



Volume 6  
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# AoC Times

## AoC Pilots Advisory Class for Seniors

by: **Melina Simeonidis**

AoC piloted a new program with 5th graders called "Advisory," developed by Mr. Clark Jessimy and Ms. Orfelina Cisneros. The purpose of Advisory is to help teach and talk to students about a variety of middle school topics. There were 14 advisory teachers, (2 teachers for 7 groups), and met 3 times a week from 3:00 - 3:25.

According to Clarke Jessimy, he developed advisory because "I want students to get the best preparation for middle school and beyond."

During the first week of advisory, teachers and students greeted each other individually in order to get to know each other. The second week of advisory, students talked about and set SMART goals. The third week included conversations about stress and ways to overcome it. The fourth and final week included a survey about what students liked or disliked about advisory. Group photos and a celebration in the gym was the last part.

Fawzia Ikra liked Advisory because "it is a place where you can share your thoughts and emotions."

Next year, both 5th and 6th graders will participate in Advisory, and other details will be finalized next year.



## This Cycle's News

### New Middle School Curriculums Selected

by: **Magni Betances**



New Middle School Principal, St. Claire Adriaan, along with the Middle School committee has chosen new ELA and math curriculums for the 6th grade 'Collections' was selected for ELA and Illustrative Math will be the new math program.

The process of selecting a curriculum was a long one. According to Adriaan, one of the other choices was Core Knowledge. If the school wanted to use it, the school would to

have had to start it in Kindergarten. Additionally, "The tests were too easy," explained Adriaan, who also chose it because of its connection with Journeys.

Ms. Desiree and Ms. Jill, members of Future Leaders Institute, also helped to choose the curriculum and they liked it because, "It varies between fiction, non-fiction, articles, etc." They also mentioned that the tests are going to have lots and lots of writing. Both ELA teachers piloted the program during May and June. ELA Teacher, Mr. Jessimy feels that the questions "help push the student's thinking." 5th grader Melina Simeonidis also likes Collections, depending on the story her class is reading.

Another 5th grader Tenzin Tashi, (male), feels that it is "really hard for

me to do because the homework takes two hours.

The new math curriculum is called Illustrative Mathematics. The other two choices besides IM was Connected Mathematics and Singapore Math. According to Ms. Smallberg, math teacher, IM has something for everyone, and it is very user-friendly. Smallberg feels, "It pushes teachers to ask the right kind of questions." She added that it also includes lots of group work and student discourse (discussions). If IM was not an option, Ms. Smallberg would have been stuck because the other choices were good, but IM has the best of both of them.



### 4th Grade Performs with Dance Matters For First Time

by: **Kyllie Toshimi-Schneider**

New this year was fourth graders learning dance from professional dancers, part of a company in Sunnyside called Dance Matters. They practiced 3 times a week starting in May.

The songs were chosen by the instructors, and for the most part, students liked the songs and dance moves. Because there were 2 teachers per class, they were able to teach half the class their moves and parts.

Last week, students performed on stage in the gym. Ms. Lee Catherine, one of the dance instructors states "I think the kids did great because they really worked hard." Even though the music kept stopping, students were able to continue because the



teachers were singing the parts. Ms. Santos, math teacher, felt that the students "Did very well keeping the show going even through the technical difficulties."

Students have different opinions on the program. Saviel Torbio states "I like the program, but it was a lot of work." However, Catherine Langhenry feels that the dance class "is fun and educational and a good experience for us." Andrea Saenz also had positive thoughts, "I loved it because we had to act things out."

Students performed two dances each. Class 4-202 performed the

songs "My Shot" from Hamilton and "You Can't Stop the Beat," from Hairspray, while class 4-201 performed "Seize the Day," from the Broadway show, Newsies and "This is Me," from the movie, "The Greatest Showman." Ms. Diamand's class danced to "Non Stop," from Hamilton and "Come Alive," also from the Greatest Showman.

Parent, Cristina Calderon said "I enjoyed the show because the students did great and knew all of their parts." Teacher Ms. Nikolopolous enjoyed the program because the "kids worked together."

According to Ms. Santacruz, Assistant Principal, the program will be back next year because it was "a great program."

## Talk About a "Medieval" Trip!

by Maya Nover

On May 6, the 5th graders were treated to a special senior trip at Medieval Times. During the trip the 5th graders were given a feast and were shown skits of chivalry, quizzes, and a joust starring actors and real horses.

