

A+ ACADEMY Parent Partnership Program

Dear Parents of A+ Academy Students,

As we close this first half of the school year, I must say 'thank you' to Laurie Hopkins, our awesome PTO president, who has led us through a good number of successful fundraisers and fun events.

P3's goal is to support the school in providing fun and socially engaging events for our students.

And, the best is yet to come. Please join us at either of our upcoming P3 meetings on **12/6** and **12/9**. Pick either date to fit your schedule.

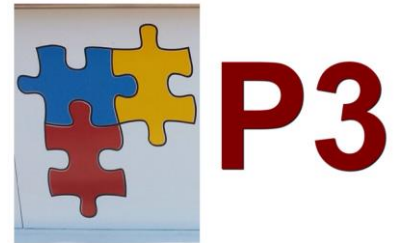
Our agenda will include:

- Update on our Village Inn Pie Card Sale Fundraiser
- Update on our Spare Change Collection Contest
- Upcoming Chipotle Night fundraiser – be there 12/16
- Plan Movie Night in January (last year's movie night was great fun!)
- Plan Christmas gift idea for staff

Behind every successful school and students is a lively and active PTO. Be a part of ours. It's great fun and very rewarding! There's no greater cause than our own wonderful group of students and their teachers!

Thank you for all you have done to support P3 this first half of the school year!

Susan Alonzo
A+ Academy P3 Newsletter Editor



Tempe

Next A+ P3 Meeting:

December 6 or 9, 2016

Join us for one of our upcoming Parent Partnership Program (P3) meetings on:

December 6, Tuesday, from 7 to 8:30 PM or

December 9, Friday, from 8:30 to 9:30 AM

Both at the Tempe campus.

Hope you can join us at either one!



December 22, 2016 - January 4, 2017



P3 Parent Partnership Program - Tempe

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

P3 Update

Current Fundraisers

- **Spare Change Collection Contest ends on Friday, December 2nd.** The winning classroom will receive a pizza party. There will be a bucket with each teachers name on it, either at the office or in the classroom, for the students to deposit their change in.

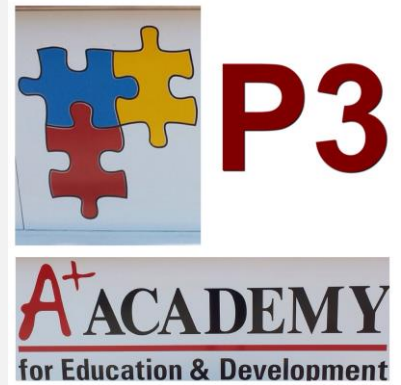


- **Village Inn Pie Card Sale** is going well! So far, we have sold 148 out of the 200 we originally received! Special thanks to **Rachelle Brown** for selling 35 so far! Thanks to all of you for your participation and support!



Meeting Highlights

- **Upcoming possible P3 events**
 - **Date Night** for A+ parents at NYTD <http://nytdeli.com/>
 - **Silent Gift Basket Auction** with family event
 - **Movie Night** in January
 - **Friendship Dance** in February



<http://phxautism.org/>

Autism Job Fair

Sponsored by
Arizona Rehabilitation Services
Administration, AZ Assist &
Autism Society of Greater Phoenix

**January 11, 2017
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

See the last page of this
newsletter for details.



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A+ Academy Spotlight: Mr. Tyler Knowles



Welcome to "the spotlight," Mr. Tyler Knowles, our high school's English Language Arts and Social Studies teacher. Mr. Knowles is a graduate of the University of Wyoming where he received his Bachelors of Arts in Social Studies and Secondary Education. He is currently certified in Arizona for grade six through twelve. For the past four years, he has taught social studies at the middle school level. In addition, he has also taught sixth-grade math, sixth- and seventh-grade reading and science. He has also taught social studies at the high school level.

When asked what he likes most about teaching, Mr. Knowles responded, "I enjoy guiding students to think critically. My heart is in social studies and I think that is where my enthusiasm really shows. One of my favorite things to teach students is writing. It really is a great feeling when students start to organize their thoughts on paper all on their own!"

His goal at A+ Academy is to help every student grow socially and academically so that they are prepared for their next adventure in life. "I am excited to work for A+ Academy and can't wait to help this campus grow," he explained.

Mr. Knowles' hobbies and interests include anything that requires him to be outside, enjoying the fresh air. He loves to go camping or four-wheeling with his family. He and his family love baseball, and are frequently found attending a spring training or D-Backs game!

He is originally from Wyoming, and moved to Arizona about four and a half years ago. He met his wife, who is also a teacher, at the school where they both were working. A few years later, the Knowles have a son, Lincoln and a daughter on the way.

