



NEWSLETTER

October 25, 2024

Principal: Barbara Gerard
<http://matsuk12.us/acc>

Phone: 907-746-2358
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Dear Academy Families,

Outstanding Staff!

Academy's middle school students are flourishing, thanks to the week-long, in-depth learning experiences that allow them to truly shine! We are incredibly grateful for the remarkable lessons and creative teaching that our dedicated educators bring to life each and every day.

Family Feast – Wednesday, November 27, 11:30 am – 12:30 pm

Join us for a wonderful lunch where family members—parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and siblings—are all welcome to dine with their student! We'll provide extra tables and chairs for our honored guests. (Please note: students must stay with their class during the event.) Each grade level is asked to contribute crockpots of soup, veggies, fruits, desserts, breads, and other finger foods. We'll also need volunteers to help with cleanup after the feast. This is an Early Release Day, and families are welcome to take their students home once the event wraps up!

We are GRATEFUL for our Fantastic Families!

A HUGE thank you to all of you for your dedication and support of Academy K12 Public Charter School! We are a family focusing on learning!

Two Plans Depending on the Election Outcome on November 5

Currently, we are in a holding pattern with two potential plans:

Plan One: If voters approve Prop 1 and the high school construction funding is secured, we will bring in 4-6 temporary portables to accommodate Academy's 9th grade while the new high school is under construction.

Plan Two: If the bond measure is not approved, we will install 6 portables that will serve as more permanent facilities for Academy's 9th and 10th grades. These portables will include plumbing for restrooms and more permanent utility connections. We will continue to seek construction funding for a new high school facility.

Fingers crossed.....

Questions? Concerns? Needs?

If you have any questions, concerns, needs, please do not hesitate to contact us! Text, call, email, stop in! WE CARE!!! I CARE!!

With Warm Regards,
Barbara Gerard, Principal
907-841-5704
Barbara.Gerard@matsuk12.us

Looking for **Parent**
Volunteers!



Date:	Event:
10/28-29	Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences
10/30-11/1	Professional Development No School



11/4 & 5 & 11	We have school! This is different from the rest of the district.
11/6	Picture Retakes

Ever wonder how donations to the Academy Advisory Board, Inc. are spent?



Academy Advisory Board, Inc. 501(c) (3) Non-Profit will host their annual "open books" on Wednesday, October 30, from noon to 2 pm.

- If you are interested in getting some hours changing bike tires, let us know. Most of the bikes get a cleaning and studded tire change over this time of year.

School Closures and Delay Info

As we get ready to start waking up to snow, we wanted to share the great page on the MSBSD website with great information. The website is updated as decisions are made during inclement weather. Check it out here, <https://www.matsuk12.us/delaysandclosures> or go to the school district website and click on the snowflake icon. Academy Charter is in Region #1.



MSBSD School Closure & Delayed Status By Regions

MSBSD is working to keep all schools open and to identify schools in either In-Person, Remote Learning or Closed status, along with the availability of Transportation Services and After-School Activities.

