

27 February 2009

Guiding Principle of the Week

How you say it is as important as what you say.

Power in Numbers: Aveson Stands Up at PUSD Board of Education Meeting

"At the last board meeting, I was outnumbered by speakers who had some negative things to say about Aveson. But for this meeting, we wanted to share our story. We wanted you to get to know us, so I brought my family with me."

~ Kate Bean

A big THANK YOU to every single person who showed up at the PUSD meeting Feb. 24. We had 12 speakers and they all did a tremendous job. We also packed the seats and the hall and the overflow room where TV monitors showed the whole meeting. We delivered our Letter of Support for Aveson to the board members, along with 558 signatures, 70% of which were from the voting cities of Altadena, Pasadena and Sierra Madre.

Now that the board is more familiar with our community, we will continue our efforts to be good neighbors. The board will come to a final conclusion regarding this year's lease by April 1, 2009. We feel positive that our renewal will succeed.

Special thanks to those who stood up for us. Grown-ups

and students alike were prepared... and brave! You can watch the proceedings on the [PUSD website](#) once the recording is posted. Some words from our students:

"I have a friend who's older than me at Aveson. He's really nice. And one time, his recess was at the same time as my P.E. And even though I didn't make any points, he was watching and he said I did amazing. That made me feel great!"

~ Leah Hanley, 3rd grade

"I was at another institution, a public school, that just wasn't working for me. But when I came to Aveson, it was like: this school fits me. It's because everything is based on where I am in my personal learning. And Kate has this leadership class where we get to talk and help make decisions. This is such a great school!" ~ Chris Poulsen, 6th grade

"I like Aveson because I get to work with the younger students. I have a reading buddy and we read to each other. I help out when he gets stuck and he even helps me when I have trouble. Also, Aveson is great because I got to skip two grades in math and now I can do classes with some of the older kids, so that's really cool." ~ Purag Moumdjian, 6th grade

"One thing that happened to me while I've been at Aveson is that I got out of - or, I guess, I exited - the special education program. That's because this place is so great. And there is a lot of mentoring at the school. We get to be mentors with the younger kids and I have a mentor. I got to be part of the construction team and my mentor

was Phil Hanley. And, even though he got hurt, our prayers are with him. Having a mentor like Phil makes such a huge difference." ~ Jonathan Williams, 10th grade

PUSD Post Script: Neighborhood Action Team Meeting Wednesday, March 4, 2008 6:30 p.m.

In follow up to the PUSD board meeting, there will be a Neighborhood Action Team meeting on Wed., March 4 at 6:30 p.m. Please join us! We will be working on the proactive steps that we outlined at the PUSD Board of Education meeting on Tuesday. This will including planning the volunteer outreach activities taking place during the week of March 9-13.

If you can volunteer to hand out fliers and maps at drop-off and pick-up times during the week of March 9-13, please email Erin at erinbuoen@aveson.org. We welcome your help with this, even if you are not able to attend the organizing meeting on March 4. Thanks!

Talent + Generosity = Beautiful New Sign for Aveson

Here's a reality bite: some of us have terrific skills and talents but little time and energy to put them to work for a good cause. Others of us do have time and energy to devote, especially to Aveson... but we may not have the

specific skill sets or strengths that match school needs at a given moment. Check out our new sign on the front wall as you turn into Aveson. This project was a true labor of love on behalf of Michael Greiner, who helped turn the brick wall into a paintable surface; John Serembe, who helped project our logo onto the white background, and Lynette Serembe, who masterfully hand-painted our logo without stencils, decals or other expensive techniques. To all those involved, we thank you for putting a great new face on our campus. This sign has been a long time coming and it's been worth the wait!