Students were given lunch that consisted of garlic bread, rotisserie chicken, potatoes and a beverage, but to make it feel like they were living in medieval times, they weren't allowed to use utensils and had to eat with their hands.

Some lucky even students caught a flower from the knight, and one lucky senior received a ribbon from the knights lance.

During the skits, there was always a quiz afterwards. Some topics included bullying, being unfair and gossip. For example, the "gossip" skit talked about phones and how to act online.

AoC was part of the green team or "The City of Leon." The green knight lost and another



school, the black and white team won. Zhumsel Yoezer was impressed with the performance because a horse bowed, "I didn't know that a horse could be so well-trained that it could bow." Julia Reis replied "My favorite part was when the knights were jousting and the green knight died." She then explained her reason, "The tenseness was great because we didn't know our knight would die. Zara Prassain felt "it was like we were royalty."

## Students Witness 2 Home Runs during CitiField Trip

by Miriam Rosales-Hernandez  
Contributing Reporter



On Thursday June 6, both Ms. Purpi's ESL students and Ms. Tejada's 5th grade ELA groups took a trip to Citi Field to watch the Mets play against the Giants on a warm and sunny day. As a bonus, students got to see a Dinosaur show before the game.

From the Field Level seats, students watched a dinosaur show, part of Education Day, which consisted of music, quizzes and a life-size dinosaur! Niko Kinjo said "The dinosaur show was interesting," however Nicole Vargas felt that "The dinosaur show was a little boring because they were just acting."

Once the dinosaur show was over, the students went to their assigned seats and witnessed the Mets first batter Amed Rosario hit

a home run, as well as the second batter, Dominic Smith! Vargas and Kinjo both said that "The game was fun because they hit two home runs." Students also saw the Homerun Apple go up twice.

Ms. Purpi explained her reason for taking her students to a game, "I wanted to give my students exposure to my favorite sport, bring them somewhere they've might have never been and to experience America's pastime." She added that her favorite part was "seeing my students having fun and watching their expressions."

Kinjo said "I wanted to go to see them again because it was my second time." Ms. Purpi added "I had a blast, the weather was perfect, and we got to see two home runs."

In order to see more of the game, students got to CitiField by taking the subway and walking a little bit. Ms. Purpi said "taking 36 students on the subway was challenging because of the amount of students, but the chaperones were really helpful."

Students needed to leave before the game was over and the Mets were losing 3-2 at that point. However, afterwards, they scored 5 more runs to win the game, 7-3.

## Alumni Reunion Allows Students to Reminisce

by Kemar Hunter  
Contributing Reporter



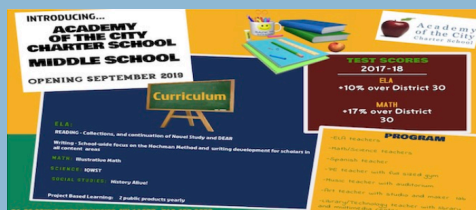
AoC hosted its alumni from the classes of 2016, 2017 and 2018 for an annual reunion. Viviana Vidal, Admissions Associate and Noel Peguero, Parent Coordinator state that the purpose of 2019's alumni reunion was to welcome back the AoC graduates so they can catch up with old classmates and teachers. We also like to "check up on how the alumni are doing in middle school or high school."

Students completed a survey about their time at AOC, socialized while enjoying pizza and playing basketball. After a group photo, Mr. Peguero sang both "Together," and AoC's school song.

Stanley Dabrezil, now 6th grader, thinks that "the way AoC teachers teach us will make us ready for our future school years." Jalen Melvin, current 7th grader wished that there was volleyball, baseball and basketball teams. Ahmor Bacote, 6th grader, feels that AoC was a great school and his favorite club was Zumba because "you can dance freely."

Parents seem to look back at their child's experience here positively. Eunice Venaarde, parent of Gianna Goje, says that she has seen big improvement in her child from her time at AoC. Johan Hoyos, Kaydence's father feels that "AoC had helped his daughter with improving how to build strong positive relationships."

Introducing...  
**AOC MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
OPENING SEPTEMBER 2019



### Curriculum:

*ELA: Collections, Novel Study, DEAR*

*Math: Illustrative Math*

*Science: IQWST*

*Social Studies: History Alive!*

## TEACHER SPOTLIGHT



**MS. MEGIAS**



by Ana Hoxha & Xanthe Kitses

Many of the teachers at AoC have other talents besides teaching and Ms. Megias is one of them! Not only does she teach 5th Grade ELA, but she also teaches adult Zumba in Sunnyside, as well as Zumba Club at AoC

Six years ago, a friend of hers suggested she try a Zumba class, since she liked dancing so much. Because Zumba is based on Latin rhythms, she knew and grew up with those rhythms. "My first experience with dancing was in my mom's belly. She was always dancing, and so was my father," Ms. Megias explained.

