

The Atlantis Navigator

PUBLISHED BY THE YOUNG EDITORS CLUB

THE YOUNG EDITORS

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by Alison Audette and
Kimberly Monteiro

Speaking American is a competition that is open to all elementary schools in our state. Sadly, only a few schools choose to participate. Atlantis Charter School is one of them. Here at ACS, the program starts in 3rd grade and ends in 4th grade. That's really too bad because the program is open to students as high as 7th grade. Hopefully, someday ACS will participate at the upper grade levels as well.

The idea of Speaking American is to give students a chance to get comfortable speaking about an assigned topic in front of an audience. The students are given a prompt and then they must write a short speech about it. The time limit is usually one minute, so your writing has to be really good and to the point.

You also have to be good at standing up in front of an audi-

SPEAKING AMERICAN

ence and making your voice be heard. It isn't always the best writer who wins. Sometimes a great presentation can get a weak point across well while a weak presentation can ruin a good speech. The idea of the competition is to be good at both.

There are three rounds in the competition. The students in 3rd and 4th grade at Atlantis know the first round well because we all participate. Some students take it more seriously than others and it shows in their work. In the second round, the top winners from each classroom compete against each other to see who gets to represent our school at the finals in Boston. Only three students from each grade level are chosen.

This year, the three students representing 3rd grade were Jordan Giotis, Shelby Miranda, and Kimberly Monteiro. The 4th grade was represented by Alison Audette,

David Monteiro, and Emily Pleiss. Those three also represented ACS as third graders last year. The prompt for this year was to write a speech about someone you'd like to interview and to give three reasons why you chose that person.

At the finals in Boston, all of our students represented themselves and our school well. Although it was sad that no one else from the school got to see the finals, we were all still very proud to be there. Both Jordan and Kimberly finished in the top three for 3rd graders, with Kimberly taking home the top prize for her speech about interviewing Mother Nature. Alison finished third among 4th graders; but everyone did a great job.

We hope that ACS will continue to take part in Speaking American. We believe it is a fun learning experience and were proud to do it.

MY SPEAKING AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

by Shelby Miranda

When I arrived in Boston for Speaking American I felt excited and nervous. My dad was so excited too. In fact, he was cheering and smiling so much that he humiliated me! I still love him, though.

We entered the tiny, hot room in the basement of the Boston Public Library and took our seats. In a matter of minutes it was my turn to get up and deliver my speech. I told the audience about my wish to interview Barbara Parks, the author of the Junie B. Jones

books. It was a thrilling experience and I felt that I did well. When it came to judging I didn't win; but I wasn't disappointed. I did my best and was proud of my work.

ICE CREAM SUNDAE

by Gina Cicchetti

Summer is coming. Are you ready for those hot days? Here's a how-to on making a summer favorite – the ice cream sundae.

First, you'll need to get a bowl, a spoon, and an ice cream scooper. Next, get your favorite flavor of ice cream from the freezer. You might also want to get sprinkles (jimmies), whipped cream, hot fudge, and other toppings.

Then, put two or more scoops of ice cream into the bowl. After this, sprinkle a bunch of jimmies, followed by a couple of squirts of your favorite topping, onto the ice cream. Then top it off with a swirl of whipped cream.

As hard as it might be to resist, you should probably put the scooper into the sink and put away your supplies before you eat. When you're ready, sit back, relax and enjoy your homemade ice cream sundae.

HOW TO WRITE A HAIKU POEM

by Brian Arruda

A haiku is simple to write but there are a few rules that you must follow. First, a haiku must be about one subject. Second, the poem only takes up three lines to write. Also, each line of a haiku poem has a set number of syllables. The first and third lines each have five syllables. The second line has seven syllables. Here's an example of my own:

Sweet, sweet chocolate
Makes you go cuckoo for more
Yum, yum chocolate

It is really fun to try to write a haiku. You should try it sometime – but make sure you count your syllables!