Talent + Generosity = Great Electives for Grades 6-10

Here is yet another example of parents doing their all for our kids. Students in grades 6-10 got to choose from a most excellent list of Wednesday electives this term. Our heartfelt thanks go out to these parents, who show up every week from February through June with expertise and enthusiasm to spare:

Susan Dow: Horsemanship

Carol Raymond: Climate Changers

John Serembe: Film (now in its 2nd year)

Lulu Vallee Escott : Intro to Design

Ralph Seymour - Drama (also directing two full productions after school) (for the 2nd year)

These volunteers have written complete course

descriptions. Any parent who wants to assist a current elective or offer their own enrichment or elective activity is encouraged to contact Mr. Tom at tomhyatt@aveson.org.

We're Having a Fabulous Year... Don't Forget It!

Deadlines for the AVESON YEARBOOK Fast Approaching

The Aveson Yearbook Pre-Sale is on now! Order your pre-sale copy of the yearbook for only \$20! The pre-sale price is good through March 19th. On March 20th, the price goes up to \$25, so reserve your copy now! Pre-sale envelopes were sent home with your child, but if you did not receive one, or misplaced it, please pick one up in the office or please download the attached form to order.

We are also able to offer dedication lines at 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.

Please make checks out to Aveson Charter School and return your order form and money to your child's advisor.

Any questions? Contact: yearbookphotos@aveson.org

Thanks,
The Yearbook Team

We're Off to Eaton

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.

From the Compost Pile, *Really*

The garden has grown considerably with our recent rains. Please take a walk up there with you child. We have sifted our first loads of soil from the compost pile. This is very exciting. Our kitchen scraps are now turning into soil which is being returned to the garden to help grow more food.

K-2 has been enjoying all of the crops in the garden. We are beginning to look at the transition to the Spring/Summer garden and what changes (and pests) that brings.

The 3-5 cadre has begun some soil remediation on their level. We have planted alfalfa and sunflowers to help break up the compaction in front of their class rooms. With some luck we will have a sunflower forest by the end of the year. This group has also taken responsibility for the fruit trees on the lawn south of their level. Please send in Trader Joe large juice bottles for watering.

The elective classes have begun again and will be implementing permaculture principles in the gardens around campus. They will also be starting seeds for an heirloom seedling sale to take place in late March.

Each cadre could use a 100' non-kink hose and an adjustable spray nozzle.

Bringing History to Life with 3-5th Grade Projects Teacher Mr. Melkonian

C1 projects is completing student-created projects focusing on the conflict between the cultures of the English Colonists and the Iroquois and Ojibwa peoples.

Students are developing multi-media projects including digital media, working models, authentic materials, drama, and culinary arts. Our focus is on the process of asking meaningful questions and using a variety of resources to find answers, as well as making relevant connections to our contemporary lives. Student project teams will be showcasing their projects, presenting to audiences at the Celebration of Learning.

Doing Your Taxes? Get Organized for the Long Term!

Parent Education Night, March 11, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. will feature Alex Ruzich, Senior Vice President at Primerica Financial Services. Alex is a financial planner for individuals and families. In his presentation on March 11, he will use real words to tell us about complicated financial subjects that touch us all. As a follow-up to his presentation, Alex is offering a free consultation session to any interested Aveson family. He can assist you in creating your own financial plan... which could be the tool that helps you actually save money for college, even though you're in the hole now! Don't miss it.

The 6-10 Sound Bite

Celebration of Learning is coming soon and 6-10th graders can't wait to show off!

Ms. Miyoko's Science classes are learning about acids and

bases - and to demonstrate their knowledge they want to clean your silverware or any silver items. Bring them along to the celebration so 6-8 students can show off their silver cleaning inventions.

Ms. Jami is getting the 7th graders ready for the CST Writing exam. Her classes are embroiled in the wonderful world of poetry. Haiku's, Limericks and Free Verse are flying!

As part of their Persuasion and Propaganda unit, 8th graders are reading Animal Farm and writing persuasive essays. Keep an ear out for an Aveson soapbox near you.

Next Thursday the entire 6-8th grade is off to Riley's Farm to experience the Gold Rush era. This field study promises to be an amazing hands on experience. We can't wait.

Like Math OR Want to Like Math? Join the Aveson 3-5 Math Club!

