Dear AIM Family and Friends,

What a wonderful year this has been at AIM Academy! As we enter our 10th year we are extremely proud of what has been accomplished and grateful to all of our donors whose important support is part of this annual report. You have played an essential role in AIM’s continued growth and success!

2014-15 was a milestone year at AIM with community participation at an all time high - Thank You! Your generous support has made a true difference for our students and faculty. Whether for arts and drama, athletics, faculty or robotics and engineering, your thoughtful gifts close the critical gap between tuition and costs. We are deeply appreciative of the many scholarship contributions that allow more students to have the benefit of an AIM education.

And on April 22, thanks to many generous supporters, AIM broke ground on the new Community Center, a long time dream. As we write this letter the construction team is hard at work making this dream a reality for our students, faculty and community!

We reflect on the words of Booker T. Washington who stated, “If you can’t read, it’s going to be hard to realize dreams.” That is a powerful statement for all of us at AIM who support and teach literacy all day long. Our dream is that all children can read and we are pleased that the AIM Integrated Literacy Model is now entering the second year in two School District of Philadelphia elementary schools.

Thank you for your support to help more children reach their dreams!

Best wishes,

Pat Roberts
Executive Director

Nancy Blair
Associate Director

Your support enhances the AIM experience. Here are a few highlights of the year.

Arts & Drama - Once again AIM students excelled on the stage and behind the scenes in variety of performances. The Lower School Holiday Concert and Talent Show showcase the musical and performance talents of AIM’s youngest students.

The Middle School Drama Club staged Disney’s Jungle Book Kids in the fall and the Upper School performed A Midsummer Night’s Dream in January, both excellent productions!

The spring musical, Seussical was a smash success! Both Middle and Upper School students participated in this spectacular production with incredible costumes and a creative set at the Arts Bank Theater at the University of the Arts. Kudos to all of the students and Ms. Yoshida, Ms. Bolles and Ms. Seavey for their inspired leadership and guidance!

Athletics - AIM students were excited to compete as members of the TCISL - Tri-County Independent School League and in their first year achieved important honors! The Girls Cross Country (XC) team won the League championship, a great accomplishment. Ciara ’16 and Corie’ 16 were named to the All Star League Girls Basketball Team. The Golf team placed second in the League with Casey ’18, Jared ’18 (who also earned second place individually), Sam ’17 and Tommy ’16 all playing extremely well.

AIM congratulates all of the team members for a successful season. Everyone demonstrated commitment, growth and determination! Way to go Wolf Pack and great thanks to all of the committed AIM coaches.

Robotics & Engineering - What an incredible team! This new team that had never competed had an outstanding Rookie Season and a great performance at the FIRST – For
Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology World Championship in St. Louis. In only their fourth competitive match in this inaugural season, AIM placed 17 out of 76 teams and was the TOP Rookie Team in its Division – a real accomplishment for Wolf Pack Robotics!

AIM’s FRC team is a collaborative effort with students, faculty, staff, volunteers, families and community partners all working together for a common project and goal. Thanks to everyone in the AIM community who has supported this team, with a special recognition to coaches Rob Ervin and Rick Castorani and the team families. AIM Robotics is also proud to have the sponsorship of Vulcan Spring & Mfg. Co, Boeing, Oracle, Lockheed Martin and Aspen Resource Group.

b.A.S.H. - The entire community came together for this amazing day at AIM! Middle & Upper School Grandfriends Day was celebrated and then the entire school community was invited to the b.A.S.H. 2015. The AIM ACADEMY b.A.S.H was a showcase of projects blending the Arts, STEAM and the Humanities. Guests experienced the amazing work that fosters AIM students’ development into fearless learners. The b.A.S.H. exhibited creative and innovative work from all disciplines together in one exciting event. This school wide extravaganza featured the projects and initiatives of AIM students from the whole school year. All grades and all subjects were proudly exhibited in an innovative campus wide effort.

Congrats to Claire ’18, Gabby ’18 and Morgan ’18 who won first place in the high school Philadelphia Zoo Albert M. Greenfield UNLESS Contest, a project-based partnership to engage students in action to save wildlife.

