

30 January 2009

Guiding Principle of the Week

Integrity is everything.

Phil Fest Shines On

What an incredible evening we shared on Saturday night! Who knew Aveson had such a depth of talent? Wow! Our thanks go out to each brave performer and to Eric Kinley for so graciously putting it all together. Thanks also to the visual artists who displayed their work and to the loyal volunteers who contributed so much delicious food. The event was recorded and a video project has been made in which some students and staff were able to send personal messages to Phil. Not only did we raise nearly \$2,000 for the Hanley family but we embodied the Aveson spirit that shines in Phil Hanley even during these difficult days. Thanks, again, to all.

Parent Education Night, 6: Wednesday February 11th 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Author, psychologist and Aveson parent Sam Alibrando will apply his Interpersonal Triangle model from his lauded book, *Follow the Yellow Brick Road: How to Change for the Better When Life Gives You Its Worst*. After he introduces this simple yet empowering model, he will use the contents as a springboard to facilitate a lively and important discussion about parenting - one of life's most important, joyous and (at times) challenging responsibilities.

Music to Our Ears

The Music Action Team is busily working to bring musical experiences to Aveson students. To this end we are happy to announce the formation of an after school chorus for 3-5 graders led by Westridge School seniors Kim Mok & Laura Gardiner!

Find Your Voice with Kim & Laura

Hello,

We are seniors Kim Mok and Laura Gardiner from Pasadena's Westridge School for Girls. As seniors at Westridge, we have the privilege of participating in a community service senior project. We have both been heavily involved in music, and so we decided to incorporate our musical interest into our senior projects by creating an after-school chorus for students in grades 3-5. Our experiences in music have helped us gain self-confidence and learn responsibility, and we hope to share our love of music with Aveson.

We will hold rehearsals after school every Tuesday in the Aveson Auditorium (stage side) from 3:15-4:00 p.m. Participation is free and students only need to bring a folder and a pencil to their first rehearsal. Rehearsals will begin February 10th and we will work towards a final performance at the end of May. Rehearsals will teach basic theory and help students find their voice.

We will be on campus next Tuesday, February 3rd, passing out flyers in the carpool line, so if you have any additional questions please don't hesitate to ask.

To reserve your student's spot - so we can provide the correct amount of music - please return the permission slip that will be on the bottom of the flyers and return to the "Choir Box" in the office by February 9th.

We hope to have as many participants as possible, and look forward to sharing our musical experiences with Aveson's 3rd-5th graders.

~Kimi Mok & Laura Gardiner

OSCAR Couldn't Make It - DATE CHANGE FOR A Toast to Tapas Fundraising Dinner

We did not take Oscar Night into account when we scheduled our fundraising dinner. Due to the conflict, we have moved our evening of tapas to SUNDAY, MARCH 1st. Hopefully more of you can join us. Please send your checks ASAP if you plan on attending. Space is limited.

The evening, hosted by Owner Chefs and Aveson parents, Paul Rosenbluh and Monique King, will be a Spanish theme where a variety of delicious tapas and sangria wine will be offered. Tickets are \$75 per person and over 45% will go directly back to our school. Since seating is limited to 36, reserve your seats now by sending a check directly to Cynthia Cohn (made out to Aveson Charter School) at 2060 Paloma Street, Pasadena, CA 91104 at your earliest convenience. Any questions contact Cynthia at 626.818.2577. We look forward to putting the fun in fundraiser at this celebratory event. Thanks so much for your support and to Paul and Monique for having us!

Firefly Bistro is located at 1009 El Centro St., South Pasadena, CA 91030

Building Curriculum & Community: 3 Teachers Share the View from their Cadre

From Rachel Chadwick
K-2 Literacy Specialist

"Things have been running along wonderfully on the K-2 level! In the Project Classroom, we are exploring sound energy through inquiry based activities. Coming up... the 100th day of school and Dr. Seuss's birthday! We are excited about our Eaton

Canyon field trip, February 9th and we are also planning a spring outing, so stay tuned. In Literacy, we have been working with the theme, "It's a small world," and learning about other cultures and countries. The Kinder integration has been running smoothly and our students' reading progress is exciting. Thanks for all the parent support and involvement! We welcome your continued support in the classroom and during our outdoor adventures to Eaton Canyon."

