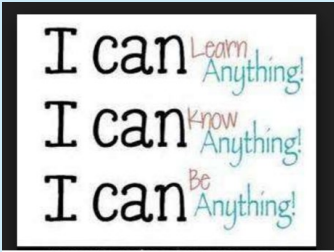


Steven Thompson
Elementary School
Coordinator

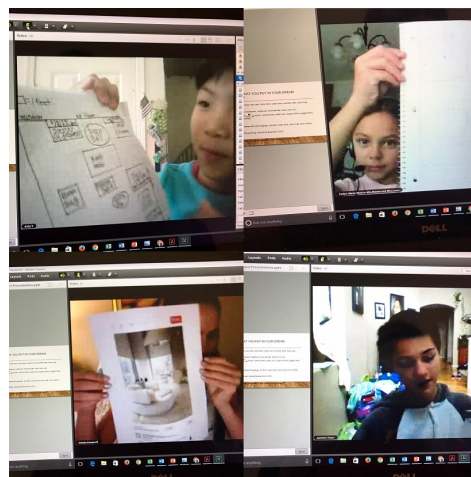
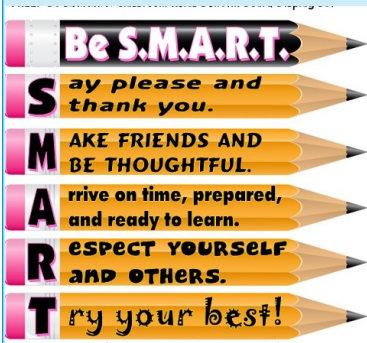
Happy New Year! We are excited to start a new year at AAS! We hope that all of our scholars and learning coaches had a wonderful time resting and relaxing! Please take the time to listen to the weekly video from Mr. Thompson! For 2017 we are changing it to Afternoon Minutes with Mr. Thompson, the weekly message will arrive via email at 5pm every Monday. Please make sure to watch it because there is vital information given each week.

In November, the 2nd and 3rd grade Scholars identified a real life issue, formulate research questions, gather data, and design and implement an action plan to help better their community. Donating blankets to homeless, picking up trash at local parks, reading to kids at the library, and holiday toy drives are just a few of the awesome action plans created. It has been amazing to watch them become heroes in their communities!

“It has been amazing to watch our scholars become heroes in their communities,” said Ms. Fisher.



From left to right: Isaac's superhero, Koa's superhero, and Mazzy's superhero.



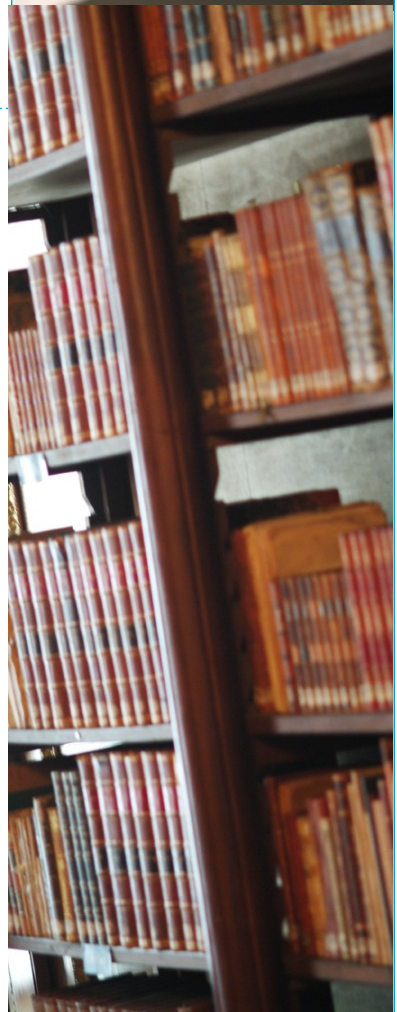
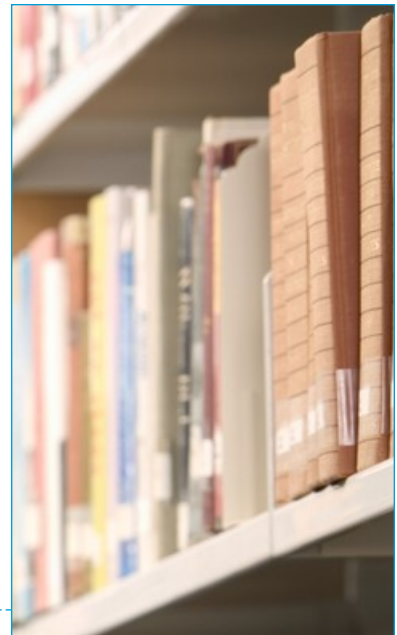
AAS elementary scholars share their work with other scholars during weekly learning labs.

