

AoC Debuts 8th Grade Open Campus Lunch

by Devin Orr

In the beginning of February, 8th grade students were given permission to get lunch outside on Fridays because administrators felt they should accept more responsibility.

Students were allowed to go outside if they completed all of their work and have good class behavior. According to Mr. Nunez, the 8th graders can only go two blocks from the school but if they want to go further, they can, but have to come back at the right time for class. If students come



back late they will be in trouble. "It's pretty cool to see the 8th graders smile," he commented.

Opinions on the new freedom varied. 8th grader Zara Prassain likes it and thinks it's fair, however, Tenzin Soepa said that "if you do not have money then what is the point of going outside?"

Assistant Principal, Ms Hu feels that the 8th grade lunch outside is a great reward for students who are responsible for doing their work on time and have good behavior.

Student Led Conferences Continue to Be Virtual

by Anika Kumar

In March, students at AoC Middle School completed their Student Led Conferences and shared their grades, portfolios and progress with their families.

Students used both Zoom and Google Sites to create their portfolios. AoC teachers and students had different points of view about the SLC's. For example 5th and 6th grade social studies teacher, Mr. Jessimy organized the SLC's and said, "It was very challenging because of the lack of time while planning the SLC's out." He added, "It was also challenging because there are 24 advisory groups and it took 6 weeks out of school time." But



because of all his hard work, students got to present their grades and assignments. Mr. Jessimy explained why the SLC's were still on zoom "Because we didn't want to take chances with COVID. Also, it was easier to do virtual portfolios and more convenient for the parents and students." It was also great for parents to learn about their kids behavior, grades, and lessons.

Although it was more accessible for parents, stressful for Mr. Jessimy, it was also nerve wracking for the students. Sixth grader, Melanie Sibri said, "It was really scary because I'm failing science, but overall it was okay." Another 6th grader Julieta Munoz said, "The time I started I felt very scared because I had bad grades, but at the end of the SLC's my mom started crying and I felt okay but bad because of my grades."

These students had different points of view of their SLC compared to each other and their parents. One 7th grade parent, Nilcee Schneider felt that the SLC's were, "very helpful and very insightful."

Fundraising Club Helps Ukraine

by Jayden Salley

In March, Ms. Pily's Fundraising Club raised over \$800 to support the Ukrainian Church with the war in Ukraine.

The money raised came from Pajama Day, where students bought a ticket to wear pajamas for the day. Each ticket cost \$1 in advance, however students were charged \$2 on the actual day.

After the money was raised, the club put all of the change in coin rolls and separated them from the bills. They then walked to the Ukrainian Crisis Church in Astoria on 30th St. and handed over a plastic bag full of \$225.39 worth of coins.



Because of what is going on over their needs to stop and the people of Ukrainian need help, said Ms. Pily. 5th grader Nicole Tejada feels we should help the innocent people of Ukraine who are in danger of getting killed.

The money raised will go towards blankets, toothbrushes, winter clothes, toiletries and non-perishable food such as canned goods and clothes... things to keep the citizens comfortable.

5th Graders Create AoC Card Game

by Arisha Rahman



A group of fifth grade students are in the process of creating a card game called "The School Order," featuring teachers and staff at AoC.

The creators (Kira Nover, Tenzin Choeden, Jigsal Gontsang, Dyland Castillo and Pema Lhamo) are basing the cards on the staff; their powers on what they like to do the most. So, for example the math teachers have math related powers. The reason this group was inspired to create this card game is because of the information cards about the administration and teachers they saw posted in front of all classrooms. According to Jigsal Gontsang, the card game is similar to Pokemon, a trading/collecting card game.

The applications that the students are using to develop the cards are Procreate and Google Sites. Procreate is a professional drawing app many artists use to draw or make things to sell. They are sketching out all of the characters for the card game in Procreate. The group is also using Google Sites to keep all of the card designs safe just in case they accidentally delete a card.

According to Tenzin Choeden, the game should come out by next school year as they are still developing the cards, and are still brainstorming teachers and staff to put on the cards.

