

## **Middle School News...**

*By: Mr. Tom Beuscher, Head of Middle School*

Back-to-School! Truth is that if you ask the Middle schoolers why they want to go to school they won't say something like, "Mom . . . I really can't wait to dive into the Algebra text." They are sure to say, "I can't wait to see my friends and I hope my teachers are nice." The good news is you have raised really good kids and they know the curriculum is important. They secretly want to do well and most of them do as the long honor code list attests. And they understand that a good college is on the near horizon. We are especially proud of the recent graduating class who distinguished themselves with excellent results on the Bac exams as well as the IB exams and they are currently beginning their studies at a stellar list of universities around the world. More than half of them came through the middle school. But right now friends top the list.

More good Awty news is that we have a host of friendly, well-traveled students, speaking upwards of five or six languages, playing many different sports, and participating in interesting activities ranging from newspaper to photography, dance and paper recycling. The start of a new year is always exciting and even we teachers have a few butterflies in our stomachs, wondering if all of the plans laid out over the summer will fall smoothly into action. Well if yesterday was a test, students, teachers, maintenance staff and staff members in our beautifully renovated cafeteria all passed with flying but drenched colors. Through torrential rains, we had a great start to the year.

Please take note of two important events coming up very quickly. On August 28, we have Middle School Open House. This is a night scheduled for you to follow a shortened version of your child's schedule and meet each of his or her teachers. Teachers will give a brief presentation of the material and you will have a chance to put a cheerful face to the names on the schedule that your child recently brought home. Please remember that conferences need to take place at another scheduled time. Later in September, we have the 28<sup>th</sup> year of our annual "Fall Trips". This is a brief overnight trip to San Antonio and Austin for the sixth and seventh graders respectively and an over night outdoor education adventure for the eighth grade at near-by Gordon Ranch. You will receive detailed itineraries in the near future. These trips are especially designed to put all of our new and returning students together out of the class room to renew and make new friendships, to get to know their teachers and to build the Awty spirit which will always sustain us as the year unfolds. Thanks to all of you for your support and we look forward to another exceptional year.