

# ADVANCED MATH & SCIENCE ACADEMY

## CHARTER SCHOOL

by: Reina Rago, English Teacher

Although the Advanced Math & Science Academy (AMSA) Charter School in Marlborough, Massachusetts, adopted a social curriculum several years ago that addresses bullying, John Brucato, Executive Director, embraced Governor Deval Patrick's invitation to make January 25 "No Name Calling Day" and extended this one-day event.

To make anti-bullying even more visible and apparent, the entire student body also participated in a door decorating and hallway contest. For two weeks leading up to the "No Name Calling Day", each homeroom designed visual presentations, as well as demonstrations using technology, that boldly made a stand against bullying. When asked about the impact of this event, two eighth graders agreed, "This project made us band together to stop bullying in our school." Another eighth grader added, "I learned that it is best to be yourself and not to let anyone bring you down—be who you are and be proud."

Lori Ruggiano, an 8th grade math teacher, believes that AMSA's social curriculum program is making a positive impact on students. "Our anti-bullying door contest was yet another way that helped students really understand how to take a stand against bullying," Ruggiano said. "This type of activity offers more than just telling kids to stop bullying. It offers 'bystander power'", she added.

During a recent visit to AMSA, Margaret Brumberg, Prevention and Education Coordinator for the Middlesex Partnership for Youth, stated that she was excited to see that AMSA was actively promoting a school culture that is rich in acceptance and bully prevention. Ms. Brumberg trained AMSA's faculty and staff on the Act Related to Bullying as mandated by Massachusetts Law. Middlesex Partnerships for Youth, Inc. (MPY), in partnership with the Middlesex District Attorney's Office, is a 501(c)(3) organization which provides training, fosters collaboration, and develops initiatives to increase students' safety, health and learning in Middlesex County, Massachusetts.

## AMSA STUDENTS TURN THEIR BACKS AND WEAR BLACK!



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"Despite the fact that overall our students accept each other's differences, we also know that students need consistent reinforcement to make positive behavioral changes," stated Brucato, a passionate educator for over 35 years. "AMSA attracts students from over 65 towns throughout the state of Massachusetts. With that comes different backgrounds and cultures. The 'No Name Calling Day' along with our contest united our student body to see we are all human beings first and foremost," underscored Brucato.

### 2011-2012 THE YEAR OF EXCELLENCE

Many families have generously donated to AMSA's annual giving campaign-THANK YOU! It is important we have 100% participation in order to qualify for some grants. If you are still thinking about it this might help- <http://www.golocalprov.com/news/julia-steiny3/>.

### ATTENTION PARENTS

We are looking for 6-10 parents whose children represent a variety of grades, years spent at AMSA, and academic ability to participate in our seven year DESE site visit focus group. The date is March 9th. The time will be determined later but most likely will be one hour in the morning. If interested, please email Maureen Evans at: [m.evans@amsacs.org](mailto:m.evans@amsacs.org)

### DATES TO REMEMBER

2/20-24: February Vacation

**MARCH LUNCH ORDERS DUE THIS WEEK**

**TERM TWO HONOR ROLL**

[http://www.amsacs.org/honor\\_roll.htm](http://www.amsacs.org/honor_roll.htm)

3/3: SAT Prep Class starts

3/9: DESE Site Visit

## Poetry Out Loud: From the English Department

Many of our Upper School students recently competed in our first annual Poetry Out Loud competition. Each English class chose a winner and these winners competed in semi-final rounds. The semi-finalists were narrowed to a field of 12 students who recited their chosen poems in a final round held after school in the cafeteria on Feb. 6. Those students who participated as finalists were:

**9th Grade: Alli Caulfield, Damini Chelladuri, Anagha Indic**

**10th grade: Azmina Karukappadath, Nicole Keeping, Joel Wilner**

**11th Grade: Justin Chander, Mike Gusev, Mary Lyon and Raagini Rameshwar**

**12th Grade: Micaela Garrison Desany and Raashika Goyal**

The winner of the finalist round was **Micaela Garrison-Desany** reciting "Backdrop Addresses Cowboy" by Margaret Atwood. Micaela will represent AMSA in the state regional competition on March 3 in Framingham. Our second runner up was Mary Lyon reciting "Time Does Not Bring Relief: You All Have Lied" by Edna St. Vincent Millay and our first runner up was Nikki Keeping, reciting "I'm Learning to Abandon the World" by Linda Pastan. Regional winners continue to state competition and winners there compete in the national competition in Washington, DC in May. Students choose their poems from the Poetry Out Loud database and memorize them for presentation. They are scored on their physical presence, voice and articulation, dramatic appropriateness, the level of difficulty of their chosen piece, and evidence of understanding in their recitation.

