

RATTLER

KYRENE AKIMEL A-AL MIDDLE SCHOOL
FAMILY NEWSLETTER

Tales

Volume 17, Issue 3

An Arizona Department of Education Excelling School 2003-2007

September, 2008

Vision Decision Team

In June, 1992, the Kyrene School District encouraged schools to form site decision-making teams. The AMS team formed as the Vision Decision Team in August of that year. The AMS site-based council is comprised of four parents, four teachers, and one support staff member. AMS Principal, Mr. Ernie Brodersen, serves as an advisor for the group. Members serve two-year terms.

The **purpose** of the Vision Decision team is to focus on opportunities related to the advancement of positive growth and values while promoting a safe environment for students, parents, staff, and citizens participating in the AMS community.

The Vision Decision Team meets regularly during the school year. Meeting dates and a summary of those meetings will be included in issues of the Rattler Tales. These meetings are open to the public.

There are two parent positions open as of the 2008-2009 school year. If you are interested in submitting your name for the open positions, please do so by September 9, 2008, by emailing AMS Administrative Specialist, Leila Dalton, at ldalto@kyrene.org. Selections for the open positions will be made by September 10th. The first Vision Decision Team meeting for the 2008-2009 school year will be held on Tuesday, September 16th, 4:15 pm, in the AMS Library.

Fall Parent Teacher Conferences

Twice a year, once in the fall and once in the spring, dates are scheduled for evening parent/teacher conferences. Conference dates will be set for sometime during the last two weeks of October. When they are set, those dates will be included in the October issue or the Rattler Tales and on the

AMS website.

In addition, teachers are available to conference with you, whether by telephone, email, written communication, or in person, throughout the school year. Phone numbers and email addresses can be found on the school's website.

SCHOOL BREAKFAST AND LUNCH PRICES INCREASE

Kyrene School Breakfast price goes to \$1.00 on September 2nd. Parents of elementary and middle school students who eat breakfast at school need to know that September 2nd breakfast prices will increase from \$.60 to \$1.00. This is the first breakfast price change eighteen years!

Also on September 2nd, middle school lunch prices will go up a quarter from \$2.00 to \$2.25. Elementary school lunch prices will stay the same, \$2.00. These prices are in line with other schools across the East Valley. The last time lunch prices increased was in 2006-2007. The Kyrene School District Governing Board approved these meal price changes on Tuesday, August 12th.

All Kyrene parents have the option of paying for lunch online. To find out more or sign up for this service go to www.mylunchmoney.com.

RATTLER CREED

We promote academic excellence by providing a quality environment which fosters relevant, life-long learning for our community. We honor: trust, accountability, enthusiasm, communication, growth, professionalism, respect, and diversity.

AMS PTSO

Thank You...

Our special thanks to all of our NJHS student guides for their help on Meet the Teacher night.

They did an awesome

job: Jaimie Kleshock, Riley Mattson, Laura Myer, Joelle Hensley, Justin Lopez, Aaron Madsen, Nick Rodriguez, McKenna Rodriguez, Alex Rodriguez, Suhitha Veeravelli, Alison Richardson, Adrien Nichols, Rupika Kapur, Amodini Pathak, Kyle Pitman, Kaitlyn Heck, Cassie Collins, Anna Krestchmer, Grace Krestchmer, Ben Hodder

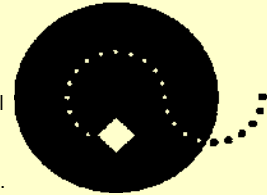
And thank you to our parent helps for the evening: Ronda Pitman, Linda Heck, Dave Morgan, Kristine Collins, Mary Hodder, Kate Sheedy, Patti Thiede

Safeway EScrip Fundraiser...

Support our PTSO with eScrip through your Safeway purchases. To sign up for eScrip go to www.escrip.com, Group Name Kyrene Akimel A-al Middle School, Group ID 6659809. Have your Safeway Club Card number available. Click on "1-Sign Up". Then, present your Safeway club card everytime you shop and the PTSO earns!

