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Give the Gift of Education ... Attend School on Asynch Days!

The best place to get an education is in school. Every day. On time. Here are a few reminders about attendance:

- Just a few missed days here and there, even if they are excused absences, can add up to too much lost learning time and put your child behind in school. This is as true in kindergarten as it is in high school.
- Make sure your child is in school every day, right up until vacation starts. Our teachers will be teaching and our students will be learning, but it is harder to teach and it is harder to learn when too many students are absent.
- December 21 is a full day of school and December 22, is a half-day of school. BOTH days are Asynch!

IMPORTANT REMINDER:

Students must log in through Agora.org by clicking on the Online School Login button on the top right of the homepage. This will ensure your student's login is captured. Make sure your student logs into their courses and completes work **every** school day.

Help Your Child Succeed in School:
Build the Habit of Good Attendance Early
School success goes hand in hand with good attendance!



Attendance Report Cards - Strive for 95!

On Thursday, December 14, parents/learning coaches will receive an **Attendance Report Card** in your email for your student(s). The Attendance Report Card is designed to inform you and your child of their daily [attendance](#) rate as well as the number and type of absences your child has accumulated through December 12, 2017.

Why do we need Attendance Report Cards?

- To bring attention to your child's attendance and to help you and your child create a plan for your child to attend school every day.
- All absences from school are missed opportunities for learning. Chronic absenteeism is defined as missing 10% or more of school days. This includes excused and unexcused absences. Absences can add up quickly. A child is chronically absent if he or she misses just two days every month!!

It is critical that students develop good attendance habits at a young age in order to maintain those habits as they get older. Attendance = Academic Success!

Agora Community Roundtable

Hosted by: **Agora Parent Teacher Organization**

**Agora Community Roundtable-
December 14 at 3pm and 7pm!**

Throughout the year, the Agora Parent Teacher Organization (APTO) will host open forums for parents and learning coaches featuring some of Agora's key administrators. This will be a chance to hear what's going on at school, ask questions and give input on important topics.

The next Roundtable, Agora Technology: Vision and Support, will be hosted by Mike Rublesky, Director of Technology. To join either session at 3 or 7pm, click here: <http://tinyurl.com/FamilyLCTraining>

Want to participate but can't make the meeting? Join the APTO's new Facebook group by clicking here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/AgoraPTO1718>

Student Spotlight: Justin J & the Clover Rovers!

Justin J. is an 8th grader, who is in his 8th year with Agora. He is involved with the Chester County 4-H club, and part of their FLL (First LEGO League) Team, which recently took an impressive fourth place out of 40 teams in the "Dtown Dustoff" competition held in November! FLL challenges the youth to focus on core values of the team, research and presentation around a theme, and robotics design and game. The Clover Rovers team consists of 6 members whose challenge was to "Make the Best Better" on the Hydro Dynamics Challenge. The Challenge was to improve the way people find, transport, and use or dispose of water so the Clover Rovers focused on condensation and ways to gather/reuse water.



Justin, who is the "hacksaws" spokesman, appears in his team's video submission "Condensation Recycling" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zgPOPka4UJM&feature=share>

Congratulations Justin and the Clover Rovers!

Student Spotlight: Sapphira L. Wins 2nd Place in K12 Art Contest!



Our superstar Kindergartener, Sapphira Lin, was awarded 2nd Place in the K12 Art Contest this year! She celebrated diversity and her family's heritage in her drawing, "Loving Where I Am From." Beautiful job Sapphira and congratulations to all of the Agora Eagles who submitted their work!



It's All About The Trades! Career Workshop

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE TRADES ... Students, have you ever considered becoming a Carpenter, Electrician, Cosmetologist, Ironworker, Plumber, or possibly a Welder in the future? Did you know that many of the highest paying trades in America are filled with people who began their careers with a short skills-based education from a vocational or technical college?

If you're curious to learn more, join Agora School Counselors, Mrs. Whitney Patterson and Mr. Barron Whited for the second part of the "It's All About the Trades!" workshop on **Tuesday, January 23 from 12noon - 1pm. Please fill out this quick survey to be invited to the session:**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VPX69M6>.

