



Alder Grove News ~ March 2010

From the Director.....

It's hard to believe that we are more than halfway through the year. It has been a very successful year thanks to the hard working staff and parents! Mandatory state testing is quickly approaching. Keep in mind it is essential to the continued operation of our school that all 2nd-11th grade students participate. Dates are listed in this newsletter and each of you will receive the specific dates, times and testing locations via mail mid March. Please contact your teacher soon if you have any concerns or scheduling conflicts.

Again, I'd like to remind you that this is your school and any time you have any questions, concerns or issues, please feel free to contact me either by phone or email.

You can email me at the school at: aldergrove@sbcglobal.net

Mandatory STAR Testing

April 13th — 16th

Mark your calendars now!

Be watching your mail for details!

Spring Break

Mon., April 5th — Fri., April 9th

NO SCHOOL

Graduation Information

Graduation Ceremonies will be Thursday, May 27th. The 8th grade ceremony will be held at 3:00 pm and 12th grade ceremony will be held at 5:30 pm. It will be held at 5845 Humboldt Hill Road in the Humboldt Grange building. If you would like to be involved organizing the ceremony please email Terri Tripp at terri@superchargedconnection.com



North Coast Reparatory Theatre

On Friday, May 21st, N.C.R.T. has teamed up with Alder Grove for a fundraising event. A portion of the proceeds for this showing of the musical production "*GYPSY*" will be donated to Alder Grove. To make this event even more inviting two Alder Grove students have roles in the production. Mark your calendars now and be watching for detailed information in the April and May newsletters.

Reserve a Yearbook Coupon

Student name: _____

Parent Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Teacher's name: _____ Number of yearbooks you would like to order: _____

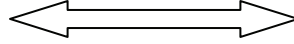
Please return this coupon to the school office to reserve your yearbook. The cost is \$15 and can be deducted from the student's budget or can be paid for with exact cash (no checks accepted).

If your child did not get their school picture taken this year, it is not too late to have one of the yearbook staff take a picture to include in the school yearbook. Call Rachael Hernandez at (707) 498-5372 to make arrangements.

Governance Council Meeting

Monday, April 12th @ 6:30 pm
Highland Ave. Office

Get Involved!



These meetings are open to the public.

Leadership Team Meeting

Monday, April 19th @ 2:45 pm
Sonoma & F Site

March Field Trip Jacoby Creek Land Trust ~ Kokte Ranch

When: Thursday, March 25th, 11 am -1 pm

Where: Jacoby Creek Land Trust ~ Kokte Ranch

Activity: Science lesson & possible tree planting

How: Call 268-0854 by Friday, March 12th to sign up.



Last year a AGCS had a wonderful time on this field trip! We made native seed balls and "planted" them. We planted trees and walked around the land trust. The experience was fun, relaxing, and very informative. Don't miss out on this field trip. You won't be sorry! This is a good science activity and learning experience!

Directions: Take Hwy 101 to Samoa, then to Bayside, watch for 2182 Old Arcata Road. Look for the Kokte Ranch Sign.

Parent Workshop

The Righting of Writing

Friday, March 12th

10:00 - 12:00 during the math lab time at the Sonoma site

Come share in the wonder of writing. We will discuss all the elements that are part of the writing process--from handwriting to getting thoughts committed to paper. As a homeschooling mom, teaching writing has been one of those areas that makes me panic! Assigned essays come back as three sentences. I say we're going to do "writing" and mutiny (or apathy) begins to ensue.

The talk is named after a chapter in Mel Levine's book, The Myth of Laziness. I devoured the book and found that he's run into the same problems. I've been collecting and implementing workable solutions and have a packet of ideas to send home with you. And I'd also love to hear your approach to writing. I'm still learning with my kids.

Handwriting is an area I overlooked. I now realize that handwriting provides a very important foundation for writing. We will look at how to teach handwriting and curriculum options. If you have a favorite method or curriculum, please bring it. Homeschooling is a journey of success and failure. It is my hope with this talk that we will find ways for our children and ourselves to be more successful with the writing adventure.

RSVP by emailing wendyschulze@gmail.com or by calling the office @ 268-0854.



Wendy Schulze is Alder Grove's reading therapist. She has 17 years of homeschooling experience and has trained with Read America, Handwriting Without Tears, Bal-A-Vis-X and is always on the hunt for ways to overcome challenges to learning. She tutors students one-on-one and in the small group setting. She also is available for consulting/problem solving.

Calling All Parents and Community Members!

(want to be involved volunteer positions are available)

Governance Council

Alder Grove has experienced many successes in its first three and a half years of operation. The desire to create a public school in Humboldt County with solid educational standards that honors parent choice has been the driving force that brought Alder Grove to where it is now.

The requirements placed on public schools by local, state and federal governments are monumental. Alder Grove is constantly working on staying informed of ever-changing mandates. Without a conscientious and reliable group of volunteers a public school can not exist. Without volunteers filling positions Alder Grove cannot continue the excellent service it provides to students and families.

If you want to understand how Alder Grove is run and how public funds are dispersed becoming involved is the best way. Knowledge is very empowering and participation in decision making offers freedom from discontent.

Experience is not required. Becoming a Governance Council member or joining the Leadership Team is an excellent way to make a difference and help continue to have a successful charter school. Both groups meet regularly, meetings are open to the public, and public comment is welcome.

Volunteer positions, especially with enough people involved, may be as easy as giving a couple hours a month to your school. Please consider becoming involved. The future of our school depends on it.

At the end of this school year, we will have one open seat on our Governance Council. If you are interested in running for this position, please contact the Director, Jenni Allen - San Giovanni, at 268-0854 as soon as possible. Ballots will be included in a future newsletter.

Leadership Team

Our School Leadership Team meets once a month. This group is comprised of teachers and parents and works more on daily operational issues than the Governance Council. They are responsible for site evaluation, interviewing new staff members, developing and recommending new policies and more. If you are interested in becoming a member, please plan to attend the next meeting, March 22, 2010 at 2:45 at the Sonoma and F Learning Center site in room 10. Also, feel free to talk to any of the members: ElizaBeth Schatz, Audine Abrams, Sunshine Lee, Tim Warner and Marian Baker.