## IN THE COMMUNITY

### Pizza Tasting Tuesday, Feb. 21st 5-6pm

Join us as we taste test pizza from six local pizza shops!! Tell us who has the best cheese, dough, sauce, etc. We want your opinion!! You must register for this program by Thursday, Feb. 16. Email [jbacon@cwmmars.org](mailto:jbacon@cwmmars.org) or visit the Library Circulation Desk. Grades 7-12.

### Hunger Games Competition Friday, Feb. 24th 12-1:30pm

Enjoy pizza and compete for points in our very own Hunger Games. The person with the most points at the end of the competition wins two movie passes to see the Hunger Games!! Space is limited to 15 teens, so sign up now! You must register to attend by Thursday, Feb. 16. Email [jbacon@cwmmars.org](mailto:jbacon@cwmmars.org) or visit the Circulation Desk. Grades 7-12.

### MPL Teen Writing Competition

From Feb. 6 to March 2nd, teens grades 7-12 are invited to send in their best story/poetry for our Teen Writing Competition. FOUR talented writers will win \$100! To download the submission form and learn more about the competition, go to:

[http://www.marlborough-ma.gov/Gen/MarlboroughMA\\_PubLibrary/flyers/MPLTeenCompetition.docx](http://www.marlborough-ma.gov/Gen/MarlboroughMA_PubLibrary/flyers/MPLTeenCompetition.docx)

### SAVE THE DATE!!

Please join us for a fabulous fundraiser to benefit:

## THE AMSA JUNIOR & SENIOR AFTER PROM PARTY

Thursday, May 10, 2012

7:00pm - 9:00pm

JENNY BOSTON WESTBORO

45 East Main Street

Westboro, MA

Shop for the latest in fashion including handbags, fashion jewelry, belts, scarves and other great items-all at 40 - 60% off retail pricing!!



April 2013, we will be traveling around Ireland! We will visit such places as Dublin and see the Illuminated Manuscript, The Book of Kells, visit the majestic west coast, kiss the Blarney Stone and go back in time when we visit the "working village" at Bunratty Castle. See Rebecca Duffy in room 319 or [rduffy@amsacs.org](mailto:rduffy@amsacs.org) and Caitlyn Sheehan in room 301 or [c.sheehan@amsacs.org](mailto:c.sheehan@amsacs.org) for more information.

**Slainte!**

<http://www.eftours/1110323>

### TRAVEL WITH AMSA-THREE GREAT EDUCATIONAL TRIPS TO CHOOSE FROM!



**We are going to Costa Rica!! If you have any questions feel free to contact either Lea Severance or EF customer service at 1-800-665-5364. You can also visit [www.eftours.com/1189876](http://www.eftours.com/1189876) to find out more about the trip. Lea Severance Physical Ed Teacher**



### Travel to England & Scotland - April 2013

Make history come alive and earn class credit while traveling abroad! Join the trip to England and Scotland next year during April vacation and earn class credit. There is an informational meeting on Monday, March 12th @ 3:30 and 5:30 in room 805 in the White Building. Please see Mr. Fortier, Ms. Sinacola, Ms. Rago or Mr. Dineen for more details.

[www.eftours.com/1203443](http://www.eftours.com/1203443)

## MATH TEAM

Three four person teams from the AMSA High School Math team recently competed in the first of three rounds of the Mandelbrot Team Play competition. This is a team competition that includes proof writing. One team (Christina Teodorescu, Nicholas Ve, Vishant Prabhakaran, and John Long) tied for ninth place among 162 team competing from across the nation. This team placed first among all New England teams in the competition. Among others, it tied with the top team from AAST, a New Jersey magnet school nationally recognized for its math team. AMSA also placed above the top teams from nationally recognized schools such as Stuyvesant (NY city), Palo Alto (CA), Wayzata (MN), and IMSA (Chicago).

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Eight members of the Varsity Math Team competed in the prestigious Harvard MIT Math Tournament last Saturday and placed 40th out of 98 teams. The elite tournament field included multiple regional and state all star teams, most of the top high school math teams from across the country, and teams from China, Korea, Canada, and Brazil. The team placed 31st out of 98 teams in the "Guts" round and 8th out of 49 teams in the "Team B" round.. Nicholas Ve had AMSA's top individual result. He placed 37th in the Geometry round and 70th overall out of ~750 competitors.

