

# What's New at AGIS for 2009-2010!!

## Special Welcome Back Update For Back To School Nights!

### New Faces/New Names:

We have over 75 new families to our school community for this year and a special welcome goes out to all of those folks! In addition we have fifteen teachers that are new to our school community for this year. We want to welcome the following teachers to AGIS:

- In **Purple** House: Ms. Victoria King, Ms. Nicole Ryan, and Mrs. Jordan Dorgan
- In **Blue** House: Mrs. Christin Johnson
- In **Red** House: Ms. Shauna Massucci, Ms. Jessica Gallagher, Ms. Melissa Boone
- In **Orange** House: Mrs. April Nix, Ms. Alicia Lallier, Mr. Michael Smith
- In our PE, Art and counseling department: Ms. Rachel Israel, Ms. Adrienne Grube, Ms. Sarah Weaver, Mr. Tyler Jones, Mr. Philip Conzentino



In addition we have had many staff members change their names as newlyweds and those teachers include: Mrs. Mapes (Daniels), Mrs. Yancavage (LaMarco), Mrs. Jurich (Althouse), Mrs. Bennett (Smith), Mrs. Beach (Peterson), and Mrs. Selk (Meconi).

### New Programs or Initiatives:

#### Edulink is Here!

By now we hope you have heard from us via our new communication tool, Edulink. We have made two calls to parents thus far this year to remind you about our Back to School Nights and our Take a Look Nights. This is a phone system that allows us to call families quickly to share general information or emergency information such as school closings. We have been using our office emergency cards to update phone number changes since the beginning of the year in this system. Keep in mind we no longer have Newsflash as a notification tool. For more information on Edulink check out the districts web site.



### Take Home Thursday Folders:

This year we are partnering with our PTA to send home school communications on Thursday. The PTA has graciously purchased color coded folders for all children to use on Thursday for send home items. We will begin to use those this Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. If something is to go home to the entire school it should come home in that folder. **If it is something that a family only needs one copy of (such as our newsletters) it will only come home with the youngest child in your family.** Please communicate with your child's teacher if you have questions about this plan and be looking for your child's folder on Thursdays! Thanks to our PTA for being such good partners on so many things.

### **Some Things Remain the Same But are Still Important:**

Some things that are the same (but still important) include:

### **High Expectations for Student Achievement and Effort:**

Here at AGIS we will continue to emphasize our school-wide MUST BEHAVIORS which are Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Fair and Be Safe. Each staff member spends much time working in a positive way to help students follow these expectations everywhere in school. We mention these daily on morning announcements and our school-wide Caught Caring recognition program are ways we hold these expectations up to everyone.

**CONGRATULATIONS** are in order to all of last year's students, staff and families for the fact that AGIS made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) based on our PSSA results! This is a requirement of the state of Pennsylvania as part of the nations' No Child Left Behind legislation. Many factors go into this calculation including student test performance, participation and attendance at school. This accomplishment is something for all of us to take pride in and strive to accomplish this year again!

One way we monitor student progress here at AGIS is our Measurement of Student Progress (MAP) assessments. Each student takes their MAP tests three times a year in reading and math. Your child is currently taking their first test between September 9-18<sup>th</sup>. After students have completed the fall testing their teachers will work with them to set goals for the year related to academic growth. For more information on this program please check out the district's web site and look under curriculum and then assessments.

### **Some Things Will Never Change:**

Communication is key in any school. We want to remind you that our school newsletter comes home every other Thursday (now one per family). Our first edition went out September 10<sup>th</sup> so plan to look for those accordingly. Your child's teacher will be establishing communication tools with you as well and we encourage you to communicate with them regularly. We hope our web site and that of the Avon Grove District prove helpful as well. Do not hesitate to contact our administrative team if we can be of help to you.



Finally, keep in mind that one of the key factors in the success of any child's education is having their parents involved in their education. You can do that in many ways including checking those book bags nightly, setting aside homework time, discussing school daily with your child, joining the PTA and looking for ways to be involved at the school. We encourage you consider how you might join with us to help make this year one of the most successful it can be.

We are glad you are with us for this school year and, as always, we look forward to seeing you at the school!

Sincerely,

Mr. Todd Harvey

Mrs. Denise Schrum

Mrs. Carol Bove

Lead Principal

Purple/Blue House Principal

Orange and Red House Principal