A+ ACADEMY Parent Partnership Program







Dear Parents of A+ Academy Students,

Welcome back to another great year at A+ Academy. Our Parent Partnership Program (P3) is off to a great start with returning P3 President Laurie Hopkins leading the way. She got us off to a great start by leading the movie night basket raffle. And, we were able to raise almost two hundred dollars!

During our first meeting earlier in August, we reviewed our successes and challenges from last year and how to improve upon them this coming year. New attendees brought new and great ideas for events and activities which will enhance our students' experiences here at this wonderful school.

Please take a look at the highlights of our meeting and know you are welcome to join us at our next meeting on **September 27th**. The meetings take place at our Tempe campus and run from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Please join us! There's just such great joy and accomplishment in helping our students via this active and fun parent organization!

Sincerely,

Susan Alonzo
A+ Academy P3 Newsletter Editor

Next A+ P3 Meeting: September 27th

Join us for our upcoming Parent Partnership Program (P3) meeting on: **September 27th Tuesday, from 7 to 8:30 pm** at the Tempe campus.



Hope you can join us!



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Find us on Facebook:



Email: p3tempe@gmail.com questions, comments, ideas?

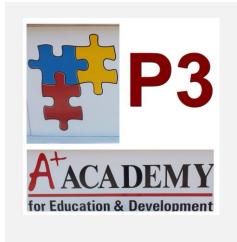
Page 1 of 13

A+ P3 Meeting Highlights

We welcomed: Melissa Baker, Kimberly Baltzley, Stacy Huston, Chrishauna Lacy and Kathy Ortiz. There were 12 of us in attendance.

Next we introduced our board members:

- o Laurie Hopkins President
- Kristin Tate and Laurie Hopkins Treasurers
- Vicki Ruiz Fundraising
- Susan Alonzo Newsletter Editor
- Casey Brown Facebook Editor
- Kym Wilbur & Rahel Tsehaye-- Members at Large
- As of August 18th our P3 bank acct has \$480.00.
- We handed out the Back to School Newsletter and went over this past school year's fundraisers and events. There are more copies of the newsletter located in the front lobby.
- Informed our group that P3 Peoria is working on 501 © 3. Laurie will be meeting with P3 Peoria and P3 Gilbert and will update us with more information at the next meeting.
- We talked about updating our Facebook page to a more secure group...we want it open to only parents/guardians of A+ students. We will send out info once it's completed.
- We talked about t-shirts and water bottles. T-shirts are for purchase online now. (see page 9 for more t-shirt information) We are going to look for a good deal on water bottles and/or contact Krystal Brancoft who designed our water bottles this past year.





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Not Your Typical Deli is a full service delicatessen and bakery serviced primarily by adults with developmental disabilities.



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Page 2 of 13

A+ P3 Meeting Highlights continued:

- One of our P3 moms, Melissa Baker, is an independent consultant for Usborne Book. We discussed the possibility of a book fair around Christmas time.
- We drew the two winners for our "Back to School" Raffle. We raised \$195.
 Congratulations winners, Natalie Tate and Chirstina Grant!





- Our next meeting's agenda will include:
 - Providing lunch for the teachers during parent/teacher conference.
 - Our Halloween event. We will need parent volunteers to come in and help out that day.
 - o Open the floor up for any new business.

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# Pool Party Pics



This well attended welcome back pool party was a hit! AAED students, teachers and staff and their families enjoyed having Hamilton Aquatic Center all to themselves this past Saturday evening. Our group enjoyed pizza, soft drinks and water. **Thank you AAED for hosting this fun event!** 







Photo Credit: Kym Wilbur

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Page 4 of 13













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Here's an ongoing fundraiser you can start participating in now!



DOWNLOAD this FREE APP on your smart phone...

Here are some examples: (out of over 15,000 qualifying retailers!)

- ✓ Grocers Kroger, Safeway, Publix, HEB, Food Lion and absolutely any grocery store including your local mom & pop grocer
- ✓ Supercenters Walmart, Target, Kmart, Meijer, and etcetera
- ✓ Clubs Costco, Sam's Club, BJ's and any other club store that sell grocery products (even if you don't buy groceries when you shop there)
- ✓ Drug Stores Walgreens, CVS, Rite-Aid, Jewel-Osco and any other similar store that sells grocery-like products - even a local drug store
- ✓ Convenience Stores 7-Eleven, Circle-K, Wawa, Shell, BP and any other convenience store (as long as more than gas appears on the receipt)
- ✓ Dollar Stores Dollar General, Family Dollar, & Dollar Tree plus many more
- ✓ Pet Supply Stores PetSmart, Petco, and any others!

Select Autism Academy for Education and Development in Gilbert, AZ as your cause. Take a picture of your receipts. <u>It's that easy!!</u>

If you have questions, contact P3 at p3tempe@gmail.com

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Page 6 of 13

# A+ Academy Principal Spotlight: Jason Cross



Mr. Cross at our school's recent pool party

Welcome to "the spotlight," Mr. Cross, our school's new principal. He began his studies in the field of technology with an undergraduate degree from Colorado Christian University in Computer Information Systems. He then went on to study curriculum and instruction at Colorado Christian University. Mr. Cross also acquired his Masters of Science in School Administration and Leadership. Currently, he is working on his Doctor of Education, and has hopes of completing his dissertation by June of 2019.

