



Volume 5  
April 10, 2019

# AoC Times

## Heart Challenge Fundraiser Raises Over \$5,000

by: Oana Cornell

Students at AoC, families and teachers participated in the American Heart Association Fundraiser that Mr. Brandon Faulkner, PE/Health teacher, organized in the evening of February 8th in the AoC gymnasium. "We raised \$5,850 and 70 students donated!" he proclaimed. The money donated went towards kids who have heart diseases. Faulkner also wants to raise the donation amount next year. "I am very surprised that we raised that much money!" he exclaimed.

Some activities students played at the fundraiser were jump rope, basketball, gymnastics, football and hopscotch in order to stay healthy. Parents participated in these activities as well.



Because this was a heart-healthy event, Mr. Faulkner sought out Panera Bread, which is a healthy food restaurant. They donated a few different types of salads, bread, and water. 4th grader Brandon Rosario claims "The salad was really good and I wish I could have had some more!" Rosario also states "The event was a total success and I hope we will have one next year!"

Some teachers who attended were Ms. Bond, Mr. Alan, Ms. Pily, Ms. Hu, Ms. Purpi and Ms. A.

## This Cycle's News

### AoC Hires Middle School Principal

by: Julia Daza and Hailey Reyes

The middle school is coming together as Mr. Lee has hired a 5th - 8th grade principal named St. Claire Adriaan. He will be moving from Los Angeles and will start on July 1st, but visited AoC in late March.

Mr. Adriaan's experience includes 19 years of teaching math in New Orleans, and 11 years of being a leader as a middle and high school principal. He is originally born and raised in South Africa.

When asked how he will run the middle school, Adriaan plans on "listening to students opinions and will not interrupt." He also wants to "make the students feel like they are in

middle school and not elementary school." His views on education include service learning, student representatives and outdoor trips. "I am very excited for the students to start in August," he said.

#### Middle School Update

Mr. Lee will become the Executive Director of both schools therefore Ms. SantaCruz will become principal for grades K-4.

Other details that have been revealed include the fact that AoC will now have a mascot. Mr. Faulkner has collected ideas from 4th and 5th graders and he believes that Ms. Lopez and Ms. Grace will be designing the mascot. According to Mr. Faulkner, a wolf is in first place.

The Middle School will have sports



teams. Players will have sports uniforms with the mascots logo. Mr. Faulkner explained that the teams will include girls and boys basketball, volleyball, and Co-Ed soccer (both boys and girls). The middle school will likely add new sports teams each of the next few years.

Something new for 5th and 6th graders is over night trips to places such as Frost Valley or Camp Sloane. Once teachers are hired, they will make the final decisions about what field trips the students will be going on.

### State Tests Cause Mixed Emotions

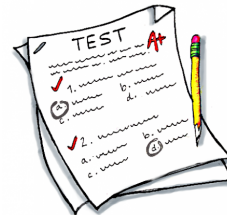
by: Alex Pucha and Kyllie Toshimi-Schneider

Round one of the New York State exams is over and it's been discovered that AoC students have mixed feelings about these annual tests.

Students in third, fourth and fifth grades are gearing up for these exams which will take place in classrooms everywhere in New York State. The ELA took place last week on April 2nd and 3rd and the math is coming up after Spring Recess on May 1st and 2nd. Students will use paper and pencil to show what they have learned all year, although some schools have even moved to taking the exams on computers.

Ms. Kerrie Fabrizi, Test Coordinator explains "we'll be

getting the test scores in August 2019." She explained that first schools in New York State get the tests results and they see how the students did. Then the score reports are sent to parents. She feels that "the students at AoC are ready."



Third graders are taking the state test for the first time and don't know what to expect. Third grader Aleksander Necokv explains "I am nervous because I don't think I will pass." However third grader Ysabella Rojas says "I am ready

because I always study, even on weekends!"

Older students have mixed feelings about the upcoming tests. Matteo Cajas, 4th grader says "I think the state test is too long and too hard." However, Tenzin Zigsang explains "I think I am ready because I am very smart."

4th graders are also taking the science written state test on June 3 and will complete the lab part towards the end of May. English as a Second Language students have to take an additional exam, the NYSESLAT during April and May to show their knowledge of English.

## Smallberg Uses Expertise to Lead Workshops

by **Bhumika Rawat**

Ms. Smallberg is known around AoC as a math expert. She teaches 5th grade math and coaches as well as Math workshops to help students and parents better understand math. During her workshops, parents and students come to review homework and classwork they had done in class. She lets parents know that they are good at math.