Middle School 6-8



Melissa Blitzstein
Middle School
Coordinator

Happy New Year Middle School Families! I hope you had a wonderful holiday season with your family and are ready to jump headfirst into 2017! Your teachers are teaching weekly Learning Labs and Q&A sessions that should not be missed! Learning Labs will include skills and content from the course while Q&As are a good place to come if you need some 1-on-1 assistance from your teacher. There, your teacher can work with you to answer questions on assignments and help you understand concepts. Both Learning Labs and Q&A sessions are important to scholar's success! Don't miss out! For the new year, I will recommence sending out Monday Morning Messages, as I did last year. These short messages will include important information and tips for your scholar's success. Be sure to check your email every Monday for this message and don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns. I look forward to a great second semester! Cheers!



“Both Learning Labs and Q&A sessions are important to a scholar’s success,” said Ms. Blitzstein.

Updates & Reminders

- Science Olympiad Competition- February 18th
- iReady testing window: Scholars will take a math and reading assessment with their teachers in Learning Labs. See pacing guides for specific dates:

Track B: Feb 7th-10th

Track C: March 7th-10th

8th Grade: Physical Science students just completed a Physics unit in which they learned about the dynamics of flight. This culminated in a Mars Lander Engineering design project that was simulated with an egg drop. Scholars were given background and tips from guest speakers at NASA JPL.

*

7th Grade: Scholars were challenged to become experts on one phylum within the animal kingdom and make slides to teach each other about it at the Animal Kingdom Prezi Gallery Walk. Once they completed the research and slide stages, they got to take a tour through the entire Animal Kingdom, answering student-created questions as they go.

*

6th Grade: Scholars have been learning about advertising and has completed several assignments showing their knowledge on how to create new products, market them, and design advertisements to sell them. In Language Arts they created not only an advertisement, but also created the product they wanted to sell.



Parent Advisory Council

The Parent Advisory Council serves to provide parent feedback on school policies and procedures at the Academy of Arts and Sciences to ensure that they are consistent with its Mission, Vision, Values, and Strategic Plan. Members act as a committed group of advisors to the staff and administration, regarding issues that affect the scholars and school of AAS. They provide feedback and insight from the parent's perspective on school process, policies and initiatives to ensure that the needs of parents and their families are included as decisions are made. They also serve as an advisory, not a decision-making body, that makes recommendations, encourages brainstorming and provides opportunities for parent involvement on committees.

PAC Members:

Lisa Robotham, Chair

Theresa Nordstrom
Christopher, Member

Marissa Peralta, Member

Bob Nahm, Member



HIGH SCHOOL 9-12



Janae Smith, High School Coordinator

We are half way through the school year and still going strong! Our high school scholars have really put their best foot forward and are doing an amazing job this year. During second semester we are encouraging scholars who are interested in National Honors Society to reach out to their teachers for additional information to be involved in this amazing opportunity. Also, acceptance letters are coming in for some of our seniors and we are excited to share those universities of choice as the big decisions are made. The high school team is also excited to have our terrific scholars participate and take the i-ready assessment to show off what they already know and help teachers guide instruction and provide specific help to those who need it. Graduation is also fast approaching and we are all looking forward to seeing scholars continue to shine at this multi-location events in June. Our wonderful high school scholars and team, let's end the school year even better than semester 1!

“Our high school scholars have really put their best foot forward and are doing an amazing job this year,” said Ms. Smith.

Updates & Reminders

OUR LABS HAVE MOVED! Our Biology and Chemistry Wet Labs have been changed from the first Saturday of the month to the first FRIDAY of the month. Please reach out to the Biology and Chemistry teachers for more information on how you can attend or stream in.

iReady testing window: Scholars will take a math and reading assessment with their teachers in Learning Labs. See pacing guides for specific dates:

Track B: Feb 7th-10th

Track C: March 7th-10th

Semester 2 start dates:

Track B: February 6th

Track C: January 24th



Congratulations to Adam Omary for his acceptance at Southern Illinois University! Adam has also received a scholarship that will grant in In-State tuition costs and a scholar award of \$6000. Way to go Adam!

Congratulations to Eunji Shim for entering the first round at Juilliard, NEC and Oberlin Music Conservatory.

National Honor Society will be recruiting this spring. Contact our NHS advisor [Derek Yip](#) if you need more information.