Contact the PTSO...

The PTSO now has its own email address! If you have questions or are interested in receiving emails about the AMS PTSO, please email us at: akipto@kyrene.org



Yearbooks

Order your copy of the 2008/09 AMS yearbook now! Yearbooks can be purchased online for \$28 with a \$3.50 service fee from Herff Jones Yearbooks. See the AMS website for details. Yearbooks can also be purchased at Student Services for \$30.00.

AKIMEL A-AL MIDDLE SCHOOL

2720 East Liberty Lane, Phoenix, AZ 85048
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ADMINISTRATION

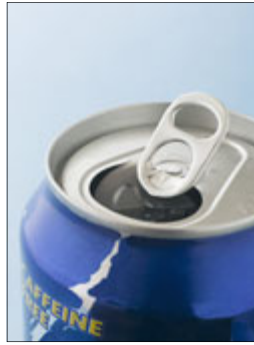
Ernie Brodersen, Principal
Doug Olson, Assistant Principal, 8th Grade
Joe Bonamo, Student Advisor, 7th Grade
Chris Kaluzny, Student Advisor, 6th Grade

POP TOP COLLECTION DRIVE

Last May, Akimel A-al Middle School students learned about the Holocaust through a series of activities, including the viewing of the movie Paper Clips and a school-wide assembly where students heard the experiences of a Holocaust survivor.

As an extension of these activities, AMS 7th grade social studies teacher, Mrs. Jane Anderson, began organizing an aluminum can pop top collection drive. The goal is to collect enough pop tops to represent the 11 million people who were lost in the Holocaust. This activity ties in with Akimel A-al's Rattler Creed and Character Counts programs. It encourages students to help make AMS a place of kindness and acceptance for all.

Students should bring their collection of pop tops to Mrs. Anderson's classroom, Room C6. For further information, contact: Jane Anderson, 480-783-1646, jander@kyrene.org



RECYCLING BECOMES A TRADITION AT AMS

During the 2007-2008 school year, the eighth grade students celebrated Earth Day by beginning a recycling program at Akimel A-al Middle School. Every classroom was offered a recycling bin for paper. Under the guidance of 8th grade science teacher, Jacque Neil, the students transported the paper from the classroom recycling bins into the recycling containers in the school's parking lot.

This year, the newly formed Science Club will take charge of distributing the recycling bins and transporting the recycled paper.

According to Waste Management, recycling one ton of paper saved 4,100 kWh of energy, 380 gallons of oil, 3.3 cubic yards of landfill space, 70,000 gallons of water, 17 trees, and 60 pounds of air pollutants from being released into our air. Based upon a quick survey conducted by the Science Club, it will take approximately 10 weeks for the school to collect one ton of paper.



HANDS ACROSS THE BORDER



The 16th year of Akimel A-al's Hands Across the Border (HATB) student exchange with our sister school in Esperanza, Mexico began with an informational meeting on August 28th. Attendees learned about the HATB foundation and Akimel A-al's 16 year student exchange history, saw a video presentation on last year's exchange, and had an opportunity to ask questions. Applications were distributed to students and families wishing to participate.

The next HATB meeting will be held on Thursday, September 11th, 7:00 pm, in the AMS multipurpose room. Students can get additional information from Spanish teachers, Sarah Carranza or Sandra Berk. Parents can find out more at www.kyrene.org/staff/lvanov or by contacting HATB sponsor, Lori Vanover at vivaspanish@cox.net.

8th GRADE ART STUDENTS TO VISIT FESTIVAL



The 8th grade art class will attend the Tempe Festival of the Arts on December 5th. Students will interview artists, participate in a scavenger hunt for public art work, and create crafts at the Kids Innovation Station.

