ASAP's mission is to develop and support high-quality after school activities and resources to empower youth and strengthen communities in Philadelphia.

WHAT'S INSIDE:
- High school debaters get a mayoral endorsement
- Fame! Quiero vivir para siempre!
- Chess student's “senior moment”
- Scrabbledelphia

Score! Philly hosts Scrabble Championship

For the second year in a row Philadelphia was the center of the Scrabble universe as it played host to the North American School Scrabble Championships on April 27-28. Thanks to the support of Hasbro and the School District of Philadelphia, 60 elementary and middle school Scrabble clubs had the opportunity to test their skills against the best young wordsmiths from the United States and Canada. The event was a fitting finale to ASAP Scrabble’s competitive season which saw the number of students in its scholastic league double this year, proving that Philly is a city where words matter!

Remembering Marciene

This edition of the ASAP newsletter is dedicated to our founder and dear friend Marciene Mattleman who passed away in her home on March 29, 2019. In a career in education that spanned nearly 70 years, Marciene was a relentless champion for children and a one-of-a-kind inspiration to her friends and colleagues. The founder of five non-profits – all created after a distinguished career as a classroom teacher and tenured professor – Marciene approached each day with a vigor and enthusiasm for making a difference that was impossible to match. She was fond of saying that she didn’t work a 9-5 job – she worked breakfast, lunch, dinner, and drinks. With her devoted husband Herman at her side, Marciene never missed an opportunity to raise awareness for an important cause or to celebrate the accomplishments of the children she dedicated her life to serving. And as many funders, partners, politicians, colleagues and friends can attest, if the phone rang at 11pm you could be certain it was Marciene recruiting you for yet another noble pursuit. Thanks to Marciene and her trusty rolodex, ASAP has served more than 75,000 Philadelphia youth since 2002.

In the weeks since her passing, ASAP has been amazed and humbled by the outpouring of support and well wishes from Marciene’s friends, family, colleagues, and acquaintances. For a woman who had such a profound impact of the lives of so many, one newsletter is hardly enough to do her legacy justice. So let this newsletter be dedicated to just one facet of her legacy – her perseverance.

Thank you Marciene for teaching us that there’s always more work to be done and more phone calls to be made.

Sincerely,

Wendy Glazer
ASAP Board Chair
Justin Ennis
Executive Director
Henry S. Glazer
ASAP Board Chair
IN LOVING MEMORY OF ASAP’S FOUNDER

MARCIE S. MATTHEMAN
1930-2019

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Mayor Kenney sees all pros, no cons for ASAP Debate

On Wednesday, March 6th, just moments before the start of the 2019 ASAP Debate League Finals, dozens of high school debaters packed a lecture hall at the University of Pennsylvania to hear some words of encouragement from Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney. In telling of his own reluctance to leave his comfort zone as a high schooler, the Mayor praised the students for pursuing such a rigorous activity and affirmed that their experience as debaters will serve them well as they lead our city to a brighter future.

After an afternoon of spirited debate on the topic of housing reform, J.R. Masterman earned first place overall while students from Constitution High School and Hardy Williams took top prizes for individual speakers.

ASAP thanks its Debate League sponsors: the School District of Philadelphia, Hamilton Family Trust, the Kind Family Foundation, the Harrison Foundation, and AT&T.

Harrison Foundation, the AT&T. ASAP thanks its Debate League sponsors: the School District of Philadelphia, Hamilton Family Trust, the Kind Family Foundation, the Harrison Foundation, and AT&T.

No stranger to important debates, Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney
Kenney congratulates high school schools on tackling key issues.

A “senior moment” for ASAP Chess mentor

When Ricardo Lugardo made the move to Lincoln High School his junior year, he was determined to join extracurricular programs that were unavailable to him while previously enrolled in a cyber school. Within a week he was the newest member of the Lincoln High chess team, and by November he was competing – and winning – against peers from across the city as part of ASAP’s Scholastic Chess League. Since then Ricardo has gone on to represent Lincoln and Philadelphia at several state and national competitions, and even served as a mentor to the chess team at Carvel Elementary.

“When I first became interested in chess, all my friends had cyber school and chess wasn’t an option. But when I moved to Lincoln High School and got involved with ASAP’s chess program, it was like a whole new world opened up for me.”

A “senior moment” for ASAP Chess mentor

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“It felt like the chess club was where I belonged the entire time. It’s something I never knew I always wanted.” — Ricardo

Now just a month from graduating, chess has changed a lot for Ricardo and people around him have noticed—including his mom:

“I have seen the transformation in him. He has learned patience, strategy, a poker face, how to read others. Most of all, chess has taught him to be humble because win, lose or draw, you are still learning. Before he was always playing video games. Now he reads through chess books.” — Ms. Walters, Ricardo’s mom

ASAP wishes Ricardo and all its graduating seniors the best of luck!

A new spin on a Broadway classic

On May 16-17, ASAP Drama and ASPIRA PA will breathe new life into the Broadway hit Fame Jr. by presenting four bilingual performances of the classic coming of age story of a group of teenagers auditioning for the prestigious New York High School of Performing Arts. With permission from Music Theatre International, ASAP and ASPIRA’s production marks the first time Fame has ever been performed in both English and Spanish! By modifying the script to feature Spanish dialogue, lyrics, and cultural references, ASAP and ASPIRA hope to inspire the city’s emerging Latinx population to celebrate their heritage and discover their unique voices.

Fame Jr. is the 4th musical co-produced by ASAP and ASPIRA. Referred to as the Multi-School Musical, the annual partnership brings together dozens of middle school students from four schools across North Philadelphia to collaborate on every facet of theatre production, including acting, stage direction, set design, and sound and lighting. To learn more, visit phillyasap.org/drama or call 215-545-2727 ext. 10.

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