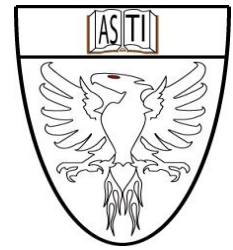


# ASTI 2011-2012

## Family Newsletter - Vol.1 Issue 7

### 11.30.11



#### **Vision Statement:**

To ensure ALL students, especially those who are underrepresented, are provided the resources to attain a college degree from the institution of their choice and become responsible, proactive, and empowered global citizens with a life-long love of learning.

#### **Mission Statement:**

ASTI will prepare a diverse population of students for early entrance and successful completion of college by facilitating their development of the required content knowledge, academic skills, leadership experience, and technological proficiency through providing them academic equality, highly-qualified teaching, rigorous instruction, and support in setting and attaining individual goals.

## **Principal's Message:**

ASTI Parents, Guardians, and Students-

On behalf of the staff, I would like to thank all you who have continued to support our students and staff. The 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> grade History Exhibition's success was made possible by your attendance and enthusiasm. International Night's diverse array of cultural dishes and performances also would not have been possible without you. Our Parent/Guardian Advisory Committee, School Site Council, and last night's Town Hall meeting are further examples of our community staying involved and contributing to the improvement of our school. As we move toward the Spring semester, I encourage those who have not yet found an opportunity to become involved on campus to do so. Connecting school and home is a proven method of increasing student success both at the individual and schoolwide level.

During last night's Town Hall meeting, Ms. Ahn and I provided an overview of the current ASTI/College of Alameda/AUSD/Peralta Community College District (PCCD) landscape. Beginning immediately, our students who enroll in full-time college course loads (12 or more units/semester) will be charged the per unit fee. (\$46 per unit as of the Spring semester) All students enrolled in college courses will be charged the standard \$50 general campus fee. ASTI staff, our superintendent, the COA president, and the PCCD chancellor and his staff are all working together to find immediate and long-term solutions to this issue.

We are committed to maintaining the integrity and model of the ASTI program. While we don't know what the final resolution will be, we are committed to maintaining a public school model that allows students of all backgrounds to come to ASTI and challenge themselves through rigorous high school and college coursework. As we move into the Spring, we may call upon you for your support through letter-writing, attendance at community meetings, or other shows of community solidarity. However, we are remaining optimistic that AUSD and PCCD will be able to come to a resolution before any significant action is necessary. For now, please let us know if you have any questions or concerns and we will provide you with updated information.

ASTI has always faced challenges throughout its history, many of which related to the uniqueness of our model. While there are many other early and middle college high schools out there, not many look like ASTI. And in truth, this is because our model creates some specific logistical challenges. However, we have seen what students are capable of and what they have achieved during four years in this program. Most would agree that our model and our program are valuable enough for us to do the hard work of finding new methods of sustainability. Our district is committed to ASTI and the community college district highly values and respects our program.

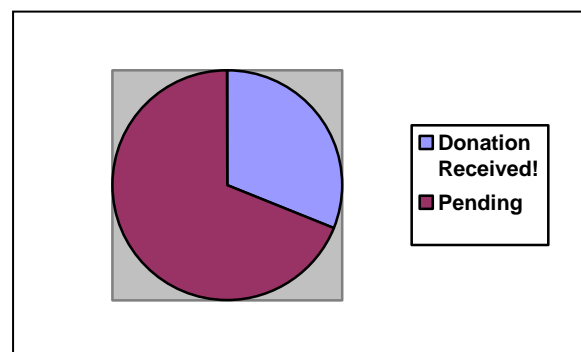
We shared all this at the town hall meeting (and are sharing it now) with the intent of keeping you fully informed. We hope that this does NOT cause too much anxiety or distress. There are currently a large number of very smart and committed people at the higher levels working to resolve this challenge. I am confident that we will ultimately find a way to maintain a successful, rigorous, and unique high school option for our current and future students.

As we move forward we will be holding additional informational sessions, sending out updates, and engaging parents/guardians and students to work in groups and develop program proposals for the future. I encourage and welcome you to participate in all opportunities to better understand the facts and help move this issue forward.

Though this new challenge has taken center stage, we are still engaged in our ongoing efforts to raise money for college textbooks, course materials, student programs, and other needed resources. Our goal is 100% family participation in contributing towards our school. To all those families who have done so – thank you for leading the way. For those who have not yet participated, please know that any amount helps. \$200 was targeted as the ideal family contribution because that amount/family would allow us to meet all of our budgetary goals. However, families have contributed a wide range of amounts, both higher and lower.