Favorites:

- **Music:** Anything
- **Favorite Movie:** Comedies and suspenseful movies
- **Favorite Book:** Anything such as adventure, fantasy, science fiction. He likes to read books that he thinks his students would enjoy so that he can recommend it to them in hopes to spark an excitement for reading. He is currently reading the Percy Jackson and the Olympian series and found them to be great to tie into ancient history.
- **Color:** blue, or orange
- **Food or treat:** beef jerky

Thank you, Mr. Knowles, for your willingness 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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🌻 A+ Academy Staff Favorite Things 🌻



As the time for giving approaches, here an FYI: there is a binder, "My Favorite Things," in the front office that has all the staffs' favorites . . . just in case you are wondering what to get teachers and staff for Christmas!



Pie Fundraiser Continues!

Make Sure You Purchase Your Pie Cards!

So far, P3 has sold 148 out of 200 cards we received! If you haven't purchased your pie cards yet, please do so before they run out! For every pie card sold, our PTO keeps \$6.50! Last year we sold a total of 150 cards and earned roughly \$950.00! It's a great fundraiser for our organization. Please support!



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Say "Happy Holidays!!" with a Village Inn Pie



Yummy!!!!

Pie cards are available **now to December 20, 2016**. We have a **P3** member at the front office **during drop off time and pick-up time** to assist you with your purchase **or** you may have your child bring the order form to the front office. We will send your card(s) home with your child (please check their backpacks).

The cost is **\$15.00** per card (with \$6.50 of each sale going to back to P3).

You may pay by: **cash, check** (made payable to P3), or we **NOW** accept **debit/credit cards** (Visa, MasterCard, Discover and American Express).

A **GREAT** gift for that "hard-to-shop-for" person!!

Name: _____

Child's name: _____ Teacher's name _____

Quantity: _____ @ \$15.00 ea. Total: _____

Parent Partnership Program - Tempe thanks you for your support, and appreciates all you do for A+ Academy!!!!

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SCHOOL SPIRIT TASTES GREAT



Make dinner a selfless act by joining us for a fundraiser to support Autism Academy for Education and Development. Come in to the **Chipotle** at **2020 East Elliot Road Suite 102** in Tempe on **Friday, December 16th** between **4:00pm** and **8:00pm**. Bring in this flyer, show it on your smartphone or tell the cashier you're supporting the cause to make sure that 50% of the proceeds will be donated to Autism Academy for Education and Development.



Gift card purchases during fundraisers do not count towards total donated sales, but purchases made with an existing gift card will count.





Parent Partnership Program (P3) – Tempe 2016 2017 Calendar

Meetings: First Tuesday of the month from 7:00 to 8:30 (usually)

2016

December 6th & 9th

2017

January 10th

February 7th

March 7th

April 4th

May 2nd

May 30th

Save the dates! ** Meetings are subject to change**

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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. It's that Easy!! If you have questions, please contact the Parent Partnership Program at [p3tempe@gmail.com](mailto:p3tempe@gmail.com)

Check out this video our P3 president put together to promote Shoparoo!

<https://www.facebook.com/laurie.conlonhopkins/videos/pcb.1274071915946075/10206761756954879/?type=3&theater>

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## Upcoming Important Events at A+! Mark Your Calendars:



- December 4, 12 – 1:30 pm – AAED Family Fun Event at Organ Stop Pizza [www.organstoppizza.com](http://www.organstoppizza.com)
- December 12 – 16 – **Spirit Week** – (see details below)
- December 15 – 6 pm – Memories Old and New concert (see details on next page)
- December 16 – 4 – 8:00 pm -- A+ Fundraiser at Chipotle at 2020 East Elliot Road Suite 102, Tempe
- December 21 – Half Day – early pick up at 12:15
- **December 22 – January 4 – Holiday Break – please make sure you have these new updated dates in your calendar.**
- **January 5 – Classes resume at A+ Academy**



