

the
Argenziano Pride Journal



Message from

Ms. Glenda Soto, Interim Principal &
Mr. Larry Silverman, Interim Principal

What a first quarter this has been!

In just 45 days, we have kicked-off the school year, launched the new recycling and composting campaign, had multiple field trips, and students and parents danced to the music during the annual Fall Ball!

As we start the second quarter, teaching and learning continues in all of our classrooms. We are ready for a fast-moving November. Parent Teacher Conferences will take place on November 27th at 6pm. Teachers will be sending letters home this week to schedule the meetings.

This issue includes some articles written by our students who are part of the AFAS Newspaper Club. All Argenziano students are invited to write for the AFAS Journal. Work may be submitted in Google Docs (afasjournal@gmail.com), or by emailing Word files directly to kid@12zine.com.

Fall is here!

Every year, at the beginning of the fall season, our students have the opportunity to celebrate the National Farm to School Month. Students, school staff, community partners, and parent volunteers participated in our corn shucking activity on October 4th! Students enjoyed the local corn with their meals at lunch.



**The Argenziano School
is
Somerville's PRIDE!**



Save the dates!

No School
November 6, 2018
Election Day
November 12
Veterans' Day
**November 22 &
23, 2018**
Thanksgiving
Recess

Half Day
Nov. 21, 2018
**Parent-Teacher
Conferences**
**November 27,
2018**
By appointment
6:00-7:30pm

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News from Middle School

Taza Chocolate Factory & Commonwealth Museum

By Ms. Sharyn Lamer

The seventh grade has had a busy first quarter both in and out of the classroom. In September, the seventh graders went to the Taza Chocolate factory in Somerville to learn about the manufacturing process, sustainable development and fair trade as a culmination of their unit on globalization. The students especially loved the many samples of chocolate! Thank you to the PTA for funding the admission for the factory tour.

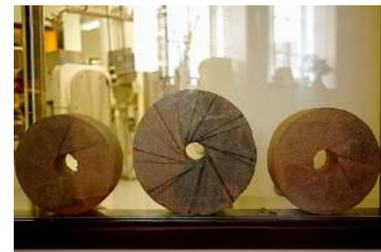
In October, the seventh graders went to the Commonwealth Museum in Boston and did an activity about archeology and drawing conclusions based on historic evidence. They also got to see the original copper plate that Paul Revere engraved of the Boston Massacre, which is housed at the museum. Thank you so much to the chaperones that were able to help with the two field trips. Mr. McSheffrey, Ms. Lamer and Ms. Reingold all appreciate your help making the two field trips such a success.

Taza Chocolate Factory

by Lily Perez and Sabrina Medeiros

This September, both seventh grade classes took a trip to the Taza Chocolate Factory in Somerville. If you're a fan of dark chocolate, you'll love this, and even if you're not, you're in for a good experience. Our teacher, Ms. Lamer, organized this experience for us to learn about companies that use ingredients from other countries and regions, a demonstration of modern day globalization. When you first arrive, the staff warmly greets you and assures you you're in for a fun time. The moment we got there, they took the seventh grade into a room to watch a fascinating video about the cacao beans and other variety beans from South America used to make dark chocolate, and the origins of the bitter chocolate. Right away, they give you a few samples to try, including something most people have probably never tried before, a cinnamon and Mexican flavored dark chocolate. Next, we took a tour of the factory. There were mostly a lot of machines that would crush down the cocoa beans and a ton of staff working hard at their jobs, while many 7th graders peered into windows to watch them at work. The tour guide explained many things about the making of the chocolate, from when the beans are shipped, the ingredients used that decide the taste and final outcome, to the molding and packaging. At the end of the trip, our stomachs are filled with the most delicious and darkest chocolate you could ever taste from flavors varying from dark chocolate with sea salt and almonds to dark-toffee chocolate. We rate this trip five-stars for education and four-stars for fun!

Fun Fact: The logo is a picture of the part of the machine used to grind the beans.



Mock Trial Club

The Mock Trial Program, offered in the fall, is an 11-week afterschool experiential learning program during which middle school students become trial lawyers. With the support of volunteer attorneys, students tackle age-appropriate legal issues, engage in legal analysis, and ultimately try cases in real courtrooms before federal or state judges and juries made up of community members.