Last Updated -

Tuesday, October 22 @ 8:40 pm

REGION #1:	REGION #2:	REGION #3:	REGION #4:	REGION #5:	REGION #6:	REGION #7:
Academy Charter Butte Elementary Mat-Su Secondary Palmer High Palmer Jr. Middle Sherrad Elementary Sutton Elementary Swanson Elementary Valley Pathways	Birchtree Charter Colony High Colony Middle Finger Lake Elementary Machetan Elementary Mat-Su Middle College Pioneer Peak Elementary Shaw Elementary	Burchell High Cottonwood Creek Elem. Frontier Charter Iditarod Elementary Knik Charter Larson Elementary Mat-Su Career & Tech HS Mat-Su Central Mat-Su Day School Snowshoe Elementary Tanaina Elementary Teeland Middle Twindly Bridge Charter Wasilla High Wasilla Middle	Beryozova Dena'ina Elementary Goose Bay Elementary Knik Elementary Redington Jr/Sr High	American Charter Big Lake Elementary Houston High Houston Middle Meadow Lakes Elem. Midnight Sun Charter	Su-Valley Jr/Sr High Talkeetna Elementary Trapper Creek Elem. Willow Elementary	Glacier View School
Building Status -	Building Status -	Building Status -	Building Status -	Building Status -	Building Status -	Building Status -
In-Person Learning: BUILDING OPEN	In-Person Learning: BUILDING OPEN	In-Person Learning: BUILDING OPEN	In-Person Learning: BUILDING OPEN	In-Person Learning: BUILDING OPEN	In-Person Learning: BUILDING OPEN	In-Person Learning: BUILDING OPEN
Transportation Services -	Transportation Services -	Transportation Services -	Transportation Services -	Transportation Services -	Transportation Services -	Transportation Services -
Yes Services	Yes Services	Yes Services	Yes Services	Yes Services	Yes Services	Yes Services
After-School Activities -	After-School Activities -	After-School Activities -	After-School Activities -	After-School Activities -	After-School Activities -	After-School Activities -
Activities Operating	Activities Operating	Activities Operating	Activities Operating	Activities Operating	Activities Operating	Activities Operating

MSBSD School -	Building Status	Transportation Services	After-School Activities	Region
Academy Charter	In-Person Learning: BUILDING OPEN	Yes Services	Activities Operating	Region #1
American Charter	In-Person Learning: BUILDING OPEN	Yes Services	Activities Operating	Region #5
Beryozova	In-Person Learning: BUILDING OPEN	Yes Services	Activities Operating	Region #4

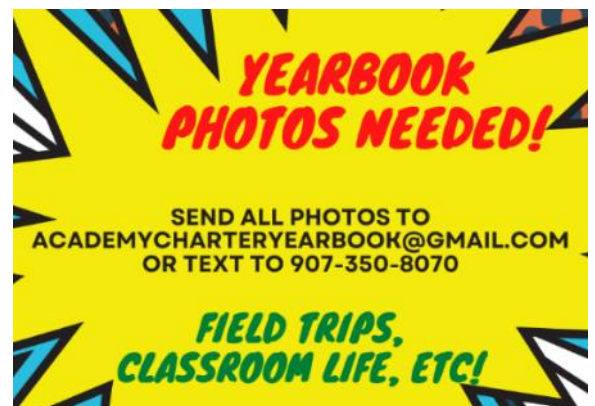


4th Grade Fundraiser!

Fourth grade is raising money to support Kids Kupboard, and we hope that it will brighten everyone's holiday season! We are offering pre-orders of wreaths, Christmas decorations and a fun gift set from Ken's Garden Center. If you are interested, please fill out an order form and place it in an envelope with a check made out to Academy Advisory Board for the full amount of your order, which will go to Ms. Benbow's box in the office. Order forms were sent out earlier this week. Although you are welcome to place orders for friends and family, please know there is no expectation to do so!



Check the
Lost & Found
All items donated
at the end of the month





Kindergarten dove into multi-letter phonograms this week. Our new ones are SH, EE, TH and OW. We practice saying and writing them every day. We also use them to spell and read words. Each small group began a new book to practice. Hopefully the students will be ready to read them to you at their conferences next week. We had a dual theme of sheep and pumpkins. Ask your student about the stories they liked.

We covered a wide range of topics for math as we prepared for pumpkin math on Friday. Students compared and discussed size, reviewed shapes and practiced making estimates.

Thank you to all the parents that pitched in to make our week a success. Special thank you to our room moms for the fun party!

See you next week:-)

Mrs. Berg
Verona.Berg@matsuk12.us



We just want to take a moment to thank all of you for your help doing lunches and projects on Fridays, completing home projects, monitoring students as well as volunteering to make pumpkin waffles and throwing a great Halloween party! Also, we appreciate all your support and great communication!

We are excited to have a touch point with families during conferences next week to brag on all of our students! See you next week!

Contact us anytime!



