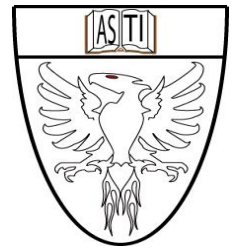


ASTI 2011-2012

Family Newsletter - Vol.1 Issue 8

1.20.12



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-

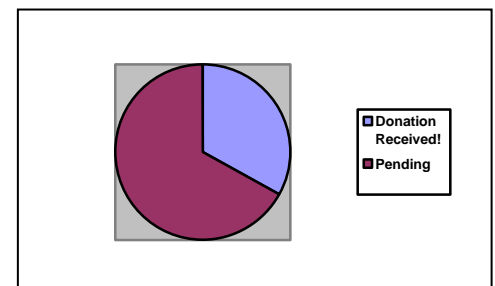
We hope that you had a wonderful winter break and that you were able to spend some quality time together as a family. We know that our students work extremely hard and they deserve the extra rest. The fall semester was a very successful time for many of our students and we want to congratulate all who reached their academic goals. We especially would like to congratulate our 9th graders for completing their first semester at ASTI. For those students who did not reach all their academic goals – spring semester is a perfect time to make a change! We have already witnessed many of our students return from break with a renewed sense of purpose and motivation. Please help us encourage your students to not lose this energy as they get deeper into the semester. Changing habits can be difficult and we need to help them maintain their positivity, even in times of struggle. We are confident that with your support, the work of our staff, and each students' dedication, ALL ASTI students can be successful this spring.

This spring we will begin using the online course tool called turnitin.com. This tool allows students to submit written work on-line, peer edit on-line, check their spelling/grammar/citations, and gives teachers a tool for on-line assessment. It also provides teacher and students a clear measure of any material that needs to be cited before it is considered plagiarism. This is extremely important as our students prepare for college. In fact, turnitin is used by many universities. Teachers will be learning to use this tool and, in turn, students will be taught its many applications. We are very excited to bring this change to ASTI and know that it will help our students become stronger academically and ethically. If you have questions as you begin to hear about this tool, feel free to contact us or check it out for yourself at www.turnitin.com.

This week we will be checking out college textbooks and preparing for the opening of the spring semester at the College of Alameda. At the beginning of this semester, we projected a budget of \$38,000 for the year and set a fundraising goal that would meet this need. To date, we have raised close to \$14,000 through the generous contributions of many of you – our families – and our other efforts. However, our fall semester textbooks expenses totaled \$9500 and our projected spring semester expenditures are \$13,000. Our goal is still a 100% participation rate from our families. Again – thank you to those who have contributed. To those who have not, every contribution helps - large or small. Our current family participation is 33% and we hope to increase that significantly by year's end.

GOAL: 100% of all families contributing

Current Progress: 33%



This semester will bring the addition of two new members of the ASTI extended staff family. Mr. Higashi and his wife are expecting their second child in early March and Mr. Fong and Ms. Ahn are expecting their first in late March-early April. All three staff members will be out on leave at different times (or at the same time for Mr. Fong and Ms. Ahn) and we are ensuring that all will have fully capable substitutes. We will also be rejoined by Ms. Solomon as she returns from physical therapy and will bid a sad farewell to Ms. Montez. We thank you for all your patience as we work through the professional interruptions that come with personal lives.

As always, we welcome you to contact us with your questions, concerns, praise, ideas, and any other feedback you have. Thank you and enjoy the newsletter.

The ASTI Staff

Action Items:

- Fall Semester Follow-Up:** Mr. Fong is holding a series of meetings with parents/guardians and students who experienced significant struggle during the Fall. During these meetings we work together to set goals for the Spring and identify areas where improvement can be made. As Mr. Fong works to contact families and set-up meetings, please feel free to initiate contact and get on the schedule early.
- Student Print Station:** We have reactivated the student print station under the provision that students use it responsibly. The mornings can get VERY crowded and stressful as students rush to print in the last minutes before class begins. Please help us by ensuring that your students prints as many items as possible at home. The print station is primarily intended for those students who do not have access to a printer at home.
- Peer Tutoring:** Each day 11th/12th 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.
- School Loop:** Parents/guardians → If you have not done so already – sign up for School Loop! Go to <http://asti.alamedausd.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. 1.23	Tues. 1.24	Wed. 1.25	Thur. 1.26	Fri. 1.27	S/S 1.28-29
COA Classes Begin	6:30 – 8:00 PGAC 6:30 - ? Board of Education Meeting	8:00 – 9:10 Staff Meeting SSC Meeting 6:00 – 7:00			
Mon. 1.30	Tues. 1.31	Wed. 2.1	Thur. 2.2	Fri. 2.3	S/S 2.4-5
Senior Meeting at Lunch		8:00 – 9:10 Staff Meeting	Information Night for New Students (8 th Graders) 6:00 – 7:30PM		
Mon. 2.6	Tues. 2.7	Wed. 2.8	Thur. 2.9	Fri. 2.10	S/S 2.11-12
		Town Hall #3 6:30 – 8:00PM		End of 3 rd Progress Report Period Evening: Valentine's Dance	

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:

As we begin the spring semester there are many people deserving of recognition. We could probably fill a whole newsletter with detailed descriptions of each of our fabulous students' good work from the fall. For now we'll settle for highlighting some of our recent achievements:

1. 9th/10th grade Short Story Content Winners – In Ms. Corbally's courses the students wrote short stories at the end of the year and were judged by a panel of their peers. The winning groups included:
 - a. 9th grade 1st place: 'The Flip Side of the Story' by Jade Edwards, Luna Tilles, and Chris Chan
 - b. 9th grade 2nd place: 'In the Dark' by Levi Lopez, Jordan Kleinman, Cedrick Becerra and Joanna Su
 - c. 9th grade 3rd place: 'No Tomorrow' by Kalya Tymous, Nile Wynar, Nathan Dang, and Hunter DeVecchi
 - d. 10th grade 1st place: 'Scarred' by Andy Li, Cameron Leahy, Karen Chavez, David Perez, and Justice Toailoa
 - e. 10th grade 2nd place: 'Trauma' by Bianca Hsueh, Eric Lau, Stan Anderson, and Meriam Salem
 - f. 10th grade 3rd place (tie): 'Stranger in the Dark' by Kathy Douglas, Jesse Valdez, Bassam Alkabash, Tony Lin, and Susan Peevy AND 'The Date' by Melissa Ma, Elizabeth Orsack, Karisa Coleman, and Cristian Cortez
2. Mr. Hickey and a dedicated groups of sophomores and juniors have founded ASTI's first-ever Robotics club. They have already acquired a number of grants for competition fees and robotics materials and are in the midst of designing their prototype. While we know it will take time for our school to be competitive amongst the more established programs, we are very excited that our students are already reaping the benefits of such an enriching and challenging experience.
3. Mr. Hickey also recently was awarded with the Alameda Education Foundation's Adopt-a-Classroom grant for \$500. He will be using this to expand our physics resources and bring exciting, new laboratory activities to the classroom.
4. Many of our students once again or for the first time earned were on the honor-roll this past semester. Congratulations to each of them for their hard work!
5. Three very brave individuals – Ms. Ahn, Nora Gomez, and Elizabeth Flanagan – recently took 21 of our Juniors on a 5-day trip through southern California to tour colleges. They visited: UC Irvine, UC Riverside, UCLA, the Claremont Colleges (Pomona, Harvey Mudd, etc..), Cal Poly SLO, UC Santa Barbara, Occidental, Caltech, USC and University of the Redlands. This is a truly unique opportunity and has made a huge impact on the students. We applaud their efforts as well as the students' fundraising, planning, and organization work to make this trip possible.
- 6.

Focus on SAT:

PSAT Results

Last week all 10th grade students received their PSAT results from October. (The previous newsletter incorrectly stated that 10th graders would receive scores in December) 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 9th 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.

Safety Tip:

We be working throughout this semester to educate our students on the topic of non-discrimination and awareness surrounding sexual harassment. The teenage years are a difficult time for most students as they struggle to form their identity and we want to ensure that this can happen in a harassment-free setting. We also want to help students learn about this topic for their own use as they move on to adulthood. You can help us by asking them what their experience is both inside and outside of school with the topic of sexual harassment.

