

FEBRUARY 2024

AMCS NEWSLETTER

Alief Montessori Community School

AMCS Spotlight

MS. BECNEL

Position:

Upper Elementary Teacher

Favorite Food:

Chicken Bracchiolettini e Risotto ai Gamberi

Favorite Book: Bulfinch's Mythology

Favorite Song: Wěnbíé by Jacky Cheung

Favorite Activity as a Child: Dance (Jazz, Ballet, Modern, Waltzes, etc.)

Fun Fact: I am the first African American to obtain a degree in Chinese from the University of Houston. I understand many people are unaccustomed to seeing an African American speak the language, as it is not commonly taught in our communities, although it has rapidly emerged as a major language of business and trade on the current global stage. It is always interesting to see strangers' reactions when I speak Chinese. My husband is Chinese American, and strangers will seem perplexed when I speak to him in Mandarin, and he answers me in English. I thus seek, with our scholars, to bridge understanding and foster intercultural interchange, to create peaceful global ambassadors with a consciousness of sensitivity.



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Writers in the Schools at AMCS

KATHERINE BACANI (WITS TEACHER)

My name is Katherine Bacani, and I am a writer and program associate of the non-profit literary organization, Writers in the Schools (WITS). My experience through my early career has been a series of unexpected twists and turns—experimenting with my interest in writing, kinesiology, marketing, and dance. Despite the adversity of finding my purpose in this big wide world, I finally found my home in the community of Houston creatives, and through this community of writers, poets, and educators, I've discovered a passion for nurturing creativity in the voices of young writers. Ultimately, I aspire to be the creative support I yearned for when I was the same age as my students.

Leading writing workshops at Alief Montessori Community School has been an incredible experience—in all aspects from the moment I step on campus. My class consists of 26 immensely talented students, each with a rich and unique story of their own. Over the past two months of weekly writing, we've discovered that we are a mosaic of experiences and ideas—no matter how old you are. Together, we've built fictional other-worldly characters, explored descriptive language, and shared our dreams aloud. One student, a shy one, told me that writing with a WITS writer always energizes him after a long day at school. Moments like this reinforce my passion for sharing my art with the youth, and I am beyond grateful to have that opportunity at AMCS.

Alief Montessori Community School places great value on enriching its students with art, creativity, and self-discovery, and I am so glad it has made a place for WITS on its campus. From the incredibly supportive staff to the enthusiastic students, this is a community of inspiring individuals that has helped me grow as an educator and artist. It has been an honor to be a part of a wonderful community at AMCS, and I have faith that each student at this school will flourish in their purpose the way I have.

**“The purpose
of life is to
obey the
hidden
command
which ensures
harmony
among all and
creates an ever
better world.
We are not
created only to
enjoy the
world, we are
created in
order to evolve
the cosmos.”**

MARIA
MONTESSORI

Black History Month: A time to A.C.T.

By: Jennifer Marshall (AMCS Parent)

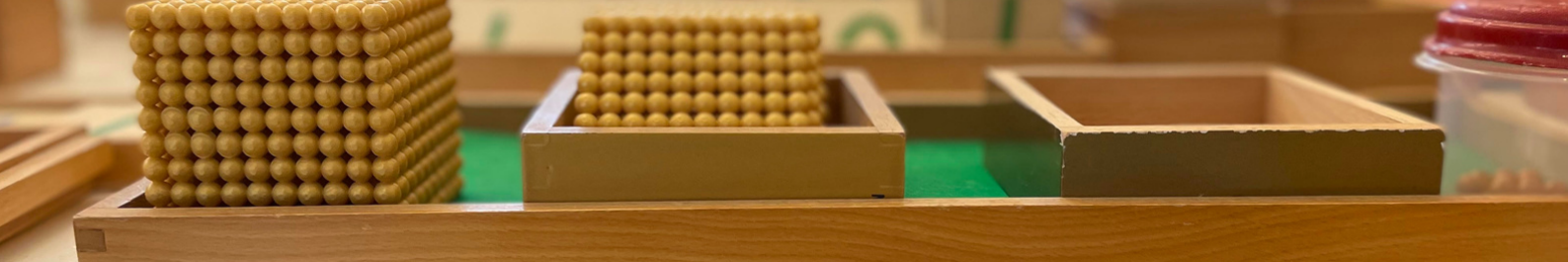
February is Black History Month, a federally recognized annual celebration of the rich cultural heritage of African Americans, and a time to recognize the many contributions and sacrifices they made that helped shape the United States. This celebration originated in 1926 by historian and educator Carter G. Woodson, the first person born to enslaved parents to graduate from Harvard University. While Black History Month began as a week-long celebration, it was expanded to the full month of February in 1976 by President Gerald Ford. Woodson chose February to honor the birthdays of prolific writer, orator, and abolitionist Frederick Douglass (whose exact birthday is unknown), and President Abraham Lincoln, who signed the Emancipation Proclamation that abolished slavery in the confederate states.

Black History Month is a time to celebrate art, culture, and innovation, while respectfully honoring those who endured unthinkable hardship imposed through slavery, Jim Crow, systematic oppression, and racism. Though it is important to engage critically about these topics, it is just as important to remember Black history doesn't begin with slavery or end with the Civil Rights Movement. While slavery and the Civil Rights Movement may be the most recognizable subjects to begin and end Black History Month, Carter Woodson advocated to connect students with the history of significant African civilizations and their many accomplishments to world history.

Honoring and celebrating Black History Month is for everyone, no matter their race. Black History is American History. I encourage you to make a commitment to A.C.T (/ak(t)/ verb. take action; do something) in honor of Black History Month.