In Smallber workshops, she teaches grades K-5, but will challenge herself with 6th grade math to get ready for the middle school. Ms. Smallberg thinks "math is beautiful and there so many ways to find the problems product or quotient." She added "There is always more than one strategy to solve word problems."

Ms. Smallberg choose to be a math teacher because "math always has many solutions." Every year Smallberg has ideas about what her math workshops should focus on, but students come up with different ideas that Ms. Smallberg hadn't thought of.

Ms. Smallberg loves math and feels as though

"math is hard, but when it comes to finding a solution, there are different ways. Some of her past workshops include fractions and long division, topics that a lot of people struggle with. In the fraction workshop, students and parents learned how to turn a mixed number into an improper fraction.

Ms. Smallberg's math workshops are meant to teach students and parents so they "don't shut down." She also helps parents with doing math the new way. Most parents only know the old way, but in Ms. Smallberg's workshops, she teaches new strategies that parents never learned. Parent, Susanna Lopez benefited from the workshops because "In my childhood, I was never taught Common Core math." Now she knows how to do new strategies that she didn't know before.

Students Fency Villalona and Ismael Reyes both learned new strategies thanks to Ms. Smallberg's workshops.

## Drama Club Performs Fairy Tales for K & 1

by **Sofia Gutierrez**

The fifth grade Drama Club performed three different children's plays on February 13th for Kindergarten and first grade students.

The three plays that were performed were "Grandfather Bear and Little Bear," "Little Bear Goes to the Moon," and "Corderoy."

Both the teachers and students enjoyed the show. "I loved the show and the kids loved the play," said Ms. Macintyre and Ms. Incantalupo, first grade teachers. Students wore costumes such as a vest, a fedora, a bow tie, glasses, a onesie, and slippers for a goblin.

The drama club is run by Ms. Sills and Ms. Nonis, members of the Board of Trustees. Ms. Sills chose the stories, characters and parts

because she "loves those stories and they are funny."

In order to be a part of the drama club, students had to put their names on a post-it and the teachers in charge did a raffle. Valeria Gonzales, 5th grader, talked about performing. "I felt nervous because everyone is looking at you. They might laugh at you when you make a mistake even if they are in Kindergarten and first grade! That is what I was nervous about."

According to Ms. Sills, there will hopefully be a spring drama play as "we are writing the scripts now."



## Noreum Machi Impresses

by **Andrea Saenz**

On Friday, March 1st, fourth and fifth grade classes went to see a Korean Drumming show at Flushing Town Hall. The group who performed is called "Noreum Machi." According to Mr. Alan Nunez, the school's music teacher, "I feel like Korean drumming is something students have never seen before." This is one of the reasons that Mr. Alan decided to bring students to the show.

Fourth and fifth grade students enjoyed dancing, folk singing, and the different types of

tempos of the Buk, Jangu, Jing, and the Kkwaenggwao. Then, students were treated to the sound of different tempos. For example, the Kkwaenggwao has a metal sound. According to Bhumika Rawat, a 5th grader, "What I like most about the flute is that it has a nice tune to listen to. She added, "The drums sounded deep, low, and forceful -- you could feel it in your bones!"

The drummers of the group were unable to be reached for comments.



## Mr. Garnploog's

### Secret Job

by **Mia Ozuna and Uziel Vallinas**



Mickey Garnploog is a fourth grade teacher at AoC, but did you know he is a film director as well? Mr. Garnploog started working as a film director in 2006. He attended the New York Film Academy while working at Cablevision as a technical director. Mr. Garnploog helped write and direct the script for Fast and Furious Tokyo Drift.

"Teaching is rewarding, but I still do my job as an independent film director in the summer and during school breaks," Mr. Garnploog explained. He started a film club at AoC to "show students how to write, direct and produce their own creative pieces."

Mr. Garnploog actually owns all the props for Back to the Future (BTTF) as well as a Knight Rider K.I.T.T (Knight Industries Two Thousand) car. He has even played a part on the 2008 Knight Rider Series, helped to write the script and helped to direct the series. The KITT car does things such as the oil slick and smoke screen. It also talks using different voice clips from the original Knight Rider television show.

George Barris, who creates all of Hollywood's movie cars took Garnploog's car on tour. David Hasselhoff, the actor that plays Michael Knight, used Garnploog's car as well for tours across the U.S. All the props that Mr. Garnploog owns were displayed in the Museum of the Moving Image in Astoria, Queens.

### Mr. Garnploog's

#### Movie Recommendations

Since Mr. Garnploog is a big fan of movies, he recommends Back to the Future (1&2), Star Wars The Empire Strikes Back, The Outsiders, as well as The Karate Kid (The Original).