Since our last newsletter we have continued to make progress toward our goal of 100% family participation. It is our hope that as we continue to publish our progress it will inspire those who have not yet participated to join their peers who have. We have currently received donations from **31% of all families**.

**GOAL: 100% of all families contributing      Current Progress: 31%**



Lastly – and most importantly – we wish all of our students (and all parents/guardians supporting them at home) the best during these next few weeks of final projects, papers, and exams. Our students at ASTI work extremely hard and the end of the semester is the culmination of their efforts. Please help your student maintain a sense of balance between focused effort and finding time to sleep, eat healthy foods, and give themselves small breaks to prevent burnout. Many times our students forget to pace themselves for the long-term while they are focused on short-term goals.

For those that we don't see in the next few weeks, have a wonderful winter break. We hope you are able to enjoy three wonderful weeks with friends and family.

Steven Fong

## Action Items:

1. **Finals Week:** Please mark Wednesday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> on your calendar. This is the first day of final exams AND is **NOT a late start day**. The first final exam period on Wednesday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> will begin at 8:00AM. During finals (Wed. 12/14 – Frid. 12/16) school ends each day at 12:30.
2. **PGAC Meeting for 12/6 has been cancelled:** Due to conflicting schedules, PGAC for the month of December has been postponed until January. We will be reconvening on Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:00 pm at ASTI.
3. **Peer Tutoring:** Each day 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> grade students from Leadership B will be offering peer tutoring after school each day from 3:15 – 4:15. Any student seeking additional support for any of their courses should schedule this time into their day. Tutoring has recently expanded into the Math and other classrooms. Please take advantage of this excellent opportunity.
4. **School Loop:** Parents/guardians → If you have not done so already – sign up for School Loop! Go to <http://asti.alameda.usd.ca.schoolloop.com/>, click on 'Register Now,' and register as 'Parent.' School Loop is THE best way to keep up-to-date on your student's academic progress.

## 3-Week Calendar:

Mon. 11.28	Tues. 11.29	Wed. 11.30	Thur. 12.1	Fri. 12.2	S/S 12.3-4
Lunch: Senior Meeting		6:00 – 7:00 SSC Meeting (ASTI) 7:00 – 8:30 Town Hall Meeting (ASTI)		Karaoke Night 4:00 – 9:00 PM at ASTI	
Mon. 12.5	Tues. 12.6	Wed. 12.7	Thur. 12.8	Fri. 12.9	S/S 12.10-11
	PGAC Cancelled		11 <sup>th</sup> Grade Information Night with Ms. Ahn 6:30 – 7:30 PM	Campus Beautification Part II 3:00 – 4:30 PM in ASTI Quad	
Mon. 12.12	Tues. 12.13	Wed. 12.14	Thur. 12.15	Fri. 12.16	S/S 12.17-18
Lunch: Senior Meeting		Final Exam Schedule 8:00 – 10:10 1 <sup>st</sup> 10:20 – 12:30 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Final Exam Schedule 8:00 – 10:10 3 <sup>rd</sup> 10:20 – 12:30 4 <sup>th</sup>	Final Exam Schedule 8:00 – 10:10 5 <sup>th</sup> 10:20 – 12:30 6 <sup>th</sup>	Dec. 17 <sup>th</sup> 5:00 – 8:00 pm PTSA Potluck Social Location TBA

**\*\*NOTE: On Wednesday 12.14 – Friday 12.16 school begins each day at 8:00am and ends at 12:30.**

**Wednesday 12.14 is NOT a late start day.**

**KEY:** *What do all the letters mean!?!?*

PSAT: Pre-SAT

COA: College of Alameda

PGAC: Parent/Guardian Advisory Committee

PTSA: Parent Teacher Student Association

SSC: School Site Council

# Recognition:

A number of very successful events have taken place at ASTI in the past several weeks. Each of these amazing programs was made possible by the efforts of students and staff. We would like to recognize the following individuals: Ms. Haveliwala and the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade History classes for the absolutely fantastic History exhibition on 11/21. Ms. Ahn, Leadership A, and Mr. Cortez, Mr. Gordon, and Mr. Rohde for the fun-filled winter formal dance. Ms. Ahn and ASTI for Humanity club members for the Transformers Movie Night. Mr. Hickey and Leadership B for a tasty and horizon-expanding International Night. Keep up the great work ASTI! We look forward to future events.

