

MARCH 2024

AMCS NEWSLETTER

Alief Montessori Community School

Alief Montessori
Community School
12013 6th Street

AMCS Spotlight

MS. RAHILA

Position:

HR/Accounts Payable

Favorite Food:

Mexican/Chinese
(as long as its fresh)

Favorite Book:

Scientific Non-fiction

Favorite Song:

Sufi Songs /Hip Hop Indian Songs/Bollywood Old
Mashup Songs

Favorite Activity as a Child:

Sports and Community Work

Fun Fact:

As a left-handed person, I do a lot of arts and crafts. My previous job prior to AMCS was a jewelry designer. Additionally, our business officer, Sophia Teng, has certified me as a professional henna artist. I'm very hard working and pay a lot of attention to details. I am happy to contribute to AMCS's strong financial standing.



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CAPITOL CRAWL – MARCH 12, 1990

MARIA PALACIOS (AMCS PARENT)

I got a letter the other day from the mom of a nine year old boy in Boston who wants to write about an unsung hero of the disability rights history, and he chose me as the person whose story he wants to highlight.

Receiving that letter touched me in so many ways. I don't really see myself as a hero of any kind, but the fact that I am a hero in the eyes of a nine year old kid brings tears to my eyes. It makes me realize how much the things we do today contribute to the shaping of the future. I didn't necessarily know this when as a young activist I participated in the now iconic Capitol Crawl of 1990 that pushed the Americans with Disabilities Act to be signed into law that July. I had no idea that day would become one history will never forget.

I was twenty-four years old when I crawled up the steps of the Capitol in Washington D.C. I remember so well the little eight year old girl with cerebral palsy who stole the spotlight as she crawled up the steps next to me demanding equality at the top of her lungs. Jennifer Keelan- Chaaffins became an icon of disability rights as her climb to the top was broadcasted live nationwide. More than three decades later the next generation of activists can be inspired by Jennifer's story.

Few people in mainstream society care enough about disability to know disabled people share a rich history of activism and liberation. We live lives filled with untold stories of resilience and survival. We exist in every single intersection of life. In my personal journey of activism I have been gifted the opportunity to be part of this massive movement of social change and human awareness which has evolved to this moment we share now.

"Let us give [the child] a vision of the whole universe. The universe is an imposing reality, and an answer to all questions. We shall walk together on this path of life, for all things are part of the universe, and are connected with each other to form one whole unity."

MARIA
MONTESSORI



continued: Capitol Crawl

Maria Palacios (AMCS Parent)

I hope we all have a chance to build a legacy of solidarity and social responsibility. I hope I live up to the innocence and beauty of the little boy who sees me as a hero. We all have what it takes to make a difference. It is up to us to do so.

You can hear more about my Capitol Crawl experience in this NPR interview attached. You can also share Jennifer's story with your children by reading her book in the link below.

Thank you for supporting disability rights.

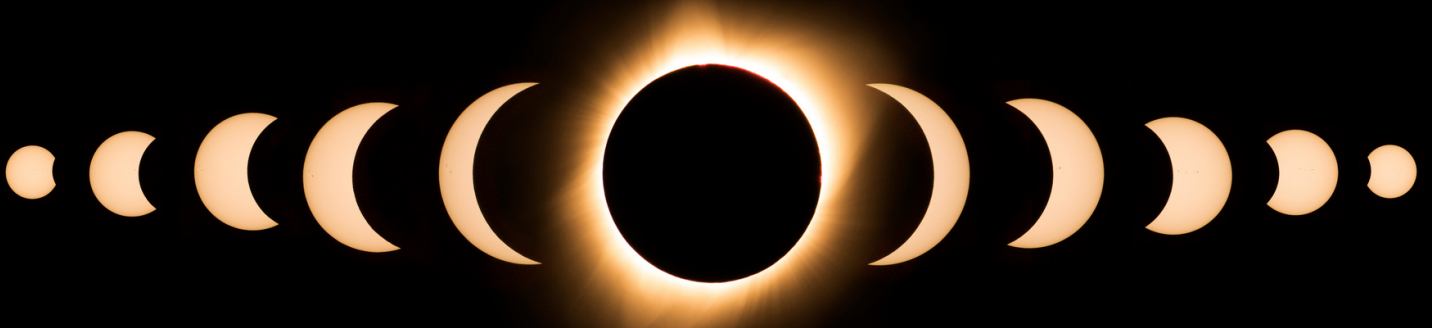
Love and gratitude,

María R. Palacios

On March 12th take a moment with your student to listen to Ms. Maria Palacios speak about her experience participating in the Capitol Crawl at: <https://www.texasstandard.org/stories/activist-maria-palacios-recounts-1990-capitol-crawl-americans-disabilities-act/>

You can read about Jennifer Keelan- Chaaffins with your student here: <https://www.amightygirl.com/blog?p=30987>

*Head to you local library to check out this book about Jennifer: **All The Way To The Top: How One Girl's Fight for Americans with Disabilities Changed Everything** written by Annette Bay Pimentel.*



Total Solar Eclipse

On April 8th Texas will be the first state in the nation to experience the total solar eclipse. During this short time it will feel like twilight, as the moon passes in front of the sun. Although, Houston is not in the path of totality, we are close to it and it is sure to be a rare sight to see.

In the Houston area we should be able to see 90% totality. The start time of the eclipse in this area is 12:20pm, with the maximum being at 1:40pm and the end at 3:01pm. According to Space.com, the next Total Solar Eclipse with a path of totality in Texas following this event won't be until 2617. This is a very rare event!

Here are some links to help you inspire your learner and plan for the eclipse:

- My NASA Data

<https://mynasadata.larc.nasa.gov/phenomenon/solar-eclipse>

- STEM Learning Resources for the Upcoming Eclipse

<https://www.nasa.gov/learning-resources/prepare-for-upcoming-eclipses/>

- Eclipses

<https://science.nasa.gov/eclipses/>

- NASA Space Place

<https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/total-solar-eclipse/en/>

- Eclipse Phases (modify from moon phase to show how the moon passes in front of the sun):

<https://www.nps.gov/teachers/classrooms/moon-phases-with-cookies.htm>

- Pinhole Projector from cereal box:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PI1ttQxXt5s>

- Total Solar Eclipse Through The Eyes of NASA

<https://svs.gsfc.nasa.gov/webapps/eclipse-explorer/>



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/U42UVLIDEXULJ5H02S56NKK6?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:

**BABY ANIMALS. SAINT PATRICK'S DAYS. EUROPE. FAMOUS ARTIST.
 SPRING. WILDFLOWERS. GARDENING.**

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 BE SURE YOUR STUDENT IS WEARING A SEATBELT WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT CARLINE**
- WAIT IN LINE AT THE STOP SIGN UNTIL THE CARLINE BEGINS**
- 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"**

Coming up:

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

Volleyball
FRIDAYS

Basketball
MONDAYS OR
WEDNESDAYS
(ENDS MARCH 8)

Spring Break
MARCH 11-15

First Tee
Championship
MARCH 23

Upper El Raffle
Fundraiser
MARCH 28TH

No School
MARCH 29