Mrs. Mayer & Mrs. Drummond
Betsy.Mayer@matsuk12.us
Jessica.Drummond@matsuk12.us

Thank you all so much for your help with our fun activities this week! From making Halloween decorations, to pumpkin waffle day, and assisting with our Halloween math day on Thursday, your support has made everything possible. A special thank you to all the volunteers who helped make our Halloween party a blast—the students had such a great time!

In Language Arts, most groups have finished reading *My Father's Dragon*, and the students are excited to start their next novel study after the break. In math, we've been practicing the subtraction of two-digit numbers with regrouping, and everyone is doing a fantastic job and working hard.

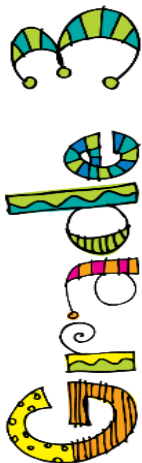
Mrs. Saunders and Mrs. Kramer
Erin.Saunders@matsuk12.us Kimberly.Kramer@matsuk12.us

Kile's Kittlets

LA—We continued to study Ancient Rome. Students learned the legends of the Greek gods, Remus and Romulus, and Cupid and Psyche. We are still working on improving comprehension skills and reading to improve fluency.

Math: Students completed the multiplication of 2, 5, and 10. Their test scores were fantastic. Please continue to help them at home, as this will build their confidence.

Tamela Kile Tamela.Kile@matsuk12.us



Grimes Gambit

Language Arts: This week in Language Arts, the students worked hard on their Spalding 50-Word Test. In our reading of *How Does Your Body Work?*, we covered chapters about the eyes, vision, ears, and hearing. The students found it fascinating how the eye works with the brain to produce an image. We also explored the nervous system, the spinal cord, and the brain. They were especially intrigued to learn that the left hemisphere of the brain controls the right side of the body, while the right hemisphere controls the left side.

After the break, we will begin exploring the Roman Empire and Roman Gods and Goddesses. Students can continue to work on Lexia at home during the break.

Math: Division, division, and more division! We are focusing on division facts and learning the correct terminology when talking about division. Some key vocabulary words include divisor, partition, inverse operations, dividend, and quotient. This week, we also explored how division is used in the real world through various word problems, helping students apply their problem-solving skills by turning information into division problems.

After the break, we will begin exploring multiplication and division facts of 2. Please continue working with your student at home on their multiplication and division facts.

As always if you ever have any questions or concerns, please get in touch with me at austin.grimes@matsuk12.us



FOURTH GRADE

Benbow's Buzz

Nielsen's News:

I'm looking forward to seeing you all next week at parent-teacher conferences and having your child share all that s/he is learning. Please make sure to bring your child if possible.

ELA- This week we finalized our essays of the Middle Ages and created the final projects. Students are eager to share their fantastic work with you next week! We also discussed the Latin roots -cred, and -struct, as well as the adjective form suffixes: -able, -ible, -ish, -ic, -ive, -ous, and -ly. In our morning warm-ups we covered relative adverbs, tenses and reviewed quotation marks. This week's reading of King Arthur brought us to the wedding of King Arthur and Lady Guinevere and the forming of the round table.

Math- We began division this week. As we learned division as the inverse operation to multiplication, the class was reminded how important knowing our basic facts are in being able to do long division. They all have been working hard and improving lots!

Mrs. Nielsen laurie.nielsen@matsuk12.us

The fourth-grade fundraiser for Kids Kupboard has begun! There is absolutely no expectation that anyone go door-to-door to make extra sales. If you happen to have friends and family who are interested in purchasing any of these items, they are welcome to!

We sent out notification earlier this week about the chaperones for the **Alaska Junior Theater** field trip in Anchorage on Wednesday, November 6! Please do let us know if you still want to drive your child if you were not chosen as one of our chaperones.

Language arts - Reading Logs went home on Monday and will be turned in at Parent teacher Conferences next week. As part of our Empires in the Middle Ages unit, we continued writing informative narratives about the people during this time period and read about the pros and cons of daily life once people began moving to towns. Chapters of Robin Hood are coming home as homework to allow more time for discussions about the events and characters in class. Please take the time to listen to your child read and help them identify important information throughout the chapter. We worked on transition words, relative pronouns, sentence editing and the order of adjectives as part of our Daily Language Review.