THE SPELLING BEE

by Gina Cicchetti

Atlantis recently held a spelling bee where kids from each grade competed against each other to spell words at their level. Three students from each classroom advanced to see who would be the top speller in their

grade. The winner received a medal while the 2nd and 3rd places finishers were also rewarded.

The rules of the spelling bee are easy to follow. If you spell your word right, you stay in. If you make a mistake, you're out. But, if everybody spells the same word wrong they throw out

the word and bring back the students who were eliminated.

Just for fun, there was a final round where kids from different grades competed against each other. The winner – and top speller at the Lower School – was Kimberly Monteiro!

HOW TO SEASON A TEACHER WITH SMARTS

by Kiane Viveiros

“Okay class, we are starting with math today,” the teacher announced. “Tell me what two plus two is - because I don't know!” Has this ever happened to you? If so, then here's a recipe for cooking up a good education.

To accept this offer, you'll need to start the process with a 20-foot frying pan! Put your teacher into the water and wait 10 minutes until she is boiling with anger. Then, toss in a pinch of Social Science and wait another 5 minutes for it to really sink in.

Next, add 5 cups of Math Sauce and spread it all over her head. Bring your teacher to a boil once again. Then allow the teacher to cool to the sounds of soothing music. It should take about 15 minutes for the teacher to settle down. Art is next. You should add about 2 cups of Art Paste, followed by a healthy sprinkle of Science. Bring the teacher to a boil once again for about 30 minutes.

The final ingredient is alphabet soup. You should probably use the whole box, just to be sure! That way your teacher will be able to teach both reading and writing.

When the teacher is properly cooked and seasoned, serve it on a platter and let the learning begin!

FOURTH OF JULY

by Ava Marks, Alexis Lebrun and Kyla Stanley

Red sparks flying through the air
Sometimes giving you a scare
The sky turns red, blue and white
When you see this shocking sight!

With people everywhere around
You'll be jumping up and down
Next you'll find you're shouting out
You'll even scream a bit too loud!

When you leave you'll feel the blues
But know there's still more fun to do!

D R U M S

by Amelia Bauer and
Sarena Comas

The drum was first invented over 6,000 years ago. Ever since, people have been learning and finding new ways to play. Here at Atlantis Charter School, students can begin their drum lessons in the 4th grade. Many kids at ACS, like us, are learning to play the drums. We think that drum lessons are the best thing that could happen for us. We know that, if we practice each day, we could someday be a professional like Nick from the Jonas Brothers.

A regular day in drums class is pretty fun. We start the lesson by getting set up with the stands and the rest of our equipment. Sometimes we open up to the pages in our book where we last left off. After that, we start to practice on our own. A few minutes later, Mr. Ventura comes over to hear what we've been working on. If we have it right then we can go on to something else; but if we don't then we have to try again and again until we get it right. Mostly we get it right!

The boys in the class are okay; but we are better. Whenever someone makes a mistake (usually the boys) we all laugh together. Then we keep on working to make it right. When the class is over it is very sad because we want to keep playing. Still, when we pack up our things to leave, we go happily because we take what we learned with us.

On June 1, 2010, we had the chance to show off the drum skills we've been learning. That was the night of the Spring Concert. Dressed in black and white, we took the stage at the Upper School Arts Center and played "School Song" for the audience. Everywhere we looked, we saw happy faces. We were also on stage as our friends in the chorus and the other musicians entertained. It was an exciting evening for all of us – well, except for the boy who fell asleep at the back of the stage!

M E E T I N G M A S S A C H U S E T T S

by Brian Arruda

Meeting Massachusetts is a project in third grade that I got to be involved in. Each of us was assigned a famous person from Massachusetts to study for a couple of weeks. My person was Paul Revere. Once I'd learned about Revere, the next step was to write an "I Am" poem about him. Then at home, I got a prop and a costume to prepare for my presentation. Some people used part of a costume; but the better the costume the better the grade, so I went all out!

