

# A+ ACADEMY Parent Partnership Program

## Tempe

Dear Parents of A+ Academy Students,

Fall in Arizona has arrived! Hurray for daily highs below 100 degree temperatures!

With fall arrives our school's fall festival, **A HARVEST of FUN!** P3 will be planning to provide food, fun and activities for our students at this event.

This event is tentatively scheduled for the Friday before Halloween, October 28<sup>th</sup>. Students are welcome to dress in costume and participate in games, prizes, Zombie Zumba and activity stations.

Plans for the event began at our P3 meeting in September and will be fine-tuned at the October meeting after Fall Break. Please do join us for the October 18<sup>th</sup> meeting even if you haven't been able to attend a meeting yet.

This is a great event for our P3 organization to plan! Our students enjoy this time to have fun and be sociable! Join us!

Sincerely,

Susan Alonzo  
A+ Academy P3 Newsletter Editor

### Next A+ P3 Meeting:

**October 18<sup>th</sup>**

Join us for our upcoming Parent Partnership Program (P3) meeting on:

**October 18, Tuesday, from 7 to 8:30 pm** at the Tempe campus.

**Hope you can join us!**



**October 3 – 14, 2016**



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## A+ P3 September 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting Highlights

- The meeting started off by surprising Mr. Cross with a BBQ grill. Our new P3 mom, Stacy Huston, was able to have the grill donated to our school. Thanks, Stacy!
- Shared info about the meeting with P3 Gilbert and P3 Peoria parent leaders
- Laurie created a video to put on Facebook to help draw more families to sign up with Shoparoo. Check out link on page 9.
- Facebook: We created a closed group, **P3 Tempe**, Facebook page. The Facebook button at the bottom of each newsletter page will direct you to this page. Please join!
- A+ Academy has 3 students who will be graduating this year. We discussed t-shirts for the seniors. In addition P3 will check on line to see what graduating items graduating students may like (i.e. class rings). The school is working on the mascot, a hawk, and school colors.
- Parent/Teacher Conference days: We planned a potluck lunch for the faculty, as a way to welcome back our AMAZING staff for another GREAT year. E-sign up was created through Sign Up Genius for parents to volunteer a main dish, side dish, dessert, and beverages.
- P3 has started a "My Favorite Things" form. We asked all teachers and staff to fill out this form. It will give us ideas of what they like. There is a three ring binder located at the front office where these forms are housed. The "My Favorite Things" form includes request for information such as favorite flower, scents, color, food, restaurant, sweets, etc.
- AGENDA for October 18<sup>th</sup> meeting:
  - Go over Bylaws
  - Discuss final plans the Halloween party
  - Open the floor up for any new business



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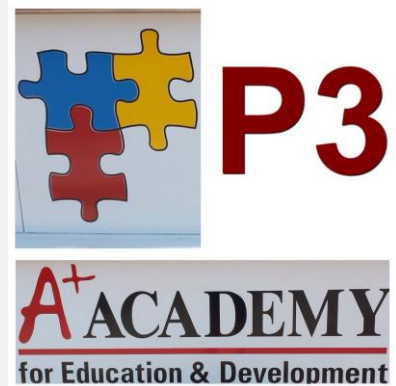
### P3 Parent Partnership Program - Tempe

Find us on Facebook:



Email: [p3tempe@gmail.com](mailto:p3tempe@gmail.com) questions, comments, ideas?

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Arizona Autism  
COALITION

### 2016 Annual Conference Beyond Awareness to Collaboration!

November 5, 2016  
8:30 am – 5 pm

For more details:

<http://www.azautism.org/2016-annual-conference>

Ability 360  
5025 E. Washington St.  
Phoenix, AZ  
<http://ability360.org/>



## A+ Academy Spotlight: Mrs. Cindi Gordon



Welcome to "the spotlight," Mrs. Cindi Gordon, our school's Middle School Moderate Teacher.

