



Advanced Authentic Research

Spring Newsletter



End-of-Year Showcase

The second annual AAR Celebratory Showcase was held May 16 at the Palo Alto High School Media Arts Center. AAR students presented the results of their year-long research to an eager audience of parents, PAUSD staff, and current and future mentors. Many Palo Alto community members also joined us in celebrating student work.

The Gunn Culinary Arts program, led by Cindy Peters, celebrated its partnership with AAR by featuring a variety of student-made dishes. The new Creativity Cart program for K-5 was presented (see article on page 2). And finally, 123 research projects by 155 AAR students were featured. These projects covered



topics within business, humanities, social science, and STEM fields. If you missed the showcase, you can watch this [video](#) and see the showcase [program](#) for more detailed information about student accomplishments, projects, and AAR supporters.

Journal A²βR Prepares to Launch in 3... 2... 1....

AAR is partnering with Stanford Peace Innovation Lab to launch *Journal A²βR*, a peer-reviewed academic journal dedicated to amplifying student voices and providing high school students with a platform to publish original research. Submissions are being accepted through June 2 for the first issue, which launches this summer. Submissions after that will be considered for subsequent issues. Past and current AAR participants can submit their projects for publication by following the instructions (right). We look forward to this exciting new opportunity for students to get their research published!

How to Submit Your Project for Publication in *Journal A²βR*

1. Go to freedomc.stanford.edu on a desktop/laptop computer.
2. Click "Register" in the upper right corner of the page.
3. Fill out the information to create a new account. Be sure to check the "Author" box under *Journal A²βR*. (Several different publications are listed; make sure you're checking the box under *Journal A²βR*!)
4. Go to the [Journal A²βR page](#). (Click this link or click on "Journal A²βR" on the main freedomc.stanford.edu page.)
5. At the top of the *Journal A²βR* page, click on "Submissions."
6. Follow the instructions on screen to submit your article or project. Make sure your file is in MS Word format (for research papers) or PDF format (for posters)!

Please feel free to contact us at aar@pausd.org if you need any help.

Creativity Carts Launch

This February, AAR launched the Creativity Cart program in collaboration with Elementary Educational Services. Led by Barbara Harris, Joe Young, and Leslie Faust, this program extends the AAR philosophy to elementary schools by engaging students in personalized and guided projects that promote the cultivation of skills in design, research, and development of self-advocacy. The program’s mission is to nurture students’ creativity and resiliency while connecting them to today’s real-world complexities. This platform goes beyond knowledge of next generation science standards (NGSS) to personalize learning and application of knowledge.

The program began at Addison, Briones, El Carmelo, Grendell, Nixon, and Palo Verde in an effort to meet our district’s equity and access goals. Each cart is stocked with tools and materials to encourage students’ imagination and exploration. High school students will be able to help run the program as an AAR project exploring management, business, and related topics.



New Theme Projects for 2017-2018

The Creativity Cart program is just one of multiple theme projects that AAR participants can choose to work on as their project for the 2017-18 school year. Another project launching in 2017 is the Community Garden, an interdisciplinary program that features hands-on gardening, planning and budgeting, soil quality testing and pH level measurement, and several other possible areas of exploration.

SJP and AAR

This year, seniors from the Social Justice Pathway (SJP) conducted research as part of their senior capstone project through collaboration with the AAR program. The SJP program, led by Erin Angell and Eric Bloom, supports capstone projects in which students are guided through both qualitative and quantitative research methods. This is supported by curriculum developed jointly by the SJP and AAR programs.

Foothill Partners with AAR

Foothill College is working with AAR to give PAUSD students the opportunity to work with Foothill engineering and science students on small group projects in bioenergy, neuroscience, robotics, climate research, clean energy, and other exciting fields. These projects will be led by Robert Cormia, a member of Foothill’s engineering faculty. This partnership with Foothill College builds on an existing relationship with NASA-Ames.

AAR: THE REAL DEAL
 THE AMERICAN RESEARCH ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA HIGH SCHOOLS

EMILY TOMZ: TEAM COHESION
 Emily Tomz, an avid soccer player, used her AAR program as a means to connect to other players from various schools. She was able to connect with a player from another school, who played for the Palo Alto High School Girls' Soccer team and club soccer. She had a similar experience with her own team.

SARAH SUNDERMEYER: CHILD LITERACY
 The Social Justice Pathway (SJP) has teamed up with AAR over the past year to conduct SJP members to research and present their address a local social justice issue. The research team focuses on the social justice program and program a possible solution in this position. Sarah Sundermeyer, a SJP member and member of SJP, conducted a research project on the initiative that affects the development of young children.

AAR Featured in Palo Alto High’s C Magazine

The AAR program and two 2016-17 student participants, Emily Tomz and Sarah Sundermeyer, were featured in the April edition of Palo Alto High School’s student-run C Magazine. The full article can be read [here](#). AAR is proud to have our students’ work featured in C Magazine and to see their hard work recognized by their peers.

Special Thanks

- **THANK YOU** to all of the mentors who helped make this year’s AAR projects a reality. The guidance and real-world expertise you brought to our students was a key part of helping them thrive.
- **We extend our warmest thanks and deepest gratitude to all of the teachers, parents, staff, community members, and everyone who has supported AAR over the last two years. It takes a village, and we couldn’t ask for better villagers.**