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



### MALEAH WOOLARD



by Alexandra Guzman & Evan Hernandez

Have you heard about an AoC student who self-taught herself gymnastics and can do an aerial? If not, meet fourth grader Maleah Woodlard! She can do a front aerial, a walking handstand and so many more tricks.

Woolard got into gymnastics when she was only three years old because she watched it and plans to do it for the rest of her life. She creates her own moves and calls them "Maleah." She can be seen practicing during fourth grade recess.

Woolard's first gymnastics move was a handstand and her favorite move is a front aerial. For Woolard, gymnastics is easy. She often practices with Isla Kitses at recess. For a self taught gymnast, students think that Woolard is an amazing gymnast. According to Kitses, she says "I know that she has been on the gymnastics mat since we met each other in first grade. I think she is very good and she should enter in some competitions and I think her arials are really impressive." Woolard does not plan on taking gymnastics lessons or performing because "I like to do things on my own."

Woolard's favorite thing to do isn't just gymnastics; she loves to draw as well. She creates humans and buildings, but her drawings are mixed with a littlereality and fantasy. She draws her characters from scratch as her own creations.

## Dangers of the Bird Box Challenge

by Magni Betances

The Bird Box Challenge started because of the movie Bird Box's success on Netflix. The challenge involves people walking around blindfolded on the streets, which has led to them getting hurt. Kids have also begun to make memes on social media, which also caused its popularity. Most people interviewed for this article think it's dangerous.

Some people say it is scary just to think about it. Ms. Orfelina Cisneros, School Counselor and Peace teacher said that if she could stop it, "she

would lead protests to stop it from happening in at least the schools..." Ms. Grace, Art aide thinks, "it could be fun to try at home, but with parents."

But both Cisneros and Ms. Grace agree that the "Bird Box Challenge" is dangerous. Mr. Pickett, Science aide stated, "I think it is very dangerous, but it could be cool if people weren't addicted to it." 5th grader, Tenzin Tashi says that he's done the Bird BChallenge for one hour." Tashi explained that after he had done the challenge, he wished he had never done it at all! He exclaimed



that it had "scared every inch of him to do it." Despite this, Tashi added that he loved the movies success. Mr. Noel Peguero, Parent Coordinator stated, "You shouldn't do something dangerous just to show who you are." Mr. Peguero instead suggested "being good at school will impress your parents."

After the Challenge went viral, Netflix posted a warning to inform people to not participate in the challenge anymore.

## AoC Celebrates 100th Day

by Saviel Toribio

Every year, AoC celebrates 100 days of learning, and this 100th day of school was celebrated with a whole-school assembly on Wednesday, February 6th that included shares and museum walk in the gym. Students and teachers worked hard on both their projects and shares.

Students in all grades shared their 100th day projects; some were related to art, some to music and some to other topics.

For example, Magni Betances from 5th grade said, "Ms. Grace said to pick any object to draw and I drew a hot glue gun in 1 day and I felt it came out well."

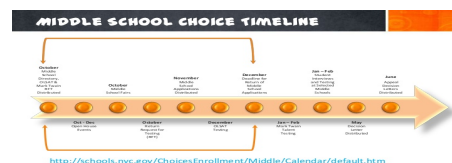
Teachers from K-103 "planned a song about counting by 5s," stated Ms. Guerrero. As part of the 100th day celebration, the teachers from K-103 created a project as well; they asked the class what they think they would look like when they are 100 years old and the students answered by drawing a future self portrait of themselves.



Some of the 100th day projects were chosen by students and some by teachers. Fifth grader Amy Morales stated that her project was about math topics such as patterns, number strings, decimals, fractions and bar models. The teachers decided to pick the topic of math and then class 5-208 decided on fractions.

## Middle School Application Process Made Easy

by Amy Morales



4th graders, next year you will have to apply for middle school. It may sound like a lot of work, but here is the process all outlined for you.

You will use computers to choose which middle school you would like to attend and should make your selections early to be sure you get into the school you want.

Here is the process for applying for middle school. According to Mr. Peguero, Parent Coordinator, there are several steps. The first step is to read the middle school directory

carefully. The second step is to go to different open houses. An open house is where students visit a school and talk to teachers. The third step is to complete the application online.

After you submit your application, the next step is to go to a borough-wide, city-wide, charter school or private school fair. The purpose of these fairs is to get information and see what schools you like the best. Finally, submit your choices online. Then comes the hard part: wait for the decisions, which do not come until the spring.