PTSA Announcements:

To all ASTI families,

On Saturday, February 25 from 6-9 pm, PTSA will be holding its Annual Silent Auction Night at Lincoln Middle School's multipurpose room. The Silent Auction is a great opportunity to bring out those old boxes of items that have been gathering dust and making them a great present and item for others, clearing out space in the house and earning money for your child's school for textbooks and other resources. If you have any items that you believe someone would love to have, and you would like to donate them to the Silent Auction, please bring them to the office anytime until February 20 and fill out the donation agreement form from the office or the attached form on this email. Also, if you have any friends or family who are business owners or vendors that would be interested in selling at the silent auction, a single table is \$20 and a double table is \$35. Please provide them with an event booth form attached on this email and turn it into the office. Also attached on this email are a list of suggested items to donate and a donation letter. If you have any questions or comments, please email us at astiptsafundraising@yahoo.com. Details about volunteering for the silent auction will be sent soon. Thank you in advance for your item donations and participation and we hope to see you there on Saturday February 25 from 6-9 pm at Lincoln Middle School's multipurpose room!

All documents mentioned are attached.

General Announcements:

City of Alameda Community Needs Survey

The City of Alameda is listening to your ideas to help inform decisions about the distribution of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funding allocation for the coming year. Each year, the City of Alameda receives Federal funds to be used for housing, business development and social services. Your responses to this survey will inform how the funds will be used.

You can find the Survey at: www.alamedasurvey.com and can call Jim Franz with any questions: 510.747.6883

****A Special Note: They are tracking how many parents from each school have answered and ASTI is low on the list! (And Mr. Fong is feeling the heat!) If you have a spare moments, help out Alameda, ASTI, and Mr. Fong by completing this survey. Thank you!**

Free Teen Techs Discussion Group Series Pod Cast Show

Saturdays 2-4pm January 21, February 4, February 18 and March 3

All teens interested in computers, are encouraged to attend! Learn to repair a computer, re-format a computer, replace hard drives and video cards, & more....

In the January 21st session, a computer will be infected with a virus and participants will learn to repair it. In future discussion groups, other computer dilemmas will be presented to fix. Sessions will be videotaped for educational purposes. Participation in the pod casts is voluntary.

Instructor: Liza G. Morse of Remote Computer Repair Service (RCRS)

Sponsor: RCRS on behalf of TeenTechs.org

Location: Alameda Multicultural Community Center

Woodstock Education Center

1900 Third Street, Portable 30 (enter from Brush St.-Portable 30)

Alameda, CA 94501

Registration: Space is limited to 30 teens. Please send an email to <teentechs@teentechs.org to reserve a spot.

Leadership Event

Hello ASTI parents/guardians,

January 27th, ASTI's Leadership A is hosting another picnic this semester to welcome in the start of a new semester. We are asking that you remind your students to bring a bagged lunch to school this day and be prepared to meet new people. At ASTI we are motivated to stay a close-knit community and make everyone feel welcome and accepted. This event will take place during school hours on ASTI campus during lunch, which will be extended by 30 minutes. If you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to contact the ASTI office. Thank you!

-Leadership A

ASTI Web Team Recruitment:

Are you interested in learning how to design a website? Wondering how to write and read in a coding environment? Have a passion for technology? Consider joining the ASTI Web Design team!

Anyone is welcome to join--even if you don't have any experience working with code, we'd be more than happy to teach you. Roles include managing the site's content, adding or manipulating code, or creating graphics to implement into the website. The only requirements are motivation, being flexible with your time, and responsibility for your actions.

The Web Design team is solely responsible for the upkeep of the current ASTI website, but we are limited in number. This experience is invaluable and a great asset to your future, be it on your college resume or in your desired line of work.

If you're interested in joining our ranks, please contact Phillip Liang, Sandro Yu, or William Zeng. Alternatively, you can send an email to asti.network.branch@gmail.com. Answer no later than February 18th, 2012.