

13 March 2009

Guiding Principle of the Week

Vision means seeing what could be and what will be and living the difference.

If You Build It... Aveson Lottery Update

As we approach our third school year, we extend our gratitude to the community of families, teachers and team members that define Aveson. Together we continue to build on our vision to provide a dynamic, free, project based learning experience for our students. This year, our collective efforts attracted over 750 visitors and 544 student applications.

For many prospective Aveson parents, Aveson's lottery admissions day on March 7th was nerve rattling. We had 42 open slots in kindergarten and 16 open slots in grades 1-11.

Here is the raw data:

K - 42 open spots; 198 applications; 156 now waiting
1 - 1 open spot; 35 now waiting, including 3 siblings of current students
2 - 1 open spot; 35 now on waiting list
3 - 0 open spots; 30 now waiting, including 2 siblings of

current students

4 - 1 open spot; 32 now on waiting list

5 - 1 open spot; 42 now waiting, including 1 sibling of a current student

6 - 0 open spots; 46 on waiting list

7 - 2 open spots; 50 on waiting list

8 - 3 open spots; 18 on waiting list

9 - 3 open spots; 33 on waiting list

10 - 4 open spots; 3 on waiting list

11 - 0 open spots; 6 on waiting list

Life on a waiting list is not easy, especially for those who have a strong desire to join us. We appreciate the energy of all applicants and are grateful for this powerful show of support.

Muchas Gracias

Thanks to everyone who attended "A Toast to Tapas" fundraiser dinner at Firefly Bistro. We had a wonderful evening enjoying sangria, tapas and friendship. We had over 35 attendees and generated over \$1,250 for our general school fund. A huge thanks goes out to Aveson parents and Firefly proprietors Paul and Monique for hosting us and to Eric Fiedler for the great background music. What a great night!

Your Book

The Aveson Yearbook Pre-Sale is on now! **Order your pre-**

sale copy of the yearbook for only \$20 through March 19th. On March 20th, the price goes up to \$25, so reserve your copy now! Our yearbook team will be at Celebration of Learning. Find us there, pick up one of our forms in the front office or download a form from the Aveson web page www.aveson.org.

Dedication lines will be sold @10 words per \$1. Include a sentiment to your child in the yearbook for just a buck!

Advertisements are \$40 per business card size ad. Please include your business card, or business card size camera ready art with your order form. Make checks out to Aveson Charter School, and hand form and \$\$ in to your child's advisor.

Questions? Contact: yearbookphotos@aveson.org

Hooray!!!! The yearbook is looking great so far - you'll want one.

Thanks,
The Yearbook Team

Factors, Dimaeters & *Pi*, Oh My!

3-5 Mathematicians observed Pi Day today - Friday, March 13th - as we have no school on March 14th (3.14). Fun, pi inspired activities included calculating pi by measuring the circumference and diameter for many sized circles, memorizing digits of pi, and, the most delicious part of the

day, eating pies!

In C-4, Renee Marcy's students are transitioning from multiplication strategies to division strategies. Students have been taught to break numbers apart using the distributive property and to use the associative property to rearrange factors so they can find equivalent products. The purpose of this kind of thinking is to develop fluency in working with factors. This is one precursor to algebra.

Ms. Sally's mathematicians have been exploring Geometry and are wrapping up their second of three math projects for the year. Each student is responsible for creating a project that will demonstrate mastery of some of the geometry standards they are learning. Projects are due just in time to display at our upcoming Celebration of Learning!

Celebrate Books at the Celebration of Learning

It's time to celebrate learning at Aveson! Come to the showcase portion of the Celebration of Learning on Wed. and Thurs., March 18-19, and join us in the Cave for a some major book shopping! You can stock up on some good reads for spring break and, at the same time, earn credits for our school that help us stock classroom libraries at all grade levels. The more books we sell, the more books we earn for Aveson. Plus, Scholastic prices nearly always beat retail. Check out some of this fair's offerings at <http://www.scholastic.com/bookfairs/books/elem.asp>. Volun

teers are still needed to help staff the fair. If you can help, email susanhixon@aveson.org.

Fresh Aveson Team Wear Coming Your Way

Are you ready for some new spring additions to your wardrobe? We will be selling new Avesonwear, including new t-shirts (short and long sleeve, \$10 and \$15 each) and sweatshirts (\$25) at next week's Celebration of Learning. We'll also have new sample items for ordering, including some polo style shirts and even an Aveson tote bag. Thanks to volunteer Yvette Romero for organizing the renewal of our teamwear.

Aveson's 1st Annual Campus Camp Out Saturday April 25!

Sign-ups for Aveson's first campus camp night will be March 18 & 19 at Celebration of Learning in the Auditorium. If you would like to help plan our first school camping adventure, please e-mail Caroline Bencze-Fernandez cbencze@sbcglobal.net. Please note, this event is weather permitting.