The first session was held on December 12. Click here to listen to the workshop recording <https://tinyurl.com/All-About-The-Trades-Part1>



Start the New Year Right and Join Our Growth Mindset Parent Book Study

WHEN? Semester 2 (begins January 2018)

WHERE? Online in Google Classrooms

WHO? Agora Parents with students Kindergarten through 12th grade

After we return from winter break, an awesome new group is forming, and we would love your participation in the Growth Mindset Parent Book Study!

What's in it for you? The opportunity to learn more about the trending topic of Growth Mindset, which will transform the way you approach life as well as how you connect with your children and their education.

Participation is easy... You can participate in this book study from the comfort of your own home during times that are most convenient for you. No strings attached.

Are you interested? Please save the date and attend one of the Information Sessions:

- Tuesday, January 9 @ 12:00pm
- Wednesday, January 10 @ 7:30pm
- Friday, January 12 @ 3:30pm

Send an email to Danielle Ambrose, at dambrose@agora.org to receive the link to the Info Sessions or if you have questions.

At the end of our Book Study you will
know the difference between a growth and a fixed mindset
understand that intelligence is malleable
possess strategies and resources to use at home!



Mark Your Calendars for 2018 Learning Coach Workshops!

Our staff is working with our mighty Learning Coaches to create a series of parent workshops that will offer tips to help our students and their families get the most out of their education at Agora. Kicking off in January, we will be hosting workshops listed below. We hope you can join us for these valuable learning experiences!

- January 9, 2018 - Motivating Your Student
- February 13, 2018 - Teaching Tips for the Home
- March 13, 2018 - Improving Your Child's Self-Image
- May 8, 2018 - Hitting The Wall (Teaching your child to overcome obstacles and conquer adversity)

To join any or all of the sessions starting at 3pm, please click here:

<http://tinyurl.com/FamilyLCTraining>

Time to Submit Fall ISP Rebate - Deadline is January 5!

Winter Break is the perfect time to catch-up on paperwork and submit your Fall ISP Rebate! The January 5 deadline will be here as soon as we come back to school on January 3. Parents/legal guardians can log in to the Sapphire Community Web Portal to submit the Fall Rebate period which covers September through December and is due

by **January 5, 2018**. Fall rebate checks will be mailed January 31, 2018.

[Watch this video](#) for step-by-step instructions on how to submit your ISP rebate.

Additional information can be found on our website at <https://agora.org/pupil-parent-services/isp-rebate-program/>



PLEASE NOTE: We cannot accept Internet bills submitted by email, fax, mail or Agora Staff on behalf of families. If you need help setting up your Sapphire account, visit our Resources & Guides page on the [Agora.org website https://agora.org/resources-and-guides/](https://agora.org/resources-and-guides/)

Save The Date: January 22-29, 2018
National School Choice Week is Coming to Agora!

Parents at Agora know that school choice is one of the most important decisions you'll make for your child so we are joining with schools all across this country to celebrate!

During the last week in January and into early February, Agora will be part of these special events to raise public awareness of the different K-12 education options available to children and families, while spotlighting the benefits of school choice.

Look for a special email next week listing all of the events hosted by Agora around Pennsylvania to celebrate National School Choice Week! In the meantime, start dancing by clicking on the photo below!



Join Agora Families at Great Wolf Lodge this Spring!

Once again, Agora is working [Great Wolf Lodge](#)-- the Northeast's largest, year-round indoor waterpark resort -- to offer a special discount for our families! Below you will find details on our group trip including important information and instructions how to make your family's reservation.

Here is the key information. **Note the *time sensitive* dates.**

Group Name is: Agora Cyber Charter School

Group Date(s) is: March 24, 2018

Group Code is: 1801AGOR

***Group Rate: \$259.00**

Suite Type: Family Suites (up to 6 passes per room)

Reservation Cutoff Date is: 2/24/18

*Rate shown above does not include 9% tax and \$29.99 Resort Fee

To make your family's reservation:

1. Call Great Wolf Lodge's Call Center at **1-800-768-9653** (Or call group leader's info).
2. Provide their reservationist our Group Code: **1801AGOR**
3. Importantly: all reservations **MUST** be made by: **2/24/18**

Please remember, there is a limited amount of rooms held for our group and they are available on a first come basis. Rooms booked after our group allotment has been reached, or after our cutoff date, are subject to availability and our rate may

not apply. To ensure availability, book as soon as possible!