Math - Math class is all about division now! We worked through the process of long division this week. We will continue working through this unit after our break! Automatic recall of the basic multiplication facts is absolutely vital to success in fourth grade math, especially now that we have reached division. Although we will practice multiplication facts every day in class, I do encourage you to make sure that your child finds time at home every day to practice as well.

Please reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns!
cherie.benbow@matsuk12.us

SCHUMACHER MATH

Math class this week assessed for their decimal operation skills. The craft stick bridge project and Google bridge slideshow got the final details wrapped up.

Students are expected to work on Quicktables (until finished) and master ALEKS topics each day at home and at school.

Have a great weekend!

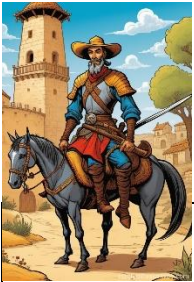
Mr. Schumacher
Jared.Schumacher@matsuk12.us

Outdoor Fitness

Outdoor fitness classes were only 4th and 5th grade this week.

We ran a mile+ and played the game Base Tag while learning to be a good sport and strategize with classmates. Fourth grade Many cold fingers, faces, ears, were whined about so time to send in gloves, face masks and/or ear bands.

Mr. Schumacher
Jared.Schumacher@matsuk12.us Mrs. Molly
Molly.Nichols@matsuk12.us



5TH GRADE



The Manley Minute:

We are looking forward to seeing all of you at conferences next week! Please let us know in advance if you are not able to make it.

Language Arts: This week, in lieu of our normal spelling test, we took our monthly 50-word spelling test. I was thrilled to see almost all scores increase! In class, students participated in a Harkness discussion on chapters 11 and 12 of Don Quixote. Students have also started their persuasive essays on the following topic: Do Don Quixote's good intentions justify his calamitous actions? Students have written their claim and two reasons to support the claim with evidence from the text.

Math: As a culminating activity to Chapter 2, students completed mini math missions that dealt with each component of the chapter. Many missions were multi-step, and some were quite challenging. This class dug deep and persevered until they found the right answer for each mission. Finding their errors and paying close attention to key vocabulary helped them solve the mission. One student summed up this activity as, "Fun but it made my brain hurt." We also took the test over the chapter and ended our week with Halloween task cards that covered a variety of math skills.

Mrs. Manley Patsy.Manley@matsuk12.us

Sturgis Super Students!

LA-- Mrs. Irina took charge of class this week while I (Mrs. Sturgis) was working with middle school students on a craft intensive. She led them through the reading of a Sherlock Holmes mystery, "The Speckled Band" and at the end of the week they all created a cartoon showing the beginning, middle, and end of the story.

Math-- After cruising through division, the class took a break this week to have some fun solving Halloween mysteries. Mrs. Irina led the class while I (Mrs. Sturgis) was teaching a middle school intensive and said the class did a great job working hard to solve the problems. After our break we will expand our division skills to include two-digit divisors.

Mrs. Sturgis
Sabra.Sturgis@matsuk12.us

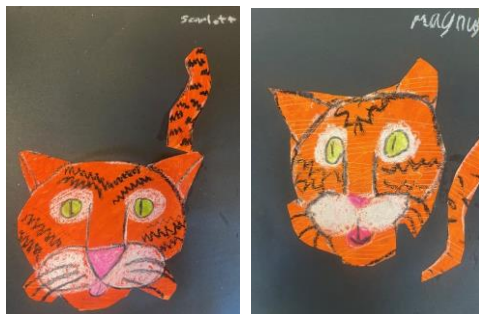
K-5 Lab Classes



This week, our third graders proudly finished their vibrant Rousseau-inspired tiger artwork. After studying *Tiger in a Tropical Storm*, they used painted paper to bring their own jungle scenes to life, capturing the wild energy of Rousseau's work.