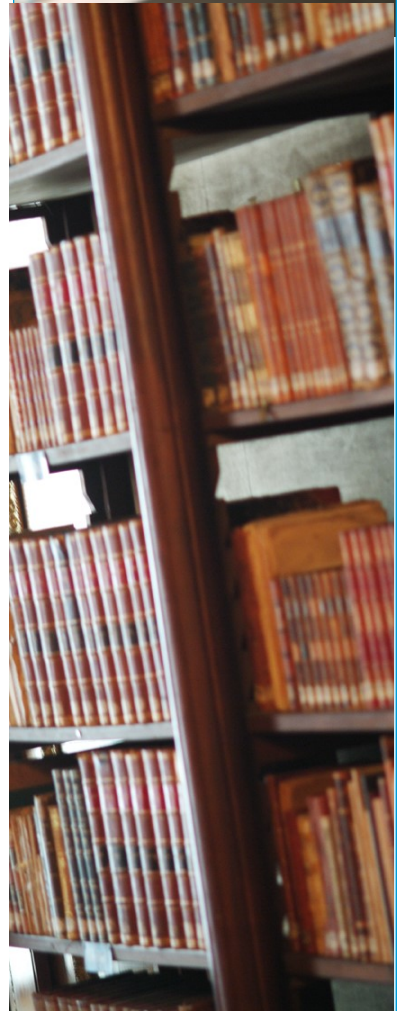
AAS COUNSELING TEAM



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

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

Greetings from the Counseling Team! As we move into the second half of the school year we want to encourage you to reach out to your counselor for support with academic, personal/social and college and career readiness needs. Please use the following link to connect with your counselor - <http://tinyurl.com/Request-Counselor-Meeting>.



NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK PHOTO CHALLENGE

Take a photo for the day's theme and share on Twitter, Facebook or Instagram with the hashtag #NSCW17.

FEB. 6

MONDAY Happy National School Counseling Week (Download our sign from www.schoolcounselor.org/nscw)

FEB. 8

WEDNESDAY Appreciation (Download our "I ♥ my school counselor because" sign)

FEB. 7

TUESDAY Put the School in School Counselor (Have one of these shirts? Let's see you with it. Don't have one yet? Download our sign.)

FEB. 9

THURSDAY Passion (Download our "I ♥ being a school counselor because" sign)

FEB. 10

FRIDAY College/Career Readiness (Wear your college gear or download our "I want to be a" sign for students)



National School Counseling Week 2017, "School Counseling: Helping Students Realize Their Potential," will be celebrated from Feb. 6-10, 2017, to focus public attention on the unique contribution of school counselors within U.S. school systems. National School Counseling Week, sponsored by American School Counselors Association (ASCA), highlights the tremendous impact school counselors can have in helping students achieve school success and plan for a career.

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](#).



Congratulations to our Fall 2017 graduates! We are proud of your accomplishments and wish you the best in your future endeavors!

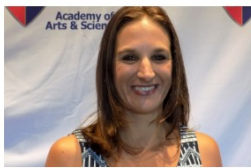
Synovia K., Blake C., Amanda S., Vanessa A., Rigo N., Melody M., Ashley G.



HOME STUDY



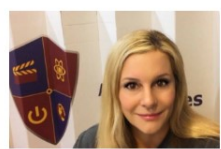
Wendy Sottile
Educational Facilitator



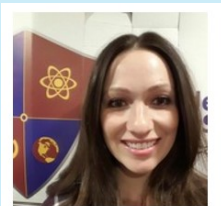
Sharlie Walker
Educational Facilitator



Amy Wormald
Educational Facilitator



Cristina Planchon
Educational Facilitator



Kelli McCauley
Educational Facilitator



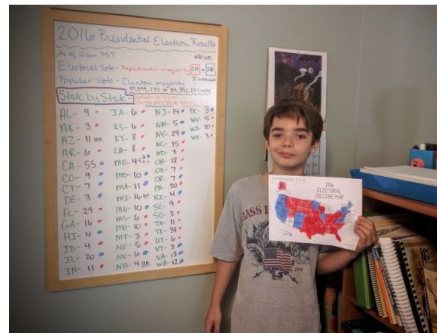
Kristy Smith
Home Study Coordinator

Happy 2017! I hope you enjoyed your break and your new year is off to a great start! I'm excited to be your new Home Study Coordinator, working alongside the Educational Facilitators to assist you in your homeschooling journey. We are proud of our scholars and the learning that they are demonstrating in their Seesaw submissions, from literary reflections to science in the kitchen to field trips exploring history. The dedication you show to your children's education is remarkable, and we are grateful to be a part of it.