HersheyPark Holiday Savings for Agora Families

More than 4 million lights deck the halls of *HersheyPark*® in celebration of the season! Get in the holiday spirit with a choreographed light show, festive live entertainment, and more. Visit with Santa and his reindeer, or drive through 2 miles of festive lights with special Agora family discounts! For more info on the different events, visit the HersheyPark website at: <http://www.hersheypark.com/seasons/christmas.php>

Purchase your tickets online through this special website and promo code:

<http://tinyurl.com/amazonhptkts>

Remember to enter promo code: **21420**




HERSHEYPARK
CHRISTMAS CANDYLANE®

Select Dates November 10-January 1

Buy Tickets Online and Save Now Through
November 27!



College Tours and Career Planning

December 14, 2017

Lancaster: Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology Tour

Time: 9:30 am to 12:30 pm

Location: 750 East King Street Lancaster, PA 17602

To RSVP for the tour [Please Click Here.](#)

December 19, 2017

Harrisburg: Tour of PA State Capitol

Time: 10:30 am to 1:30 pm Lunch included

Location: 501 N 3rd St, Harrisburg, PA 17120

To RSVP, [Please Click Here](#)

December 20, 2017

Philadelphia: Manna Volunteer Opportunity

Time: 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Location: 420 N. 20th St. Philadelphia, PA 19130

To RSVP [Please Click Here.](#)

Winter Fun at an ADO!

While staff and students are looking forward to Winter Break, Family Coach Angela Rudy hosted an ice skating ADO at the Pittsburgh Ice Arena in New Kensington to celebrate the season.

The students enjoyed candy canes and ice skating, and stopped to take this picture before hitting the ice again!



Math and Writing Peer Tutoring!

Agora's National Honor Society is happy to offer Math and Writing Peer Tutoring to any student in the 4th – 12th grade.

We will be able to work with your students individually in breakout rooms to help work through the problems or writing assignments that are causing difficulty. Students: Please bring some sample problems, or an essay you are struggling with. We can model how to solve, and then support you as you are solving the problems on your own!

Please use this link if you need some extra help on the days stated below

<http://tinyurl.com/Agora-NHS-tutoring>

Here is this year's tutoring schedule:

Grades 4th - 5th

TUESDAY @ 2:00 pm

Grades 6th – 8th

THURSDAY @ 3:00 pm

Grades 9th -12th

FRIDAY @ 12:00 pm



No Effort Fundraisers that Benefit Agora All Year Long!

At a time when school funding is being debated - and cut - here are a few easy ways to earn money for Agora and the special services we provide for your students. For additional details visit our website <https://agora.org/pupil-parent-services/pto/box-tops-4-education-and-other-fundraisers/>

Amazon SMILE

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Agora every time you shop, **at no cost to you**. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization.



GIANT EAGLE

Every family has to eat - so why not make it pay off?! Each time you shop at Giant or

Giant Eagle, Agora earns money - and at no cost to you. Simply register your Giant Eagle Advantage Card® and select Agora (school #5858). Visit their website today:

<https://schools.gianteagle.com/how-does-it-work-FAQ.aspx#q2>



For more info, visit our dedicated web page [AmazonSmile](#).

BOX TOPS 4 EDUCATION

Clipping Box Tops is an easy way to raise money for our school. All those box tops add up quickly - pitch in and see how you can help our school. Every little bit helps!



GIANT A+ School Rewards

Families that shop at Giant Food Stores can register their BONUSCARD® online and select AGORA to support with every purchase(excludes items prohibited by state law). Visit their website today to register your BONUSCARD®:

<https://giantfoodstores.com/school-rewards/>



Important Dates to Remember:

DECEMBER, 2017

- December 21: Asynchronous Day Students / Staff Professional Development
- December 22 AM: Asynchronous Half-day Students / Professional Development for Staff
- December 22 PM: School and Office Closed for Winter Break
- December 25: Merry Christmas!
- December 25 – 29: Winter Break (School and Administrative Offices Closed)

JANUARY, 2018

- January 1: Happy New Year!
- January 1 – 2: Winter Break (School and Administrative Offices Closed)
- January 3: Back to School

Agora **CALENDAR OF EVENTS and ADOs:**

https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=agoraevents2013%40gmail.com&ctz=America/New_York



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