Under the guidance of our 7th & 8th grade social studies teacher, Ms. Lamer, twelve of our middle school students are participating in the Mock Trial Program. The middle school club is getting prepared for their "**Evening of Mock Trials**" on December 11th at the Moakley Federal Courthouse in Boston. Over the last month, students have been attending classes with volunteer lawyers from the Goodwin Law Office in Boston. Students are examining a case about free speech in schools, and in the coming weeks, they will prepare their closing arguments in preparation for the event in December.

Features of the new Lincoln Park

by Siarra Murray

There are four main things in the new park I will talk about.
But no spoilers; read the article to find out more!

1. Climbing structure

The climbing structure is a big part of Lincoln Park. It has big green ropes you climb up to reach the giant slides. Or, you climb up the other rope to climb through the house-like structure to get to the other side. Then slide down. YaY FuN!!

2. Another section of the park contains the **swings, the spinners, the other slide and water features.**

The water feature contains squirting water that goes sideways like a rainbow and a bunch of things that squirt up and sideways. Now, next door are the swings. There are two kids' swings, one big net swing and two baby swings. Next door, there are two spinny things that you can spin on and get dizzy. And next to that there is a rock climbing wall and a small silver slide.

3. The skate park.

The skate park at Lincoln Park is a fun place. It contains three ramps, two hills, one block and two sets of stairs. But be aware of your surroundings; the skateboarders can hurt you by running into you. Have fun on your wheels!

4. The **parkour place** contains a number of bars to swing on and a number of cement blocks.

Parkour is a sport that is becoming more popular. You can get classes on parkour, and if you want to learn more about it you can look it up on the Internet.



The Monsters of Lincoln Park

By Molly Milbury

Every Halloween a ghost and a vampire
try and make Lincoln Park an empire.

They shout and they dance,
and they do the monster prance.

They slide down the slide
and from the humans they hide.

Biogen Community Laboratory

in collaboration with Ms. Poulson

Biogen Community Lab is a state-of-the-art laboratory classroom where local middle and high school students engage in hands-on biotechnology experiments and interact with scientists and other biotech professionals. Every year, our middle school science teachers coordinate field trips to the laboratory where students work on a hands-on-experiment while learning about laboratory safety and use of equipment. Sixth grade students attended Biogen to learn more about biogenetics and the progress Biogen is making to cure diseases, such as Alzheimer's. Students had the chance to learn about this industry and then participated in a lab activity. The lab involved using gel electrophoresis to separate the different food dyes found in an M&M. This is the same technology used to separate a person's DNA and learn about their genetics. Gel electrophoresis and other technology like this are being used to help scientists discover, and potentially cure, many diseases affecting our world today.



Character Day Parade

Thank you to Mrs. Soares for organizing our 3rd Annual Character Day Parade. Students dressed up as a character from their favorite book and shared their books and costumes with the entire school community.

Thank you to all parents who attended the parade.

Our students had a blast!



Recycling and Composting at AFAS

A couple of years ago, a group of Argenziano students participating in the Recycling Club brought to the city's attention their concern related to the number of milk bottles, and the amount of food waste going to landfills from our school. This initiated a city-wide conversation about what we could do in our school cafeterias to recycle bottles and compost organic materials. After many conversations and extensive coordination with city officials, our school launched the recycling and composting program in October.

On September 28th, all Argenziano students participated in assemblies in which representatives from *Garbage to Garden* explained the concept of composting. Students learned how to properly sort and dispose the items on their trays after eating lunch. The trays and cups that our students are currently using in the cafeteria are compostable. Students have learned that food left overs can be composted along with the trays and cups, while milk bottles need to be emptied and placed in recycling bags.

For a period of about three weeks, the staff of *Garbage to Garden* assisted our students with the process at lunchtime. We also had parent volunteers who came to assist during this learning process. Currently, one of our lunch aides has taken over, and continues to help students as they sort through their trays and dispose of items appropriately.



Recycling & composting station in the Argenziano School cafeteria

Students ...

- Pour the milk in the white bucket
- Dispose of the milk bottle in the blue recycling container
- Put non-recyclable garbage in gray bin.
- Put all food waste, trays and cups in the green barrel

We would like to thank Mayor Curtatone, Superintendent Mary Skipper, Alderman At Large and Argenziano parent Stephanie Hirsch, and Somerville Public Schools Chief of Staff Jeff Curley, for all the time and effort invested in this campaign and for making it happen!



