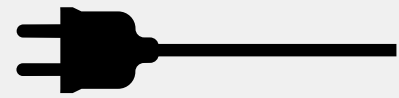
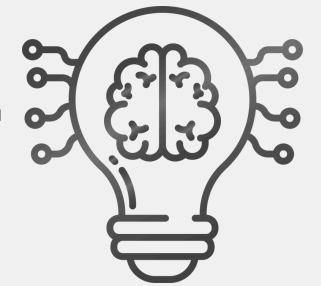


MARCH 2026



ISSUE NO. EIGHT

# The ATO Academaniac Circuit



CATCH THE CURRENT: MONTHLY NEWS, HIGHLIGHTS AND EMPOWERED INSIGHTS!



## Exciting Updates from ATO Academy!

IMPACT BEYOND AZ—

### Out-of-State Board Visit Inspires NJ Microschool Vision

From the Desk of Coach Peaches



We were excited to welcome Board Member Tracey Brown and her mentee, Nyla Thompson, from NY/NJ to tour our facility and see our students in action. Tracey, a longtime mentor to Coach Peaches for over 10 years since their time working together in Suffolk, VA, brought Nyla to experience our performing arts-focused homeschool and microschool model firsthand and connect with students, parents, and families.

Their visit served as a catalyst for inspiration as they explore launching a homeschool co-op/microschool with a performing arts niche in New Jersey for the 2026-2027 academic school year. The time flew by quickly, and both Tracey and Nyla left energized, inspired, and looking forward to returning soon to continue building creative, student-centered learning opportunities across state lines.

This visit reflects our growing impact beyond Arizona, as we continue to mentor leaders and share our model with communities interested in expanding access to performing arts, storytelling, and innovative homeschool education. We are excited to support their journey and look forward to seeing this vision take shape in NJ!

## IN THIS ISSUE



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

We're excited to launch our Student Spotlight Gallery, a space to celebrate all the amazing achievements of our ATO Academy students! Each month, you'll find a short bullet list of learning objectives, activities, and projects, along with photos that give you an inside peek at everything our students are accomplishing.

From creative projects to hands-on experiments, the Student Spotlight Gallery is your front-row seat to the talent, creativity, and growth happening at ATO ACADEMY! Stay tuned each month to see what our students are learning, creating, and achieving!

In March, our ATO Academaniacs were busy being....

- supporting student in her lead role as Annie with DFT,
  - enjoyed Spring Break.
  - participated as an extra casted in a local commercial.
  - starting our 4<sup>th</sup> Jr Suns Basketball Season and 2<sup>nd</sup> Hotshot
  - auditioning for upcoming roles/production seasons
  - winning awards/scholarships for workshops/grants.
  - feeding giraffes.
  - celebrating Coach Nay's 18<sup>th</sup> B-day.
  - hosting out of state visitors from our board of directors.
  - preparing for 4<sup>th</sup> quarter end of year celebrations,
- and most importantly, problem solvers and great scholars!

We are so proud of our Academaniacs!





INSIDE PEEK of Out of Africa Safari Park – Came Verde, AZ

## MARCH FIELD TRIP

### Wild Learning in Action: Out of Africa Safari Park Field Trip

Our monthly field trip took learning beyond the classroom and into the wild as 27 students and families traveled 1.5 hours from Phoenix, AZ for an exciting educational adventure at Out of Africa Safari Park. For this special excursion, we rented a coach van our first long-distance field trip turning travel time into community-building, conversation, and anticipation for the day ahead.

Students experienced Arizona Academic Standards in real time through hands-on, experiential learning in life science, environmental studies, and communication. From getting up close and personal while feeding giraffes to observing animal behavior during the tiger splash show, students explored concepts such as habitats, ecosystems, adaptation, and conservation through direct observation and inquiry-based learning.

The highlight of the day was an interactive Q&A session with zookeepers as they fed lions and bears truly a "lions and tigers and bears, oh my!" moment. Students practiced critical thinking and communication skills by asking thoughtful questions, learning about animal diets, safety protocols, and the important role of wildlife conservation and animal care. This real-world experience aligned with science and speaking/listening standards as students engaged in discussion, observation, and reflection.

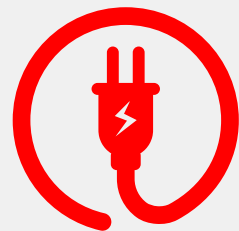
This field trip reminded us that learning can happen anywhere. Through exploration, curiosity, and shared experiences, students strengthened their understanding of science, teamwork, and community while creating lasting memories. We look forward to many more monthly adventures that bring classroom standards to life in exciting and meaningful ways.

## Upcoming Events:

- 🔌 Easter Monday – 4/6 – No School
- 🔌 April 16 – Field Trip
- 🔌 April 17 – Homeschool PROM
- 🔌 The Trapped Prince – 4/24–26
- 🔌 Rattlers Halftime Show – 5/30
- 🔌 Promotion/Graduation – 6/5



# emPOWERed minds = emPOWERed lives



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