## WISH LIST

As we continue to make our way towards emergency preparedness, the following items will help us to assemble a schoolwide and individual classroom readiness kits:

1. Emergency Blankets (small, wrapped, shiny)
2. Work Gloves (do not have to be new)
3. Tarps (for ground cover and shelter)
4. Duct Tape
5. Dust Masks

With the exception of the dust masks, these items do not have to be brand new. If you have used (and in good condition) items laying around, we would be happy to add them to our kits.

We'll keep posting things here as we continue to build our kits!

THANK YOU!

## *Counselor's Corner*      *Tips from Ms. Ahn*

I cannot believe the fall semester is almost over. I am so proud of our students' achievements! I wish everyone the very best of luck as they finish the year with a bang. During the next few weeks, students will experience increased stress as due dates for final assignments come up and as they study for their final exams. To manage the next few weeks, it is important for students to seek support, get rest, and have a realistic outlook what they can do and how it will change their grades.

This is also the time to plan for the spring. Here are some things students should consider as they prepare for the next semester.

**Seniors:** 1) Celebrate the completion of UC/CSU apps. 2) Study for Dec SAT/ACT if relevant. 3) Finalize private school apps and supplements before their January due dates. 4) Remind teachers about letters of rec and write thank-you cards for them. 5) Send SAT/ACT scores to all relevant schools. 6) Send college transcript to all private schools. 7) Complete CSS (financial aid document for private schools) before due dates (each private school has a different due date). 8) Get a FAFSA pin code and prepare family to gather appropriate financial documents. 9) Begin scholarship search. Many large scholarships, such as the Gates Millennium, are due in January.

**Juniors:** 1) Attend Junior Info Night on Thursday, Dec 10, at 6:30pm in D-237. 2) Create a SAT/ACT testing schedule for spring and register for test dates. Fee waivers are available in the office if students are on free/reduced lunch. 3) If possible, take a sample ACT/SAT during Winter Break. (Students will receive their PSAT scores sometime next week.) 4) Purchase SAT/ACT study materials and create a study plan. 5) Begin researching colleges. 6) Have a family conversation about college expectations, priorities, and needs. 7) Create a preliminary college list and schedule a spring appointment with me about college planning. 8) Revisit 2-year college plan and make sure it still meets all appropriate requirements. 9) Begin looking for summer activities. Many internships, summer programs, and volunteer experiences publish their applications in early spring.

**Sophomores:** 1) Consider taking a college course in the Spring (if your GPA is 3.0 or higher) and fill out a concurrent enrollment form. 2) Review PSAT scores and consider small ways to integrate SAT/ACT study in the spring (for example, focusing only on vocabulary with flash cards or revisiting a math concept every week) 3) Familiarize oneself with PASSPORT(passport.peralta.edu) and the PCCD schedule of classes. 4) Attempt to create a 2-year college plan (this will be done with me more formally in February). 5) Try to visit at least one local college/university to explore post-secondary opportunities. 6) Begin looking for summer activities. Many internships, summer programs, and volunteer experiences publish their applications in early spring. 7) Anticipate the COMPASS test in March. Take English and math coursework seriously in preparation for this. 8) Reflect on fall academic performance and create goals to improve grades in the spring. 9) Look at extra-curricular resume and see if it needs to be amended (For example, perhaps the student has too many activities and needs to cut back. Or, on the flip side, maybe a student isn't really involved and needs to find more activities outside of school.)

## ***Counselor's Corner Continued***     *Tips from Ms. Ahn*

**Freshmen:** 1) Consider taking a college course in the Spring (if your GPA is 3.0 or higher) and fill out a concurrent enrollment form. 2) Look at extra-curricular resume and see if it needs to be amended. (see note above) 3) Reflect on fall academic performance and create goals to improve grades in the spring. 4) Explore different organizational strategies that students have used/ought to try. Attempt to create organizational habits that can be employed throughout high school. 5) Try to visit at least one local college/university to explore post-secondary opportunities. 6) Begin looking for summer activities. Many internships, summer programs, and volunteer experiences publish their applications in early spring. 7) Continue to forge good relationships with teachers and peers. 8) Encourage students to seek academic support and integrate it into their schedules.

That's all! Please note: not all of these items are relevant to every student, so feel free to pick and choose. If a sense of overwhelm begins to flood over you or your student as you plan the spring, take a step back, breathe, and remember that perfection isn't the goal. Finally, I hope all students have a chance to relax and recharge during the winter break. I definitely intend to do so. . .in Cancun!