Congratulations to the team: Nick, Zephyr Lucas, Vishant Prabhakaran, Meghana Vagwala, Kevin Cai, John Long, Christina Teodorescu and Bill Warner.

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The AMSA High School Math Team is planning a math tournament on Wednesday, Mar. 14 (Pi Day!). This tournament will take place in the Upper School cafeteria from 3:30 to 7:30pm. All AMSA sixth, seventh, and eighth graders are invited to attend.

The competition will consist of an individual and a team round. Food (pizza pie) for sale will be available to eat before the awards presentation. Please see future announcements for more details. Mark your calendars!

## PTO NEWS

**Flavors of AMSA**, an International Cookbook is at the printers! Thanks to everyone who contributed! The cookbook, priced at \$10 will go on sale at the International Festival, March 24.

PLEASE SEND IN YOUR BOX TOPS NOW! THIS IS THE FINAL COLLECTION WEEK - Don't be shy, look in your closets and pantry, maybe you can clip a few and save the food for later! Please turn in your by this Friday, February 17th, 2012. We have a school-wide goal to collect 5,000 Box Tops (that is \$500!). Just five Box Tops a person will achieve this goal! Look for Box Tops now on Green Giant products, on Betty Crocker cooking products, on Cheerios, Chex and lots of other cereals, on brands like Kleenex, Cottonelle, Scott, Nature Valley snacks, Land O Lakes, Pillsbury and many other products.

Another easy way to earn Box Tops is to go to [http://generalmills.promo.eprize.com/clickandearn/:b=chrome/?WT.ac=FMA\\_ClickandEarn](http://generalmills.promo.eprize.com/clickandearn/:b=chrome/?WT.ac=FMA_ClickandEarn). Create an account with our school (listed as ADVANCED MATH SCIENCE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL) and watch a short video (2 or 3 minutes), take a survey, etc. The Box Tops earned are credited straight to our school! Keep clipping and send in your Box Tops now!

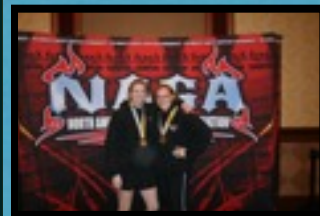
Every month the **Events Committee** organizes a variety of fun social opportunities for your students and we need your help! Please visit [www.volunteerspot.com](http://www.volunteerspot.com) to see how you can assist! Or drop by our next meeting to learn more. We hope to see you this Thursday, February 17 at 7:00pm, at Panera Break in Marlborough. Please email [Sharon\\_hamel@marriott.com](mailto:Sharon_hamel@marriott.com) for more info. Upcoming events include:

March 16 - Feeling Competitive? Join your classmates in two games of **Lazer Tag** on Friday March 16. Upper School competitions begin around 8:15pm: Lower School Competitions at 6pm. Feel like you need more? Join your friends in a Karaoke Challenge while enjoying some pizza and games.

March 24 - This vacation week, why not work on your exhibits for our International Festival? This exciting family event will be held on March 24 at Special Olympics. This year we'll add the "AMSA-onian" Museum of Arts and Sciences, featuring student projects from across AMSA's curriculum. Of course there will be amazing entertainment, gourmet cuisine, colorful fashion and interesting displays. Sign up through the volunteering link on our webpage, or contact Jennifer Hulton at 508/303-2499 or [jkhulton@verizon.net](mailto:jkhulton@verizon.net).

April 4 - We have a half-day coming up! Upper School and Lower School will have the opportunity to enjoy an afternoon filled with some great **team building games at Fore Kicks!** Check out the flyer for more details. Students will go straight from school to Fore Kicks for lunch and activities. Pick up will be at 3:30 at Fore Kicks. Join in the Fun!

## Getting to know:



Beth Slavinskas  
Special Education Teacher

For the last year, I have been training in mixed Martial Arts, at the MassDoJo MMA school in Shrewsbury. In October, 2011, I started off as a Novice and won two gold medals. In November I competed in another competition and was moved up two levels and ended up winning a silver medal. Over the first weekend of February, my ten fellow teammates and I competed in the New England Grappling Championship at Twin River Casino in Lincoln, RI. This was an all-day event which consisted of 1,300 competitors. This was my third competition. Competing as a beginner, I won my third gold medal. I tapped out both my components, one with a guillotine and a straight arm bar. In May, 2012, I look forward to competing in my fourth tournament and pursuing my passion.