From Sally Davis
3-5 Math Specialist

"Upon our return from Winter Break in January, the 3-5 cadre rolled out our program for Wednesday electives. On non-Community Day Wednesdays, 3-5 students now rotate through three elective blocks instead of their regular three block schedule. A student interest survey was conducted in November. Each advisor then selected a topic from those that received the highest scores. The end result is that Kirk Melkonian is teaching an art class, Bridget Hanks is conducting classes in drama, students are learning origami from Renee Marcy, Sally Davis is teaching some of the science processes along with introducing music from around the world, and Literacy Advisors, Casey Moore and Jennifer Carey, are conducting Readers' Workshop. We have had three meetings thus far, and results have been positive enough for us to commit to continue through the remainder of the year.

Dedicated 3-5 Parent Liaisons hosted a Parent Coffee in the Flex Room Wednesday morning, Jan 28, complete with gourmet snacks. The 3-5 Advisors simulated an advisory circle with a sampling of the types of interactive activities that Aveson students experience during our precious advisory time together, including an activity to highlight our Guiding Principles. Participants were also asked to discuss their vision for Aveson in small groups, and then consolidate their thoughts into one phrase or sentence to share with the entire group. The predominant theme was "community"; a sense of belonging and being accountable to one another and our environment. Thanks to all that supported this valuable event, including the administration staff that supervised the students while the advisors socialized with parents.

Monday, February 2nd is our third of four field trips to Eaton Canyon where children are able to experience this exciting outdoor classroom, right in our own neighborhood. One of the highlights of these trips is observing the students that are new to Eaton Canyon learn from the those that have been frequent visitors with their scouting groups, camp groups, or families. Each experience has been a little different and, because we spread out the trips over the entire year, it has been fun to note the seasonal changes that are taking place. We observed a few small tadpoles in the pond near the picnic tables during our December visit. Can you imagine what this everchanging ecosystem will look like two months later?

Fourth graders have started preparation for the Writing Exam that comes up in March. All advisors are supplementing the instruction being provided by the literacy advisors so that the students will receive even more experience and practice."

From Tom Hyatt
History Advisor 6-9th Grade

"I am planning a trip to Riley's Farm for the entire 6th-8th grade. The cost is \$25 dollars. We are shooting for March 5 - Riley's Farm is going to customize a 4 hour experience centering around Westward Expansion and the Gold Rush days - www.rileysfarm.com.

We just finished up a Poetry Unit in 8th grade ELA. Students wrote 12 different poems, and even analyzed each others work. They are all posted on their individual websites. Currently, we are working on Career Documents, writing resumes, cover letters, and gathering letters of rec. Students will interview for a job with Hyatt Co. next week. Look for the 8th grade around campus as they come to school dressed up.

My Playwriting workshop is going well. We have 7 full length plays written by students. We are looking to do a staged reading some time after the spring break.

We are rehearsing three days a week on HAMLET, as well as JAMES and the GIANT PEACH. Ralph Seymour, parent volunteer, is the lead Director - HAMLET will be staged in late March, while JAMES hits the stage in June.

New electives start on Feb 18 - We are desperately looking for parent or community support to either offer a creative enrichment opportunity or elective, or perhaps to volunteer along side a current elective, such as Drama, Playwriting, Dance, Green Team, Gardening, and even our ELA and Math Labs.

Check out Mr. Tom's electives websites located on the toolbar of Mr. Tom's website. The Eaton Canyon Club is up and running. Danielle Paulsen is our parent liason - We are designing our own projects as we visit the canyon once or twice a month. Check out our Eaton Canyon website.

As always, visit Mr. Tom's website for the latest happenings!"

Lose Fat & Give Back

Aveson parent and professional fitness trainer Stephen Cooper will host his first 3 week fat burning Fitness Bootcamp beginning February 16th on Aveson's hilly campus. 10% of all proceeds will go to equipping Aveson students with physical education equipment. This is a great opportunity to get in shape, give to the school and model healthy lifestyle habits. Each 3 week session is \$135.