Mrs. Gordon has a Bachelors in Liberal Studies from Arizona State University, A masters in Special Education/Elementary Education from ASU and she is beginning her Masters in Administration (Principalship) from ASU this month. So, she is definitely a Sun Devil fan! Mrs. Gordon is certified to teach Special Education (K-12), Elementary Education (K-8) and Early Childhood Education (Pre-K to Kindergarten).

This is Mrs. Gordon's sixth year as a Special Education Teacher. Previous to that, she was a special education classroom aide for a year while working on her Masters. She also spent 6 years as a Juvenile Detention Officer for Maricopa County. As a Detention Officer, she worked mainly with youth 9-15 years old, many of whom had disabilities. It was in that position that she created her very first behavior plan for a boy with autism.

Mrs. Gordon has an adult son (24) who is on the autism spectrum. Her experiences within the school system and advocating for his needs along with her experiences as a Detention Officer motivated her to become a Special Education Teacher.

When asked what she most likes about teaching, Mrs. Gordon replied, "I like seeing students build confidence through successes in the classroom, school, and generalization of skills to their lives outside of school. I like supporting parents and get excited to hear that my students have generalized behavior to their home life and they are now able to do things they weren't previously at home or that parents have seen positive changes in behavior. I LOVE getting to spend my days with my students, working, learning, laughing, and growing."

When asked about her purpose here at A+ Academy, Mrs. Gordon explained, "As a parent of an adult child with ASD, my mission at A+ Academy is to support students, parents, and my colleagues in reaching their goals. I wanted to work with the best special educators to provide the best school experience possible for our students with autism, as I knew excellence was not only lacking in the special education field, but needed specifically by our students with autism in order for them to



reach their full potential. A+ Academy has allowed me to work with like-minded teachers, administrators, office staff, and parents to support this shared mission."

During her leisure time at home, she enjoys her dogs . . . all eight of them! Yes, that's right! She has 3 Great Danes, 2 Mastiff/Pitbull Mixes, 1 Pitbull/Mix, 1 Pitbull, and a new 10 week old Pug. They range in age from 11 years old to 10 weeks old. They are all inside dogs and she spends a lot of time playing with them and caring for them. She and her family have rescued many dogs from the pound and she has yet to meet a dog she didn't adore.

Mrs. Gordon also enjoys remodeling/redecorating so she is constantly remodeling/redecorating her mid-century modern home. Her husband and she are currently in the process of renovating a vintage travel trailer to take on family camping trips.

She loves music and attends as many concerts as possible. She loves rock music, folk music, and oldies music and can be heard singing in the hallway with Mrs. Dille on many occasions.

Mrs. Gordon has been married to her husband Troy for 25 years this December and they have 2 sons, aged 24 and 17. Her eldest son, Damon, works as a manager at a flooring store and her youngest son, Dylan, is in his senior year of high school at McClintock High School.

She has lived in Arizona for the past 26 years. Previous to that she was born and raised in Bismarck ND. Needless to say, she loves Arizona and will never move back. Brrrrr!

Favorites:

- Music: Rock Music or Folk Music
- Favorite Song is a tie: "Miles from Nowhere" by Cat Stevens  
"Ironman" by Black Sabbath
- Favorite Movie: Monty Python's "The Holy Grail"
- Favorite Book: *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck
- Color: Teal
- Food or treat: Red vines

***Thank you, Mrs. Gordon, for your willingness to participate in this ongoing feature . . . and thank you for all you do to help A+ students achieve their personal best!***

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## P3 Thanks:

- **Stacy Huston**, a new P3 mom, was able to have a BBQ grill donated to our school.  
Thanks, Stacy!



Jason Cross, Principal and Stacy Huston, P3 Mom

- **All the parents** who responded to our request for pot luck dishes, desserts, beverages for our teachers as they conduct our Parent/Teacher Conferences. Your response has been wonderful and the lunches on Wednesday and Thursday were delicious and generous!  
Thank you!