**Certamen News:** Students traveled to Boston Latin School on Saturday, February 11, to contend with local teams in three rounds of certamen. All players and teams played very well, but the competition was fierce. Only the intermediate team of Amol Punjabi, Liz Teixeira, Katie Hodge, and



Tim Morrissey advanced to finals. It was a close round, and, after twenty questions, AMSA and BLS tied for first. The teams then faced off with five tie-breaker questions. Tim answered the question that clinched the win for the team, and the Intermediates came home with a first place trophy. Congratulations to all! Any player who paid the entry fee but was not able to attend should see a club sponsor for a refund.

**Latin Club Officers and Committees:** We are meeting on Monday, February 27 at 3:30 PM in room 100 at the lower school. For anyone who is working on scrapbook, community service, or publicity: your club officer may be contacting you to set up a time to work on projects, and it may be at this same meeting.

**National Mythology Exam:** The exam takes place after school on Wednesday, February 29, from 3:30 to 4:30pm. Students should bring a number two pencil and a book to read in case they finish early. Parents, please pick up your students at 4:30pm. If there is a problem with the pick up time, please contact Mrs. Sinacola.

**Medusa Exam:** We will be offering the Medusa Exam this year. The cost is \$3. This is a difficult exam that is designed for high school students, certamen players, and serious students who will prepare for the exam. If you have not already won a silver or gold medal on the NME, this test is not for you. Please contact Mrs. Sinacola by February 22 by email if you want to take this exam. The number of participants will be limited to 35, and the exam will be given after school on Monday, March 26.

**CHECK OUT THE NEW  
STUDENT NEWSPAPER,  
THE VOICE  
1ST EDITION  
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR  
ASPIRING JOURNALISTS!**

[http://www.amsacs.org/pdf/  
TheVoice-Ed1a.pdf](http://www.amsacs.org/pdf/TheVoice-Ed1a.pdf)

**PARENTS:** Please be sure to call the absentee call-in number when your child is sick and when leaving a message, please spell your child's name to avoid misunderstanding! thank you!

**AMSA Basketball  
Clinic  
Boys & Girls Grades  
6-9**

Special Olympics - 512 Forest St. Marlborough, MA  
February 21-23, 2012  
Time: 9:00 - 12:00, Cost: \$75

This clinic is organized by Coach David Gallagher (Varsity Boys Head Coach) and Coach Dennis Zilembo (Varsity Girls Head Coach). Other AMSA basketball coaches and varsity players will help run the camp. The clinic will be geared towards the development of individual skills as well as the same team concepts in use by the varsity programs. Players will be divided by grade and ability. Participants will learn skills such as: shooting technique, dribbling, passing, boxing out, rebounding setting screens, give & go, individual defense, team defense 2 on 2/ 3 on 3. For more information: [d.gallagher@amsacs.org](mailto:d.gallagher@amsacs.org)

Hello! My name is Erin Mitchell and I am one of the new School Guidance Counselors for the high school. I am putting together a career day for students in 10th-12th grades on May 23rd (which is an early release day for students). The idea is to have people from the community in various fields come and share their experiences with the students. I am hoping that some of you can help recruit people from various fields. We are still looking for the following careers to be represented:

Legal, (ideally someone in patent law)

Medical, (several medical doctors, nurses, and psychiatrists)

Dental a dentist

Pharmacology, a pharmacist

Mental Health, a psychologist and a social workers who works in a hospital setting

Education, (someone in the community)

Mathematician

Law, a law enforcement officer

Computer Science, a computer programmer/engineer

Computer game programmer

Financial field

Lobbyist or governmental worker

Veterinarian

If any of you have any relatives, friends, or acquaintances who work in the above careers that would be interested in volunteering their time, please have them contact me at [E.Mitchell@amsacs.org](mailto:E.Mitchell@amsacs.org) or 508-597-2400 ex. 3528.

Thank you for your time and help in this matter!

**6th annual Student vs Faculty**

The basketball game is scheduled for Tuesday March 13 at 6:00pm at the Special Olympics facility on Forest Street. Come watch this historic game and cheer your favorite staff or student. Cost is \$5.00 for adults, \$3.00 for students...Bring friends and family and enjoy a night out when the staff look to keep their undefeated record intact!!



The classes of Mr. Vital are collecting good quality children's' books to use at the First Annul AMSA/SMOC Childcare & Headstart Program Book Fair to be held this spring. If you have any children's books, or good quality bookshelves at home that you would like to donate, please drop them off in room 304 in the Lower School. Questions can be forwarded to Mr. Vital at [mvital@amsacs.org](mailto:mvital@amsacs.org).