When she first tried Zumba, Megias thought it was fun, but hard. She knew she wanted to try it again, even though she claims that she wasn't very good at it. "Zumba makes me feel energized, stress-free, and happy. It makes me feel like I'm part of something fun," Ms. Megias says. "It makes me feel inspired."

In order to be a certified instructor, Megias needed to take classes herself and has to renew it every 2 years.

Ms. Megias started teaching adult Zumba and then she thought it would be fun to teach Zumba during clubs.

"I like Zumba club," student Nela Torres stated. "You get to exercise and dance, and our teacher is amazing!" Teachers also enjoy her expertise. "I wanted to be more active, so I joined Ms. Megias's Zumba class in Sunnyside," said ESL teacher, Ms. Purpi. "It was fun to dance with co-workers."

## Seniors Celebrate End of Year with a Dance

by Skylar Sullivan

The graduating 5th graders performed a dancing and singing program called TADA. Ms. Galashaw, former assistant principal, was the one who started it. TADA has its own traditional song the fifth graders sing each year, called "TADA!"

The teachers, Juliette Fixel and Magnus Tønning Riise came two days a week, which recently changed, as it used to be just once a week. The performance, included "You Will be Found", from Dear Evan Hansen, was on

June 11th. Dancing and singing requires a lot of energy, as students appeared tired after each rehearsal!

The performance which included "Individuality," by Joel Gelpe, "The Adams Family," by Andrew Lippa, and "Making History Today," by Eric Rockwell. Before each song, a group or skit was performed. The theme of each skit was chosen by teachers and inspired by the books students read during Novel Study.

The two instructors have run programs in NYC schools for about 3 years. Tønning Riise



enjoys "seeing the impact we make working with students from many different backgrounds and seeing the importance of art in schools." Fixel loves TADA because they "allow them to teach students more advanced dancing skills."

Students danced while singing, so they had to make sure not to run out of breath. At the end, all 4 classes got together to sing the TADA song, with many parents and students in the audience.

## 2019 Field Day a Scorcher

by Abiel Rodriguez & Brandon Tined



AoC's Physical Education teacher, Mr. Faulkner hosted 2019's hot and sweaty Field Day on May 20 at St. Michael's Playground. It was so hot that students were dumping water on their heads to keep cool. The temperature was in the 80's.

The equipment for the 5th Annual Field Day for grades 4 and 5 was funded by Mr.

Faulkner and AoC; he spent \$30 and bought 3 soccer balls each for \$10. The rest of the equipment was already a part of AoC's stock.

AoC's administration made a change in this year's field day. In 2018, field day was separated by grades K-2 and 3-5, however, this year it was grades K-3 and 4-5. The reason Mr. Faulkner made this change this is because "4th and 5th grade are the grades going to Middle School soon."

Some stations at field day were Hungry Snakes, Bottle Flip, Soccer Station and an Obstacle Course. Students were already taught these games in physical education class. Some of the free-play stations included parachute,

playground, and soccer.

Luis Intriago, 4th grader said the part that he really liked was the free-play soccer "Because they got to play against the 5th graders and the 4th graders only lost by 1 goal." Mr. Faulkner filed for two permits from the NYC Parks Department to use the soccer field for field day. If someone else or another group was on the field, Faulker responded by saying that "They would ask nicely if they could leave."

Teachers at AoC helped with directions and the parents demonstrated the stations to the students all while helping out with the equipment.

## AoC Runs First Ever Military Donation Drive

by Isla Kitses

Have you ever wanted to give back to your community by donating? Well, students at AoC did just that thanks to Ms. Kerrie Fabrizi, Special Education Coordinator. She decided to organize a Drive for military soldiers. Students were asked to give anything they think a soldier might need, like hygiene products, canned food, coats and sweaters.

Fabrizi explained that she wanted to get her children involved in ways they can give back, so therefore, "my sons inspired me to ask for these military donations."

She has a friend who is a sergeant in the Marines who also inspired her to organize this event.

Fabrizi states, "I reached out to one of my friends and asked him to send me some of the addresses of soldiers. Then I sent out flyers to every class and put a bin in the hallway."

Yasin Elabidi, a student that donated, explained, "I was told about this event by my teacher, Ms. Nikolopoulos, and I decided to donate two dollars for the right



cause."

