

# A+ ACADEMY Parent Partnership Program

## Tempe

Dear Parents of A+ Academy Students,

As we head into the spring months of the school year, it's only fitting to take a few minutes and thank a few praiseworthy moms who are doing a fantastic job of leading the parent groups at our school campuses. The first three have been doing so since the first campus originated three years ago.

A special 'thank you' goes out to three exceptional parent leaders: our own president, **Laurie Hopkins**, in addition to **Latasha Whitaker** and **Chrishauna Lacey** from the Gilbert Campus for their active and continued service in our Parent Partnership Programs for the past three years.

In addition to these outstanding moms, Peoria's P3 leaders have been working hard to establish our collective P3 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Special thanks to **Karyn MacVean**, **Alissa Sleseman**, **Andi Merritt**, **Lori Prancevicus**, and **Selma Cesan** for all they have done towards reaching this goal. Achieving 501(c)(3) tax exempt status would make donations to P3 tax-deductible while opening up other fund raising opportunities.

Another project these leaders are working on is the P3 Business Directory in which parents are welcome to list their business name, contact information, product and/or service. See page 7 for more details on the directory.

In this month that is known for red hearts symbolizing gratitude and affection, a ❤️ - felt 'thank you' goes out to these awesome moms for their devotion to leading our P3 organizations!

Sincerely,

Susan Alonzo, Newsletter Editor  
A+ Academy P3

### Next A+ P3 Meeting

Join us for our Parent Partnership Program (P3) meeting **Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup>** from 6:30 to 8 pm at the Tempe campus.

Please join us as we make plans for the **Friendship Dance on February 20<sup>th</sup>**. Other ongoing business will also be discussed and planned.

An A+ aid has volunteered to provide child care here at the school during the meeting. Please contact Kym Wilbur, 480-447-3997, at the school's front office and let her know you plan to attend and how many children you will bring.



### P3 Parent Partnership Program - Tempe

Find us on Facebook:



Email: [p3tempe@gmail.com](mailto:p3tempe@gmail.com) questions, comments, ideas?

## A+ P3 Update

### Let's Ream Our School!! Contest Results Ms. Dille's Class Wins! Congratulations!

This winning class will receive a pizza party paid for by P3.

The winner was determined by a percentage calculation of reams divided by students because our classes vary in numbers of students per classroom. Mrs. Dille's class collected 23 reams from 11 students for a winning percentage of 209%.

Our school received a total of more than 100 reams as a result of this contest. Thanks to all who participated for your generous donations!

### A+ Academy T-Shirts and Water Bottles

P3 will soon be sending out picture/order forms for you to order A+ Academy logo t-shirts and water bottles in an assortment of colors and styles! All profits from these sales go to P3!

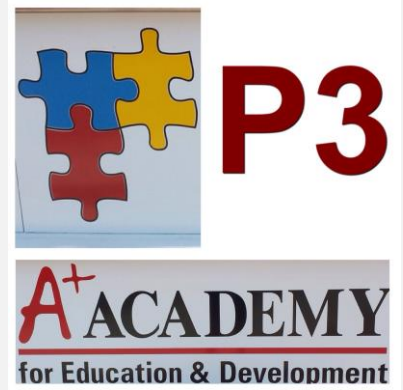
#### Water Bottles and T-Shirts



Shirts Color Choices are: White, Light Blue, Grey & Black

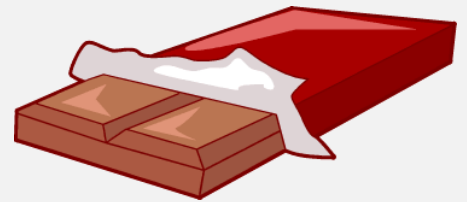
100% Cotton Hanes T-Shirts

Order forms are attached. **\*\*If you have any questions regarding products, please contact Laurie before ordering because there are no exchanges or refunds. Her email is: [p3tempe@gmail.com](mailto:p3tempe@gmail.com)**



### In Our School

### Sweet February Chocolate Bar Sale!!!!



The A+ Academy Student Council is selling **chocolate** bars.

Monday February 1<sup>st</sup> -  
Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup>

See **page 5** of this newsletter for details.

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## A+ Academy Teacher Spotlight: Jana Vorhees



Welcome to "the spotlight," Ms. Jana, our school's music instructor!

Ms. Jana hails from the University of Akron and Ottawa University. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Music and Vocal Performance; Music Education – Elementary and Secondary Education.

Her teaching experience includes 3 years in music education in the Osborn Elementary School District, 13 years at Frank Elementary in the Tempe Elementary School District and 2 years here at our own Autism / A+ Academy.

Ms. Jana most enjoys watching her students accomplish a goal they thought they could not achieve. Her goal as a teacher is to share and provide musical experiences to all students.

