

March/April, 2017

# The Achiever



## Event Calendar

Thursday, May 18  
10 a.m.—12 p.m.  
**ATG OPEN HOUSE**

Tuesday, May 23

**ATG Art Show**  
5:00—6:30 p.m.

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**ATG Speaker Series**  
6:30—8 p.m.

*Featuring:*  
Dawn  
Govan-Reese  
&  
Judith McDowell

Monday, May 29  
**No School  
Memorial Day**

Friday, June 16  
**Last day of school.  
Happy summer!**

## Teachers recite in honor of National Poetry Month

April is National Poetry Month. And, with that being said, the students at ATG Learning Academy decided to host a poetry contest for their teachers.

The contest idea was designed by the students in Ms. Rachel's media class. The students came up with topics for the teachers and staff to write about and then pulled the topics at random. They then handed out rule forms with the topics written upon them.

The staff had to write a poem that used the topic that they were assigned or they would be disqualified. The teachers had a week to write their poems.

On the day of the contest, the ATG family gathered in the cafeteria to read and/or hear the poems. The students were each given a scrap of yellow, blue, and red paper. Each paper was used to judge the poems in three different categories: scary (red), creative (blue), and funny (yellow). The students were instructed to cast one vote for each category.

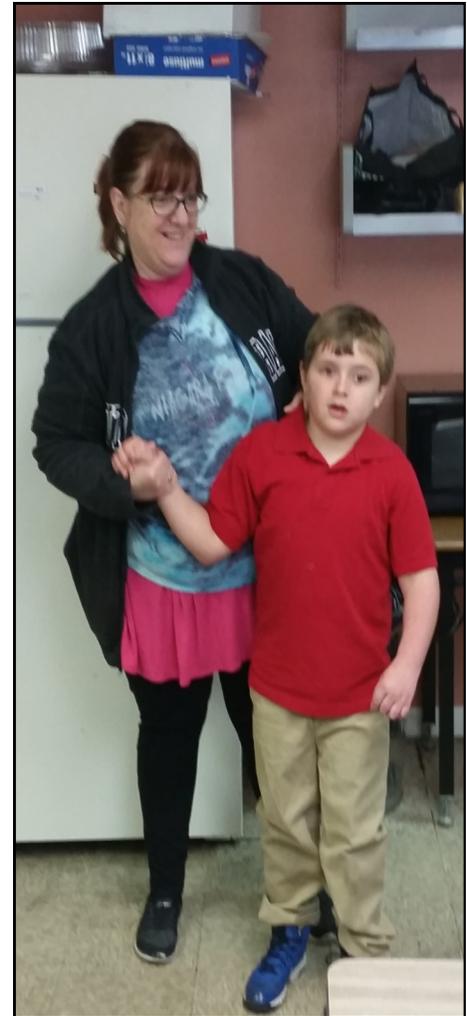
The staff wrote excellent poetry on a variety of topics, including candy, *That's so Raven*, Star Wars, and Frankenstein. But in the end, it was Mr. Ryan's poem about a bizarre trick-or-treater named Edward Squash that won the contest.

His prize? Just some bragging rights...

The other staffers who placed in the contest were Mr. Dave, who took 2nd with his Star Wars poem. And Ms. Rachel and

Mr. Bob, who tied for third.

Aside from the staff's reading, Sam Smith also took the time to recite a poem about a steam shovel that won him a poetry contest at Plumbstead Christian School.

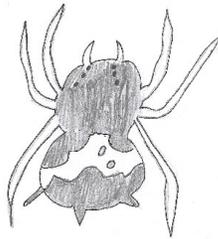


With help from his nurse, Ms. Donna, Sam Smith also recited a poem when the staff was finished reading their own works.

### Making a Monster With Eli Minor

In lunch we play Dungeons and Dragons . It's a game of might and magic, where we roll dice to determine what happens in certain situations as the Dungeon Master tells us a story. One day while we were playing, I asked if anyone ever made their own monsters and put them in the game. Our teacher and Dungeon Master, Mr. Ryan said "yes." So I decided to make one. I call it the "Tree Crab Spider."

E.Minor



Now, the Tree Crab Spider is an insect that I thought of in my art class. The art teacher told us that there are artists who draw bugs for a living and that we could try doing the same. The bug that I really wanted to make was a spider. So that's what I did. I got the idea for this spider after I saw a picture of a spider with long legs and it reminded me of a crab. I started



making the Tree Crab Spider. I gave it that name because the females have front claws like a crab. They live in the forest, hang from trees, and are really big. They lay their eggs on the sides of trees, and they lay thousands at a time. The other main difference between males and females (other than the claws) is that females have diamond shaped pouches, and males have a rounded pouch (just like my picture).

Mr. Ryan said that we could take some time to make statistics for my Tree Crab Spider and we could incorporate it into the game somehow. I'm looking forward to working on this with the rest of our group.

Let's just hope that we don't end up being defeated by my creation.

### An ATG PSA

#### Say "No" to smoking By Nasir Brown

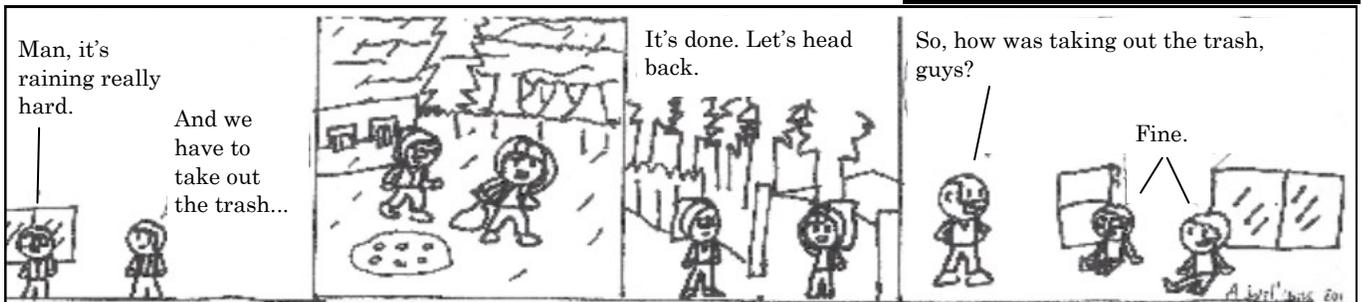
People are smoking way too much. It is getting out of control. The world would be a better place without cigarettes. Well, I'm going to tell you three reasons why you should stop smoking now!

1) Did you know that smoking can cause blood cancer? Smoking can cause cancer almost anywhere in your body including your blood.

2) Did you know that smoking can cause you to lose your teeth? It causes gum disease, which makes your teeth fall out.

3) Finally, did you know that smoking can cause blood clots? Smoking also damages the lining of the blood vessels which can cause a blood clot to form.

My opinion is that nobody's life is worth one cigarette. If you are a smoker, I'm not telling you what to do. I'm telling you what you should do in order to not die from something that can be prevented. But if I did not convince you, here are some people that will: 1-800-quit-now. If you're not a smoker pass this message on to the next person.



### The Last Word

"If I have seen further than others, it is by standing upon the shoulders of giants."

- Sir Isaac Newton

ATG Learning Academy is private, non-profit learning facility that turns students with learning differences into lifelong learners.

All work for this newsletter was done or selected by the students of ATG. Any questions or inquiries regarding donations can be directed to info@atglearningacademy.com

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