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1 February 2008

Guiding Principle of the Week

Integrity is everything.

Community Campus Beautification Tomorrow!

Join us from 8am to noon tomorrow as we come together to beautify the Aveson campus. With Phil Hanley's guidance and your help we will be tackling the following projects:

- 1) IRRIGATION INSTALLATION (Aveson Learning Garden): Volunteers needed to trench and install PVC pipe and cGlovesontrols for the irrigation system in the garden. TOOLS NEEDED: Picks, shovels, PVC Cutters, Hand Saws, Gloves, and a positive attitude
- 2) PAINTING STORAGE CUBBIES: Volunteers needed to start painting the wood storage cubbies on the purple level. We have all the paint and supplies.
- 3) IRRIGATION REPAIR: We have recently had some pipe breakage in two locations that need repair. TOOLS NEEDED: Shovels, gloves, and a hand saw
- 4) PRESSURE WASHING A WALL: We recently removed all the old paint cans and buckets from the trash area and discovered some graffiti on the wall that must

be removed or painted over.

5) CLASSROOM PLANTERS BEAUTIFICATION: In front of all the classrooms on all levels we need to weed and remove trash and beautify the areas. TOOLS NEEDED: Yard rakes (large and small) and trash bags.

6) 3-5 DROP-OFF PLANTER BEAUTIFICATION: The planters in the driveway area could use a little TLC.

Aveson Community Forums

The Aveson Team thanks the 3-5 community for a meaningful dialogue. We value your input and look forward to the remaining seven forums in order to increase communication regarding our progress toward meeting our vision of seeing each child.

The majority of the meeting will be dedicated to discussing questions, comments and ideas submitted to forum@aveson.org prior to the Aveson Community Forum meetings. We look forward to your participation.

All meetings will take place in the cafeteria between 6:30-8:00pm.

K-2 Meeting Schedule:

March 12, May 21

3-5 Meeting Schedule:

March 19, May 28

6-9 Meeting Schedule:

February 6, March 26, June 4

Celebration of Learning Part II

Aveson is preparing for its second quarterly Celebration of Learning, which will take place on **Thursday, February 7th** and **Friday, February 8th** from **4pm to 8pm**. This is an opportunity for Aveson students and teachers to showcase their hard work - including academics, guiding principles, social leadership, healthy

living and fitness. Students will be scheduled to lead and facilitate conferences with their families during a two-hour period of time. The Celebration of learning will include presentations, artifacts, performances and of course.... food!

K-5 LOGISTICS: Your children will be scheduled for a two-hour appointment either at 4, 5 or 6pm on one of the two days. Part One- The student-led conference component will be completed by the end of the first hour. During this first hour, students will lead you through three 20-minute rotations—the Literacy/English Language Arts classroom, the Math classroom and the Projects classroom. Part Two- Students will showcase school wide presentations, projects, and artifacts of learning.

6-9 LOGISTICS: Your children will be scheduled for a two-hour appointment either at 4 or 6pm on one of the two days. Part One- The student-led conference component will be completed by the end of the first hour. During this first hour, students will lead you through four 15-minute rotations—English Language Arts classroom, the Math classroom, the Science classroom and the History classroom. Part Two- Students will showcase school wide presentations, projects, and artifacts of learning.

Please check your email for the date and time of your child's student-led conference.

Professional Development with Kate Bean & Dr. Gero

Kate Bean inspired staff today with her message of “Sustained Personal Success: Having the greatest impact for the longest period of time.” She talked about the importance of building relationships while clarifying the Aveson mission and vision. Kate emphasized the value of self-reflection, looking at our students' core strengths and seeing each child. Personalization was a highlight of today's professional development as Dr. Peter Gero was invited to share best practices on building and sustaining an exemplary culture and climate at an educational institution.

STRENGTHS

- Curiosity: Who are my students and what do they need to be successful?
- Empathy: How do my students feel about their learning? Do they understand their strengths and talents?
- Imagination: What would it be like if we could meet the needs of each student?
- Innovation: What new ideas and /or strategies will ensure maximum success for students?
- Determination: What will it take to see this success realized?
- Reflection: Are my students successful? What are next steps?
- Communication: How will I inspire students and adults to foster success in others?

Dr. Peter Gero, who presented to parents in the Fall, shared with the Aveson staff best practices around proactive teaching. He talked about the need to be organized and to make content meaningful and interesting. He emphasized that knowing students well includes being responsive to their attention spans and their learning modalities or strengths. He also discussed with teachers the importance of moving around the room and varying their presentations and how critical it is to prepare for all transitions.

Dr. Gero's message focused on the overall theme of unifying our culture and climate. He shared how whole group and individual rewards and punishments play into the culture and climate. Have expectations that are clear, consistent, and that make sense.

Dr. Gero also shared ways to motivate students by consistently using questions of students posed in a positive light. What part can you do by yourself? What part do you need help with? Is this your best work? If your grandfather were here? In addition to the questioning technique, Dr. Gero provided other tools to reach students.