The first weekly meeting will be on
World Math Day
Wednesday, March 4
from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.
in Room C3 (Sally Davis' room)

Join us to learn fun math games and to challenge your

brain.

For questions or if you are interested in helping, e-mail Christine Goff at christinegoff@gmail.com

Got Recess? Playground Volunteers Needed Next Week

We are in need of volunteers next week (Monday-Friday) for the lunch/recess supervision. Please take a look at your busy schedules and consider giving us some time to make sure our kids stay safe. We would like at least 2 people per shift. Please reply to me at erinbuoen@aveson.org or give me a call at 626.432.6859 and let me know when you can help!

Thanks so much in advance for your time and commitment to our kids.

Here is the Lunch/Recess Schedule Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday:

6-8 Lunch 11:35-11:50

6-8 Recess 11:50-12:15 (lower yard)

K-2 Lunch 12:05-12:25

K-2 Recess 12:30-12:50 (upper yard)

3-5 Lunch 12:45-1:05

3-5 Recess 1:10-1:30 (upper yard)

9-10 Lunch 1:15-1:30

9-10 Recess 1:30-1:55 (lower yard)

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE:

K-2 Lunch 11:10-11:30

K-2 Recess 11:30-11:55 (upper yard)

6-8 and 9-10 combined Lunch/Recess 11:40-12:10

3-5 Recess (field or grassy area)

3-5 Lunch 12:10-12:30

No Diner Left Behind: Reconciling Our Lunch Accounts

Thank you for your participation in and support of the Aveson School Lunch Program. Since the first day of service last October, we are happy to report that we have served more than 17,000 meals, working to continuously develop and move toward our goal, which is school-wide lunches for all Aveson students and staff.

As a result of our overwhelming success, we have also faced significant challenges. Our greatest challenge to date has been in the area of individual account reconciliation and the processing of payments through Lunchdeposit.com. High volume and limited staff have contributed to our less than timely management and reconciliation of student lunch accounts. As of February 22, 2009, all accounts are reconciled and updated, showing an accurate account balance as of January 31, 2009. Balances will be updated through February 20, by the end of February.

We accept full responsibility for not having this information up to date in a timely fashion, and because of this, we have never denied a student a lunch, regardless of whether a student's account carried a positive balance. However, now that all accounts are reconciled, many will find that the account shows a negative balance. We have carefully accounted for all of our meals served, and feel confident that the balance on your account is accurate.

We have accepted the responsibility of providing meals to our community. Now we are depending on the support of the community we have served to reconcile negative balances and make deposits to ensure our ability to continue to provide our students with hot and healthy meals on a daily basis. Your action at this time will provide us with the support needed to continue menu development, and to improve service in all areas. You will help make it possible for us to continue this groundbreaking undertaking, as the only public school in Pasadena offering a fresh hand-made lunch to its students and staff every school day.

Please take this opportunity to clear negative balances and make deposits for student lunches moving forward.

While we encourage all families to open accounts with lunchdeposit.com, if you continue to pay by personal check, please include the name of the student on the check to ensure accuracy in crediting your account.

And finally, please make every effort to place orders in advance with the monthly menu and order form. Your anticipation greatly helps us to make accurate purchases, limit waste and, most importantly, always fulfill our commitment to feed our students every school day.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lowell Bernstein, Director
Aveson Healthy Living and Culinary Arts

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Mar. 1 A Toast to Tapas Fundraiser at Firefly Bistro
- Mar. 2 Eaton Canyon Field Trip Makeup Day K-2
- Mar. 3 Read Across America (Dr. Seuss Day)
- Mar. 7 Aveson 2009-2010 Admissions Lottery, 10:00 a.m.
- Mar. 11 Community Day
- Mar. 11 Parent Education Seminar, 6:30 p.m. with Financial Planner Alex Ruzich
- Mar. 18-19 Celebration of Learning
- Mar. 23 thru April 3 Spring Break
- Apr. 25 Aveson Campus Camp Out
- May 2-3 Annual Rummage Sale
- Jun. 6 June Jubilee