The Philadelphia Zoo has partnered with more than 200 schools and over 10,000 students from the Delaware Valley region to make positive change. As part of this year’s Albert M. Greenfield UNLESS Contest, the Zoo asked students to rethink recycling. The AIM students, working with faculty Susan Braccia and Shelly Johnston, created a children’s book called HOPE about a young polar bear cub. The students wrote and illustrated the book and also designed and made games made of recycled materials were entered into the contest.

David ’21 has created an extraordinary gift for the community and legacy of hope and joy through his incredible stained glass Bar Mitzvah project for Penn Hospice at Rittenhouse.

David’s magnificent stained glass panels are featured in the Children’s Room at the Penn Hospice at Rittenhouse. This special room is where Penn professionals meet with children who are losing loved ones. David mourned a family friend’s loss but instead of privately mourning the loss of this wonderful friend, he has celebrated her life, learned new skills and is contributing to a large and diverse community in many meaningful and unforeseen ways. David was featured in several news outlets for this project.

AIM Academy is extremely proud of David and his great contribution to the community!

Clay ’21 was selected to attend AI Camp, an intensive aviation and aeronautics camp at Wright State University in Dayton, OH. He was featured in the Main Line Times for this experience. The program is a STEM Base curriculum with science, engineering and math focused around aviation and aeronautics. This program emphasizes scholarship, leadership, citizenship and collaboration.

Joshua ’22 is ranked 12th in the nation in Marbles. He competed again at the National Marbles Tournament, a 92 year tradition held in Wildwood, NJ. The “mibsters” (marble shooters) compete for national honors, college scholarships and prizes. Josh and his fellow “mibsters” played more than 1,200 games over the four-day tournament.

ISTE - Six AIM faculty members presented and exhibited at the 2015 International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) global in June in Philadelphia. There were over 16,000 educators and 500 companies in attendance and 100 sessions at this major educational technology event. Rick Castorani, Amy Holt Cline, Mike Dunn, Rob Ervin, Ali Gubanich and Chris Herman all represented AIM.

Their presentations included:

- Learning Science through Building and Programming Circuit Boards
- Makerspace: Informal Learning in a Formal Environment
- Delete Dyslexia: Technology Tools to Unlock Learning for LD Students
- Merging Media and the Social Studies Classroom
- Interactive E-Literature via Digital Annotation and Multimedia Storytelling

(continued on page 4)
AIM Welcomes New Members to its Advisory Board of Globally Renowned Researchers

The AIM Research Advisory Board was established to enable researchers and educators, including university professors, to collaborate and work together using AIM Academy and partner school classrooms as a laboratory for studying the teaching/learning process.

AIM faculty and staff continue to be invited to present at global events and share their knowledge and research with others and bring back innovative ideas for classroom implementation.

P21 - Five AIM Faculty members were invited to present at the Partnership for 21st Century Skills (P21) Summit in Washington, DC on March 26 and 27. This prestigious global summit included high level policy discussions on the most pressing topics in 21st century learning.

Susan Braccia, Amy Holt Cline, Mike Dunn, Alli Gubanich and Chris Herman presented Another Way: Doing it Differently at AIM that demonstrated a myriad of ways that AIM supports the 21st century learner. AIM is proud to be selected as a P21 Exemplar School by the Partnership for 21st Century Skills (P21), the leading organization advocating for 21st century learning for every student.

Williamsburg - AIM is delighted that four faculty members were selected to participate in the Colonial Williamsburg Teacher Institute this summer. Lauren Benjamin, Eilis McMahon, Caitlin Schlosser and Devon Sparks participated in this prestigious experience thanks to the generosity of AIM donors Sally and Dick Brickman.

This program was an incredible learning experience with a six-day session on location in Colonial Williamsburg and the surrounding historic area. The AIM faculty studied with a Master Teacher engaging in an interdisciplinary approach to teaching social studies focusing on American history.

Lauren, Eilis, Caitlin and Devon had the unforgettable opportunity to exchange ideas with historians, interact with character interpreters and experienced a rich immersion story in Williamsburg. Throughout each day the AIM teachers worked collaboratively with Colonial Williamsburg staff and Master Teachers to examine interactive teaching techniques and develop instructional materials that bring history to life in the classroom.

These four AIM faculty members are eager to share their enhanced knowledge with students in the fall and for years to come.

