

# Crittenton Youth Academy Newsletter

September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009  
Volume 1, Issue 1

William Bressler  
Principal



## Welcome!

Welcome to the first edition of the Crittenton Youth Academy (CYA) newsletter! It is our pleasure to bring you all of the news, events, and important happenings that are taking place at CYA. We hope this newsletter is informative and assists you in helping make our students successful in everything that they do!

## Student Government News

We are pleased to announce the Student Government officers for the 2009-2010 school year:

**President** - Samantha Wybranski  
**Vice-President** - Yesenia Ruiz  
**Treasurer** - Irene Chavez  
**Resident Liaison** - Pragathi Schmidt  
**Middle School Liaison** - Jaydeci Villegas

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Student Government is very excited to get started on all of the activities and ideas they have planned for their classmates. They have already started working on their first project of the year. Student Government will be working with the Service Learning classes to develop campaigns on Prevention Topics to inform the student body and help them make wise decisions. A service agency will also be highlighted for each of these topics.

*Prevention Topics for the 2009-2010 school year:*

- School Violence
- Tobacco Awareness
- Substance Abuse
- Healthy Relationships
- Peer Building
- Eating Disorders
- Domestic Violence
- Depression Awareness
- Sexual Health



**We are Responsible**  
**We are Respectful**  
**We are Successful**  
**We are CYA**

## Important Dates

- ◆ Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>: Labor Day
- ◆ Oct. 5-9: Fall Break
- ◆ Oct. 12: Last Day of Block 1

## The Principal's Office



Dear Students, Teachers, Parents and Community Members,

Crittenton Youth Academy is committed to offering a first-rate educational program that provides safety, hope and opportunity for our students. By offering an environment that is specifically tailored to the needs of students, we hope to create a place that is welcoming to a group of students who would normally not have a place to fit. CYA has taken some great first steps toward reaching many goals and setting itself apart from other charter educational programs through participation in and affiliation with a network of effective programs. For instance, Crittenton Youth Academy has established a mission with the Arizona Charter Schools Association to create a Professional Learning Community in the academy. This project's goal is to improve outcomes that are specific to the Academy and Florence Crittenton's current and future student population by providing comprehensive technical assistance to the administration and teachers. Another example of our commitment is our accreditation by the North Central Association. NCA is a distinction recognized internationally, which affords external recognition of the school's commitment to quality. NCA fosters quality, encourages academic excellence, and improves teaching and learning. Students who attend a school accredited by NCA can rest assured that the school is committed to raising student performance and is held accountable for improving student learning on a continual basis. Schools, colleges, and universities all over the world recognize credits that students earn at an NCA accredited school.

Additional Crittenton Youth Academy programs include:

- Education and Career Action Plan (ECAP) Student Postsecondary Transitions Advisory
- Responsible Thinking Center
- Internship Collaboration with Arizona State University and other local colleges
- National Honor Society
- Search Institute's 40 Developmental Assets® Curriculum
- Corporation for National and Community Services' Learn and Serve America Program
- Competitive sports through Arizona Charter Athletic Association (CAA)
- Arizona Association of Student Councils
- National Network of Partnership Schools
- Arizona State University Department Center for Community Development and Civil Rights, American Dream Academy (ADA)
- Fine Arts Curriculum

### Crittenton Youth Academy Middle School

Beginning this fall, Crittenton Youth Academy has opened our educational doors to a community in need. Crittenton Youth Academy is now providing services to middle-school students. An educational need to serve these students was identified through assessments on incoming freshmen. Data suggested incoming freshmen who attended local public middle schools were one to two years below grade level. Crittenton Youth Academy has opened our middle school for the 2009/2010 school year to provide adequate education to this population. The Crittenton Youth Academy middle school will promote students to the Crittenton Youth Academy high school at grade level.

I welcome you to visit CYA for a tour and conversation with me regarding your child's education and our vision of excellence. I look forward to meeting with you.

Respectfully,

William Bressler  
Principal



## English News

Fast and furiously, students in English 9, English 10, and AIMS Reading are increasing their vocabulary. Students are learning prefixes and roots to help decode words during reading. In just the last three weeks, they have been exposed to, and are putting into practice, 30 college level words and 55 words with the prefixes *pre-*, *post-*, and *mono-*, and the root words *ped* and *man/manu*. This is in addition to the new vocabulary words we are finding in the textbooks. Dictionary skills are a necessity.