**December 12<sup>th</sup> through 16<sup>th</sup>**

**12/12 Monday – Sports Jersey Day**

**12/13 Tuesday – Crazy Socks and Clothing Day**

**12/14 Wednesday – Decades Dress Day (Dress in clothing from your favorite decade)**

**12/15 Thursday – Dress like a Christmas Tree Day**

**12/16 Friday – Ugly Sweater and Santa Hat Day**

**There will be a contest and prizes for participating on Friday! Join in the fun! Be creative!**



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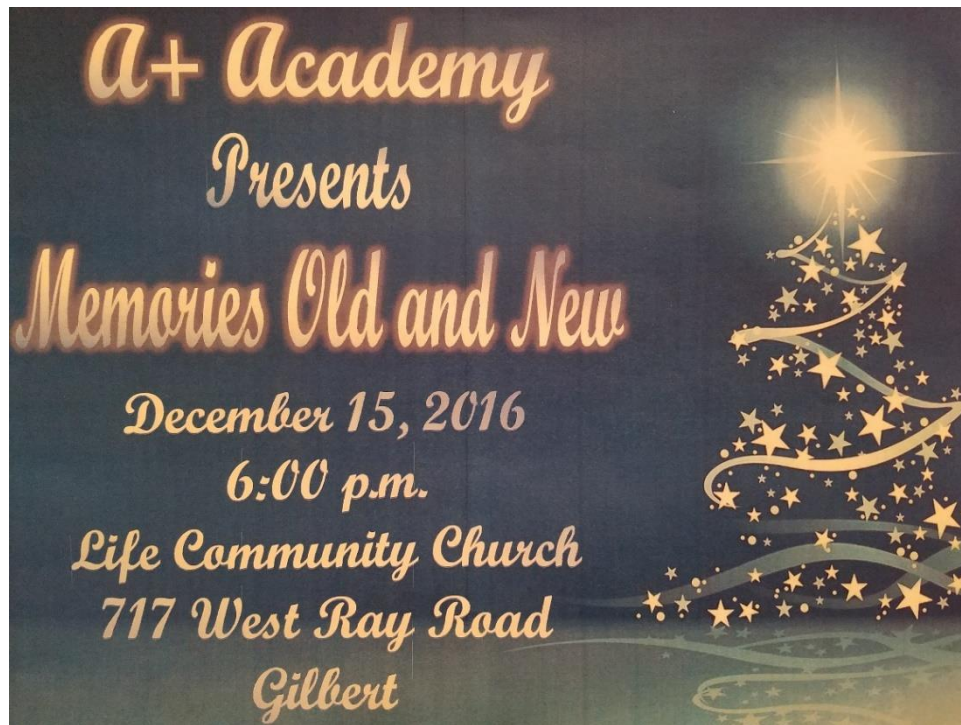
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★ **Birthdays at A+ Academy** ★

Christie Hasenwinkel – Dec. 3rd

AJ Zimmerman – Dec. 4th

*Happy Birthday!*



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

Check out the new baseball tee, sweatshirt and hoodie!



- The orders can be placed online: [www.etsy.com](http://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!***

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Continues! Join the fun!

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!**

Please fill out a signup sheet and returned before you can start. If you have any questions please contact **Susan** at **480 203 4767** or salonzo4@cox.net.

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CROSSFIT WITH A SPECIAL TWIST!

A special class for ALL ability levels! Individuals with special needs will learn about working out and staying active. The one hour class will progress from simple body weight movements through Olympic weightlifting. Social skills including communication, collaboration with peers and following directions will also be part of each class.

****Preferably for athletes 9yrs and older****

All participants must have a waiver signed by a parent or legal guardian if under the age of 18. Athletes should wear appropriate workout clothes & shoes. Water bottles are encouraged.



CLASS INFO

**Every Saturday
12:30-1:30pm**

**\$10 Drop-in fee
per class**

**Coached by a
Certified Special
Education
Teacher/ Crossfit
Instructor**

**Parents are
welcome to but
are NOT required
to stay for the
class**

TRIBAL CROSSFIT

6170 W Chandler Blvd
Chandler, AZ 85226

<http://tribal-fitness.com>

Any questions can be
answered by Leslie Dille
lelly4@sbcglobal.net



Young Living Essential Oils of the Month:

Joy
is portable bring it with you!



For More Information:
Christy Andrews
480-436-2795



Autism Job Fair

January 11, 2017 9 am-2 pm

Sponsored by
Arizona Rehabilitation Services Administration and
Autism Society of Greater Phoenix

Location: 515 N. 51st Ave, Phoenix

Purpose: help adults on the autism spectrum meet
companies interested in hiring them.

Schedule:

8:30-9 Registration

9-10: Employer workshop: Learn about employing adults on the autism
spectrum and their strengths and challenges.

**9-10: Workshop for adults on the autism spectrum and their parents/job
coaches:** Learn about the job fair, how to find a job, and how to keep a job

10-2: Open job fair: Adults with ASD (and their parent/job coach if desired) meet
with prospective employers individually

RSVP requested (not required) prior to Jan 5, 2017 at:
<http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/3153096/Autism-Job-Fair>

Employers: Contact Tim Stump at TStump@azdes.gov

