

From the Desk of Principal D'Amico

November 2017

Dear Parents,

Can you believe the holidays are approaching us so quickly? November is a great month to share time with family and friends. I hope you have a chance to unwind and join us for some fun. We had a spook-tacular October here at AOLG. To all who contributed and volunteered for our annual Halloween Party and to our parents who helped during the parade - THANK YOU!

In the next few days, we will welcome the Middle States Team. They will spend this upcoming Sunday through Wednesday at our school. We will host them for a welcome reception on Sunday and into our classrooms Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. During the past seven years, a "self-study" of the school was conducted by a Middle States Committee. These members were selected within our faculty which has been chaired by Mr. Feliciano. This self-study was developed to identify our strengths, our weaknesses, and to capitalize on improvements within our institution. We kindly ask that you take a moment to remind your children that they will be having visitors spend some time in their classrooms.

Our minutes for technology/STEM instruction have remained the same, but you will see a slight change for grades 3 - 8. There will be an A/B grouping. Students will now receive 40 full minutes of STEM one week, and the following week, they will then receive 40 minutes of technology instruction. With both of our programs soaring, the students are now involved in multistep tasks and consulting with their teachers. We felt that this is a better and more resourceful approach. There will be more time on task which will benefit our students in the long run.

Please join me in welcoming Mr. Kaiser, our new physical education teacher. He will be replacing Mr. Cho, who was on leave and has chosen not to return. I wish Mr. Cho well as he will be exploring a new role. He will be sorely missed. Mr. Kaiser will be providing opportunities for students to learn about the value of physical education, how to maintain a healthy lifestyle and to increase skill levels to their own personal best. He will be delivering a comprehensive program that meets the standards through activities students enjoy.

There are many ways you play a major role in your child's education. Being on time is one way you can start your child's day off right. Tardiness and appointments that are scheduled within the school day affect your child's normal routine and causes a disturbance in the learning process as well as safety issues within our building. Beginning in the next trimester, you will see a new policy put into effect. Don't forget to check out our new math theme this month - basic facts. I challenge you to test your children with simple math questions. We are looking for accuracy in a timely fashion this month.

It was great spending some time with you at the recent Principal's Perk. Your ideas and support make us such a special place. If you were unable to attend, please look for the next perk this winter.

You will notice that ticket order forms for the Christmas Pageant will be going out shortly. You are limited to the number of seats that can be purchased per family so we can accommodate everyone safely. I apologize in advance but trust you understand.

This Friday we will have a special ribbon cutting ceremony for the new modules. Our parents and staff will commemorate this occasion with a prayer and small celebration. Our teachers, students and parents have been wonderful during this transitional period. The finished product is a great addition to our school.

I am looking forward to a great month ahead.