AMS Art teacher, Karen Hiller, is looking for parent volunteers who would be willing to chaperone 3-5 students from approximately 10:00 am to 1:30 pm. Interested parents should contact Mrs. Hiller at khille@kyrene.org

RATTLER TALES

The school newsletter is issued at the beginning of each month and distributed to students in their Academic Lab class. Each issue is also available on line at: www.kyrene.org/schools/akimel/ams.htm



ART CLUB

The AMS Art Club focuses on community based projects such as Empty Bowls (www.emptybowls.net), knitting blankets and caps for charities, a mural for the Art room, and other projects to be determined. All students are welcome to join. Parent volunteers are welcome as well.

The Art Club meets Wednesday mornings, 8:00 - 8:50 am, in Room D5. This new, before school, meeting time allows all grade levels to participate, as well as having more time to work on long-term projects.

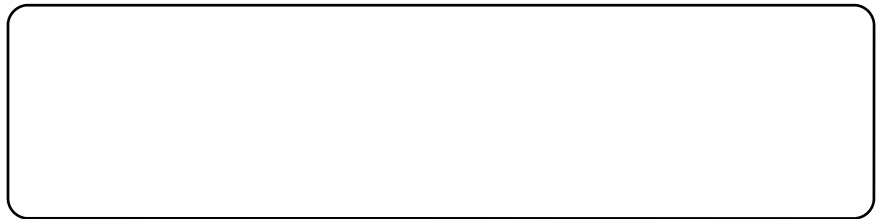


For more information, contact AMS Art teacher, Karen Hiller, at khiller@kyrene.org.

::: SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2008 :::

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT/SUN
9/1 No School Labor Day Holiday	9/2	9/3 <i>Early Release</i> 4:30 pm 7th Boys Soccer @ ALT 7th Girls VBall v. ALT (h) 8th Boys Soccer v. ALT (h) 5:30 pm 8th Girls VBall @ ALT	9/4	9/5 <i>Rattler Spirit Day</i>	9/6-7
9/8 4:30 pm 7th Boys Soccer v. PUE (h) 7th Girls VBall v. PUE (h) 8th Boys Soccer @ PUE 5:30 pm 8th Girls VBall v. PUE (h)	9/9 7:00 pm Governing Board Meeting	9/10 <i>Early Release</i> 4:30 pm 7th Boys Soccer @ KMS 7th Girls VBall @ KMS 8th Boys Soccer v. KMS (h) 5:30 pm 8th Girls VBall @ KMS	9/11 7:00 pm Hands Across the Border Informational Meeting, MPR	9/12 <i>Rattler Spirit Day</i>	9/13-14
9/15 4:30 pm 7th Boys Soccer @ CMS 7th Girls VBall @ CMS 8th Boys Soccer v. CMS (h) 5:30 pm 8th Girls VBall @ CMS	9/16 4:30 pm Cross Country v. PUE (h)	9/17 <i>Early Release</i> 2:30 pm Fall Sports Pictures Taken 4:30 pm 7th Boys Soccer v. APR (h) 7th Girls VBall v. APR (h) 8th Boys Soccer @ APR 5:30 pm 8th Girls VBall v. APR (h)	9/18 4:30 pm Cross Country v. KMS (h)	9/19 <i>Rattler Spirit Day</i> 4:15 - 6:15 pm 6th Grade Dance (sponsored by Yearbook) 9:30 pm NJHS Cosmic Bowling	9/20-21
9/22 4:30 pm 7th Boys Soccer v. ALT (h) 7th Girls VBall v. ALT (h) 8th Boys Soccer @ ALT 5:30 pm 8th Girls VBall v. ALT (h)	9/23 7:00 pm Governing Board Meeting	9/24 <i>Early Release</i> 9:00 am Student of the Month 4:30 pm 7th Boys Soccer @ PUE 7th Girls VBall @ PUE 8th Boys Soccer v. PUE (h) 5:30 pm 8th Girls VBall @ PUE 6:00 pm Chorus Concerts, MPR	9/25 4:30 pm Cross Country @ CMS	9/26 <i>Rattler Spirit Day</i>	9/27-28 Sat, 9/27 9:00 am - 1:00 pm NJHS Car Wash
9/29 4:30 pm 7th Boys Soccer v. CMS (h) 7th Girls VBall v. CMS (h) 8th Boys Soccer @ CMS 5:30 pm 8th Girls VBall v. CMS (h)	9/30	10/1 <i>Early Release</i> 4:30 pm 7th Boys Soccer @ APR 7th Girls VBall @ APR 8th Boys Soccer v. APR (h) 5:30 pm 8th Girls VBall @ APR	10/2 4:30 pm Cross Country v. Aprende @ Desert Breeze Park 7:00 pm HATB Meeting, MPR	10/3 <i>Rattler Spirit Day</i> End of 1st Quarter School Picture Re-Takes	10/4-5
FALL BREAK (10/6-10)					
10/13 Staff Development Day No School	10/14 7:00 pm Governing Board Meeting	10/15 <i>Early Release</i> 4:30 pm 7th Boys Soccer v. KMS (h) 7th Girls VBall v. KMS (h) 8th Boys Soccer @ KMS 5:30 pm 8th Girls Soccer v. KMS (h)	10/16 4:30 pm Cross Country v. ALT/ CMS @ ALT	10/17 <i>Rattler Spirit Day</i>	10/18-19
10/20 <i>Report Cards Distributed</i> 4:30 pm Volleyball & Soccer Tournaments	10/21 4:30 pm Volleyball & Soccer Tournaments Cross Country Invitational Track Meet A	10/22 <i>Early Release</i> 4:30 pm Volleyball & Soccer Tournaments Cross Country Invitational Track Meet B	10/23	10/24 <i>Rattler Spirit Day</i>	10/25-26
10/27	10/28 7:00 pm Governing Board Meeting	10/29 <i>Early Release</i> 9:00 am Student of the Month	10/30	10/31 <i>Rattler Spirit Day</i>	