A.M. Session 5:45-6:30am
P.M. Session 6:00-6:45pm - NEARLY FULL

For more details, visit www.bootcamppasadena.com.

Tents, Potlucks & Campfire Songs, Oh My!

Save the Date for the first annual Aveson Family Camp Out on April 25, 2009. Tents on the field, potluck dinner, storyteller, campfire songs and breakfast in the morning! If you are interested in helping plan this event please contact Stephanie Blank, Greta Vrsalovich or Caroline Fernandez at cbencez@sbcglobal.net or johnngreta@earthlink.net

Due to the confines of the field, space will be limited.

You Give Twice When You Give Quickly - The 2009 Annual Fund Donors List

Our special thanks to those families who have already contributed to realizing our Annual Fund Goal. We look forward to sharing this growing list with you at the end of each month.

Total Contributions as of Jan. 30, 2009: \$33,310

Number of Contributing Families: 92

Number of Students Funded: 133

Total Aveson Enrollment: 410

Contributing Families

William and Karen Aenlle

Sonja and Albert Alarr

Geoffrey Albert and Sydney Minckler

Anonymous

Arthur Atkins

Kate Bean and Meredith King

Daphne Beard-Jones

Cary and Beverly Belling

Caroline Bencze-Fernandez

Kathryn Beranich and Stephanie Freidenreich

Kimberly and Jonathan Berry

Alex and Grant Besser

Lucy Bloom and Kevin Hagerty

Joan Bongolan

Michelle Bowman

Loretta Brantley

Erin and Rick Buoen

Wade Butcher and Sonsoles Cardalliaguet

Harriet and Arthur Carlisle

Enzo and Petra Cesario

Rachel Chadwick

Alma Cielo

Cynthia and Mark Cohn

Jessica Coker/ J. L. Smith

Charles Collings and Tine Haurum

Madelena and Stephen Cooper

William and Liz Culpepper

Denzil DaCosta

Sally Davis

Jennifer Devonshire

Lori and Gaylord Eckles

Eric Einem

Alfred and Sabine Eisaian

John Endieveri and Lisa Mann

Grace Fernandez-Mollahassani

Dan Fesman and Liz Maxwell

Eric and Leslie Fiedler

Kelly Forden

Ana Galvan

Hurfessa Gemechu

Jane Glenn and Susan Hixon

Melinda and Grady Goddard

Lorraine and Allen Greaves

Beth and David Grecu

Matt and Sarah Greene-Baer

Michael and Doeri Greiner

Bridget and Cale Hanks

Liane and Larry Herbst

Marcia Hickrod

Larry Hixon and Sheryn Scott

Stephanie and James Irey

Elizabeth and Adrian Jebef

Karen Johnston

Maggie Joyet

Jeff and Claudia Kam

Anton Kapustin and Michele Pickerell

James Knowles

Margaret Leahy

Chavonne Long

Renee Marcy

Eugen and Daniela Matei

Elizabeth and Doug McCallie

Io McNaughton and Tobin Brenard

Kirk Merkonian

Cassandra and Douglas Miller

Casey Moore

Myshia Moten

Layne Murphy

Mary Newcombe

Mary and Levi Nunez

Rachel Olguin

Kelly Peters

Colette and Benjamin Porter

Danielle and Tom Poulsen

Annika Rahe

Carol Raymond

William and Mary Sue Rehwald

Anne Richardson-Daniel

Mark and Kristina Rokey

Sue and Steve Rose

Pamela Rumps

Zeeba Sanchez

Neil and Margarethe Segil

Sally Seymour

Julie and Daniel Sheehy

Suzanne and Herbert Siegel

Diane Simonson

Jerry and Leonor Skillet

Antonieta and Rick Sosa

Alice and Kevin Taylor (Acuspa)

Vicki and Evan Thompson

Henry and Claudine Tonarely

Thea Ulmer

Anna and Glenn Walker

Terri Walton and Wallis Sholar

Jennifer West and Gillian Molina

James Whisenant and Susan Dow

Claire Williams

Jane and Jeff Williams

Amy Wong-Martinez

Jeanette and Samuel Wu

Larry and Susan Wyatt