### **Words of Wisdom from the Staff:**

#### **Ms. Corbally**

**Writing One:** Students turned in their last major paper, the Peace Exemplification Essay, on November 15<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully, they will be graded and returned by next Monday. They are currently writing short stories in groups of four or five. The stories are due Thursday, 12/8, and will be judged by peers. First, second and third place groups earn a very rare prize: extra credit. In addition, they earn glory and bragging rights. Writing stories in groups is no easy task. They learn a lot about cooperation, time management and tolerance. We will prepare for the final next week. Final will occur on 12/16 and is worth approximately 100 points. Grades in Writing One are cumulative, which means they build over the semester, and quarters are not averaged at the semester.

**English Two:** Students turned in their last major paper, an expository essay about Elie Wiesel's *Night*, on November 21. Hopefully, graded essays will be returned before the final; if not, they will receive them the day of the final.

They also may submit a revision of one previous essay this Friday. The new essay will be read and graded; the new grade will be replace the old one if it is higher than the original (which it should be). They are currently writing short stories in groups of four or five. The stories are due Thursday, 12/8, and will be judged by peers. First, second and third place groups earn a very rare prize: extra credit. In addition, they earn glory and bragging rights. Writing stories in groups is no easy task. They learn a lot about cooperation, time management and tolerance. We will prepare for the final next week. Final will occur on 12/15 and is worth approximately 100 points. Grades in English Two are cumulative, which means they build over the semester, and quarters are not averaged at the semester.

#### **Mr. Higashi**

##### **Biology**

Can you believe your students are only 2 weeks away from their first high school final exam? It's amazing how fast the semester has gone by. I've really had a great time with your bright and talented students this year and I'm hoping they can keep up the good work through finals week! We will start reviewing for a comprehensive final exam that will cover all the material we have learned so far this year in Biology. The students made a study plan before the Thanksgiving holiday to ensure that they would be ready for the final exam when the time came. It would be great if you checked in with them at home to make sure they are sticking to their study plans.

##### **Anatomy**

The 10th grade year at ASTI can be very demanding, but a 3 week break is in sight! Let's make sure our Sophomores don't try to start that break early by keeping them focused at home and help them finish the semester out strong! We still have a couple quizzes and labs before our final exam, so a lot can change between now and the end of the semester. We just started studying the 5 senses, starting with vision, so feel free to ask your students all the questions you want about the eye!

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## Focus on SAT:

### PSAT Results

Next week all 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students should be receiving their PSAT results from October. Included in their results are detailed explanations of which questions they answered correctly/incorrectly, recommendations for areas of improvement, and suggestions for studying.

Please review your students results with them and use them to begin forming an SAT study plan for the next 1 or 2 years.

If you are the parent/guardian of a 9<sup>th</sup> grader, talk to your student about the PSAT/SAT and discuss their preliminary study plans.

Hint: One of the best things a student can do to study for these types of exams is to read challenging texts! Encourage your student to read both fiction and nonfiction. Note: This should not be limited to comic books or 'young adult' fiction.

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## Safety Tip:

In the near future you and your student will be receiving a document for your 'Emergency Family Plan.' This will ask you to specify your plans for your student in the event of a disaster that prevents you from immediately reaching ASTI campus to be reunited.

Think about whether your student might be able to go home with someone that lives on the island of Alameda. Also consider where you would be during the school day and how you might get back home in the event of a large earthquake or other disaster scenario.

More information about forming a family plan will be coming soon.

## PTSA Announcements:

Dear parents, teachers, and fellow students,

PTSA would like to invite you all to our Holiday Social on December 17th from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. The place we are holding this event is still to be determined. We are postponing our Annual Silent Auction until early next year due to some complications and timing. The Holiday Social will have a potluck style dinner where families can share their holiday foods and recipes. We encourage every family to bring one dish for everyone to enjoy. There will be many family friendly games for bonding and fun as well as student performances during dinner.

If you have any questions, suggestions, or are planning to bring food, please contact me (PTSA president Kristine Chin) at [kristine.chin@hotmail.com](mailto:kristine.chin@hotmail.com).

We hope you will all attend this special event and have fun with the ASTI community before you start your winter breaks!

Best Regards,  
Kristine Chin

## General Announcements:

LIVE AT THE LIBRARY PRESENTS

*Frederica von Stade in concert with The Young Musicians*  
*February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012*

**Frederica von Stade, the incredible mezzo soprano and Metropolitan Opera star**, will perform and will be accompanied by a group of young musicians she mentors and supports. Please join me in supporting the Alameda Free Library by purchasing tickets to attend this benefit concert on **Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012**. The concert will be held at the beautifully restored Art Deco Alameda Theater.

