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The Weekly Courier

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Dear ACMS Community:

Fun was had by all at the annual 2008 Fall Fling!! Our sincerest gratitude goes to Drew Ihrig of Endive for his extraordinary cuisine, Fred Fuller for his entertainment, Billy Rosbottom for his awesome auctioneering abilities, The Fabulous Paddle People who are the highlight of every Fall Fling, Tim Thornton our fabulous DJ, and all the retailers who so kindly participated. We'd also like to thank Carol Keller and Jacob Edmison and the fine children of the Neighborhood Charter School and Atlanta Charter Middle for their true talents and incredible works of art.

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And finally, a BIG WARM thanks to the countless number of people who made this event possible. The event was a true success because of all our wonderful volunteers who helped in the preliminary process (calling for donations, working on raffle baskets, etc.), who helped in the set-up process, who worked at the event, who stayed after the event into the wee hours to break down, and the brave souls who showed up the morning after to help clean up! We are incredibly fortunate to be a part of such a special community of people.

Sincerely,

The Auction Committee

Michael Berzsenyi, Susan Rouse, Amy Smith and Sheri Davis



Calendar

Please Mark These Dates!!! (Subject to Change)

November

Week of November 17 – End of Term Reports Mailed Home
Wednesday, November 19 to Friday, November 21 – 7th Grade Trip to Fortson 4-H Center
Thursday, November 20 – ACMS Governing Board Meeting – 7 PM
Wednesday, November 26 to Friday, November 28 – NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Break

December

Wednesday, December 3 and Thursday, December 4 – Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences (more details mailed home with end of term reports)
Wednesday, December 10 – PTCA Meeting: Humanities Night! – 6:30 PM
Friday, December 19 to Friday, January 2 – NO SCHOOL – Winter Break

Announcements, Reminders, Brief Notes, Etc.

Please remember that the school building does not open until 8:00 each morning. If you drop your students off prior to 8:00, they will have to wait outside, regardless of the weather conditions, as there is no supervision until 8:00. Thank you for your cooperation!

[December breakfast/lunch menus and order forms](#) are now available on the ACMS website!

Parent-student-teacher conferences are coming up on Wednesday, December 3rd from 2:30 to 7:00 and Thursday, December 4th from 4:00 to 8:00. More information will come in the mail with term one reports. If you would like to schedule a conference with a teacher, please contact Maria Larson in the main office to do so.

Ms. Waldman's advisory is doing a toy collection for this season holidays. If you have old toys that you are willing to donate please bring them to school and we will make sure they get to a good home. It is our intention to share the toys with an orphanage in Atlanta. We will be providing hot chocolate and donuts to the students who bring in the most toys to give away. Thanks for your cooperation in this community project!

Mr. Edmison's advisory is sponsoring a food drive to benefit the Atlanta Community Food Bank. We will be accepting donations of healthy non-perishable food items from November 3-24. **The collection box is located in the ACMS front office.** Some suggestions for donations are: peanut butter, canned tuna, canned beans, canned soups and pastas, 100% juice, canned fruits and vegetables, macaroni and cheese, whole grain, low sugar cereals. Please bring in your donations and help us help those in need this holiday season! Thank you!

Ms. Ramsey's advisory is sponsoring a clothing drive for the Rescue Atlanta Charity through November 25th. If you have any old pieces of clothing (sweaters, shirts, jackets, pants) that you are willing to donate, please bring it to your advisory. The advisory that brings in the most items will win a breakfast!

If you know your student will be absent from school for any reason, please call the office and leave a message letting us know. Similarly, if you are running late for regular afternoon pickup, please call the office and let the school know if possible.

The weekly Courier will be appearing in an electronic version via email and our website this year in order to conserve paper. If you do not have regular Internet access, a few paper copies will be available in the main office each Thursday or you can use the computers in the media center. If you have anything you'd like to submit to the Courier, please email it to info@atlantachartermiddle.com no later than 4:00 PM on Wednesday.



ARE YOU LOOKING FOR HELP WITH YOUR MATH HOMEWORK AND PROJECTS?

If you answered YES!

Since November 3, 2008, students have the opportunity to join ACMS Math Tutorial. This is an after-school Math tutorial for students who want to improve their academic performance, time management and study skills.

The math tutorial is offered after school on Mondays from 4pm-6pm. The Math Tutorial ensures that the students at ACMS learn how to manage time, develop academic growth and learn effective study skills. Students will participate in math projects throughout the year and acquire the experience necessary to enhance the students LOVE for Math. Students will create, plan and do their own Math projects as a team.

The tutorial will be facilitated by Ms. Nicole Johnson, a member of Hands on Atlanta AmeriCorps. Ms. Nicole enjoys empowering passionate youth with the skills to joyfully exceed in their Math courses.

For more information, you can contact Nicole Johnson by phone (678-628-4403) or by email (nljohnson@handsonatlanta.org).

Thank You!!!

Thank you to Susan Holloway for organizing last week's coffee with the Principal. And thank you to all of the parents/guardians who came out for the coffee and gave feedback on the proposed meal payment policy!