Ripe for Rummage

The Aveson Arts Rummage Sale last year raised over

\$5,000 for the school in a single day! This money benefited our children's education and - thanks to the tireless efforts of Aveson Parent and Music Club Director Michael Grenier - organizing the sale requires little financial input. Unsold rummage items benefited local families, businesses, new mothers and elderly people.

Today's financial climate makes an event like this more important, not just because of the much needed money it raises, but because of the empowering message it sends to our children. The Arts Rummage Sale is not just a fundraiser, but a demonstration of our community spirit, our environmental sensitivity and our resourcefulness.

You can help by donating your unneeded items of good quality and condition. In exchange, you will receive a tax deduction together with our thanks. You can bring donations anytime to the upper (K-2) gate or bring it to school during the Golden boot contest (to be announced) to count for your advisory. Sorry, but we can't accept couches, overstuffed furniture, mattresses or televisions. Need help hauling donations? Call Michael and the truck with the duck will gratefully pick them up. Yes, the duck was in fact an 2008 donation. Scary, isn't it? This could happen to you....

We are still looking for a home to store our year round collections. The Arts Rummage Sale earning potential is greatly enhanced if we can collect and safely store items year round. If you have or know of a large storage space,

please contact Michael at 818-554-6678.

P.S. Rummage Make Over

The Aveson Arts Rummage Sale has a new look in 2009. This year we are running several yard sales simultaneously at various locations. At each "Treasure Hunt" location will be maps to the other sales and a coupon at each location will give you a discount at the next. We need at least three families to host Aveson yard sales and be "Treasure Hunt" locations on May 2nd. If you can help, please contact Michael at 818-554-6678.

From the Compost Pile: Abe Lincoln, Box Car Willie, Red Fig... Aveson's learning garden continues to thrive. We are approaching the transition from our Fall/Winter garden to our Spring/Summer crops - a very exciting time in the garden! Berries and grapes have gone in along the wall and the fruit trees have been pruned. The K-2 cadre started heirloom tomato seeds of different varieties last week. We talked about what heirloom seeds are and how they have been passed down for at least 100 years. We planted "Abe Lincoln", "Box Car Willie", and "Red Fig" tomato seeds. All are from different periods of American history. If the plants thrive they will be part of seedling sale to take place in the garden after Spring Break. 3-5 Cadre has begun soil remediation on the strip in front of their classrooms. They have planted over 200 sunflower seeds with the help of the K-2. The idea is that the roots of the sunflowers will help to break up the hard soil and bring up nutrients from down below yielding a beautiful sunflower forest. Post blooms, the sunflower remains will turn into organic mulch for the area over the summer so that the soil is ready for perennial planting in the fall. The method we

are using may seem slow to many of you. We could just bring in a rototiller and new topsoil, but we are trying to demonstrate the effectiveness of inexpensive, organic materials and methods while keeping the soil structure intact. The garden outside of Miss Hanks rooms is beautiful, and the children have begun tasting the fruits of their labor. A box outside of Mr. Hyatt's room is ready for planting. We will plant as soon as the weather warms up a little more. We also have citrus trees to be put in boxes that will be placed behind the kitchen. **NEEDED** We need Trader Joe 1/2 to 1 gallon juice bottle for watering. Please bring them in to the 3-5 classrooms. We desperately need a 100' non-kink hose on the orange level for this project to succeed. To get your hands dirty, or to make a donation, please contact Aveson's Master Gardener Jill at

freshvine@sbcglobal.net. **Restaurant Nite:**

Wednesday 18 March

Aveson receives hundreds of dollars from restaurants that support our restaurant nights. Join us this Wednesday at Sharky's Mexican Grill for some delicious, healthy fare. From the Sharky's website: " 'Changing the way the word eats,' that's what we're all about. Our mission comes down to three things: eating great healthy food; using fresh, natural and organic ingredients; ...and having fun doing it!"

Sharky's Mexican Grill 841 Cordova St. (just West of Lake Ave.)

(626) 568-3500

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Mar. 18 Celebration of Learning (early release 1:30)

Mar. 18 Scholastic Book Fair, 4:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.

Mar. 18 Restaurant Night at Sharky's Mexican Grill, 841 Cordova, West of Lake

Mar. 19 Celebration of Learning (early release 1:30)

Mar. 19 Scholastic Book Fair, 4:00 p.m.- 7:30 p.m.

Mar. 20 No School

Mar. 22 Pasadena Marathon... Good luck Aveson runners!

Mar. 23-April 3 SPRING BREAK. No school. Have a ball.

Apr. 6 Back to School

Apr. 8 Community Day

Apr. 8 Parent Education Night with Waist-Less Living
<http://www.wastelessliving.com/>

Apr. 15 K-5 Community Forum, 6:30 p.m.

Apr. 17 K-5 Potluck Mixer, 6:00 p.m.

Apr. 18 Aveson Bingo Night, 5:00 p.m.

Apr. 22 6-10 Community Forum, 6:30 p.m.

Apr. 25 Aveson Family Campout

May 2-3 Annual Rummage Sale

Jun. 6 June Jubilee