(continued from page 3)

Dr. Donald Compton is Professor of Psychology at Florida State University/Florida Center for Reading Research. He was formerly Professor and Chair of Special Education and a John F. Kennedy Center Investigator at Peabody College, Vanderbilt University. He earned a Ph.D. from Northwestern University’s School of Communication Sciences and Disorders, with a specialization in learning disabilities. While working on his Ph.D., and for several years after its completion, he was employed as a learning disabilities resource teacher in Skokie, Illinois. Compton then worked for four years as an assistant professor in the department of Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. He then accepted a NICHD post-doctoral research fellowship at the Institute for Behavior Genetics, University of Colorado. From there he accepted a position at Vanderbilt University that he held until the spring of 2015. He then accepted his current position with the Florida Center for Reading Research at Florida State University. Compton is experienced in designing, managing, analyzing, and disseminating data from cross-sectional and longitudinal studies as well as randomized control studies. His research involves modeling individual differences in the development of children’s reading skills and the identification and treatment of children with reading disabilities.

Julie A. Washington, Ph.D. is a Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders in the Department of Educational Psychology, Special Education and Communication Disorders at Georgia State University (GSU). Dr. Washington is affiliate faculty of the Language & Literacy Initiative, and Associate Director of the Urban Child Study Center at GSU. Her research focuses on understanding language variation with a emphasis on the impact of variation on assessment, reading, and academic performance of children growing up in urban poverty. Currently, Dr. Washington is Principal Investigator on a NICHD-funded project focused on identification and of reading disabilities in low-income, African American children.
AIM Scholarship Heroes!

AIM Academy believes that all children who learn differently deserve the opportunity to benefit from AIM’s innovative teaching. AIM students thrive in classrooms that offer multisensory and experiential learning and these programs are designed to foster self-esteem and social responsibility. Students’ academic and intellectual development are further enhanced by an array of extracurricular activities and enrichment in the arts, athletics and community service.

AIM is committed to providing access to top academic programming informed by the research to qualified students from all socioeconomic backgrounds and to providing financial aid to students who could not otherwise attend. The financial aid program is designed to bridge the gap between what a family can afford to pay and the full cost of tuition.

The AIM scholarship program benefits from the generosity of individuals, foundations and corporations who believe in the power of an AIM education to transform children's lives. Here we highlight two AIM Scholarship Heroes for making a significant impact on our students:

The Maguire Foundation

The Maguire Foundation believes that education is the greatest gift that they can give our youth and that it builds a solid foundation for greater success. Maguire Scholars is a lifeline for students in need, from grade school through college, providing low-income families with scholarship dollars to attend institutions that otherwise would be a financial burden. The Maguire Foundation is building a network of partners with schools to support education initiatives and AIM is proud to be a partner school. Maguire Scholars are encouraged to dedicate their time and talent to community service.

Wells Fargo

Thanks to the introduction of an AIM parent to the vision and leadership of Wells Fargo in the field of education, Wells Fargo has donated over $100,000 to AIM through the Pennsylvania OSTC program for AIM scholarship funds. Wells Fargo is actively involved in the communities in which they live and work, and why their team members are leaders in helping communities succeed. AIM is extremely grateful to Greg Redden, Wells Fargo Regional President, Greater Philadelphia/Delaware; A.J. Jordan, Vice President and Community Affairs Manager, Wells Fargo Foundation and Ernie May, Senior Underwriter, Wells Fargo Capital Finance for their generous support.

The OSTC program in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania provides tax credits to eligible businesses contributing to an Opportunity Scholarship Organization including AIM Academy. Business contributions are then used by AIM to provide tuition assistance in the form of scholarships to eligible students residing within the boundaries of a low-achieving school to attend AIM. A low-achieving school is defined as a public elementary or secondary school ranking in the bottom 15 percent of their designation as an elementary or secondary school based upon combined math and reading Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) scores.