Celebrate Black History Month

- Visit the Buffalo Soldier Museum
 - <https://buffalosoldiersmuseum.org/>
- Support Black-Owned Businesses
 - <https://www.visithoustontexas.com/blog/post/supporting-black-owned-business-in-houston/>
 - <https://www.houstoniamag.com/eat-and-drink/houston-black-owned-restaurants-food>
- Celebrate Black History Month at Avenida Houston
February 11th, 18th, and 25th
 - <https://www.avenidahouston.com/bhm/>
- Attend the Free Family Night: Celebrating Black History Month and Lunar New Year at the Children's Museum Houston
February 8th
 - <https://www.cmhouston.org/events/free-family-night-celebrating-black-history-month-and-lunar-new-year>
- See the Kinsey African American Art and History Collection at the Holocaust Museum of Houston
 - <https://hmh.org/event/the-kinsey-african-american-art-history-collection/>
- Learn more about Black History Month
 - <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/history/article/black-history-month>
 - <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/npscelebrates/black-history-month.htm>
- Read a book off a Black History Month Book List:
 - Chicago Public Library:
<https://chipublib.bibliocommons.com/list/share/200049033/2439121990>
 - Scholastic: Remarkable Books for Black History Month
<https://www.scholastic.com/parents/books-and-reading/raise-a-reader-blog/books-celebrate-black-history-month.html>



AMCS Parent Resource Library

THE AMCS PARENT RESOURCE LIBRARY IS NOW OPEN IN THE LOBBY OF THE PRIMARY BUILDING. STOP BY TO CHECK OUT BOOKS ON PARENTING OR RESOURCES ON LEARNING ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE.

PLEASE USE THE CLIPBOARD TO CHECK-OUT AND RETURN THE BOOKS YOU WOULD LIKE TO BORROW.

BOOKS MAY BE CHECKED OUT FOR ONE MONTH AT A TIME.

AMCS STRIVES TO SUPPORT OUR PARENTS WITH THE RESOURCES THEY NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL. PLEASE LET US KNOW IF THERE IS A TOPIC YOU LIKE TO SEE IN OUR PARENT RESOURCE LIBRARY.

AMCSMONTESSORI.ORG

IN THE HOPE OF IMPROVING ACCESS TO OUR WEBSITE THE AMCS WEBSITE IS NOW EQUIPPED WITH A TRANSLATION BUTTON AT THE TOP LEFT HAND CORNER.

Car Seats

Texas law requires that all children younger than eight years old and less than 4 feet 9 inches tall, be secured in a child safety seat whenever they ride in a vehicle.

Please let the front office know if you are in need of a car seat or booster seat, so that AMCS may assist you in acquiring one.

Let's make sure our students are riding safely and securely.

**AMCS
HOODIES**

Youth and Adult sizes **\$30**

Adult 2XL and up **\$35**

Optional: Personalized with your child's name above the right cuff (Free of Charge).
Color: Navy Blue Hoodie with Yellow AMCS logo

Now available!



Middle School Production & Exchange is now selling AMCS Hoodies! Order using these links:
Youth XS to Adult XL

<https://checkout.square.site/merchant/MLC1RSYAE5FTB/checkout/U42UVLIDEXULJ5HO2S56NKK6?src=webqr>

Adult 2XL and Up

<https://checkout.square.site/merchant/MLC1RSYAE5FTB/checkout/VIIJB4WSRIIVL3UQJYHTHQT6?src=webqr>



PRIMARY READING CORNER

Head on over to your local library and check out a book with your student on one of the following topics, that will be highlighted in your student's classroom this month:

ASIA, GROUND HOG DAY, DENTAL CARE, VALENTINE'S DAY, HUMAN HEART, MARDI GRAS, PRESIDENTS, MONEY, RODEO, HORSES, AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE

Coming up:

AMCS Parent Volunteer Shout Outs!

WE'D LIKE TO SEND OUT OUR APPRECIATION TO OUR AMCS PARENT VOLUNTEERS WHO SHOW UP TO GIVE THEIR TIME, MAKE DONATIONS, AND SHOW UP IN DIFFERENT WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY. WE SEE YOU AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATION!

SPECIAL SHOUT OUT TO ALL OUR AMCS PARENTS WHO VOLUNTEERED THEIR TIME FOR THE WINTER TALENT SHOW, MADE CRAFTS WITH THEIR STUDENT CLASSROOM, BAKED OR COOKED A DISH FOR THE MULTICULTURAL CELEBRATIONS AND DONATED BOOKS TO THE LIBRARY.

AMCS ONLINE:

AMCS Website
<https://www.amcsmontessori.org/>

AMCS Official Facebook Page
<https://www.facebook.com/Alief-Montessori-Community-School-102144042265960>

Alief Montessori Community Parents Group
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/AMCSParents/>

AMCS SAFETY TIPS FROM OFFICER CORTES

**-PLEASE USE YOUR TURN SIGNALS WHEN
TURNING**

-NO CELL PHONES IN THE CARLINE

**-PLEASE USE A CAR SEAT OR BOOSTER FOR
YOUR STUDENT IF THEY ARE UNDER 8 YEARS
OLD AND UNDER 4'9"**

Orchestra
TUESDAYS &
WEDNESDAYS
3:30PM-4:30PM

Volleyball
FRIDAYS

Basketball
MONDAYS OR
WEDNESDAYS

Primary
Parent/Child Event
FEBRUARY 1

Writers in the Schools
LAST DAY FEBRUARY 1ST
3:30PM-4:30PM

Lunar New Year
Lion Dance
FEBRUARY 2

HPL Astrodome
Upper El & Middle School
FEBRUARY 6 & 7

Lower Elementary
Parent/Child Night
FEBRUARY 9

No School
FEBRUARY 16 & 19

Go Texan Day
FEBRUARY 23

Class Picture Day
FEBRUARY 29