Kate Bean closed the session with a powerful message about consistently demonstrating our humanity, respect and kindness.

The View from Lowell Bernstein & Aveson's Culinary Arts Kitchen

We all "tasted" the success and exhilaration of K-9's initial culinary experience during our first Celebration of Learning, when hot bowls of chili and homemade tortillas fed our community!

As soon as everybody's introduction to the kitchen and Culinary Arts classroom was complete, all Aveson students continued to focus on community and the holiday season by moving back into the culinary classroom to create *inedible* works of art. This two-part food art project was designed to help our students experience the kitchen as both a place to create palate pleasing things to eat, but also as an artistic and creative laboratory.

The result of this project was a hand-made dough picture frame embellished with a mosaic of dried beans and pastas. Vocabulary and discussion focused on the Visual Arts concepts of balance, proportion, symmetry, and repetition as well as a host of other ideas. Direct Instruction methods helped to ensure a high level of student participation and success addressing different learning modalities focusing on the auditory, visual, and kinesthetic learner.

Most recently, students were up to their elbows in garbanzo beans and tahini, pita bread and potatoes as they sharpened their peeling skills and participated in a challenging class creating hummus, baked pita chips, and potato leek soup. Once again, student results reinforced the idea that, "if they make it, they will eat it." From Kindergarten to 9th grade, the recipes were devoured, and by all accounts many students took the recipes home to make and share them with their families. At Aveson, we are striving to create a healthy food and lifestyle culture by teaching our students to prepare and appreciate the Culinary Arts. We hope that their participation will be something that brings the family closer together, spending time in the kitchen and around the table.

I am looking forward to seeing everybody at this coming week's Celebration of Learning and would like to thank you again for your continued enthusiasm and support in helping to make the Aveson Healthy Living and Culinary Arts Center everything we dream it to be!

Sincerely,
Mr. B

Myshia Moten On Culture & Climate

Culture and Climate Agreements were drafted as a way of reinforcing and clarifying the 3 B's - Be Safe, Be responsible, Be respectful. We would like 100% of our Aveson community to support our efforts to create an environment that is inspiring, creative, clean and respectful. To date, we have about 85% of the agreements returned.

Congratulations to the following advisories who have turned in 100% of the agreements:

K-2 Advisories

Thea Ulmer

Julie Truong

Jenne Sonnenberg

Cid Hanley

3-5 Advisors

Anne Hastings

Miyoko Itokazu

6-9

Laura Sanchez

If you have not done so already, please review the agreement with your student, sign and return to advisory.

Donate Your Books to Aveson's Growing Library

Come donate your books to the Aveson Library and stay to peruse our growing collection!

We will gratefully accept all treasures from Star Wars to Socrates. Chapter

books, art, history, science, young-adult and adult fiction. Simply leave your donations in the Library to be shelved. We have an open one-for-one policy. Borrow any book, and when you return it or some other book from home, borrow another one!

The Aveson Library is located in the Flex Room, where Smile-A-While is held. Aveson parent and book enthusiast Sally Seymour is in the library every Tuesday from 10:30 to 12:30. But please feel welcome to stop by to borrow or return anytime the room is open. If you have any questions or any suggestions, please email Sally at spseymour@verizon.net.

Warm Welcome

Please join us in warmly welcoming our new fitness instructor, Kenya Ellis and our new instructional aides, Rachel Chadwick (K-2) and Dawit Wolde-Yohannes, a.k.a Mr. D (6-9 and Smile-A-While.)

Sibling Enrollment

Sibling enrollment packets will be available Friday, Feb 8 in the main office. Completed sibling enrollment packets are due to the Main Office by 5pm on Feb 22nd.

Self-Employed Folk

Attention all Self-Employed Aveson Families!

Our first networking event will take place in the school cafeteria Tuesday, Feb. 19th from 6:30-8pm to create an opportunity for self-employed Aveson parents to network and introduce themselves and their businesses to one another.

We hope to see you in the cafeteria on Tuesday, February 19th from 6:30-8pm.

Thanks!

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SEEKING CLOUDS & SKY

Lost: Blue Skies and Puffy Clouds

A painting of clouds in a blue sky - hung behind the fund raising table near the Aveson Kitchen, during the first Celebration of Learning - has gone missing! Abira Ali, Aveson parent, instructional aide and artist, painted the piece on a canvas tarp measuring approximately 6x7 feet. If you have any information, or know who took down the children's art and cleared the fund raising area please contact Abira as she would like to be reunited with her painting.

You can reach Abira at 323-258-3808, or via e-mail at abiraali@mac.com.

Positive Body Image & Healthy Living for Middle School Girls

An upcoming conference for middle school girls will focus on positive body image and healthy living.

WHEN: Saturday March 15, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. WHERE: Caltech's Baxter Hall

To receive an invitation or for more information, please contact the Junior League of Pasadena at 626-796-0244 or jlpi@earthlink.net or visit their website at www.jrleaguepasadena.org.

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