"I hadn't heard about this at first, but I feel like this is great, how we can donate to people that serve in wars," states Genesis Velez, a fourth grade student.

All donations, which included soaps, razors, deodorants and other toiletries are going to the military overseas.

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# 5th Grade Fun Friday's a Hit

by Jon Marcus Diaz & Duran Russell

Seniors celebrated the end of their elementary days with Fun Fridays, which included Twin Day, Sports Day, Pajama Day and Superhero Day. They started in May and took place every Friday.

Ms. Orfelina Cisneros, School Counselor, was one of the creators of this annual tradition. She explained the process of making Fun Fridays, stating "Two years ago, I brought the idea to Mr. Lee, because he usually doesn't like students without uniforms, yet he liked the idea." Then, Cisneros created a flyer to notify families. "Finally," she continued, "We asked both the students and teachers to participate."

Maya Nover, a 5th grade student, explained, "They are really fun and give us a chance to not wear uniforms." Many students felt the same way. Another senior, Albion Ahmetaj declared, "Fun Fridays are okay, but still fun!"

Some teachers even participated in the events. For example, for Pajama Day, Ms. Megias wore a unicorn onesie. Ms. Cisneros also explained why she came up with the idea for Fun Fridays "In everything we do, we



need to have fun. When we have fun, we are happier." She also wanted the students to use Fun Fridays as an opportunity to transition to middle school.

The specific ideas she came up with were from Google and Pinterest, but the students gave her some ideas too. Last year, students enjoyed Crazy Hair Day and Crazy Socks Day; this year they changed it up a little and 5th graders participated in Pajama Day and Superhero Day because they wanted to try new things. Teacher then voted on their top four choices. What Ms. Cisneros likes about Fun Fridays is everything because "it is silly that the students get a chance to do fun stuff. Her favorite day is Pajama Day because it's really fun to see the students wearing pajamas in school.

# Students Sing the Beatles

by Luis Intriago and Will Kotsatfis



On May 30, 3rd, 4th and 5th graders sang a few popular songs for parents, siblings, teachers and staff. This concert featured many songs by the Beatles. All the parents seemed to be amazed because "Happier" put a smile to all the peoples faces as everyone started to clap to the beat.

5th grade student said the concert was

very energetic and Ms. Gift, After School Director, stated that "Mr. Alan choose great songs."

"I was excited about all the songs, but especially excited to perform Happier," explained Mr. Alan, music teacher. This year he allowed students to recommend songs that they'd be interested in singing. Even though 4th grade recommended Happier, Mr. Alan decided to perform Happier with the 5th grade "Because it's their last year at AoC."

New speakers were installed above the stage so the audience can hear the student's voices better. Mr. Alan feels that "The speakers help, but there are things he can do to make

them even better."

Mr. Alan explained why there are two concerts, "So we can show how much better we get throughout the year."

3rd grade sang "I Got A Name," by Jim Croce, "Yesterday," and "I Want To Hold Your Hand," both by the Beatles. 4th grade sang "Goodbye Yellow Brick Road," and Help!" by the Beatles and "Never My Love," by the Association. 5th grade sang "Mama I'm Coming Home," by Ozzie Osbourne, "Africa," by Toto and "Happier," by Marshmellow, featuring Bastille.

After the concert, the PCO sold empanadas, juice and snacks.

# SPELLING BEE WINNERS



3rd Grade - Kelly Arias  
4th Grade - Genesis Velez  
5th Grade - Fady Eshak

# Correction

In the last issue, the "Student Spotlight" was written by Alexandra Guzman and Evan Hernandez. Their names were mistakenly left out.

# Expo Displays Student Work

by Matteo Cajas

Academy of the City Charter School held an Art, Science, and Spanish Expo to represent kids work from all grades. The expo displayed student projects in these subjects. The event took place on April 30th between 4pm - 6pm, during after-school hours.

For the Spanish part, the students created projects about different Latin American countries, highlighting the foods, and presenting the countries.

The displays were put up in the Art, Science and PCO portables, however because of the State Math test the next day, all of the students work had to come down right away. Mr. Pickett, assistant science teacher said It was sad and stressful



because students wanted to see their work displayed. For example, the 4th graders created a diagram about the important parts of plants.

Ms. Lopez, Art teacher, said that the students in her art classes made a lot of improvements throughout the year. She also explained that there were enough parents to make the event a success. However, Mr. Pickett wanted more parents to see the work.