Kyrene Elementary School District #28
Kyrene Akimel A-al Middle School
 8700 South Kyrene Road
 Tempe, AZ 85284



KYRENE SCHOOL DISTRICT VISION

Kyrene's vision is to prepare all students to meet future educational and life challenges in order to make positive contributions to society.

KYRENE SCHOOL DISTRICT MISSION

To realize our vision, Kyrene seeks to inspire and engage our diverse community of students, staff, families and citizens to ensure continuous academic achievement and personal growth for every student.

AMS PTSO Board of Directors

- President**
Maureen Delaney, medkittys@aol.com
- Secretary**
Kate Sheedy, katesheedy@cox.net
- Treasurer**
Kristine Collins, k4m8c66@aol.com
- Hospitality**
Kim Fearson, justagirlaz@qwest.net
Sheri Hoffman, sherhoffman@qwest.net

General PTSO email:
akipto@kyrene.org

Character Counts...

In September, AMS students and staff will focus on *Responsibility*. Be sure to ask your child what they have learned.

Responsibility: Do what you are supposed to do • Persevere: keep on trying! • Always do your best • Use self-control • Be self-disciplined • Think before you act — consider the consequences • Be accountable for your choices

"The time is always right to do what is right." *Martin Luther King, Jr.*



**CELEBRATE YOUR CHILD'S PLACE
 IN AMS HISTORY WITH A PERSONALIZED BRICK**

Celebrate your child's time at AMS with a brick engraved with his/her name. The PTSO is paving the central courtyard with specially colored bricks which can be engraved with your child's name. Now your child can always be a part of Akimel A-al's history.

- Each brick can accommodate two lines with no more than 15 characters each.
- Bricks can be purchased for \$25 each.
- To purchase a brick complete this form and return it to the school office with your payment (Checks made payable to **AMS PTSO**. No cash please).

Yes! I want to celebrate my child's learning experience at Akimel A-al Middle School.

Please print each line as you want it to appear on the brick.

Line 1: _____ (15 characters maximum)

Line 2: _____ (15 characters maximum)

NAME	PHONE #	EMAIL
CHILD'S NAME	GRADE	\$ TOTAL
		CHECK #