## Upcoming Important Events: Mark Your Calendars!



- **October 1** -- The 12th Annual Zoowalk for Autism Research
- **October 3 - 14** – **Fall Break – Have a great one!**
- **October 17** - School recommences
- **October 18** – P3 meeting – all parents are invited
- **October 20** – Zumba after school recommences
- **October 23** – Autism Speaks Walk, Tempe Beach Park
- **October 25** – Carrabba's Cares Night
- **October 28?** -- **A HARVEST of FUN!**



Save the Date for:

### **Carrabba's Cares Night**

Date: Tuesday, October 25, 2016

Time: 4 pm to 10 pm

**\*\*\* More info to come after Fall Break! \*\*\***

**P3 Parent Partnership Program - Tempe**

Find us on Facebook:



Email: [p3tempe@gmail.com](mailto:p3tempe@gmail.com) questions, comments, ideas?



# Parent Partnership Program (P3) – Tempe 2016 2017 Calendar

Meetings: First Tuesday of the month from 7:00 to 8:30 (usually)

## 2016

October 18<sup>th</sup>  
November 1<sup>st</sup>  
December 6<sup>th</sup>

## 2017

January 10<sup>th</sup>  
February 7<sup>th</sup>  
March 7<sup>th</sup>  
April 4<sup>th</sup>  
May 2<sup>nd</sup>  
May 30<sup>th</sup>

**\*\* Meetings are subject to change\*\***



## Birthdays at A+ Academy



# Happy Birthday!



**Raelyn Hampton on Oct 14<sup>th</sup>**





**AUTISM ACADEMY**  
for Education & Development

and



## Lunch Option for Thursday Starts After Fall Break!

For more information on registration and ordering from **Not Your Typical Deli**,  
look for the flyer that went home via back packs this past week.

Go to: [www.nytdeli.com](http://www.nytdeli.com) and follow the directions for online ordering.

If you have any questions, please contact Kym Wilbur, [kwilbur@autismacademyed.com](mailto:kwilbur@autismacademyed.com)



## Order your A+ Academy T-Shirt: Now Available Online



- The orders can be placed online: [www.etsy.com](http://www.etsy.com)
- In the search box, enter: KoalaTeeApparel (all one word)
- Each \$20 T-Shirt sold brings in \$2.00 to our P3
- Available in black, gray, white, blue and red
- Sizes in all ranges: women's S to XXL; men's S to XXL; Youth Girls & Boys S to L

***A+ Academy T-Shirts are great to wear when going on field trips & on PE days!***



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# Here's an ongoing fundraiser you can start participating in now!



DOWNLOAD this FREE APP on your smart phone...

Here are some examples: (out of over 15,000 qualifying retailers!)

- ✓ Grocers - Kroger, Safeway, Publix, HEB, Food Lion and absolutely any grocery store - including your local mom & pop grocer
- ✓ Supercenters - Walmart, Target, Kmart, Meijer, and etcetera
- ✓ Clubs - Costco, Sam's Club, BJ's and any other club store that sell grocery products (even if you don't buy groceries when you shop there)
- ✓ Drug Stores - Walgreens, CVS, Rite-Aid, Jewel-Osco and any other similar store that sells grocery-like products - even a local drug store
- ✓ Convenience Stores - 7-Eleven, Circle-K, Wawa, Shell, BP and any other convenience store (as long as more than gas appears on the receipt)
- ✓ Dollar Stores - Dollar General, Family Dollar, & Dollar Tree plus many more
- ✓ Pet Supply Stores - PetSmart, Petco, and any others!

Select Autism Academy for Education and Development in Gilbert, AZ as your cause. Take a Picture of Your Receipts. It's that Easy!! If you have questions, please contact the Parent Partnership Program at [p3tempe@gmail.com](mailto:p3tempe@gmail.com)

Check out this video our P3 president put together to promote Shoparoo!