In fourth and fifth grade, the students focused on learning new watercolor techniques. They practiced techniques like wash, wet on wet, and glazing to build their skills and prepare for more advanced painting projects. These techniques will help them create more dynamic and layered artwork in the future.

Mrs. Saunders and Mrs. Grimes



Kindergartners read and discussed the poems Rain and The More It Snows. It was fun for them to act out and recite the poems.

First and Second graders continued to learn different idioms and their meanings. It is so much fun listening to them try to figure out what each means.

Ms. Kile



"It's a special Outdoor Song which Has To Be Sung In The Snow."



Kindergarten, first and second learned about debugging and building code this week. They practiced finding mistakes in a code and fixing it. Second grade continues to build motor memory in typing and are gaining more letters every time. Kindergarten is working on building stamina at each task put infant of them and are doing well. They have had positive attitudes and have accepted challenges eagerly.

Mrs. Nielsen



What a good week to be studying the weather! Amidst the snow and rain, the third graders are honing their meteorological skills to decide which site has the best climate for a proposed orangutan reserve. We've definitely ruled out Palmer. The fourth-grade geologists could tell you, though, whether this area would have had a tropical climate at some point in the distant past! They are studying fossils and how we can use them to learn about what an area was like thousands of years ago. We even got to go on a fossil hunting field trip to Coyote Lake up the road in Sutton! Fifth grade is looking to the sky, learning about how the constellations we view throughout the year shift as the earth makes its revolution around the sun. Have a wonderful break!

Ms. Heppner & Mr. Nick

Natalie.Heppner@matsuk12.us

Nicholas.Treinen@matsuk12.us



3rd grade - New England and Middle Colonies

4th grade - Google maps and map scales

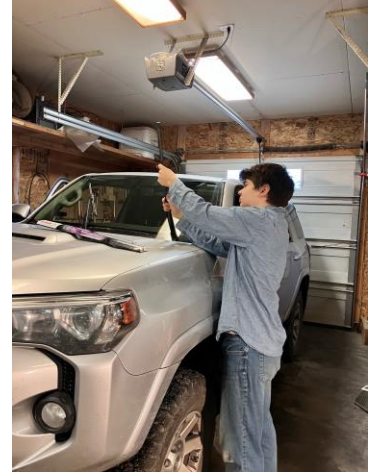
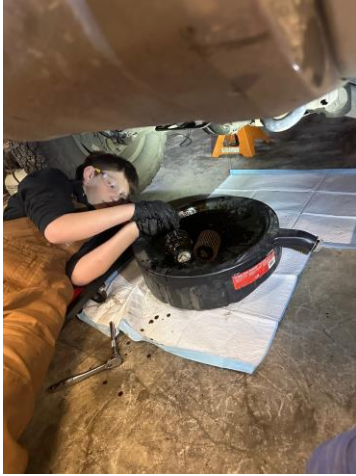
5th grade - England and France in the Americas

Mrs. Mayer & Mrs. Drummond

Middle School Intensive Week!

Automotive Awareness

Students learned how to change oil, air filters, cabin filters, rotate tires, and back up to trailers. It has been an eventful intensive!



Aviation Week

This week, students learned about several aspects of the aviation industry, basic aviation terminology and the principles of flight. Field trips included visits to Alaska Gear Company for a behind-the-scenes glimpse at manufacturing airplane parts, Alaska State Forestry for a visit with an A&P mechanic and chief pilot, discussing what it takes to maintain planes that assist firefighting. They visited UAA's aviation dept. to learn about careers in aviation maintenance, air traffic control and commercial pilot, as well as Alaska's aviation history with a tour at the museum. They learned about building kit planes from EAA, careers with the Air Force from a recruiter, and took a turn in a flight simulator at Blue River Aviation. They also studied the principles of propulsion by using the scientific method on stomp rockets and built/flew a drone. It was a packed week!



Collage of Crafts

What a full week! The students used polymer clay to make clay canes which were used to decorate a jar and painted with clay to make a magnet. There was also quite a bit of creative time where students made their own clay creations. Along with clay, students made fabric candy cane wreaths, decoupaged frames, decorated ornaments, and created personalized t-shirts using a printed design, plastic wrap, parchment paper, and an iron. It was a great week filled with fun, creativity, and learning.