Evening festivities will begin with a no-host wine bar and hors d'oeuvres reception at 6:30 p.m. The concert will begin at 7:30 pm.

You may purchase tickets through me or any member of the Library Foundation Board, through [brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com) or through Dewey's Café in the Alameda Free Library main branch on Oak Street beginning November 20<sup>th</sup>. Concert tickets are \$60 adults and \$15 for students.

**Annual Community Potluck: Tues, Dec 6, 2011, 6pm**

**Come share good food and conversation, and celebrate community with us! Everyone welcome!!**

**Please bring a food dish (from your heritage or culture, if possible).**

**Alameda Multicultural Community Center  
Woodstock Education Center**

**1900 Third Street, Portable 30 (enter from Brush Street)  
Alameda, CA 94501**

**Parking is available in lot behind Portable 30.**

**Near bus line #31 (closest stop at 3rd St. & Pacific Ave-3 block walk)  
Information: [alamulticultural@gmail.com](mailto:alamulticultural@gmail.com) or **510-521-9405****

## **PARENT EDUCATION EVENING –**

TUESDAY JANUARY 10, 2012 AT 7:00 PM  
at Saint Joseph Notre Dame High School

\*What makes your teen tick and why are they so moody!!! \*

Don't miss our next parent enrichment night, Tuesday, January 10th when Dr. Michael Torres, PsyD comes in to talk to us about our teens. He will address the following issues:

- Brain Development
- Communicating effectively with your teenager
- Coping with anger
- Signs & symptoms of depression
- Sexuality
- Eating habits and the consequences of a poor diet

Dr. Torres has been to SJND previously and is not to be missed! His information is always current and his sincere and enthusiastic approach makes him a pleasure to listen too! See you on January 10th, at 7pm in Notre Dame Hall. This event is open to all, so please spread the word and invite other parents who may benefit from hearing this worthwhile presentation.

## **OutLOUD: ALAMEDA'S TEEN MAGAZINE – TEEN ZINE**

Calling all writers, editors, graphic artists and cartoonists! Do you have something to say to the world? Come and put together the next issue of **OutLOUD**, Alameda's very own teen magazine! Written, edited and designed FOR teens, BY teens from all Alameda schools.

### PROGRAM DETAILS

WE WELCOME CONTRIBUTIONS FROM MALE AND FEMALE High School Students & Middle School Interns

SCHEDULE - Every Wednesdays: 4:00pm—5:15pm

CONTACT - Call Diana Cristales at 510.521.1743 ext. 208 if you plan to attend

LOCATION – We meet at the Boys and Girls Club of Alameda's Media Center

## **Alameda to Receive Community Award**

On Saturday, December 3, Alameda will be presented with the 2011 --- 100 Best Communities for Young People Award, in a ceremony in front of City Hall, at the beginning of the Mayor's Tree Lighting ceremony, starting at 5:30. A representative from America's Promise Alliance will be on hand to present the award to Youth Collaborative Co-Chairs Mayor Marie Gilmore, Supervisor Wilma Chan, and AUSD Board Member Niel Tam. The Tree Lighting is the Finale to the City of Alameda Hometown Holiday celebration, which begins at 1:00 pm at City Hall.

In addition to the day's activities included in the attached flyer, from 3 to 5 PM, Alameda Youth Collaborative members will be presenting some great activities for Children and Youth.

IN THE CITY HALL PARKING LOT - FROM 3 TO 5 -NEXT TO THE FREE SYNTHETIC SKATING RINK

CRAFTS: Children are invited to make Reindeer Puppets -- Ornaments -- Jeweled Crowns

Jingle Bell Necklaces --- and Popsicle-Stick Christmas Trees to take home for the Holidays.

(THANKS TO CINDY ACKER - CHILD UNIQUE MONTESSORI AND CYNDY WASKO FOR PROVIDING THE CRAFTS ACTIVITIES)

PERFORMANCE: The Premier Performance of "Musical Macbeth" -- a fun look at classic Shakespeare.

Presented by the Alternatives in Action's West Alameda Community Programs "

Shakespeare Invented the Teenager" project group community service.

(THIS MINI-MUSICAL WILL PRESENT A NUMBER OF PERFORMANCES BETWEEN 3 AND 5)

Jim Franz, Community Development Coordinator, City of Alameda