



PIE THROWING

Aurora Day School Winter Newsletter 2020

"Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak. Courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen."
-Winston Churchill

IN THIS ISSUE

Notes from the Director's Desk

by RoxAnne K. Williford MC, LPC, Executive Director

Every year we are in awe of the resiliency of our students. They work diligently on becoming more independent, creatively dealing with adversities, and work on creating positive relationships at home, in school and in their community.

This year is equally as brilliant. The first semester of this school year was filled with a plethora of events and activities. We hosted an amazing Open House, participated in many volunteer activities, visited a variety of college campuses, participated in job fairs, hosted the Phoenix Symphony and had the privilege of touring Symphony Hall.

I am always humbled by the kindness of our parents, staff and community members and their willingness to help those in need. We have a parent who provided eight families with a full Thanksgiving dinner from Sprouts.

We were also able to provide an additional eight families with holiday food boxes for Christmas.

Our community outreach also extends to hosting the St. Mary's Food Truck distribution monthly on our campus. We disburse on average, 6000-10,000 lbs. of food to the community during these events.

This school year we have added a fulltime Job Coach to our team. We have the ability to assist the students with obtaining employment while providing on the job coaching and mentoring from a familiar staff member.

As we enter the final semester of school; we want to extend our encouragement to our Seniors who will moving to their next adventures.



Main Event

Students had a great time at Main Event as part of a Fun Friday Celebration.

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Campus Happenings

Fall Festival, volunteer hours, door decorating, and vocational skills are just a few of the many activities we have been a part of.

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Main Event

Gold Level students had the opportunity to take a fun outing to Main Event this past quarter. The students were able to dine on delicious pizza while bowling, playing arcade games, running around the laser tag arena, or gravity ropes.



On the RISE

Our RISE classroom enjoyed celebrating Arizona's version of winter by making and eating delicious treats and creating festive artwork. In addition to their outstanding contribution to the school door decorating contest, the

RISE classroom also made an out-of-this-world gingerbread house. Yum! The entire Aurora Day School team is proud of all of the hard work and effort these kiddos have put into these tasks, and can't wait to see what else they'll get to do next quarter.

Student of the Month

by Joseline Ortiz and Emmy Her Many Horses

De'Andre has been selected for December's Student of the Month for being a helpful, well-mannered, and a hardworking student. De'Andre has been working hard on being helpful in the classroom and around campus. De'Andre is able to help by setting up the classroom in the morning and cleaning in the afternoon to help keep our classroom and campus clean. De'Andre also helps Mr. Kevin on Fridays to tear down our classroom by moving chairs and desk. De'Andre is always looking for an opportunity to help any staff that needs a job done. He also continues to work on his manners with staff and his fellow peers. De'Andre has been able to teach his peers how to say "yes ma'am" and "no thank you" as well as other manners that the classroom has adopted. De'Andre, the Elementary staff is super proud of the hard

work you are doing in your academics, as well as the positive changes you have made in your behavior. We are so proud of you. Keep up the good work!

Isaiah has been working to improve his communication and is reaching out to communicate more effectively with his classmates and staff. Isaiah has always been a kind and friendly classmate, but he began taking the initiative to interact with his classmates on his own throughout December. Isaiah has improved in all academic areas, and is able to more effectively communicate questions he has about the world around him.



Campus Happenings

By Zak Pauwels, High School Student Journalist

HIGH SCHOOL #1

Aurora Day School's High School 1 classroom has been actively participating in transition activities this past quarter. Transitional activities help prepare our students for life beyond high school by learning important vocational and life skills. The students in this class have had the opportunity to visit both the Arizona State University campus and the Grand Canyon University campus this past quarter. Students were able to meet with advisors and learn about requirements needed to apply, and have their questions answered about campus life. Additionally, the students have had the pleasure of volunteering at our local St. Mary's Food Pantry, packing boxes of non-perishable items for families in need. As a school, we have been fortunate to receive support from our community, so our students are always eager to give back to the community in return.

HIGH SCHOOL #2

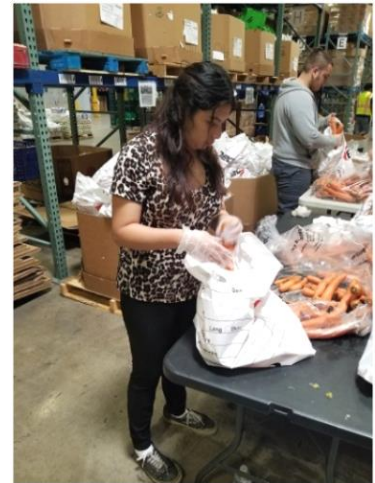
The High School Two classroom at Aurora Day School celebrated their coveted win during our annual door decorating contest. As a group, the students brainstormed various themes, sketched out plans, made a list of materials needed, and assigned tasks to each student. Each entry was judged on three main criteria: participation, creativity, and final cost. Each student contributed at least one item or design feature to the door. The final cost of the projected totaled \$3.00. The

students were very proud that their teamwork earned them some recognition. The students choose to celebrate their victory with a class pizza party. The award-winning door featured dinosaurs with festive Christmas hats tearing into their holiday presents.

SHINE CLASSROOM

The Shine classroom continued their winter tradition of creating holiday crafts to sell to other students and staff to help alleviate some of the pressures of holiday shopping. The students practiced fine motor skills in designing and creating various pieces of jewelry and holiday-themed décor. The students then practiced their social skills while selling their wares, and got to practice real-world money skills when closing out transactions. The students were able to use the money they earned to purchase gifts for their friends and families. Some students had never received gifts from their friends before, and were overjoyed by the compassion and camaraderie shown. Any additional profits will go towards funding their end of the year trip this spring.

AROUND CAMPUS



St

Mary's Food Pantry

Valeria Begazo and Josh Beckham sort through food donations for families in need.



Shine Holiday Store

Students from the Shine classroom proudly show off their hand-crafted items for their store.



Door Decorating

The High School 2 students were quite festive this year.

Fall Festival

By Lauren Rosales, High School Student Journalist

This November, Aurora Day School hosted our annual Fall Festival Open House. Aurora welcomed families, school district representatives, as well as community members to the event. Outside, visitors dined on complimentary meals prepared by school staff, and were able to participate in arts and crafts. The pumpkin painting station was a huge hit. There were also games, like life-size Jenga, corn hole, a cake-walk, and students had a blast throwing pies at their favorite staff. The staff prepared a multitude of gift baskets which were offered as prizes to those individuals who purchased raffle tickets. Some lucky guests were fortunate enough to go home with multiple baskets! The fortunate guests who participated in the cake walk were fortunate enough to take home delicious goodies.

Visitors who went inside the school were able to tour the classrooms and see samples of student academic work. An art table was setup to display the creativity of Aurora Day School students. Students from the SHINE classroom had hand-crafted jewelry for sale. The proceeds of this endeavor will go to fund their annual end-of-the-year trip to a fun location of their choice. Popcorn and lemonade were also available inside to snack on. The multiple varieties lemonade were made by our very own High School 3 students. A fun time was had by everyone at Aurora Day School!