- Amy Westrick

Greetings from Crittenton Youth Academy Room 200! Currently I am teaching English Literature 11 & 12, AP English Literature (2010), National Honor Society Co-advisor (NHS).

**Items needed:** pens, pencils, loose leaf paper, art supplies, craft supplies, gently used books, colored paper, scrap book accessories, clip art, pictures, magazines, composition books.

**Upcoming projects:** Coat of Arms-students will be creating their own coat of arms based on several character traits. Freedom Writers journals-students will keep an ongoing journal to later publish for a grade. We are planning several fieldtrips to the public library for upcoming book presentations.

-Mrs. Chelsea Inmon

## Math News

During this block I am teaching economics, pre-algebra, and the AIMS prep. This week in economics, we are examining the supply-demand principle in detail. The students are discovering the important concepts of price vs. demand and price vs. supply. They are also learning how much influence each of these principles has on one another. In pre-algebra, we are exploring data analysis. The students are learning how to interpret data and display it mathematically and graphically. Each lesson and activity is aligned to the Arizona Academics Standard and relative to the AIMS materials.

-Savon Heung

My name is Adam Richards and this is my third year teaching mathematics at Crittenton Youth Academy. This week in algebra we have started solving equations. In my geometry class we are covering parallel and perpendicular lines. Finally, my AIMS prep class has been studying probability this week to help prepare them for the AIMS math test in late October.

- Adam Richards

## Science News

Students in science classes have become aware of the divisions in various science fields such as physical science and biology. Although there are countless similarities and ties, physical science and biology each have their own paths. Physical science students are discovering the various states of matter as well as atomic theory. Soon, these same students will explore the laws of thermodynamics and review the energy used to change or transform matter. In biology, students are off to a humble yet insightful beginning to an

understanding of prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells. There are several noteworthy upcoming projects, which will involve obtaining an unknown bacterial specimen from the wilderness and controlling the growth on nutrient agar/trypticase soy agar plates as well as observing the phototaxis and locomotion of brown planarians.

- Robert Martz

## P.E. News

Hello from the athletic room! Students have been busy learning strategies in volleyball, strength training, cardiovascular training and basketball. On August 10<sup>th</sup> a push-up and sit-up competition was held. John Alonso-Tijerina performed 76 pushups in just two minutes! Blanca Willis performed 97 sit-ups in just two minutes! Other students who excelled were Heather, Priscilla and Alexia in push-ups. Dixie, Island and Trey did an

amazing job performing sit-ups. Everyone's hard work is starting to show in many ways. Our team sports are encouraging, fun, and leadership-building, while our strength training and cardiovascular training provides healthy examples for students everyday.

- Coach Kevin McCormick

**“Challenge yourself all the days of your life.”**  
-Author Unknown



## Fine Arts News

**Fine Arts:** The fine arts class motto is: *Explore, Create and Appreciate*. Students have been learning basic techniques in drawing and painting, as well as how art can be used to represent historical events. This block, students will continue expanding their skills by creating visual art, as well as exploring art history and cultural arts through music, drama, writing and dance. A highlight to this class is a weekly lesson in Capoeira (a Brazilian art form that combines martial arts, games, music and dance) taught by a professional from the community. The students are learning about the history, language and music

of Capoeira as well as how to practice the movements of this art form.

**Piano:** The students are finishing Alfred's Level One group piano course. They are progressing rapidly, and I am excited by their accomplishments! They will continue learning more advanced notes and rhythms in preparation for our concert in October. The students are choosing a song to begin practicing and to play as a solo or in a small group in the concert. Family and friends are welcome to attend.

- Aubrie Vikturek



## Service Learning News

Greetings parents, students, and all those who help make our students successful! My name is Scott Larter, and I am the Service Learning teacher at CYA. This is my third year teaching, and I am very excited about what our students are going to accomplish. The Service Learning class is designed to teach students about the community and how they can impact it. So far, our students have learned about leadership and how to work together as a team. Finding out about themselves

and their peers will help them make a huge difference in their community. Our next objective as a class is to design service projects. These projects will be created and carried out by the students themselves. We are all very excited to see what they will come up with!