Ms. Jana and her husband are originally from Ohio. They moved to Arizona in 1997 and adopted a beautiful girl from Taiwan who is now 8 years old.

This music teacher's favorite hobbies and interests include music – voice, piano, guitar and also, crocheting. More favorites include:

- Music: All music -- opera to rap. She listens to everything!
- Movie and book: fiction
- Type of food or treats: chocolate and/or coffee
- Favorite color: Cranberry red

***Thank you, Ms. Jana, 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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## An Easy Way to Help AAED Help Our Students:



DOWNLOAD this FREE APP on your smart phone...



Select Autism Academy for Education and Development in Gilbert, AZ as your cause.

*Take a Picture of Your Receipts.*

**It's that Easy!!**

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!

If you have questions, please contact the Parent Partnership Program at [p3tempe@gmail.com](mailto:p3tempe@gmail.com)

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## Sweet February Chocolate Bar Sale!!!!



The Student Council is selling **chocolate** bars. There are 5 types of bars, and they are all 1.5 ounces.

- 1) Dark Chocolate
- 2) Caramel - Milk Chocolate and Caramel
- 3) Almond - Roasted Almonds covered in Milk Chocolate
- 4) W.F. Crisp - Milk Chocolate with Crisped Rice
- 5) Milk Chocolate

\*Buy a chocolate bar for **\$1** from your student council class rep!!! We cannot make change, so please bring exact amount.

\*When can you buy? During your lunch period!

\*Candy Bar Sale Dates: Monday February 1<sup>st</sup>- Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup>



## Friendship Dance 2016



## Save-the-date for this once a year Semi-Formal Dance

(Please, no T-shirts, shorts, or ripped jeans.)

**When: Saturday, February 20, 2016**

**Where: A+ Academy**

**Time: 7 pm to 9 pm**

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Page 5 of 10

Starting **February 8, 2016**, you can **purchase your ticket to the dance for \$3.00**. There will be refreshments along with a raffle for some wonderful prizes.

*\*Parents, there will be a room available if you would like to do a "meet and greet" with other parents. Refreshments provided\**

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Please have your child submit their three favorite songs by **February 5<sup>th</sup>**.

**We will relay this information to the professional DJ who volunteered to provide the dance music!**

Song Title:\_\_\_\_\_ Artist:\_\_\_\_\_

Song Title:\_\_\_\_\_ Artist:\_\_\_\_\_

Song Title:\_\_\_\_\_ Artist:\_\_\_\_\_

Is your child gluten free? YES or NO (please circle)

We are looking for about **8 parent** volunteers, please let us know if you'd be willing to help! *more info to come*

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact info:** \_\_\_\_\_

If you have questions, please contact Laurie Hopkins [p3tempe@gmail.com](mailto:p3tempe@gmail.com). Thank you!

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The Parent Partnership Program at all three AAED schools will create a **Business Directory**. This directory will be made up of families who have students enrolled here at AAED/A+ Academy. In general, we will be creating a network wherein the skills and services of AAED/A+ Academy families could be provided to all.

If you have a business, vocation or skill set that you would like to share with our directory, please e-mail a copy of your business card (or send in your business demographics) and we will be happy to share your information with all the families associated with our GREAT school.

Please send your information to [p3tempe@gmail.com](mailto:p3tempe@gmail.com) by **Friday, February 5, 2016**. If you have any questions, you are welcome to call **Laurie Hopkins** (P3 Tempe) at **480-289-8695** (or text).

As always, the Parent Partnership Program appreciates all you do for our school.



**OPEN  
HOUSE**

**Open House dates for our schools are scheduled as follows:**

|                 |                    |                      |
|-----------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Gilbert:</b> | <b>February 27</b> | <b>10 – 11:30 AM</b> |
| <b>Tempe:</b>   | <b>February 6</b>  | <b>10 – 11:30 AM</b> |
| <b>Peoria:</b>  | <b>February 6</b>  | <b>10 – 11:30 AM</b> |
|                 | <b>February 27</b> | <b>10 – 11:30 AM</b> |





Join the party! Adapted **Zumba ® Gold** is being offered **weekly** on Thursday's right after school. This **free** class – from 3:30 to 4:30 pm – is offered to A+ Academy:

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

**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! Come dressed and ready to move: athletic shoes, comfortable workout clothes, a small towel to wipe the sweat you're sure to work up, and 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](mailto:salonzo4@cox.net).