“We are proud of our scholars and the learning they’re demonstrating in their Seesaw submissions,” said Ms. Smith.

Survey Opportunity: We hope you are enjoying being a part of the Academy of Arts & Sciences' Home Study Program. We are very excited about our program, and we'd love to get your feedback. We would appreciate it if you could complete the following quick survey. Thank you!

Click here: [Home Study Survey](#)



Sibling scholars John (Grade 8) and Annalise (Grade 5) won gold in their Jiu-Jitsu tournament.



Artwork by Layla, Grade 11

The Schott brothers did a unit on the U.S. political election process. They watched the debates, talked about the nominees, researched the state and county ballot measures, accompanied their parents to the polls, watched and recorded the results by state, analyzed the Electoral College system, and made observations about the popular vs. electoral results, who voted for whom by region, and votes by age.

ENGAGEMENT AT AAS



Rebecca MacAlpine
Scholar Engagement
Coordinator

Scholar Engagement Coordinator, Rebecca MacAlpine, works diligently to provide our scholars with monthly field trips and enrichment activities.

For more information on upcoming events, click [here](#).



UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan 27:

- **LEGOLAND**
- RSVP's are closed for this event and tickets have already been purchased

Jan 30:

- **iFly Ontario**
- Scholars~ Free, Adults~ Free, Non-Enrolled Youth~ \$20

Jan 31:

- **Young Chef's Academy Fresno**
- Scholars~ Free, All Other Guests~ \$15

Feb 1:

- **Natural History Museum of LA County Homeschool Day**
- Free event for scholars and learning coaches

Feb 2- Afternoon:

- **AAS Movie Day**
- Four Different Theater Locations- Fairfield, Fresno, Simi Valley and San Diego. Tickets provided for a limited number of guests at each location. Movie will be "Hidden Figures" but if it is not playing at selected theaters on date- movie day will be rescheduled in respective areas.

Feb 2- Evening:

- **Reagan Library Film Festival**
- Free event, Formal Attire, Very Limited Spots Available

Feb 3:

- **Ronald McDonald House Inland Empire Tour**
- Tour will be the conclusion to our Donation Drive, guests can bring items from Ronald McDonald House Inland Empire Wish List. All guests are free. Limited spots available.

Feb 7:

- **Thousand Oaks Enrichment: David Prather World of Myths**
- Free event held at our Thousand Oaks Learning Center

Feb 10:

- **Fresno Enrichment: Fresno Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation Overview**
- Free event for all who attend- join us as we hear from a local wildlife expert!

Feb 15:

- **Living Desert in Palm Desert Field Trip**
- Scholars- Free, Non-Enrolled Ages 3 to 18- \$6, Attending Adults 18 years old or older- \$9

Feb 17:

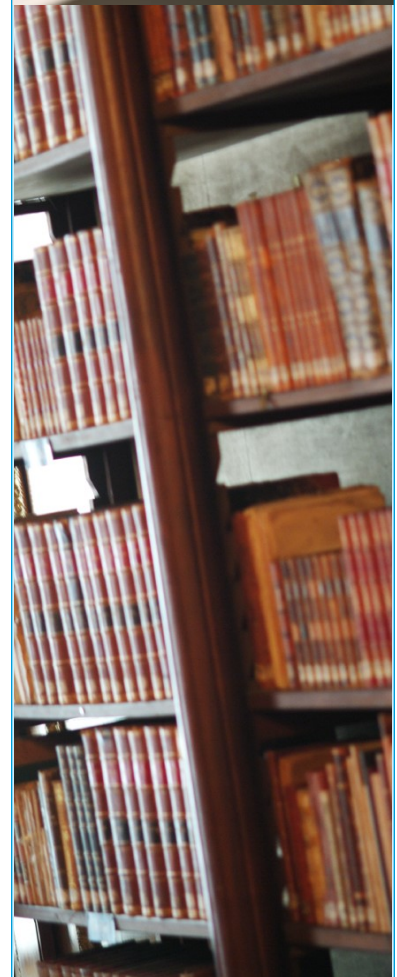
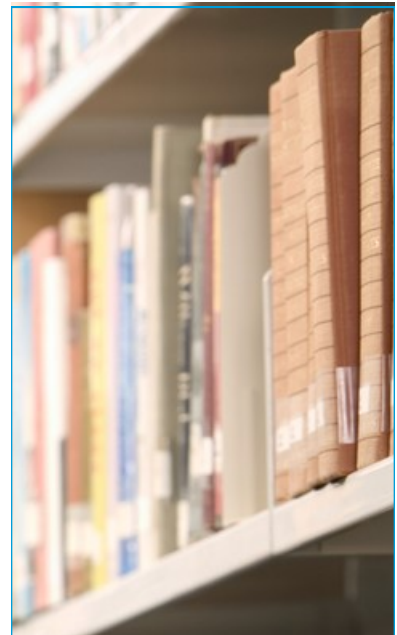
- **Disney Concert Hall Performance**
- RSVP List Full, wait-list has been created
- Event for Middle and High School Scholars. Limited spots available.