- Scott Larter

**“A smile will  
gain you ten  
more years of  
life.”  
-Chinese Proverb**

## Middle School News

The new CYA middle school is a place of success. This small “school within a school” is a place where the CYA “Junior Scorpions” can achieve. The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders recently completed a combination science lab and art project that involved tie dyeing tee shirts. They also have a field trip scheduled to the Arizona Capitol in September. This class is truly a team of students who learn together all day and really get to know each other. Working together they are

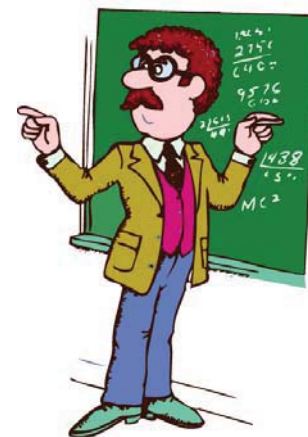
mastering Pre-Algebra, U.S. History, Science, and Language Arts. The class recently finished John Steinbeck's famous fable, *The Pearl*. I enjoy teaching the middle school kids because they are so interested in everything.

- David Seay

## School Improvement Committee Takes Action!

In an era when many schools are doing less, CYA is doing more. Curriculum Coach Kendra Mitchell has put together an all-star team of teachers to work on ways to make CYA an even better school. Work is underway to raise reading, writing, and math scores during fall and spring AIMS testing. The school will be implementing new curricula and new teaching strategies. Besides academics, the team is dedicated to helping CYA students, parents, and faculty come together to improve the school. Kevin McCormick, Amy Westrick, and David Seay are

working on ways to maximize student attendance, especially during the critical period of AIMS week. Over the next few weeks, the committee will establish a weekday tutoring lab to prepare for AIMS, a parent action committee, and testing dates for both AIMS preparation and AIMS tests. If you'd like to help the school grow, improve, and succeed please call Kendra Mitchell at (602) 274-7318.



## Sports



The CYA Scorpions have begun the 2009-2010 sports season with ladies volleyball. Coached by Ms. Mitchell, the lady Scorpions began the season on a high note, defeating Summit three games to zero! Thank you to all the students and families for their support. GO SCORPIONS!!!

### Volleyball Players

Jamie Aguilar #1	Alexia #5
Jazmin Badilla #15	Hailey Shackelford #2
Irene Chavez #7	Cherri Thunder #11
Dixie #10	Riki Vallum #3
Priscilla #8	Kaylee #12
Myra Perdomo #6	Blanca #4

Team Manager: Denise Reyes

### Volleyball Schedule

Date	Home Team	Away Team	Time	Location
9/1/09	Summitt	<b>C.Y.A.</b>	8:00PM	Boys and Girls Club 1330 N. 15th Street
9/9/09	<b>C.Y.A.</b>	Southridge	5:30 PM	Osborn Middle School 1102 W. Highland
9/17/09	Southridge	<b>C.Y.A.</b>	5:00 PM	TBD
9/23/09	NFL Yet	<b>C.Y.A.</b>	5:30 PM	Osborn Middle School 1102 W. Highland
9/23/09	<b>C.Y.A.</b>	NFL Yet	7:00 PM	Osborn Middle School 1102 W. Highland
9/30/09	Legacy	<b>C.Y.A.</b>	5:30 PM	Osborn Middle School 1102 W. Highland
9/30/09	<b>C.Y.A.</b>	Legacy	7:00 PM	Osborn Middle School 1102 W. Highland
10/1/09	Teacher Prep	<b>C.Y.A.</b>	5:30 PM	Phoenix College 1202 W. Thomas Rd
10/1/09	<b>C.Y.A.</b>	Teacher Prep	7:00 PM	Phoenix College 1202 W. Thomas Rd
10/15/09	<b>C.Y.A.</b>	Ecademie	5:30 PM	Osborn Middle School 1102 W. Highland
10/15/09	Ecademie	<b>C.Y.A.</b>	7:00 PM	Osborn Middle School 1102 W. Highland

## Perfect Attendance

Congratulations to the following students for having perfect attendance for the month of August and for winning the raffle for free Cardinals tickets and a picture with our Principal, Mr. Bressler!!!

Jacob Terraza



Hailey Shackelford



Robert Hendricks

