

# ADVANCED MATH & SCIENCE ACADEMY

## CHARTER SCHOOL

### Student Interview by Reina Rago, English Teacher

AMSA eighth-grader, Sterling Kelly, published his first book, *The Unknown*, and is already working on his second fantasy/science fiction book. Kelly's personal journey that led him to write and self-publish a book is inspirational. Because of his aptitude for math, science, and computer science, Kelly came to AMSA in the 7th grade since he believed he would receive a better education in these specific subjects. At that time, he didn't realize that AMSA has a strong Humanities Department. "At AMSA I have become more skilled in research writing and have gained a greater appreciation of World Literature," stated Kelly.

His idea for writing *The Unknown* began with a day dream Kelly had in sixth grade. He envisioned a kid with amnesia fighting against corruption in his city. The setting is based on medieval Japan, but takes place in a different universe. Asked what motivated him to write this story, Kelly simply said, "I wanted readers to enter my world and enjoy it with me".

Although he began writing another book prior to his published work, Kelly decided to abandon it because it literally started in the middle of the story and he couldn't figure out a beginning. Rather than ignore his goal of writing a book, he allowed his day dream to take him to another world. His advice to others: if you have good idea-write it down!

### Please join us in congratulating one of our Amazing Students!!



"Once you get a good idea, just write it down and see where it goes," offers Sterling Kelly, 8th grade AMSA student.

photography in AMSA Update by Lino Alvaraz, Spanish Teacher and his students

Kelly is currently working on his second in the series entitled, *Mark of the Brethren* which he anticipates will have a summer 2012 release. In terms of his future ambitions, Kelly is confident that he will become a programmer and go into apps. Will he continue to write for fun? "As long as I keep having daydreams, I'll probably always share my stories with others" Kelly replied with a smile.

### 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. Please say YES when our student volunteers call you. All funds go directly to student activities and student scholarships.

### SAT PREPARATORY CLASS

The SAT Prep class is now accepting registrations for the March 3rd start. This program is for students presently in 9th, 10th and 11th grades and is ideal for those taking the May 5th SAT. Seats are limited. Please register on the AMSA website's Eschool portal. All questions should be forwarded to Mr. Vital at [mvital@amsacs.org](mailto:mvital@amsacs.org)

### REMINDER to PARENTS

\* If your child has an injury that warrants crutches, a wheelchair, braces, casts, or other, please inform the nurse promptly. Your contacting the nurses is essential for health care planning while your child recovers. Thank you.  
\*The mandatory parent and student meeting for the 6th grade trip to Nature's Classroom is Wednesday, February 8 at 6:00pm, cafeteria, Lower School

## FROM THE MATH DEPARTMENT

On Saturday, January 28, the middle school math team participated in an international math competition at Phillips Exeter Academy. Fifty teams from as far away as Shanghai and Beijing participated, as well as our local MathCounts competitors. Four AMSA teams all worked hard, and one student, 8th grader Aniruddh Iyengar, was recognized for his superior performance.

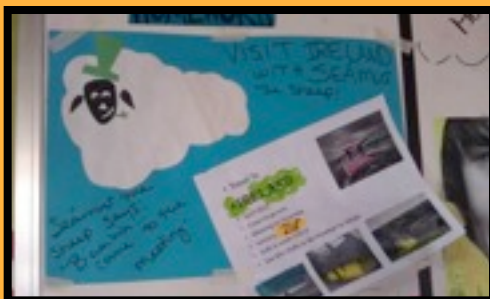
Pictured above are the 17 AMSA students who competed in four teams of four plus one "free agent". Top left: Team of Ling Zhang, Prakalya Chandrasekar, Aditya Hoque and Charan Sankaran. Top right: Rishi Advani, Abhinav Kurada, Innia Macasieb and Ashwin Varghese. On stage is Ani Iyengar. Middle left: Team of Pranav Nagalamadaka, Anton Zverev, Shashank Madhu and Justin Wang. Bottom left: Team of Satwik Mekala, Vineet Mathur, Pranav Gopan and Anurudh Silam.

Next up for the Lower School mathletes is the regional MathCounts competition. Participants will be announced soon!