Medical Matters

Students earned their CPR certification, learned emergency care and wilderness medicine in this intensive. They met a variety of different medical personnel, explored possible future career options, toured labs and viewed demonstrations of different medical machines. They also had the amazing opportunity to serve our community by helping organize connexes of medical supplies at Austin's Compassionate Enterprises -the largest medical lending supply closet in the state.

Whether the students were interested in a possible future in health care or just someone who got hurt a lot, this intensive was for them!



Expedition Outdoors

Middle grade students gained knowledge of the essentials connected to being out in nature. From hiking and camping to foraging and knot tying, students developed critical outdoor skills while having fun. They learned about and practiced tasks connected to navigating through the wilderness, building fires and shelters, cooking with camp stoves, and safety techniques (both preventative and response) for a variety of outdoor challenges. We are especially grateful for our instructors Miss Amanda and Mr. Kevin, from Onward & Upward, and Miss Cheyenne and Miss Tarrah, from Knik Tribe. Thanks to them, the students are better prepared for their adventures in Alaska and beyond.



Intense Edible Adventure

An Edible Adventure was just that! Students learned not only how to work together, but also practiced measuring, weighing, doubling and halving recipes. They learned how to troubleshoot when recipes didn't quite turn out- like peanut brittle- and enjoyed the spoils of successfully (and beautifully) executing other recipes- like brownie pops. It was rewarding to watch students' personalities blossom in a different setting and to watch as they discovered how much work and how time- consuming baking and candy creating and decorating can be. The students were able to offer pre-ordering to staff members, but then were required to calculate how much of each product they would need to make in order to fulfill each order. Working in groups, they did a lot more math than they expected! It was an awesome week!



Giddy Up!

Giddy-Up is always a treasured week for me. Watching students work with horses and learn to ride is simply extraordinary. We began the week with a visit to Dr. Neu's Arctic Equine and Livestock Veterinarian Hospital. Dr. Neu has so graciously supported our equine intensive since the beginning. She always has a unique procedure to show the students and gives them hands-on activities to show what a day in the life of a veterinarian is really like. If you know Dr. Neu or any of her amazing staff, please let them know how much we appreciate their commitment to our students. The next three days, we spent time at Flying Horse Equestrian Center with the wonderful Ms. Autumn Cole and her horses. Students learned the basics of caring for horses as well as how to walk, trot, and lope a horse. On Friday, we wrapped up the week at my ranch, where students learned what it's like to own horses here in Alaska. Thank you so much to all the parent volunteers who made this week possible. It is a true honor to be able to facilitate this intensive. Also, I apologize if the students in this intensive are now asking for a horse for Christmas! 😊

Have a wonderful weekend!

~Mrs. Zerkel



Loom Knitting

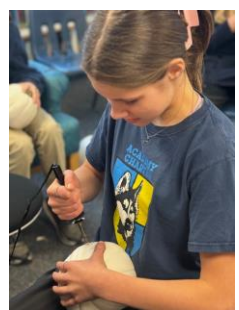
This week we embarked on a journey to knit some pretty large projects and these girls worked their arms off trying to finish these projects in time. One of the many lessons learned this week is just how long it truly takes to make something wearable when you are knitting. They all had a fantastic time this week working on their projects, and I hope they all continue to loom knit at home once this week is over!



Enchanted Builds

We had a fantastic week in Enchanted Builds as the students combined a bit of paint, a sprinkle of glitter, and TONS of imagination, to transform ordinary decorator pumpkins into something truly **magical**! This week the students designed & built their own fantastical altered art creations! This intensive required a great deal of patience and focus as the students explored the creative process, rather than rush to produce a final product. What a great week!

Have a fantastic break,
Mrs. Molina



A Heartfelt Thank You
**TO ALL OF OUR
AMAZING VOLUNTEERS!**
We couldn't do it without you!