AIM deeply appreciates Wells Fargo’s commitment to education, students and scholarships.
AIM Supporters 2014-2015

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$100,000+
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All gifts and pledges to the Capital Campaign2 as of 11/23/15

Providing AIM students, faculty and staff with a world class facility and expanding the campus footprint within the community.
AIM D. Alloy

AIM founding Trustee and longtime Treasurer Marvin D. Alloy, passed away on March 8, 2015. Those who knew Marvin would agree that he was the quintessential gentleman. His business acumen is one of the major reasons that AIM Academy stands today. Marvin served as a trusted mentor to AIM and was always there to provide wisdom, guidance, and financial support throughout AIM’s growth. We are proud that AIM Academy – his Academy In Manayunk – will always be a part of Marvin’s legacy. He made an impact on the lives of all children who learn differently that will live on forever.

AIM extends our condolences to Marvin’s wife Sandi, son Curt Alloy, daughter-in-law and AIM Board member Wendy Demchick-Alloy, granddaughter Tess Alloy’12, and his entire family.
Scholarships

Gifts support the education of AIM students including those from participating businesses with the Pennsylvania Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) and the Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) programs.

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* denotes gift through EITC
** denotes gift through OSTC # denotes both EITC & OSTC

Annual Fund

Annual Gifts support the day to day pursuit of excellence in the education of our students that learn differently and provides resources to the variety of programs, clubs and teams at AIM Academy.

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Theodore and Sally Brickman - Dick & Sally Brickman Fund
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Francia Palumba
Albert Parker
Carrie Shereretta
Sylil Silberman
Richard Taylor
Caroline Wildflower

* denotes gift through EITC
** denotes gift through OSTC # denotes both EITC & OSTC
AIM and School District of Philadelphia AIM Partnership

From its inception, AIM has reached out to other professionals, schools, universities and organizations recognizing the value of partnership. AIM’s current literacy project with the School District of Philadelphia exemplifies the importance of providing teachers with the knowledge base, curriculum, training and coaching so critical in insuring that the top diagnostic prescriptive teachers are developed to best serve all of the students in our schools. AIM Academy, the School District of Philadelphia, Tamar and Stephen Olitsky and the Olitsky Family Foundation and the Philadelphia Burger Brawl joined forces for a multi-year commitment to a school-wide K-3 literacy program that began in Philadelphia in fall 2014.

Dr Hite’s Read by 4th! Initiative, that is designed to insure that all children read on grade level by grade 4 in the School District of Philadelphia, set the stage for this collaboration. The recognition that educational opportunity is not equally accessible to all Philadelphia children with fifty-one percent of Philadelphia’s 13,855 public school third graders not reading on grade level prompted this action. Tamar Olitsky, a visionary community leader and philanthropist, served as the catalyst for bringing all together to initiate this four-year literacy pilot project. The Olitsky Family Foundation and Rob Wasserman’s Philadelphia Burger Brawl agreed to provide the funding for the implementation of the AIM Integrated Literacy Model (ILM) which includes professional learning opportunities including workshops, webinars, consultation and coaching, provision of literacy curriculum and recommended student materials for reading comprehension, writing and interactive history teaching. Two School District of Philadelphia elementary schools, the Andrew Jackson and William H. Ziegler Schools, were chosen for this project and also implemented Fundations® in their K-1 classrooms as part of the model. Teachers also received 200 iPad minis, 20 MacBooks and Foss Science Kits this year for use in their classrooms.

Nichole Pugliese, the AIM Coordinator for this exciting project, has witnessed the AIM model come to life in these schools. Students are actively engaged, excited about attending school and the schools report that absenteeism has been reduced. Administrative support in both schools has been essential to implementation as well as teacher willingness to learn and implement new practices. School District of Philadelphia Principals Lisa Ciaranca Kaplan of the Andrew Jackson School and Paul T. Spina of the William H. Ziegler Elementary School have been essential to the success of this project, as has the leadership of Dr. Fran Newburg, Deputy Chief of the School District of Philadelphia’s Office of Educational Technology.

AIM will continue to support this project as it moves into grades 2 and 3 over the next three years. AIM is grateful to the inspired generosity of donors Tamar and Stephen Olitsky and Rob and Maggie Wasserman for the generous financial support to make this project a reality.

Research to Practice Symposium 2015

AIM Academy hosted the third annual Research-to-Practice Symposium Connecting the Dots Between Literacy Research and Practice on March 16th. This invitation-only gathering provided a rare opportunity for some of education’s most innovative experts to meet and share ideas with 110 influential education policy makers and practitioners from across the country in a highly interactive live summit and global gathering. By bringing together so many key individuals in the field of education, AIM has created a broader, ongoing dialogue about how to improve area schools and student achievement by ensuring that the latest research in reading gets into classrooms quickly and efficiently.