**Hope to see you there!**

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**There will be no school on February 15, 2016 in observance of President's Day.**

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# Young Living Essential Oils of the Month: Oils for Emoticons



Orange, Peace & Calming, Release, Valor and Joy

For More Information:  
Christy Andrews  
480-436-2795

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## Reminder: "The ABC's of Special Needs Planning Made Easy"

Miracle League of AZ will be hosting a free workshop with information on how to protect and provide for those with special needs. The workshop includes information on the ABLE Act, Special Needs Trusts, Wills, Guardianship, Trustees, Budget Planning... and more! It's informative and educational for parents, caregivers and professionals alike

RSVP to allow materials for everyone attending: 480 686 8137 or [cswitalski@mlaz.org](mailto:cswitalski@mlaz.org)

**Date & Time:** Thursday, February 11, 2016; from 6 to 7:30 pm  
**Location:** Miracle League of Arizona  
**Address:** 11130 E. Cholla Street, Ste. 1-110 Scottsdale, AZ 85259

**Also from the Miracle League: SPECIAL DAY FOR SPECIAL KIDS** – Saturday March 19<sup>th</sup> will be the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Special Day for Special Kids at McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park. It's a fun day full of free train rides, food, activities and fun for our special needs families across the valley. Place the date on your calendars and go to [www.specialdayforspecialkids.org](http://www.specialdayforspecialkids.org) for more info.

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# CALL FOR ARTWORK FROM STUDENTS WITH IEPs to Design Arizona's Sixteenth Annual Transition Conference Brochure Cover *Trending in Transition: Engagement, Experience, Employment*

**Arizona's Sixteenth Annual Transition Conference**  
**August 29 – 31, 2016**

Arizona's Sixteenth Annual Transition Conference Planning Committee is seeking original artwork created by students with IEPs for this year's conference brochure. **Any student currently enrolled in an Arizona public education agency (PEA) or approved private school who is identified with a disability and between the ages of 14 through 22 is eligible to submit an entry that illustrates the conference theme.** The first-place winning entry will be used on the brochure cover. Other selected entries will be used throughout the conference brochure and those student entries will be acknowledged by the Arizona Department of Education, Exceptional Student Services. The theme, *Trending in Transition: Engagement, Experience, Employment*, reflects the conference purpose of sharing the latest information related to strategies, expectations, and opportunities for youth and young adults with disabilities to make meaningful and successful transitions to adulthood. The cover artist winner and his or her family will be offered scholarships to attend the conference.

Artwork Entry Submission Rules	
<p><b><u>Design Criteria:</u></b></p> <p><u>Paper Type:</u> ANY KIND  <u>Size:</u> ANY SIZE up to a MAXIMUM of 11" X 17"            No limit to artwork's colors or sources used to create colors, i.e., acrylic, oil, watercolor, enamel, crayon, chalk, markers, pencil, or any combination. Must be an original piece created by the student.</p> <p><b><u>Conference Display:</u></b></p> <p><i>Please indicate whether ADE/ESS can store the submitted artwork for display at the conference. If student artwork is returned after the cover contest, artwork intended for display must be resubmitted per the general Call for Artwork.</i></p> <p><b><u>Submission Deadline:</u></b></p> <p>All student artwork entries must be received by <b>March 3, 2016</b>. E-mail, mail or deliver artwork to:</p> <p align="center"><b>Andi Asel</b>            ADE/ESS            1535 West Jefferson St. BIN # 24            Phoenix, AZ 85007  <a href="mailto:andi.asel@azed.gov">andi.asel@azed.gov</a></p>	<p><b><u>Labeling:</u></b></p> <p>Each entry <b>MUST</b> include a label affixed on the back clearly marked with the <b>student's name, age, school district, and PEA/approved private school</b>. The entry <b>contact person's name, e-mail address, mailing address, and phone number</b> must also be clearly labeled. If the entry is emailed, include the above information in the message. <b>Entries without contact information cannot be considered for the brochure.</b></p> <p><b><u>Parent/Guardian/Student Approval:</u></b></p> <p>It is assumed that all necessary approval for the use of student artwork will have been obtained by the PEA or approved private school submitting the entry. Any photos of students must include a photo release.</p> <p><b><u>Self-Addressed Return Packaging:</u></b></p> <p>All entries must include appropriate self-addressed return packaging. Please be mindful of return envelope and packaging size in relation to the size of the artwork.</p> <p><b><u>Questions:</u></b></p> <p>Contact: Jeannette Zemeida / Andi Asel            Telephone: (602) 542-3855 / (602) 542-3153            E-mail: <a href="mailto:jeannette.zemeida@azed.gov">jeannette.zemeida@azed.gov</a> / <a href="mailto:andi.asel@azed.gov">andi.asel@azed.gov</a></p>
<p><small>* <b>Only students with disabilities, ages 14 through 22, enrolled in an Arizona PEA or approved private school may submit entries.</b></small></p> <p><small>* <b>Each PEA or approved private school is limited to ten (10) student entry submissions.</b></small></p> <p><small>* <b>Please note: ADE/ESS does not assume liability for lost or damaged artwork; however, submitted pieces will be handled with care.</b></small></p>	

