

A Communication Link Between Our Students, Faculty and Administration

School Year 2021-2022, Quarter 3

“A bridge is a device that supports the strings on a stringed musical instrument and transmits the vibration of those strings to another structural component of the instrument — typically a soundboard, such as the top of a guitar or violin — which transfers the sound to the surrounding air.” - Wikipedia

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We See You...



...and we hear you. We are working to make ASA a place where you know you belong. Our student body is diverse and beautiful and talented, and we want you to know that you are at the center of our community. This newsletter is offered to ASA students to help us communicate with you about some of the goals we are working on and activities around campus that reflect that. We hope this quarterly news outlet will be one part of a communications pathway between our students, faculty and administration.

Some Background

Awareness about the need for our community to take a deep look at equity and justice at our school arose when our students began sharing their marginalizing experiences at ASA with a few trusted teachers. Some of our teachers and administration began to search out new learning about systemic racism in school and how bias shows up in classrooms and on campus. Shortly after

George Floyd was murdered by police on May 25th, 2020 and as the Black Lives Matter movement grew, students shared their concerns urgently through social media - experiences at ASA that included racism, a lack of accountability for hateful language and action, and the need for ASA's curriculum, staff and programs to better reflect our students of color and students that identify as members of an unseen population.

Since June of 2020 we have been working on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Goals (DEI) that respond to the experiences of our students and hold us accountable for a more equitable and just school.

THIS QUARTER'S
TOP STORIES

Meet the Core Equity Team

This year we assembled a Core Equity Team (CET) - a volunteer group of passionate ASA administrators, teachers, students, parents, a board member and two consultants to help us advance our goals and be accountable to our community. We meet every month to work on our goals, do research about what other schools are doing well to meet their Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Goals (DEI), and to plan for the future.



Mr. Alex Laing
ASA Board Member



Ms. Leah Fregulia
Head of School/CEO



Ms. Sara Maline Bohn
Principal



Ms. Kimberly Brown
Faculty



Ms. Camille Dominguez
Faculty



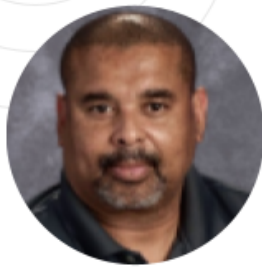
Ms. Liz Guzman
Faculty



Mr. Ricky Livoni
Faculty



Ms. Aiko Mancini
Faculty



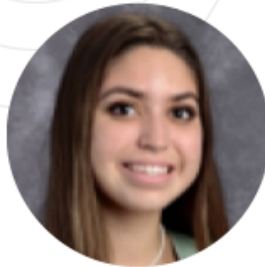
Mr. Byron Miles
Faculty



Ms. Felina Rodriguez
Faculty



Ms. Faith Taylor
Faculty



Ms. Amalia Nevarez
Student



Ms. Amara Washington-Bess
Student



Ms. Nonnie Shivers
Parent

Our Goals:

- Create and foster a welcoming and equitable school culture.
- Cultivate and foster strategies that support the retention and recruiting of a diverse faculty, staff and student body.
- Develop and implement an equity and inclusion framework for curriculum design and teaching.

Our Timeline:



Happenings Around Campus

Learning Together

For Teachers, Staff, Administration and our Board of Directors, learning together has been a priority especially over the past two years. Monthly during PW! we engage in research, reflection, workshops, and discussions that build our knowledge and skills in breaking down bias and building inclusive classrooms. We have learned a lot. And we still have a lot to learn. Planning for next year is underway, influenced by what we learn from students and faculty experiences, and also from great examples from other schools across the nation.

ASA Student Leaders also play an important role in learning and celebrating diversity.

RISE Student Forum

This past quarter in RISE, we planned and hosted a student concern forum here on campus. Our mission in RISE is to hear student concerns and make sure that everyone on campus has a voice. Coming into this year, we wanted to rebuild the bridge between administration and the student body, and in order to do that we came up with our plan to host a forum where students and administration would be in one room hearing the concerns together. First, we reached out to Ms. Fregulia and Ms. Maline about our idea and, once we got a green light from them, we then met with the Core Equity team and invited them to attend as well. In the weeks leading up to the forum the members of RISE planned every step of the process: sign-up, options for anonymous concerns, and documents for notes. The day before the forum, RISE and administration did a practice run of the forum which, then, led us into the actual event. At the event, thanks to all the prep, we were able to host an event that welcomed concerns and allowed students to express their concerns with administrators in the room. From there, partnering with administration, we came up with solutions and were able to provide students a place where they were heard. We hope to continue with more forums in the future. - **Julia Rivas, RISE President**

Asian Student Union



On February 4th, Asian Student Union hosted a festival to celebrate the Lunar New Year! Asian Student Union is a Coalition Club at ASA focused on Asian representation, history, appreciation of our cultures, education on prevalent social issues, allyship, and community. Lunar New Year is an event celebrated in China, Korea, Vietnam, Singapore, and other countries in Asia beginning with the first new moon of the lunar calendar. The members of Asian Student Union worked hard to prepare different crafts of meaning from the countries that celebrate Lunar New Year and shared them with their peers. Additionally, a few members learned traditional Chinese music and performed it for the festival! Finally, we were able to share more about our culture in our favorite way, with food! We enjoyed dumplings, which are a staple item when celebrating the Lunar New Year. Furthermore, thanks to Blue Fin, AJA Catering, Mango Rabbit, and parent donations, we were able to share even more of our favorite Asian cuisine, drinks, and dessert! We had a great time getting ready for

this festival and we hope that everyone who came had a great time! -**Maddie Yang, Asian Student Union President**



Black Student Union

Black Student Union is a student union club that prides itself in conversing about different Black experiences and cultures. Black Student Union meets every Wednesday during lunch to talk about topics such as Colorism, different political views that associate with the Black collective, and more. The leaders of BSU consist of Amara Washington-Bess (President), Kenda Khatter (Vice President), Desi Cruz (Secretary). As a collective, they lead open discussions that contribute to a wide variety of perspectives pertaining to the Black community. Black Student Union shines light on the Black diaspora to show that the Black community is unique and different in its own individual ways. We stand as a collective to uplift the community. - **Amara Washington-Bess, Black Student Union President**



Student Groups

Do you lead or participate in a group on campus that contributes to our school's goals to build equity and social justice? If so, send the club name, description, and contact information. You can include where and when you meet if you would like others to join you. Please also include the grade levels served.

Here are a few High School Clubs:

ASActivisim

Asain Student Union

Black Student Union

The Body Project

The Coalition

Hispanic Student Union

Indigenous Peoples Club

Queer Student Union (QSU)

RISE

Students Against Stigma (SAS)

Do you have an article on a student activity or celebration to contribute? Please send the information to: thebridge@goasa.org

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