

## ASMSA Parents Association Newsletter

### First Annual

### “Student Appreciation and Encouragement Quarter”

From Lt. Governor,  
**Mark Darr**

*To the Student Body of  
ASMSA,*

*When I learned that the  
Parents Association  
declared this quarter  
“Student Appreciation  
and Encouragement  
Quarter”, I jumped on the  
chance to commend  
each one of you for your  
progress this semester.*

*On my recent visit, I saw  
firsthand just how much  
it takes to move forward  
at ASMSA. Some of you  
are away from home for  
the first time, learning to  
manage independently.  
And, all of you are  
learning essential skills  
both in the classroom  
and for daily life.*

*Keep up the good work.  
I, for one, am excited  
about what’s happening  
at ASMSA. Each of you  
is making a difference for  
our state!*

*(Mailed to P.A. December,  
2011)*

Appreciation and encouragement are powerful. That’s the basis of the declaration made for this quarter at ASMSA from the Parents Association.

The second half of any school year can find students focused on Winter Dance, Prom, Spring Break and ultimately, Graduation. During first quarter, all is brand new and honeymoon-like. This current quarter, well . . .we can easily say, “the honeymoon is over”. That’s when our students need an extra boost of enthusiasm and endurance.

The PA officers declared this quarter, “Student Appreciation and Encouragement” quarter with the hope of engaging parents and the community in support of our ASMSA students. “We’re hoping this will become a long-standing tradition,” explains PA President, Sandra Gilmore. “Our students deserve a good pat on the back.”

Indeed, parents have pulled together to express encouragement to our students in lots of ways this quarter.

Martha Carlson, next year’s PA President, has been especially pleased. “We’re very grateful for the support thus far. This is our first stab at this,” she explains. “The results have been terrific. So, we are looking forward to even more expressions of encouragement next year.”

The bulletin board in the Residence Life Office got an autumn themed make-over with a special message. Later, it was updated to a winter theme, (thanks to Kim Holcomb), yet retained the same message of encouragement. Around the corner in the main hallway of the Residence Life Building, letters of encouragement were posted featuring one from the Lt. Governor, Mark Darr, and one from the Board of Visitors and school administrators. (See page 4)

Special thanks go to those parents who have sent goodies, snacks or other items all year long. It takes a special foresight to prepare items or make arrangements for items for the students. Your efforts do not go unnoticed. When working together, this can be a very special school year!



*Olivia Dunlap and Dallas Smith  
helped prepare the board featuring  
a letter from Lt. Gov. Mark Darr*

(More photos on page 4)



**Extreme Encouragement**  
Mini-workshop on Extreme Couponing in Girls' Dorm

Teresa Hall shared the following about a unique way to create fun and encouragement for the students on her daughter's floor. Great job, Teresa!

*Last night [Nov 9] I had an "Extreme Couponer" (she's actually been invited to appear on the tv show) to come and present a mini workshop to the 2nd floor girls. She focused mainly on using coupons to get tons of health/beauty supplies for free or next to nothing. I wasn't for sure how it would go over with 16-17 yr olds....but they seem to really love it! They asked a lot of questions, took a lot of notes and what was supposed to be a 30 min program turned into over an hour! Before they left, all the girls were invited to help themselves from a basket of make-up, body wash, hair products, laundry products, lotions, etc and treated to an assortment of snacks....all purchased using coupons. All of the girls were very enthusiastic and encouraging.....perhaps we'll have a sequel!*

**Logo Items:  
New Way for Sales**

Portability and security are two welcome features of a new asset to the Parents Association. For several years now, logo sales have been offered in the Residential Life building lobby or in the Red Room during appointed days such as Move-In days or Friday's before extended weekends from tables. With a portable cabinet, the logo sales could be offered in different places with more flexible dates or

times. More than a year ago, a request went out to have such a portable cabinet. Finally, thanks to Carl Carlson, PA VP, the cabinet is on its way. By next semester, logo sales can be offered from a variety of places all around the campus. The cabinet will hold a sampling of logo items that will not have to be taken back and forth from the storage room. We are very grateful to Carl for his donation of time, talent and materials for the cabinet - - and the special delivery!

**Logo Items:  
Hoodies!**

*Just in time for the cooler weather: hoodies!*

*Special thanks to Tracy Sublett who agreed to champion our logo sales for the first half of this year. She capably organized the Hoodie sales this year complete with our school logo. All orders have been taken and filled.*

Great job, Tracy!

**Open House Recap, Nov 12<sup>th</sup>**

Jeana Stout served as event champion. She and Connie McClanahan served on a panel for questions and answers about campus life for prospective parents. Karla Monson and Tonda Haines rounded out the excellent PA coverage for the day.

*Sandra,*

*I just wanted to give you an update on the Open House. All of the parents who volunteered did an excellent job. From helping greet parents, to assisting with sign in, the speaking on the panel, everything was excellent. I have to say that Jeana Stout's and Connie McClanahan's parts in the presentation was one of the highlights of the tour. I appreciate your getting me such great volunteers.*

*Thank you,  
Abijah Kratchovil, Admissions Coordinator*



## Join Us for the First Annual “Welcome Back” Event

Mark your calendars for January 4<sup>th</sup>. That’s the date when our students return to campus to begin second semester. Parents are invited to attend and participate in this well-rounded event. This initial launch of “Welcome Back” will include a gift give-away for each student, hot chocolate (with accompanying special peppermint flavored marshmallows) and special greetings at the door to the Residential Life Building.