## AROUND CAMPUS



On January 25, the AMSA Varsity Math Team placed second out of 36 schools in a Worcester County Math League (Wocomal) meet. They were led by perfect scores from Meghana Vagwala and Nicholas Vea. Other outstanding scores were recorded by Zephyr Lucas, Rahi Punjabi, Kevin Cai, Vishant Prabhakaran and Evan Sloan. Team two from AMSA (Bill Warner, Zephyr Lucas, Rahi, Ryan Newberry and Joshua Michel) recorded the highest team round score among all the teams from the 36 schools. After three meets of the four meet Wocomal Varsity season, AMSA stands in first place with a narrow lead over Nashoba HS, followed by St. John's, Algonquin and Worcester Academy. Nicholas Vea, Kevin Cai, Meghana Vagwala and John Long are currently, 7th, 9th, 12, 13th in individual rankings of 780 students.



### Ireland, Ireland, Ireland

Visit Ireland with Seamus the Sheep!

Come to an informational meeting any Thursday at 3:30 in Room 319.

See Mrs Duffy or Ms Sheehan for more info.

Visit the site and get excited!!!!

Students, friends, siblings, parents, aunts and uncles are all welcome!

<http://www.eftours.com/preview-tour.aspx?>

pt=DU-1110323&utm\_source=RecCenter&utm\_medium=web&utm\_campaign=SharedLink

### 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 ABROAD AND EARN HIGH-SCHOOL CREDIT!!

Join the trip to England and Scotland next year and earn high school credit. There is an informational meeting for students and/or parents on February 13 in room 805 (the White Building) @3:30 and another at 5:30pm. The trip is open to all AMSA staff, students and family members. If you have any questions, please see Mr. Fortier, Ms. Sinacola, Ms. Rago, or Mr. Dineen for details. To check out the trip on-line <http://www.eftours.com/1203443>

## FROM THE COLLEGE COUNSELING OFFICE



AMSA no longer requires community service hours for graduation. However, it is still extremely advantageous for high school students to complete community service, as doing so improves the chances of admission to selective colleges and universities. Colleges expect that students demonstrate leadership and character through their participation in extracurricular activities. Consistently engaging in community service is an excellent way to highlight your leadership abilities and your character and concern for others.

### PARENTS OF 8th, 9th, 10th Graders

Please join the counselors for an informal coffee to discuss college and financial aid on Tuesday, February 28th at 9am. If you plan to attend, please email Elizabeth Jackson at [e.jackson@amsacs.org](mailto:e.jackson@amsacs.org)

### 8th Grade Parent Night

Please join us on February 7th at 6PM in the Upper School cafeteria for information and a general overview of our high school curriculum and course offerings.

## PTO NEWS

It's time to start planning your exhibits for our **International Festival**, which will be held on March 24 at the 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). AMSA has a lot of special events coming the next few months and we could use your help! Please visit [www.volunteerspot.com](http://www.volunteerspot.com) to see how you can be involved! The Events Team is busy planning great social opportunities for the entire school. Our next meeting will be Thursday, February 17 at 7:00pm. Please email [Sharon.hamel@marriott.com](mailto:Sharon.hamel@marriott.com) if you can join us!

Don't miss the upper school's **Valentine's Dance** on Saturday February 11, from 7-10pm at the Special Olympics. AMSA Students may bring one guest to this semi-formal dance with signed permission slip, available in the upper school office. Students need to have the form completed, signed and returned to the school by 2/10 in order for guest to attend. Parents we need your assistance! Please visit Volunteer Spot through the volunteering link on our web page to sign up to donate your time or goodies!

**AMSA COOKBOOK:** Thanks to everyone who contributed to the AMSA Cookbook of over 300 recipes! Look for the cookbook at the International Festival on March 24th. **Box Tops Winter 2012** Collection is going on NOW! - Please turn in your Box Tops from January 30th until February 17th. 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 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 [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! Help AMSA earn money & school supplies by signing up for a Target Red Card or saving bottle caps or codes for the My Coke Rewards Program! For more information, check out the fundraising link on our webpage.

