

# ALDER GROVE NEWS OCTOBER 2009

1615 Highland Ave., Eureka CA 95503

707-268-0854 ph / 707-268-0813 fax

www.aldergrovecharter.org



## Electronics at School

Handheld video game devices are not allowed at on site classes. Please make sure your child doesn't bring these to school. If a teacher sees one, it will be taken away and given to you when you pick up your child. Cell phones and i-pods may be brought to school, but must be out of sight during class time. Teachers will also confiscate these and return them after class time if they are seen. Thanks in advance for your co-cooperation with this.

## STAR Testing Results

From the Director, Jenni Allen-San Giovanni

We recently received our scores on the STAR test for last year and there is good and bad news. The good news is that we improved significantly in language arts at almost every grade level! Many teachers and parents have been working hard getting students to read more and it shows in the scores! Thank you for your dedication to helping your children read! The bad news is we didn't do very well in math. At almost every grade level our math scores dropped. Our overall API, which is a score given by the state based on numerous factors including the test scores, high school exit exam scores, test participation and more went down by 23 points. This is not good news for us as a school. In order to maintain our standing as a charter school, we are required to show improvement each year.

Many of our students use curriculum that work well and do a great job of building math concepts and skills, but do not align specifically with California state standards. We would like to encourage and help parents find supplemental math materials that may cover more of the standards each month in math. Teachers are also able to print mini lessons based on objectives not mastered as identified by Scantron, the on line test all third through eleventh graders need to take each year. These materials are brief and directly related to a specific standard that the student has not mastered. We would like to encourage all students to review at least one teacher provided objective each month. Look for information on a monthly contest based on these learning objectives soon!

Practice test books are also available in the office as well as released test questions from the California Department of Education at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sr/css05rtq.asp>. We plan to hold some one day test taking workshops in the spring as well. Students will be provided with practice tests and some basic information on test taking skills. As always, your ideas and input into how we can make our school a better place, especially in regards to boosting test scores, are always welcome!

## New Math Lab



The language arts lab on Fridays from 10:00-12:00 at the F Street site is now a math lab proctored by teacher Kathy Yeager who has math teaching experience. Come with your math questions or use as a quiet time to get your math work done. Math lab is still followed by study hall, your chance to get help with all of your work. Take advantage of these opportunities to have qualified teachers available to answer questions!

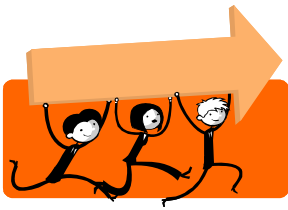
## ! Important CAHSEE Information !

The first of three High School Exit Examinations will be Tuesday and Wednesday November 3rd and 4th. This exam is open to all 11th and 12th grade students who have not passed one or both parts. Be watching your mail. Exit Exam letters will be mailed to students soon.

Exit Exam Preparation classes are offered at Christie Hall in room 10 every Thursday. Language Arts Prep is offered from 9:30 to 10:30 and Mathematics Prep is offered from 10:40 to 11:40. Christie Hall is located on the corner of Sonoma and F Streets in Eureka.

Thank you to parents ElizaBeth Schatz and Steven Harincar for volunteering their time to the school this past month. Steven assembled furniture for the school and ElizaBeth sat in on two days of teacher interviews. We appreciate your dedication to the school.





## Alder Grove Student Council

We are excited to announce that, for the first time, Alder Grove will have a Student Council! If you are a high school student who is interested in getting involved in planning school activities then come to our first introductory meeting Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at 12:50 (Sonoma & F).

### Future Meetings (everyone is welcome to attend)

#### Governance Council

Monday, October 12 @ 6:30 (Highland Office)

#### Leadership Team Meeting

Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup> @ 2:45 ( Sonoma & F Room 14)

#### Student Council

Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup> @ 12:50 (Sonoma & F)



### Halloween Party

volunteers needed



We will be having a Halloween Party on Friday October 30 from 1:00-3:00 at the Sonoma & F Street site. This event will be for children in grades K-6 to attend with their parents (not a drop off event). Please bring a healthy snack to share. We are looking for older students and parents to help organize crafts and activities during the party and to help with clean up and set up. If you or your older child would like to help, please call the school at 268-0854 and let Jenifer know that you are interested in helping. This party is a favorite with our students every year and it won't happen without some new parent volunteers! Thanks!