Thank you to the Jessups, Conners, Blackmons, Herrea-Peases, Smiths, Simons/Bayliss, and Peatman/Stocks families for purchasing middle school art work at the Fall Fling and donating it back to the school! We appreciate your generosity!

Can You Help?

Each week in this space there will be ways you can help the school, and, in many cases, earn required volunteer hours. For more information about the volunteer hour commitment, please read the ACMS Student & Family Handbook.

The **media center is need of volunteers** to help during lunch from 11:50-12:50, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday each week. If you are interested, please email Jacob Edmison at jedmison@atlantachartermiddle.com.

The school is often in need of various donated items. For more information, see the "Class News & Notes" section that follows.

Class News & Notes

Throughout the year in this space you'll find updates on what students in different classes are working on, upcoming field trips, and other important class information. Please also be sure to visit the ACMS website at www.atlantachartermiddle.com for more information about the school and class "blogs" where assignments and other information can be found.

This week's updates come from the following classes...

6th Grade Math/Science – Ms. Ramsey

Math: Students will continue working with fractions. This week we will move into dividing fractions. We will also have a quiz on Friday covering: simplifying, adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing fractions.

Science: We are continuing to work with Earth Structures this week. The students are going to begin to study the structure of the Earth including the crust, mantle, core and tectonic plates.

7th/8th Grade Social Studies – Mr. Fine

7th graders are wrapping up their projects on Mao Zedong. The essential question they are asked prompts them to argue whether Mao Zedong was a hero or a villain. Students are answering and responding to this essential question by either drawing a comic strip, writing a speech, writing an essay or writing a poem.

8th graders are finishing up the first drafts of their projects on European exploration. The essential question that they are asked prompts them to examine how European exploration impacted Native American cultures. Students are responding to this question through a variety of formats ranging from writing short stories from a Native American mother's viewpoint to diary entries from the perspective of Christopher Columbus's sword.

8th Grade Visual Arts-Mixed Media – Mr. Edmison

The 8th graders have studied the work of Anselm Kiefer and Zac Freeman as they explore new ways of creating landscapes and portraits. As this class began the plan for their first project, I encouraged them to expand the range of possibilities for the methods and materials that they might use to create either a landscape, or portrait. Plans include everything from dirt to acrylic paint, and a whole lot in between.

This class also received sketchbooks, last week. Every student is required to complete at least two pages per week. Students should also have the sketchbook assignment sheet taped inside of the front cover of their books. The first sketchbook check will be after Thanksgiving break.

ACMS Governing Board

Atlanta Charter Middle School Board of Directors Meeting, Media Center Thursday, November 20, 2008 – 7:00 PM

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Approval of Minutes
- 3) Approval of Agenda
- 4) Public Comment
- 5) New Business
 - a) Information items
 - i) Charter Renewal - Allen Mueller, Coordinator of Charter Schools for Atlanta Public Schools
 - ii) Interim Carrera Program Coordinator – Pascale Alcindor
 - iii) Carrera Update – Amy Estlund
 - iv) Registration Task Force – Matt Underwood
- 6) Unfinished business
 - a) Information items
 - i) Asbestos Abatement Update – Matt Underwood/Kathy Andrews
 - b) Action Items
 - a) School Feeder Program – Cat Jaffin/Matt Underwood
 - b) Board By-laws – Gigi Conner
 - c) Meal Payment Policy - Kathy Andrews
- 7) Committee Reports
 - a) Personnel
 - i) Action items
 - ii) Information items
 - b) Finance – Julie Fishman
 - i) Action items
 - ii) Information items
- 8) Principal's Report
- 9) Special Reports - task force, school-wide committees, etc.
 - a) Building & Grounds – Scott Smith
 - i) Action items
 - ii) Information items
 - b) PTCA – Paula Jessup
 - i) Action items
 - ii) Information items
 - c) PFI – Susan Holloway
 - i) Action items
 - ii) Information items
- 10) Executive session
- 11) Announcements
 - Nov. 20-28 No School – Thanksgiving

PTCA News

Please check this section often for news about the ACMS Parent-Teacher-Community Association

If you have other questions about the PTCA, please email Paula Jessup, PTCA President, at pjessup@mindspring.com.

The next PTCA meeting is Wednesday, December 10 at 6:30 PM. It will be a special “Humanities Night” event with students presenting work from their language arts and social studies classes.

The Atlanta Parent Magazine will now be delivered to our school. Pick up a copy in the front office.

It’s time to get the flu shot! Students under the age of 18 are highly encouraged to get a flu vaccine. For more information about flu vaccines, visit the [Centers for Disease Control website](#).

PTCA Myth Busters by Paula Jessup

Our goal this year for PTCA and the parent and family involvement committee is to increase parent involvement. We are working on several ideas and trying to communicate through the advisory groups. We do want to thank those that helped with the Fall Fling. It was great! But perhaps some people have some misconceptions about being involved here at ACMS. So we want to “bust” those myths!

Here are the two myth busters for this week.

Myth 1: Now that my child is in middle school, I no longer need to be involved.