“This is a terrific opportunity to set the tone for a positive outlook as students launch second semester,” explains Sandra Gilmore, PA President. “Rather than a dreary return marking the end of a fun break, we can make this a delightful time to get re-acquainted and energized for second semester.”

Gifts have already been purchased with funds from logo sales and parents’ dues.

Since return time starts at 2 pm and runs until 6:30 pm, our Welcome Back event will span 4:30 – 6:30 pm.

If you can spare a few minutes before, during or after, there’s plenty of opportunity for your time or talents. Please contact Martha Carlson or Sandra Gilmore via the Parents Association Facebook page or at [picksomedaisies@yahoo.com](mailto:picksomedaisies@yahoo.com) for Martha or at [tandsgilmore@yahoo.com](mailto:tandsgilmore@yahoo.com) for Sandra.

How can you help? We need some “Welcome Back” posters made; some helium balloons donated; some snacks to accompany the hot chocolate; some cleaner-upper’s who can stay after the 6:30 pm closing time; some servers and some giver-away-er’s who can distribute the gifts to the students. And, plenty of folks who can smile and give our students best wishes for a terrific second semester!

## NE Regional Gathering Recap, Nov 27<sup>th</sup>

Cynthia Miller and Hazel Laureano hosted the first NE regional gathering of the year. *Good job! Thanks, ladies!*

Per Hazel: “We had a very good time. We each brought dishes and Cynthia prepared soup, salmon and desserts. We (parents) just talked about how good it is that our children are in ASMSA and that will prepare them well for college. Also, that some subjects are really difficult and in general demanded time and effort .It was mentioned that we might get together again and set a date that will be convenient and good for everybody.”

Per Cynthia: “It was fun! We had only 4 families, but we had lots of great food and all the parents wanted to do it again. The parents were in the dining room having good conversations about ASMSA and colleges, while the students and siblings were in the living room yakking and laughing it up!”

## 2012 CALENDAR

<b><u>Jan 13 – 16</u></b>	Residence Halls close for MLK Day, (Friday, 13th at 7 pm; re-open Monday, 16 <sup>th</sup> at 2 pm)
<b><u>Feb 11</u></b>	New Student Interviews
<b><u>March 16 - 25</u></b>	Residence Halls close for Spring Break, (Friday, 16th at 7 pm; re-open Monday, 25 <sup>th</sup> at 2 pm)
<b><u>March 31</u></b>	Gala, New Student Interviews
<b><u>April 21</u></b>	Prom
<b><u>April 28</u></b>	New Jr Orientation
<b><u>May 26</u></b>	Graduation (Memorial Weekend)

## Board of Visitor Notes

The December 9<sup>th</sup> Board of Visitors was held on the campus. Martha Carlson attended on behalf of the PA. The most relevant take-aways from the meeting were:

- The Board of Visitors recognized Dr. Hugo's retirement announcement and commended her on her contributions to ASMSA.
- Dr. Hugo recognized Susan Lancaster, Director of Institutional Development, for her service to ASMSA. Susan will be relocating to Northwest AR where she has grandchildren☺
- Dr. Hugo also noted that Michael Morgan had recently come on board to replace Michelle Marshall as Residential Life Coordinator.
- Taylor Harris, the school librarian, is on a leave for illness and with the help of SGA President Annie Wang, the Board made a short video clip to wish him Merry Christmas and Get Well Soon!
- Mia Anderson, ASMSA Public Relations Specialist, gave a presentation on the many PR activities around the state to promote the school. This was followed by a short training session on fundraising, conducted by Ashley Coldiron.
- The PA had so much to report! The letter from Lt. Governor Darr was presented and the letter from the Board of Visitors was finalized. These were both letters expressing appreciation to the students. Upcoming events were communicated, including the December 18<sup>th</sup> Pizza Snack and the January 4<sup>th</sup> Welcome Back! The Board and Administration were excited about the support to the students from the PA.
- Dr. Hugo reported that student retention was at an all time high. She went on to note that the PA has been more involved over the past year than ever before and attributed the high retention rate in part to the efforts of the PA.

## Photos of Bulletin Board



*Angelo Lambis and Dallas Smith are seen by the bulletin board in the RLO.*



*Olivia Dunlap and Dallas Smith helped blow up the balloons for the corners. RM Stacey Perry prepared the red background and lettering. Thanks, ladies!*



*A close up shows the message on the RLO bulletin board: We are very proud of you!*



*RLO Winter Theme Board: Special thanks to Martha and Kim for sprucing this one up. If you listen*

## Letter from the Board of Visitors to Our Students

We, the Board of Visitors and the School Administration, wish to commend each of you for your success thus far in the school year. You are learning to face challenges on many levels. You are experiencing what it's like to persevere while managing your time and effort for maximum results. Balancing multiple factors is not easy. We recognize just how far you have had to stretch yourselves since this academic year began in August. You've learned to be away from home. You've learned to make new friends and treasure the old ones. You've learned to manage details such as laundry or finances or paperwork or deadlines - -often, all in one day! You are making progress!

You are among the best students in this great state of Arkansas. We look forward to the positive impact you will make on our state as you mature and enter adulthood. We are proud of each one of you!