Students may decide to stay at AoC through 8th grade. This year, fifth graders applied to schools such as Growing Up Green,

Young Women's Leadership, Our World Neighborhood, Hunters Point and Louis Armstrong. According to Mr. Peguero, 85% of the students chose to apply to AoC in addition to other schools.

If you want to apply to a gifted and talented school, you have to attain an overall grade of 90% or higher to even be eligible and take a test to be accepted. The first step is to request a RFT (Request for Testing). Then, the gifted and talented program will send you a test date, test time, test site and address. After the test, the school will send you your results with the addresses of gifted and talented schools in your area.

**EDITORS:**

Ms. C. Purpi  
Mr. W. Jessimy

**REPORTERS:**

Magni Betances  
Oana Cornell  
Julia Daza  
Sofia Gutierrez  
Alexandra Guzman  
Evan Hernandez  
Kemar Hunter  
Amy Morales  
Mia Ozuna  
Alex Pucha  
Bhumika Rawat  
Hailey Reyes  
Andrea Saenz  
Kyllie Schneider  
Saviel Toribio  
Uziel Vallina

**Community Leaders Speak to 5th Graders**

by Aaliyah Hayes  
Contributing Reporter

On January 18, Assemblyman Michael G. DenDekker came to speak to the 5th graders about his job, its perks and what it takes to be a leader. He is concerned with the neighborhoods of Woodside, Jackson Heights, and East Elmhurst. Students came prepared with notebooks to take notes about the things he has overcome.

DenDekker states that "A good leader is someone who steps up." He thinks plastic bags should not be around because it is harmful to the environment and plans to get rid of them and use paper bags instead.

Before DenDekker was an assemblyman, he used to be a garbage man for Woodside. As he looks back to the past he realizes that "He wouldn't make any changes to the things he has done in life."

One of the problems of being in his position is "other people's opinions getting in the way of what he needs to do." For example, other people's opinions can be so bad that it can intimidate the things he is



doing, he explained.

After speaking, students had a chance to speak to the assemblyman and ask their own questions. They learned that being a leader takes a lot of time and work.

Our own Chef Zhicay, who works in two kitchens had a chance to speak to the students about where he started and how he came to work at AoC. When he immigrated from Ecuador, Zhicay realized he was a good chef and decided he wanted to open up a restaurant, Casa del Chef Bistro in Woodside. However, just in case anything happened to his restaurant, he can always rely on his job at AoC. When Zhicay completes his work here, he runs the kitchen for the rest of the night at the Bistro. He handles having two jobs by "being a well-organized person!"

**Parents Use Web site to Sign Up for Conferences**

by Kemar Hunter

Twice a year, Parent Teacher Conferences cause most students to become nervous, however parents and teachers are requested to review their child's progress.

Mr. Charles Quinn, Dean, said that Parent Teacher Conferences are a good thing because "students can hear what they are doing right or wrong and the parents should know what their grades are.

Sometimes students attend conferences

with their parents and some do not. Ms. Cammarta, Kindergarten teacher, feels "yes, they should have the students in the room with the parents because the student can hear how they are doing." Fourth grader, Sangey Lama stated "sometimes I go with my mom other times I go with my dad but I don't get very nervous about conferences."

Starting this spring, parents were able to sign up for conferences on the internet." Mr.

Paul Ajon, Operations Associate, had said that "the process needs to be tweaked, but in the end it was perfect and it all worked out."

Unlike NYC public schools, AoC holds Parent Teacher Conferences before students receive report cards so students can make changes before report cards come out.

As far as conferences at the middle school, Mr. Lee is "likely to include student participation along with parents"

**SPELLING BEE WINNERS**



**4th grade:** Songsten Lama & Camryn Williams  
**5th Grade:** Diego Hernandez & Ryan Duong



**Support Our Troops!!**



Don't forget to send in donations for our military troops. We have extended the deadline and will be collecting items for our care packages until the end of May!  
(Razors, chapstick, soaps, magazines, hand sanitizer, sunscreen, batteries, sealed snacks. Notes, letters and cards would also be appreciated.)  
Any donation helps. Thank you!

**Comics**

by skylar sullivan



**S  
O  
D  
U  
K  
O**

**DIRECTIONS:** FILL THE GRID WITH THE NUMBERS 1 TO 6 SUCH THAT EACH NUMBER IS ONLY USED ONCE IN EACH ROW, COLUMN AND REGION.

	5		2	
		2	5	
			4	3
4				5 6
2		5		1
	6	1	2	4

**Special Thanks...**

A special thank you to Mr. Santacruz, Mr. Shawn and Mr. Santiago for always helping our budding reporters practice their interviewing skills.