<https://www.facebook.com/laurie.conlonhopkins/videos/pcb.1274071915946075/10206761756954879/?type=3&theater>



**Adapted Zumba** ® is available weekly at A+ Academy from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. on **Thursday's** right after school. This **free class** is offered to: **Students – Please note: adult – parent, guardian, habilitator – must be present for student to participate; A+ Academy P3 parents; Teachers and Aids**

**Susan Alonzo**, licensed **Zumba** ® **Basic** and **Zumba** ® **Gold** instructor and an A+ P3 mom, has volunteered to lead the class. This one-hour class is easy to follow, yet challenging and fun, while at the same time delivering a great cardiovascular workout! You just enjoy, dance to your heart's content and have fun! Make sure to wear **comfortable clothing, athletic shoes and bring a bottle of water!**

A signup sheet will be sent home and must be returned before you can start. If you have any questions please contact **Susan** at **480 203 4767** or [salonzo4@cox.net](mailto:salonzo4@cox.net).

**Please note: No Zumba during Fall Break, October 3–14. Zumba will recommence on October 20<sup>th</sup>**

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# The 12th Annual Zoowalk for Autism Research

Saturday, October 1st, 2016



## Walk Schedule

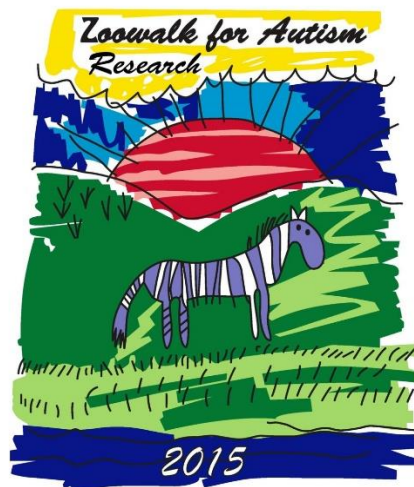
**6:30-8:30 am** Registration at Phoenix Municipal Stadium Parking Lot

**6:30-8:30 am** Walk Starts

**9:00 am** Walk Ends

**11:00 am** Resource Fair Ends

Walkers can stay at the zoo the entire day! Come visit the exhibitors and sponsors pavilion!



For more information:

<http://zoowalk.dojiggy.com/ng/index.cfm/a3196ba/regPages/pages/?p=105456>

To join the Autism Academy for Education and Development Zoo Walk Team:

<https://zoowalk.dojiggy.com/ng/index.cfm/a3196ba/reg-catalog/join-team/b21489dd?returnTo=https%3A%2F%2Fzoowalk.dojiggy.com%2Fng%2Findex.cfm%2Fa3196ba%2Freg-catalog%2Fregfees>

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# Autism Speaks Walk, Tempe Beach Park



Sunday, October 23, 2016



## Walk Schedule:

|                                               |                    |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Registration and Resource Fair Open           | 8:00 am - 9:15 am  |
| Welcome and Warm-up                           | 9:15 am - 9:30 am  |
| Walk Starts                                   | 9:30 am - 11:30 am |
| 1 mile Family Fun Walk or a 5(K)3.2mile route | 9:30 am - 11:30 am |

For more information:

<http://www.autismspeakswalk.org/faf/home/default.asp?ievent=1155041>

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## Young Living Essential Oils of the Month:



# RECONNECT

*the pieces of the puzzle*

Reconnect with a new collection of essential oil blends created to help support moods when diffused by uplifting and encouraging positive energy in times of restlessness and unease.

help kids reconnect with the **super Hero** they really are!



Item 5340 Retail \$263.82 Whsl. \$199.75 pv 199.75



THE SWEET TEAM

## RECONNECT the pieces of the puzzle

For More Information:

Christy Andrews  
480-436-2795

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Email: [p3tempe@gmail.com](mailto:p3tempe@gmail.com) questions, comments, ideas?

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