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Clubs Return Only to Middle School After Pandemic

by Yohanides Ferreras

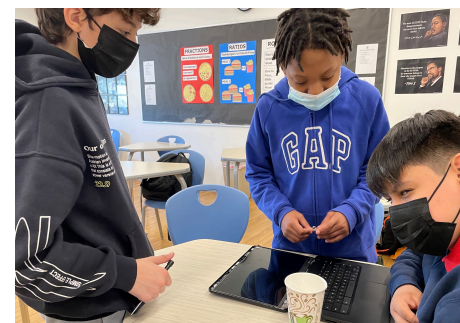
In January, clubs returned to AoC Middle School because administrators felt students needed a break from their academics.

According to Ms Hu, the Assistant Principal of the Middle School "it was requested by students and teachers alike and I think the students needed a break from all of the academics." Based on interviews, the overall rating of clubs are positive, students think you can learn a lot and have fun. "I like it because it gives us a chance to explore new things," said Jigsal Gontsang. "Clubs are fun due to the fact that you can try new things" said Sofia Robalino.

This year clubs were split between 5th/6th grade and 7th/8th grade and included a Running Club, a Japanese Club, a Technology Club, a Meditation Club, a Merengue Club, and many others.

The elementary school did not bring back clubs, but Assistant Principal, Ms. Latman is trying to get them back. "We are working very hard to follow guidelines about keeping pods grouped together. We can't wait to get clubs back up and running next school year!"

Fourth grade teacher, Ms. Ranieri feels that "the students have missed out on being



exposed to new experiences by not having clubs this year. Students who might have otherwise learned new skills or socialize with students older/younger, were not able to do so. I look forward to clubs coming back!"

Middle School Debuts New Schedule

by Aly Abouelnour

Two months ago AoC Middle School administrators created a new schedule because the teachers and students were tired of the old schedule for many reasons.

Before, students had ELA and Math two periods everyday, plus advisory five times a week. The new schedule is different because there are less classes and it adds clubs and flex time. Flex time is where students do

their unfinished work after homeroom.

"The students felt tired of the old schedule," said Ms. Hu. She added that "the teachers didn't have time to meet and chat with each other." Both Ms. Rolon, Dean, and assistant principal Ms. Hu was in charge of creating the new schedule. They worked together doing lots of math to figure out how to make the schedule work.

Most students that were interviewed liked the old schedule more, however most teachers like the new one more though. "It gives students more time to learn and think," said Mr. Faulkner. "Some students feel it's repetitive," said Akhil Ali.

When the school changed the schedule, mostly all students either were confused or lost because they were used to the old schedule. But now, they like it

more; 7th grader Zachery Caballero said, "because I have less ELA and less math than I did with the old schedule."

Ms. Hu does have plans to make a new schedule next year "the new schedule will be more improved because we learned from our mistakes this year."

Social Studies 107B	Math 203	ELA 202	2 9:06-9:51	ELA 202	So 10
Dance 303	PE 107B	Library	3 9:54-10:39	Music 105	So 20
ELA 202	Social Studies 107B	Math 203	4 10:42-11:27	Math 203	EL 20
LUNCH Advisory 2nd Step	LUNCH Advisory 2nd Step	LUNCH Clubs	5 11:30-12:10 (40 mins)	LUNCH Advisory SEL	En
			6 12:13-12:53 (40 mins)		

5th & 6th Grade Go on Scavenger Hunt Through AMNH

by Yohanides Ferreras

On June 9th, 5th and 6th graders enjoyed a trip to the American Museum of Natural History. Social Studies teacher, Mr. Jessimy stated that "I wanted 5th and 6th graders to go to a place that they had never been and I wanted them to learn something new."

Students were given a scavenger hunt packet in which they had to find different artifacts within the exhibits. Many students loved the trip, however, some students disliked

the scavenger hunt still because they wanted to "enjoy and explore the museum since we weren't get graded on it" stated Jacob Cayabyab. Though some students disliked the scavenger hunt some liked it. "It was a good a place to go to for a scavenger hunt" stated Justin Molina.

Mr. Jessimy had originally promised a pizza party to the group that found the most artifacts, however, because no one answered everything correctly on the Google Doc and pictures were missing, no one



won. Fifth grader, Jigsal Gontsang, "it was a fun experience though I wasn't able to learn much because we were so focused on the scavenger hunt."

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"I'm nervous because Yassin doesn't know what he is doing but I'm excited because the kids worked hard and deserve to show off what they've worked on." Ms Megias felt "excited because everyone knows their lines but I'm nervous because what if an actor doesn't show up or something goes wrong."

On Tuesday, June 14, the 7th grade had a party celebrating the production.