Feb 22:

- **Riverside/San Diego Enrichment: Family Engineering Event**
- Egg Drop Competition! Free to participate, please bring along items from around your house to contribute to your Egg Drop contraption!

Feb 24:

- **Discovery Center Fresno Field Trip & Science Lesson**
- Cost: Scholars- Free, Non-Enrolled Ages 3 to 18- \$15, Attending Adults 18 years old or older- \$5. Guests will get to learn about the fun and excitement of chemistry!



SCHOLAR OF THE MONTH

October

Scholar of the Month



November

Scholar of the Month

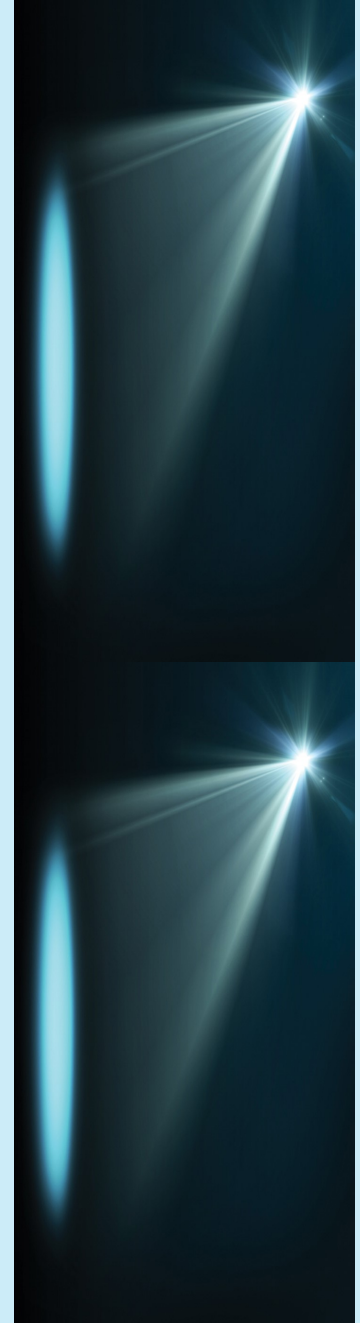


December

Scholar of the Month



AAS is proud of every scholar and recognizes several scholars each month for their achievements. Scholars of the Month are nominated by teachers and staff for their academic excellence, work ethic, leadership skills, virtual involvement, and selected by our leadership team for the monthly honor.



SBAC TESTING



The CAASPP* Testing Window is set. The dates are April 24 through May 12. Scholars in grades 3-8 and 11 will test in English Language and Math. In addition, all scholars in grades 5 & 8 and various scholars in grades 10-12 will test in Science. Testing will take 3 days, one day for each test.

Taking the CAASPP test is mandated by the state, and schools are expected to meet participation criteria.

Please plan to be available for in-person testing during testing window.

*CAASPP = California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress

Specific Information (still in development) Sites will be located across the state. We may have some sites that have Saturday testing hours. Testing hours will be between 8 and 5, with specific sites and hours to be announced later.



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

Chameleon Chronicle Editor:

Rola Eldanaf:
rola.eldanaf@aascalifornia.org



Academy of
Arts & Sciences

12



STAY CONNECTED WITH ACADEMY OF ARTS & SCIENCES!

Facebook: facebook.com/aas.california

Twitter: [@AASCommunicates](https://twitter.com/AASCommunicates)

YouTube: [AASCommunicates](https://www.youtube.com/AASCommunicates)

Flickr: [AASPhotos](https://www.flickr.com/photos/AASPhotos)

Instagram: [AASCommunicates](https://www.instagram.com/AASCommunicates)

Website: aascalifornia.org

Email: info@aascalifornia.org



ACADEMY OF ARTS & SCIENCES

850 HAMPSHIRE RD. SUITE P.

THOUSAND OAKS, CA 91361