Mr. Cross explains his love for teaching, "Teaching is something that I was just supposed to do. I love everything about working with students and helping them succeed. To this day I am still in contact with thousands of high school students that I had the opportunity to teach."

One of his favorite stories is about a student named Joe who was in one of his classes: "Traditional education wasn't working for him, so I was trying new things to see if we could get him well prepared for the world. He wanted to be a fisherman. We lived in the middle of Colorado. To make his goal come to reality, we had to do some work. He got a job working on a ranch, and he was able to save money his final two years of high school."

"When he graduated, he took that money and flew to Alaska to wait on a pier as the fishing boats came in, hoping they would hire him for their return to the sea. He was successful and found his way on a fishing boat soon after arriving. Many years later, he now has a boat of his own, and I even recently had the opportunity to recommend him to be a part of the crew of a National

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Page 7 of 13

Geographic expedition to the Antarctic. He still sends me Facebook messages and includes the location of his ship at sea."

Mr. Cross describes himself as a musician, bowler, and video gamer. He's an avid Denver Broncos fan. However, he explained, he is going to root for the Arizona Cardinals until they have to play the Broncos in the super bowl this year. Denver Broncos 28 - Arizona Cardinals 13.

He has a beautiful wife and three boys ages 15, 12 and 3. He and his wife are 4th generation Colorado natives, but are super excited to be living in Arizona. He and his family think this is just a tremendous place to be. They have settled down in Gilbert, and their plan is to stay for a long time.

#### Favorites include:

- Music: All kinds, as he said, "One minute it is Frank Sinatra, the next Weezer. . .not a huge fan of country, or rap, but you never know when something might change my opinion."
- Type of food or treats: donuts
- Favorite color: purple

In closing, Mr. Cross, remarked, "The parents that I have met thus far from Autism Academy are tremendous. I am so thankful to be a part of this school. Laura, Shannon, and many others have put together a fantastic program that has been implemented with such fidelity that it should be the model for other schools. The staff at A+ Academy is easily the best I have ever worked alongside. Your students are well cared for, and we are thankful to all our parents for all that you do."

Thank you, Mr. Cross for your willingness to be the first this year to participate in this ongoing feature . . . and thank you for all you do to help A+ students achieve their personal best!

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Upcoming Important Events at A+ Academy



- September 14 HAT DAY! Be sure to wear your craziest or most fun hat!
- September 27 P3 meeting All parents are invited
- **September 28 29** -- Half days of school for parent/teacher conferences
- **September 29** -- No Zumba because of conferences
- October 3 14 Fall Break (No Zumba) -- school recommences October 17th

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Parent Partnership Program (P3) – Tempe 2016 2017 Calendar

Meetings: First Tuesday of the month from 7:00 to 8:30 (with 3 exceptions)

| <u>2016</u> | <u>2017</u> |
|-------------|-------------|
|-------------|-------------|

| August 16 th | January 10 th |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| September 6 th | February 7 th |
| September 27 th | March 7 th |
| October 18 th | April 4 th |
| November 1st | May 2 nd |
| December 6 th | May 30 th |

^{**} Meetings are subject to change**

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# August & September Birthdays at A+ Academy



8/1 Susan Floyd8/9 Jocilyn Benninger8/20 Cyndi Gordon



9/9 Shannon Mitchell9/12 Kalona Newcomb9/21 Mary Payette9/26 Joanie Dixon



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Order your A+ Academy T-Shirt: Now Available Online





- The orders can be placed online: www.etsy.com
- In the search box, enter: KoalaTeeApparel (all one word)
- Each \$20 T-Shirt sold brings in \$2.00 to our P3
- Available in black, gray, white, blue and red
- Sizes in all ranges: women's S to XXL; men's S to XXL; Youth Girls & Boys S to L

A+ Academy T-Shirts are great to wear when going on field trips & on PE days!



East Valley Autism Network (EVAN) is a parent-led support group providing hope, resources, information, and support for families with children on the Autism spectrum.

Meetings are:

- o On the 4th Tuesday of the month from 6:30-8:30 p.m. August through April
- o Held at Mi Amigo's Mexican Grill on the southwest corner of Gilbert Road and Southern Avenue in Mesa, 1264 S Gilbert Rd, Mesa, AZ 85204 (480) 892-6822.
- Look for East Valley Autism Network EVAN on FB for the latest updates

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Page 11 of 13

Young Living Essential Oils of the Month: Back to School Diffusing



For More Information: Christy Andrews 480-436-2795

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Join the party!

Adapted Zumba! It's free!

Adapted **Zumba** ® is available weekly at A+ Academy from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. on **Thursday's** right after school. This free class is offered to:

- Students Please note: adult parent, guardian, habilitator must be present for student to participate.
- A+ Academy P3 parents
- Teachers and Aids

Susan Alonzo, licensed **Zumba** ® **Basic** and **Zumba** ® **Gold** instructor and an A+ P3 mom, has volunteered to lead the class. This one-hour class is easy to follow, yet challenging and fun, while at the same time delivering a great cardiovascular workout!

You just enjoy, dance to your heart's content and have fun! Make sure to wear comfortable clothing, athletic shoes and bring a bottle of water!

A signup sheet has been sent home and must be returned before you can start. If you have any questions please contact **Susan** at **480 203 4767** or salonzo4@cox.net.

Please note:

No Zumba on Sep. 29 (Parent/Teacher conferences) & during Fall Break, Oct. 3 – 14.

Zumba will recommence on October 20th



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Page 13 of 13