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December 14, 2007

Guiding Principle of the Week

There is no such thing as too much truth.

Study Island: A Fun, Interactive California Standards Mastery Tool!

Study Island is a web-based program that provides **assessment, diagnostics, practice, and remediation** specifically for the California Content Standards in grades 2-8.

Student Benefits:

- Self-paced or teacher guided - students can work at, above, or below grade level (including high school kids)
- Real-time, measurable data shows student progress for each specific standard
- Eleven game formats offering test modes and worksheet formats.

Teacher Benefits:

- Data for identifying gaps and weaknesses BEFORE it's too late!

- Class Pages and Create-Your-Own Topic features allow teachers to customize assignments
- Wide variety of stats helps teachers differentiate instruction and give faster feedback to their students.

Please have your 2-8 grade students log you in to see the work they have been doing on Study Island. www.studyisland.com

Who, What, Where?

In an attempt to provide more support to students, staff and families, we are realigning our administrative support team. The following chart outlines some of the roles and responsibilities of the administrative team. Please direct your feedback, questions and concerns to the appropriate "go to" person listed below.

Executive Director: Kate Bean
Curriculum, Instruction & Vision

Responsibilities

- coaching staff
- school wide projects
- student leadership
- assessment data analysis
- special education
- school improvement
- budget
- facilities adjustments and improvement

Director of Community Partnerships: Felipe Velez
Community Partnerships & Resources

Responsibilities

- fundraising
- sponsorships
- guest speakers & teachers
- field trips
- mentors
- internships
- communications
- public relations

Director of Operations: TBD
Culture & Climate; Operations

Responsibilities

- school wide testing
- discipline
- school event coordination
- scheduling
- community/staff mediation
- enrichments activities

Office Manager: Delores Abdus-Shakoor
Human Resources & Information

Responsibilities

- attendance
- student records
- school information
- admissions
- health
- daily contact

Safety Reminder

All schools can have a tendency to get lax on policies and procedures at this time of year. At Aveson we cannot allow any latitude in the area of safety so we have evaluated the adherence to our safety procedures and practices.

Please note the following reminders:

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- There are only 3 drop-off and pick-up locations. The area in front of the office is not a drop-off or pick-up area. Please remind your students to go to one of the 3 designated areas.
- All K-5 students, not enrolled in Smile-A- While, must be picked-up from school by 3:45. Any students who needs to wait for an older sibling must report to Room C4 (Ms. Itokazu) and wait for their older sibling to get them at 4:00. No K-5 student can be out on campus, other than at one of the two pick-up gates, during the 3:30-4:00 time period.
- All 6-9 students, not enrolled in Smile-A- While, must be picked-up from school by 4:15.
- Uniforms- As a critical component of our Aveson culture, climate and safety plans we must have all students in Aveson colors everyday. All Aveson families committed to our Aveson agreements upon enrollment to Aveson. Please support our mission and vision by having your students in Aveson uniform. Details regarding the uniform agreement are on our website: www.aveson.org

Empathy, Feelings & Kindness: Aveson's Culture & Climate Workshops

Aveson's Culture and Climate Workshop Series began this week for grades 5-9 with Empathy, Feelings, and Kindness being the focus of our first session. Kids worked on experiencing and understanding exclusion through a group exercise. They identified and named feelings in themselves and in their peers by playing

“feelings charades”. They shared and discussed mean words and behavior that they had experienced or witnessed at their former schools and how they could do their part to make Aveson different and better.

Support from home on these themes will support and enrich school culture and climate goals. Helping children to experience empathy by asking them to “walk in someone else’s shoes”, honoring and discussing feelings of family members and others with whom they have relationships, and modeling kindness in all areas of our lives through words and actions will help our kids to do the same. This holistic approach is truly the key to our kids’ success in becoming kind and empathic members of their communities.

Workshops led by Danielle Poulson and Myshia Moten will resume for grades K-4 after the winter break and will take place on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays during morning advisory. Please be sure to have family discussions about the topics as they are addressed!

Aveson Read-A-Thon: Social Entrepreneurship in Action

The Aveson Read-A-Thon is a project completely conceived, planned and executed by a group of students in the 6-8 grades. The students would like to open an Aveson Store on campus to raise money for student activities and to give to charitable projects. In order to stock the store, they have decided to raise money through a read-a-thon event. This is social entrepreneurship in action!

Student created fliers have been sent home this week announcing the details. The dates for the read-a-thon are as follows. All read-a-thon activities will be during literacy blocks and ELA classes.

December 18- K-2

December 19- 3-5

December 20- 6-9

Please support this student-led effort to make Aveson a better place!

Gifts of Meaning

The Aveson community has joined together to raise nearly \$100 for Heifer International - enough to buy a Promise Basket! This special basket is filled with the kinds of livestock our project partners need to add protein to their diets and income to their lives - much-needed income that's used to pay for housing, clothing, schooling and medicine. The basket's geese, ducks and chickens lay eggs that provide nutrition, and the basket's rabbits multiply quickly, ensuring that other families will soon benefit from Heifer's requirement that recipients "Pass on the Gift" of their livestock's offspring.

For more inspiring stories about how gifts of livestock have transformed families and communities around the world, visit [Heifer International](#).

The last day for giving will be December 21. To participate please have your student bring donations (cash or check to Heifer International) to their advisory classes.

Until 2008 ...

This will be the last edition of the Aveson Compass for the 2007 year. We look forward to returning with exciting updates in the New Year! Classes will resume on January 7th. Wishing you all a safe and joyful winter holiday!

You are receiving this e-mail because you are an active member of the Aveson community.

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