Presenters at AIM’s Research to Practice Symposium included three who are part of a select group of experts in neuroscience, cognitive science and developmental psychology invited to participate in a workshop, Bridging Neuroscience and Learning that took place at the White House in Washington, D.C. in January:

- Ken Pugh, Ph.D., Director and President of Research; Senior Scientist, Haskins Laboratory, Yale University
- Bret Miller, Ph.D., Director of Reading, Writing and Related Learning Disabilities Program; National Institute for Child Health & Human Development
- Laurie Cutting, Ph.D., Director of Education and Brain Research Lab; Vanderbilt University
- Steve Graham, Ed.D., Mary Emily Warner Professor, Arizona State University, Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College
- Nancy Hennessy, M.Ed., Director of Academic & Professional Practices, AIM; Past President of International Dyslexia Association
The symposium was available to educators and schools globally for the first time, via a live interactive online broadcast, available on computers and mobile devices through a partnership with Learning Ally. Educators in 30 states and Canada at 130 sites viewed this live interactive broadcast that was available on demand through May 16.

Leading Implementation Science Expert Partnering with AIM

AIM is delighted to be working with Dr. Michelle A. Duda, Ph.D., BCBA-D. She is a senior level Board Certified Behavior Analyst, Scientist at the UNC at Chapel Hill, and Associate Director of the National Implementation Research Network. Dr. Duda is passionate about supporting the dissemination, implementation and scale-up of evidence-based practices and applies her expertise at local, state/provincial and national levels.

Dr. Duda’s research interests include assessing and building implementation capacity, application of applied implementation science, and the development of instruments to measure implementation capacity. Dr. Duda has over a decade of experience serving as a coach, consultant, applied researcher, trainer, professor and published author. She has authored several peer-reviewed articles and book chapters, and to help translate the research to practice, she has created several consumer-focused brochures, data collection tools, training modules and key content for National websites including the Active Implementation Hub.

Dr. Duda serves on several National and International advisory boards and science panels and continues to support collaborative efforts across large-scale initiatives.

AIM College News

The AIM Class of 2015 received an impressive number of college acceptances and merit based scholarships. Students were accepted at over 65 colleges and universities including American, Bard, Beloit, U. Cincinnati, Clemson, Drexel, Duquesne, Eckerd, Ithaca, Pitt, Sarah Lawrence, Simmons College, U. Tampa, U. Sciences, Wheaton and many more. AIM College Counselor Mike Dunn has established foundational relationships with many colleges around the country, building a strong AIM reputation in the admissions world, as well as the college counseling world. During the year AIM hosted a number of informational sessions for students and families including Elizabeth Hamblet, from Columbia University who commented, “AIM students are some of the most college ready students I have met because they know what they need to succeed before they graduate from high school.” AIM also hosted Michael Grossman of the Whitemarsh Business Association, for our seminar on how to finance a college education.

AIM looks forward to working with the Class of 2016 in the coming year on their college plans.

AIM Students Explore the World

AIM encourages experiential learning and students have the opportunity to explore the world as well as the Philadelphia region. AIM students have now studied in seven countries and across the country. In the spring AIM Upper School students traveled to Belize for a service learning trip during which they worked with young students in a less fortunate community who needed classroom renovations and education support.

The seniors traveled to Spain for a week of intensive learning in the humanities and sciences. They visited Barcelona, Zaragoza and Madrid and it was an incredible experience for these students. The juniors traveled to Washington, DC for learning in the humanities. The 8th grade had an incredible experience studying at the Teton Science School in Jackson, WY, a favorite annual experience.

This year AIM freshman and sophomores made their inaugural trip to Walt Disney World in Orlando, FL to explore the Four Threads in action. Studies included youth leadership, the Disney business model, engineering behind the rides, and animation and performance skills right from Disney actors.

Locally AIM students benefited from trips throughout the region and from special programs with the Philadelphia Zoo, both onsite and at the Zoo, including a 5th grade overnight trip, thanks to the generosity of an AIM donor.