In addition to my costume and prop, I also had to choose a stanza

from my poem and make special paper to print it on. That was fun! We started with plain computer paper and then made a design on it with a mixture of shaving cream and paint.

At the Meeting Massachusetts event, I got to read the stanza I chose while wearing my costume and using my prop. I didn't read it to the teacher alone. I had to read it in front of the whole third grade! I thought I'd be nervous but I wasn't.

The whole experience went by really fast. I hope that future third graders will have as much fun with Meeting Massachusetts as I did.

T A S T E O F T H E N A T I O N

by Javier Stanley and
Jacob Swenson

Do you have taste?

If you do, you should have come to Atlantis Charter School for the 4th grade presentation of a project called Taste of the Nation.

Each year, students in the 4th grade choose a state from the United States to study. Their research includes looking online, reading books, and sending out a letter to the state asking for information. They usually get a ton of data about the state from the governor's office.

Much of the information they get is used to write a report about the state and make a poster. However, one of the bits of knowledge is used in a special way. Students learn what foods the state is famous for. Then they bring in a sample of the food from their state as part of Taste of the Nation. Family and friends can come and try out different foods from all around the country. There is a variety of desserts, drinks, and appetizers from all fifty states.

The teachers taste the food too and grade how good it is. At the end everyone is stuffed, ready to go home and call it a day.

H O L E S

by Emily Pleiss

Stanley Yelnats was under a curse. He was simply in the wrong place at the wrong time when a pair of shoes appeared and he was accused of stealing them.

He was sent to Camp Green Lake where boys must dig holes every day. Stanley soon discovers - in a way he will never forget, that the warden is looking for something.

Holes is an extraordinary story of adventure, mystery, and treasure.

G U M D R O P S

by Lexi Croteau

Gum drops, gum drops

Like clouds in the sky

Sweet, sweet gum drops

Gently floating by

TEACHER FEATURES

Ms. Linda Limoges
by Shelby Miranda

I interviewed the writing and reading coach for our school. She is Ms. Linda Limoges. Ms. Limoges is a graduate of Rhode Island College. She chose that school because it had the best teaching program. Now Ms. Limoges helps our teachers at Atlantis achieve success with the use of a writing program called "Units of Study for Teaching Writing."

Ms. Limoges suggests that there are three types of writing that beginners should focus on. The first is journal writing because children are very interested in their own lives and the lives of their families. That helps the young writer to be

motivated and never run out of ideas. Stories and narratives are also recommended for beginners because they are a very big part of a child's school experience. Finally, Ms. Limoges suggests that kids write lots of notes and letters because these formats help young writers learn how to communicate when we write.

Ms. Limoges says she puts her job first and everything else aside. She came here to Atlantis because we had the best type of teachers. The school also offered her a new chance to learn. I was surprised to learn that writing was not always Ms. Limoges' strongest point. But now she inspires all of us to become better writers.

Mrs. Lynn Durand
by Jacob Swenson

Mrs. Lynn Durand was born in Albany, New York in the month of November. She attended the University of Connecticut. Throughout her life, Mrs. Durand loved learning and liked all of her teachers.

Mrs. Durand began her teaching career at Free-town Elementary. She then moved on to a Catholic school. At one time she became a speech pathologist, and then went into financing before returning to teaching kids. She had to take classes at night school because she was very busy working during the day.

When Mrs. Durand came to Atlantis she became the new kindergarten teacher and loved it very much. So far she has been teaching here for two years. She loves teaching with hands-on projects and songs.

Mrs. Durand teaches respect and kindness along with art, science, and reading. She has many original ideas about teaching, which she puts together with ideas from other teachers. She believes it is important to adjust her teaching for her kids. Mrs. Durand's teaching style can best be described as "creative".

In her free time, Mrs. Durand likes to read and do home projects. I enjoyed our interview.