## REMINDERS

Please remember if your student is absent to call the absentee call in line (508-597-2400 x 9). You may also send an email to your student's homeroom teacher and copy Sheila Warner, [s.warner@amsacs.org](mailto:s.warner@amsacs.org).

Early dismissals need to be received in writing, preferably by e-mail; no later than 12:00 noon the day of the dismissal, although earlier is fine.

Due to traffic concerns, there will be no dismissals after 2:30PM unless prearranged or there is an emergency.

For Lower School students, please send to Lois Tremmel, [l.tremmel@amsacs.org](mailto:l.tremmel@amsacs.org) (x 2401) and copy your student's homeroom teacher.

For Upper School students, send to Kelly MacAdams, [k.macadams@amsacs.org](mailto:k.macadams@amsacs.org). (x 3501).

Thank you for your continued cooperation.

## CERTAMEN NEWS



Members of AMSA's Latin Club traveled to Boston Latin Academy for their Certamen Forum on Saturday, January 28. Our Advanced Team of Peter Teixeira and Scott Jarrett were missing two members (SAT conflict), but finished in a respectable fourth place nonetheless. The intermediate team of Amol Punjabi, Liz Teixeira, Tim Morrissey, and Katie Hodge came in second place, edged out of first by their perennial rivals (and friends) of Boston Latin School. The Novice team of Arjun Baronia, Hope Clairmont, Matt Schomp, and Shreya Murthy had an impressive first place finish after a close finals round. Congratulations to all! Next up: BLS Certamen on February 11.

**Reminder:** The first Wednesday of the month is for Advanced, Intermediate, and Intramural Certamen (grade 6 and 7). On most other Wednesdays, practice is for Advanced, Intermediate, and 8th grade Novice players. There is no Intramural Certamen in April, due to state convention preparations.

**The New After School Club Brochure is now available:**

<http://www.amsacs.org/pdf/ASC-Spring-2012.pdf>

The AMSA Varsity Boy's Basketball team visited with the MIT Men's Basketball players in their locker room after MIT defeated the US Coast Guard Academy on Saturday, January 28th. Nationally ranked 5th in NCAA Division 3 Basketball, MIT is having an historical year with a current 18-1 record. The engineers of MIT have won two of the last three NEWMAC conference championships.



AMSA is in their second year of varsity competition in the MIAA and currently has an overall record of 6-7. With 7 games left on the schedule before February break, AMSA hopes to make a run at the Central Mass Playoffs. The Eagles have their next home game at Fore Kicks on Monday, February 6th versus St. Mary's (Worc). GO EAGLES!!!

## LATIN CLUB

There is a club meeting on Monday, February 6; meet in the cafeteria and a teacher will bring you to room 100 after 3:30. This week, we will watch some skits to generate ideas for your own skits that you could film for a JCL contest. Members will receive the information on the state convention, including all permission slips and deadlines.

NME and NLE: Study packets for the NME are ready if you still need one. Study packets for the Intro to Latin Exam (for grade 7) are also ready. They include four practice exams to help you prepare. See your Latin teacher to get one.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR DISTINGUISHED MATHLETES! BASED ON THEIR HIGH AMC 8 SCORES, THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS HAVE BEEN INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE AMX 10**

Anton Zverev, Amelia Kalagher, Bijoy Shah, Justin Wang, Prakalay Chandrasekar, Pranav Nagalamadaka, Amol Punjabi, Ling Zhang, Gal Bejerano, Jonathan Perezreyzin, Alexandra Ryan, Ach Meyer, Aniruddh Iyengar, Scott Sheffield, Abhinav Kurada, Deeya Bhattacharya, Hadar Artzi, Annabelle Lee, Mahmood Alam, Nina Gupta, Albert Gerovitch, Innia Macasieb, Benjamin Gugliemino, Heather Wing and Aditya Hoque.

**AMSA'S ANNUAL  
CARNATION SALE  
FOR VALENTINE'S  
DAY!!**

Surprise your friends, teachers or family! February 6th-10th, purchase during lunch periods in cafeterias, delivery to HR on February 14th. 1 for \$2, 3 for \$5, 6 for \$8, 12 for \$15 all proceeds to support prom committee.