



Alder Grove Charter School

September 2009 Newsletter

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Our Mission is to Serve Students Through Personalized Learning and Supporting Parental Choice in Education

From the Director

Jenni Allen - San Giovanni

Things are busy here at the school office and at our classroom site! Almost all of our onsite classes are full and this year more than half of the students enrolled in our school will be taking at least one class on site. How we have grown! I would like to thank all of you for recommending us to your friends and neighbors and even strangers.

A reminder to all families that the student budget is for materials that help the student succeed academically. Materials should be in alignment with a specific state standard or skill that the student needs to master. We have had some questionable materials ordered that seem more like toys than learning tools and/or not age or grade level appropriate. If you have a doubt, please check with your teacher. Keep in mind that we are allocating state dollars for student learning, so we must keep careful watch over how the money is spent.

We would like to add news about student accomplishments and activities outside of school to the newsletter each month. Please email any student accomplishments to Administrative Assistant, Jenifer Doane, jenifer.aldergrove@sbgcgloba.net. Generally the newsletter deadline is the first Wednesday of the month.

Office hours are Monday - Friday 8:30 - 4:30 excluding holidays and school recesses. When in the school office keep in mind that although we have a casual environment it is also a place of business. Students should demonstrate appropriate behavior, volume levels and pick up after themselves. Parents and teachers, thank you in advance for monitoring your students.

Upcoming Meetings

Governance Council Meeting: Monday, September 14th @ 6:30 pm (highland office)

Leadership Team Meeting: Monday September 28th 2:45 - 3:45 (Christie Hall room 14)

Meetings are open to all parents ~ Consider becoming involved !

Poetry by Alder Grove Student Angelica Aubrey Gets Published

Angelica Aubrey's poem, *I come from*, will be published in the *California Poets in the Schools 45th Anniversary Statewide Anthology*. It is a great honor that her poem was selected and we look forward to reading many more poems by this talented young poet. Congratulations Angelica!

October Math-a-thon

Stay tuned for this fun upcoming event! Math-a-thon is a free educational program for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital designed to supplement existing curriculum, while also teaching students the importance of helping others. The program includes a fun, free math curriculum supplement provided by Scholastic featuring comic book characters for grades K-8. Students obtain pledges from family and friends and have the opportunity to win fabulous prizes for themselves and Alder Grove. All students participating receive a certificate of achievement. By raising just \$35 students will also receive a T-shirt and Six-Flags pass. More information can be found www.mathathon.org.

New Resource Teacher

As many of you already know, Heidi Bense, the Alder Grove Resource Teacher, has resigned. We wish Heidi well in all of her future endeavors. We are happy to announce that we started off the year with our Credentialed Teacher, Tara Redner, stepping into the Resource Teacher position. Welcome Tara.

Welcome Back

Debbie Lammers was a Credentialed Teacher for Alder Grove for the first two years of the school's operation. She took a year's leave of absence and is now back and serving students. Debbie is also responsible for maintaining the Alder Grove web site. Welcome back Debbie.

High School Exit Exam

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 for more information in upcoming newsletters.

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.

Alder Grove "Facebook"

Alder Grove Charter School now has a "facebook" account. Become a fan to get reminders about school events and activities, class schedules, and more.

Learn More About Standardized State Testing

The California Department of Education along with the State Board of Education have launched a new web site to help parents and teachers gain a much clearer understanding of the California Standards Tests. The web site features dozens of actual test questions that students have faced at each grade level as well as a parent guide for each grade level. Please take some time to review the web site if you have questions about our mandatory testing policy <http://www.starsamplequestions.org>.

On Site Class Schedule Changes

Chemistry has been cancelled, but will be offered next year. Talk to your teacher now about altering your class schedule to allow for Chemistry next year. Study Hall will be Fridays from 12:00-2:00 at Christie Hall. We would like to encourage students to take advantage of this resource and bring in work from all subject areas.

October Pumpkin Patch Field Trip

Thursday, October 8th from 11:00-12:00 pm

Special Info: There have been some problems with rabid foxes on the Arcata Bottoms this year; however, there have been no sightings on the farm. Children and/or adults should not approach any wildlife. It is a good idea to bring a towel, tape and a pen to label your pumpkin. The North Coast Co-op is treating each student to the tour, a pumpkin, and snacks. Thank you North Coast Co-op! Extra pumpkins can be purchased with cash at the farm.

RSVP by October 1st to the school office @ 268-0854.

Directions: Take the Giuntoli Exit from Hwy 101, go west toward the ocean on Janes Road, Take a right on Heindon Road, left on Miller Lane, right on Mad River Road (visible sign directing to Mad River Beach), right turn into Paul and Carla Giuntoli's farm on the Arcata Bottoms at 1174 Mad River Road. This is the same location as last year.

Picnic Anyone?

We have two picnic tables that need to be assembled. If you would like to volunteer your skills for this task please call Jenifer @ 268-0854.

SCANTRON Testing

All students grades 3-11 are asked to take the online Scantron Test. Please call the office to set up a time (268-0854) or coordinate with your teacher.