WRONG!!! There are lots of studies to prove schools do need parental involvement and our school was founded on this concept.

Myth 2: Someone else will pick up the slack, they don't need me.

WRONG!!!! We need your help, your ideas, and you will know that this is OUR school the more you participate.

What can you do?

1. Join ACMS PTCA

It shows your commitment to help and the funds are used for teacher appreciation (holidays are right around the corner). It is also used for various school activities. We need you to join today.

2. Associate your Kroger Plus card with ACMS barcode or use your Publix card when you shop.

PTCA committee and PFI committee will meet December 3rd at 6:30 PM at the school. We will begin counting volunteer hours.

High School Transition News

Tech Charter High School Informational Session, Monday December 8th, 630pm at Tech High

Open House for Pace Academy - Saturday November 22, 2008 1-4pm

Prospective Parent Meetings at Paideia - December 8 from 730-900pm

Here are some helpful websites for families interested in private schools:

A How to Guide to Choosing a Private School in Atlanta

<http://www.atlantaparent.com/08-01-January2008/jan08-art4.html>

Georgia Independent School Association

<http://www.gisa-schools.org/>

For more information about high school transition, please contact Kristin Lee, ACMS Counselor, at klee@atlantachartermiddle.com.

LEARN ABOUT THE GRADY COMMUNICATION MAGNET

Come to the Open House!



November 20, 2008
7:00 p.m.
Grady High School Theater
929 Charles Allen Drive
Atlanta, GA 30309
(enter from Tenth Street)

Questions?
404-802-3015
cmacbrien@atlanta.k12.ga.us

*Atlanta Charter Middle School
820 Essie Ave., SE, Atlanta, Georgia 30316
Voice 678-904-0051 Fax 678-904-0052*

****\$10 off for ads placed before December 15, 2008!*****

Dear ACMS Parents:

Support our school and recognize your student—post a Personal Display of Affection (PDA) ad in the ACMS yearbook!

The yearbook is one of our favorite school traditions. Students anticipate reliving the school year through photos, student portraits and event highlights. Soon your child will be bursting with excitement to review the yearbook. Imagine the surprise when your child finds a personal message from you!

To order a PDA for your student, please return the enclosed PDA Order Form, along with a favorite photo of your student. Please identify the photo (to avoid damaging the photo, write the name on a sticker and place it on the back of the photo rather than writing on the photo). Provide a personal message to be printed next to the photo. If you have any questions, please contact **Jacob Edmison**, yearbook adviser, at **(678) 904-0051**.

Thank you for supporting our school!

Sincerely,
Jacob Edmison

P.S. Business ads are also available. Please contact Jacob Edmison (jedmison@atlantachartermiddle.com) for information and rates.

Yearbook PDA Order Form

Yes, I want to post a PDA for _____ in the yearbook!
(print student name)

Ad Size <small>(check one)</small>	Price	Maximum number of words in message
<input type="checkbox"/> 1/8 page ad	\$30.00	15 words + 1 photo
<input type="checkbox"/> 1/4 page ad	\$50.00	30 words+1 photo
<input type="checkbox"/> 1/2 page ad	\$100.00	50 words+2 photos
<input type="checkbox"/> Full page ad	\$200.00	100 words+3 photos

Place a personal message in this space.
 If you need additional space to write your message, attach a separate sheet of paper.

Enclosed is a check* for \$ _____

Signature: _____

** Make checks payable to Atlanta Charter Middle School*

Please send this order form, along with a photo, to the following address:
Atlanta Charter Middle School
820 Essie Ave.
Atlanta, GA 30316

Or return to Jacob Edmison at ACMS

BABY PICTURES

The yearbook needs the eighth graders' baby pictures, so please make sure you give us your pictures! These pictures will be used for a photo montage in the yearbook .

December 8th is your last chance to get them to Mr. Edmison. You may not get your picture back, so give us a copy. Write your first and last name on the back of the copy.



Thank you!

Sincerely, The ACMS yearbook staff

ACMS Extracurricular Activities

ACMS After School Band

All students who are interested in joining the after school band program should pick up an informational letter from the main office. This letter was given out during the band info meeting. Practice takes place every Monday school is in session from 4:00-5:30. If you have any questions about band, please contact Mr. Jimmie Howell at jimmiehowell@msn.com.

ACMS Sports

Stay tuned for updates about basketball over the next few weeks. If you have any questions about the ACMS sports program, please contact Ms. Maria Larson at 678-904-0051 or mlarson@atlantachartermiddle.com.

Chess Club

ACMS CHESS CLUB has started. It meets every Friday from 7:40 am to 8:30 am. All skill levels can participate. Chess Club will meet every Friday morning that school is in session. IT'S FREE! For more information contact Bob Peatman at 770/865-7918 or peatmanb@gmail.com.

Christmas Wreaths



8th grade students are selling Christmas wreaths as a fundraiser for their DC trip.

Please return the order form below to claim your wreath before they are all gone.

Wreaths will be available after December 3.

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Small Wreaths (12-14 inches) \$10: Qty: _____

Large Wreaths (24 -26 inches) \$20: Qty: _____

Amount paid: _____