### Student Band—Kara's Lusca

Kara's Lusca is a local band composed of Alder Grove freshmen Kayla McConnell and Evangelin Schulze, Alder Grove's 2009 Co-Valedictorian and CR student Alana McConnell, and CR student Kara McConnell. The band will be playing on Friday, Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>, at the Bayside Grange, 2297 Jacoby Creek Rd in Bayside, for *Empty Bowls World Food Day*, a fundraiser for the North Coast Resource Center, from 5:30 to 6:30 PM. Come and support these talented young musicians and a local charity! Dinner is also available.

For more information call Wendy Schulze at 826-0780.



### Home Educator Enrichment Topics

By Wendy Schulze

Beginning Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, I will begin a series of talks/round table discussions during the math lab at the Sonoma & F site from 10:00 - 12:00. Solutions for Struggling Readers will be the first topic. I will have tips for teaching beginning reading, how to get an older reader "unstuck", signs to watch for to be sure your child is reading well and how to make the reading/writing connection. **Future topics include:** The benefits of handwriting, understanding your child's learning style, and exercises for better learning. If you have an educational topic that you'd like to see covered, please let me know. I would hope this time would allow for group sharing--since all of us are growing and learning how to be better educators. About me: I am a parent of three students at Alder Grove. I also am a reading therapist at the school and work with students who are struggling with reading and spelling. I have trained extensively with Read America in the Phono Graphix reading method, Clay Math and their Praxis internship to learn strategies for helping children with various learning challenges. I currently am working on becoming a handwriting specialist with Handwriting Without Tears. I have homeschooled for over 17 years.



**Solutions for Struggling Readers**  
**Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup> @ Sonoma & F**  
**10:00 - 12:00 (the last hour will be for Q & A)**

# Alder Grove Charter School Field Trips 2009/2010

Sunshine Lee, Coordinator

## Fieldtrips with Tickets (space is limited to 30):

This year I am looking forward to more HSU Center Arts performances. Student tickets will be paid for from their school budget. However, family members must reserve their spot by paying for their ticket with exact cash. Give exact cash to Jenifer or Sarah at the school administrative office. Spots will be reserved on a first come, first serve basis. For a refund you must call to cancel five business days before the field trip.

Nov. 6	11am	Center Arts	The Hobbit	\$6.50	RSVP by 10/29
Dec. 11	11am	Center Arts	Celtic Christmas	\$6.50	RSVP by 12/3
Jan. 19	11am	Center Arts	Peking Acrobats	\$7.50	RSVP by 1/8
Jan. 27	11am	Center Arts	Spirit of Uganda	\$6.50	RSVP by 1/19
April 30	11am	Center Arts	Calypso Band	\$3.50	RSVP by 4/22
May 25	11am	Center Arts	Folk Dance and Music Ensemble	\$5.50	RSVP by 4/22

HSU Parking Information: For your convenience you may purchase daily parking permits for \$3.50 in advance or purchase passes through the parking pass dispenser. You may also pay for metered parking with quarters or park off campus and walk on.

Directions: From Hwy 101, take Sunset exit, go east to L.K. Wood Boulevard, left on Harpst Street, Left on Rossow Street for Parking with a day pass, or left on B Street- go to the top of the hill, cross the street, walk up the stairs to The Van Duzer Theatre.

## Non Ticket Fieldtrips:

Feb. 18	11am	Sun Valley Floral Farms Tour		RSVP by 2/10
March 9	12:30-5:30	VOYAGES OF DISCOVERY SAILING	\$35	RSVP by 3/2
March 25	11am	Jacoby Creek Land Trust: Kokte Ranch Tour		RSVP by 3/17

Monthly fieldtrip information will be in each newsletter and is available on the website:

[www.aldergrovecharter.org](http://www.aldergrovecharter.org)