

14 February 2009

Guiding Principle of the Week

When identifying problems, offer strategies and solutions.

Aveson Community Action Alert! **Sign the Petition to Keep Our Campus**

It's time to take a stand in support of our school! It's true that some local residents are opposing the renewal of our lease at the current Pinecrest site. Here are 3 things you can do to help:

1. Please read and sign the letter of support for Aveson connected to this link:
<http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/avesoncharterschool/> All individuals of voting age can sign the letter, especially residents of Pasadena, Altadena and Sierra Madre (PUSD jurisdiction). Let's have signatures from 100% of our families! A hard copy of the letter is located in the front office for those who prefer not to sign online.
2. Show the naysayers that we can be good neighbors! Please conduct all drop-off and pick-up at the designated sites on campus. When you are turning into our lot on Skyview Dr., remember to yield to Pinecrest traffic. Also, you can help by **avoiding the Pinecrest/Allen/Altadena Drive intersection altogether when you are leaving campus**, particularly as you depart from the 3-5 drop-off.
3. Share your story and spread the word! Don't

hesitate to say positive things about Aveson whenever you can. Word of mouth is a key part of our image in the community. Please pass the letter of support link on to your contacts and help us spread the good news about Aveson Charter School.

<http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/avesoncharterschool/>

Here's the Letter, Pass It On

Dear Superintendent Diaz and Members of the PUSD Board of Education,

Aveson Charter School is implementing an exciting and innovative K-12 model that is changing students' lives. We respectfully request that you allow this ground breaking work to continue by renewing Aveson's lease at the 1919 E. Pinecrest site in Altadena.

Personalized Learning

Aveson's educational program is based in part on personalized learning, a concept which recognizes that students learn differently and deserve a learning environment that meets their individual needs. Aveson endeavors to provide the right instruction for the right student at the right time. Multi-age groupings are a key to this model, where students receive instruction based on their level of academic achievement, not their age. The K-12 setting facilitates flexibility across all grade levels, including the middle and upper grades. At the same time, students can contribute to classroom achievement by becoming peer tutors in their strongest subjects. This boosts camaraderie in

a small learning environment. Likewise, the K-12 context becomes a professional learning community for teachers who are encouraged to share knowledge on how best to meet student needs across grade levels and subject areas.

Social Leadership

Aveson also places very high value on developing social leadership skills. Come to campus any day and see upper school and elementary students interacting in a myriad of ways. Upper school students learn about the culinary arts and food production. They help serve home-cooked lunch to students of all ages every day. Upper schoolers help young students at the lunch table, on the playground and as teachers' aides in classrooms. Students of all ages gather in multi-age villages once a month to promote relationships and learning across age groups. Big kids become mentors and role models. All students share a set of guiding principles and a stand-up pledge that affirm our belief in the value of community building: every person, regardless of age, has a role to play and is important.

Aveson Charter School is providing this vital public service to students from all social and economic groups within Pasadena Unified School District and beyond. This education model is unique not only within PUSD, but on a statewide and national level. It gives parents a choice and it is working. Aveson's K-5 and 6-12 students earned the highest API scores in the elementary and secondary categories, respectively, during the school's very first year of operation. Hundreds of families are touring the campus and participating in our annual admissions lottery, even though we have very few open spots available each year. More importantly, Aveson students themselves not only feel they

have a voice, but they understand why learning is so critical to them individually and collectively.

We ask that you allow this innovative K-12 model to reach its full potential and to thrive. Remaining on a single school site is crucial to this endeavor. Please vote to continue Aveson's lease at the current 1919 E. Pinecrest site. As Aveson students frequently say, lives are changing at this school in so many exciting ways.

Sincerely,

Supporters of Aveson Charter School

Neighborhood Action Team

If you live within ¼ mile of campus, please consider joining us this Tuesday night, Feb. 17, at 6:30. We will be discussing ways we can reach out to neighbors who are opposing the renewal of Aveson's lease.

Heart to Heart

Get ready to have a Field Day, Aveson! February 20, 2009, is our JUMP ROPE FOR HEART event. Eric Kinley will be on the field and playcourts all day with some fantastic athletic activities. It's time to get your ticker pumping with basketball, jump rope, hopscotch and all kinds of other fun games and competitions. Students are encouraged to participate on that Friday and to help raise funds for the American Heart Association. There are flyers in the front office or you can get general information at www.americanheart.org/jump.

The View from K-2

Another great, fun, never a dull moment, week on the K-2 level! The kids have been really excited to be learning about sound and vibrations in their Project classrooms. Today the students "made a lion roar" by creating sound vibrations along a string and paper clip attached to a styrafoam cup. Very fun! In Literacy we have been reading folk tales from different countries, finding their "universal truth" and how these small stories connect to our own lives. The kids are surprisingly wise in their ability to pull out the moral of each story, especially our kinders!

On March 2nd, we will head to Eaton Canyon, a trip we always look forward to. Being out in nature is always a refreshing change of pace in our Aveson community. We announced our spring field trip this week, which will be on May 28th at the Aquarium of the Pacific, in Long Beach. The kids are very excited, and we have already sent home slips providing information on the trip.

This past Friday, February 13th, we will celebrated K-2 "Friendship Day." Students were encouraged to make friendship notes at home for each student in their advisory. These handmade notes were then hand delivered to their peers. Students took great pleasure in giving and receiving these thoughtful expressions of friendship. Thanks for all

the parent support, teacher commitment, and wonderful students!

Resturant Night February 24th at Maria's Italian Kitchen

Come join Aveson friend and family for piles of pasta and salads fit for a meal at Maria's Italian Kitchen on Tuesday, February 24th.

3537 E Foothill Blvd
Pasadena, CA 91107
(626) 351-2080

Flyers will be available in the front office and on [our website.](#)

K-2 Eaton Canyon Adventure Rescheduled for March 2nd

The K-2 Eaton Canyon Trip which was rained out this week has been re-scheduled to Monday, March 2.

Adviser Schedule:

Sonnenberg, Hanley, Simonsen/Culpepper – 9:00-11:30 (snack)

Ulmer, Cranston-Cuebas, Detwiler/Chadwick– 11:30-2:00 (sack lunch)

Please help your student come to school prepared that day:

Wear proper footwear for hiking and clothing for the day's weather

Bring a sack lunch (group 2), or pre-order an Aveson sack lunch.

Bring a water bottle.

Dress in Aveson team wear.

Parents are warmly welcomed to attend. Please meet us at the Canyon.