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Parent Teacher Association (PTA)
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President: Ilana Krapchin Vice-Presidents: Eric Yanovsky, Michele Ahouse
Treasurer: Melissa Sawyer Secretaries: Elisa McDowell, Jocelyn Kasow

We hope you and your children are having a wonderful school year!

The PTA has been very busy so far this year. We've had several successful fundraisers (yay for Fluff) and lots of fun at the fall ball (for kids) and trivia night (for adults).

Coming Up:

- **November 13th - *Eat at El Potro*** (eat in or take out) and the PTA gets a percentage of the proceeds. Then, head over to Gracie's for some ice cream, where the PTA also gets a percentage.
- **November 30th - 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm** - Please join us for our **5th annual craft fair**. This is gearing up to be our biggest one yet. We currently have over 30 crafters (many are parents you may know) with everything from jewelry to chocolate to baby bibs. There are even several Argenziano students who are excited to show you things they made: everything from slime to little metal turtles. More information can be found at argenzianopta.org

Looking ahead to the spring:

- **Literacy Month** - We are hoping to continue what we started last year with **March as "Literacy Month"**. This included a book sale, author visits, a book club and school-wide reading challenge. If you would like to get involved in planning for this, please let us know by emailing afaspta@gmail.com.
- **STEM Month** - In past years, we have had STEM Night in April with lots of cool STEM activities and an egg drop challenge that all the kids love. We are planning to try to bring in more STEM activities and make **April "STEM Month"** but we can't do it alone. If this sounds exciting to you, let us know and join our STEM committee by emailing afaspta@gmail.com.

*If you haven't already, please become a member of the PTA!
Our membership drive will close at the end of November.*

Please contact us or keep in touch using:

- www.argenzianopta.org
- <https://www.facebook.com/argenzianopta>
- <https://www.instagram.com/argenzianoschoolpta>
- afaspta@gmail.com

Second Quarter Calendar of Events November 5th – January 22nd

November 5th: 2nd Quarter Begins

November 6th: Election Day. No School for students

November 7th: Math workshop for K-5 parents at the Winter Hill School from 6:00-7:30pm

November 8th: Lockdown Drill for Argenziano.

Parent presentation on “The New Look of Nicotine Addiction” from 6:15 – 7:15pm at the ESCS 50 Cross Street. School auditorium.

November 12th: Veterans Day. No school

November 13th: School Council Meeting from 5:30 – 7:00pm in Conference Room

November 15th: Math workshop for K-5 parents at the Brown School from 8:30-10:00am.

November 17th: Somerville Road Runners Inaugural Community Day. 9:00 – 1:00pm at East Somerville Community School. 50 Cross Street

November 21st: Half-Day for all students and staff.

November 22nd and 23rd: Thanksgiving Recess. No School

November 26th: Report Cards go home in students' backpacks

November 27th: Parent-Teacher Conference Night by appointment from 6:00 – 7:30pm. Teacher should have sent confirmation of appointment time.

November 29th: Superintendent Awards at 8:30am in the cafeteria. Parents will receive invitations.

November 29th: School Pictures Make-up Day. For children and staff who were absent on picture day.

December 11th: School Council Meeting from 5:30 – 7:00pm in Conference Room

December 12th: Half-Day for students

December 20th: Winter Concert Rehearsal. Just for students.

December 21st: Winter Concert. Students participating: K-4th and Strings. Parents welcome. Concert begins at 9:15am

December 24th – January 1st: Winter Break. No school

January 2nd: Classes Resume. ACCESS Testing for English Language Learners begins

January 8th: School Council Meeting from 5:30 – 7:00pm in Conference Room

January 16th: Half-Day for students

January 21st: Martin Luther King Jr. Day. No school

January 22nd: 2nd Quarter Ends

January 23rd : 3rd Quarter Begins

January 31st: MLK Celebration. Students participating: 5th-8th graders and Band students. Concert in the cafeteria. Parents welcome. Event begins at 9:15am



Picture shared by Stephanie Hirsch

**Please review November calendar for class and/or grade level events.*