

20 June 2008

Guiding Principle of the Week

Integrity is Everything.

Aveson Founder Amy McCammon Whooshes the Team

On behalf of the Aveson Team, I would like to acknowledge the amazingly wonderful work that has been invested in various projects throughout the year by so many of you.

The Whooshes--not to be confused with the copyrighted Whoosh (c)--go out to the entire community of students, families and staff.

Whoosh (c)--we completed an amazing first year of a K-9, multi-age, multi-grade public charter school.

Stupendous!!

Words of Gratitude from Aveson Parent

I'm not sure my words can express my gratitude to you, but I'm going to try.

I know this year has been quite a ride. Through it we've had tears, change, loss, gain, laughter, and learning.

We've come together to create a school, to build a community.

We've made discoveries...

things that have worked, things that have not;
things we will do again next year, and things we will do differently.

We have made new friends, fought to make a difference, rode the waves.

We are making history, all of us together...parents, students, teachers, staff and administration.

THANK-YOU for your hours of time, love and dedication. You have all helped to make a dream come true.

As I reflect on this past year, one word comes to mind and it's love. I see and feel it everywhere, from the simple waves of hello I receive wherever I am on campus, to the hours of time people put in. If people didn't love and believe in what they do, this wouldn't work. THANK-YOU for your love and belief in what you do. Our children depend on that!

I'm proud to call myself an Aveson parent, proud to have been such a part of this incredible first year. I have worked with so many of you this year and am thrilled I get to work with more of you next year.

ENJOY your summer! Take a trip, do nothing, love up your families. You deserve it.

With Love,
Michelle Williams

Aveson 2008-2009, Keep

Healthy Living--culinary arts and daily student lunches; no homework; gardening;

Social Leadership--team and community building spirit; restorative justice with clearer expectations for students and parents; guiding principles;

Personalized Learning--project-based learning; Celebrations of Learning; student-generated electives such as drama, film, yearbook, sports, construction; personal learning plans; multi-age classes;

Overall Program--willingness to listen and change; philosophy and integrity; flexibility; forums; flexibility and responsiveness; daily schedule/class structure; communication via email, blog, website and Compass; schoolwide themes; teacher aides (behavior specialists); Spanish classes with funding; flexibility of time, space and resources; music in the morning (but variety); and field trips.

Aveson 2008-2009, change or add

Healthy Living--student culture devoid of bullying and meanness; student counselor; salad bar; longer lunch to have enough time to walk down and back up and eat and play; school nurse;

Social Leadership--student government; more concrete due dates to better teach real life work skills; more consistent procedures for violations of Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Respectful;

Personalized Learning--more resources to support project-based learning; program for extended learning; interdisciplinary project-based work such as English/Social Studies and Math/Science; more feedback from teachers regarding student performance; enrichment assemblies; more training in small group instruction; college counselor;

Overall Program--camping trips; arts and music integration; bringing families together/increased parental/family involvement with administrative support; mandatory volunteer hours; trained and informed aides in every classroom; shorter day; discipline policy; eco-friendly event signage at drop off points; increased recess supervision; more liaison support; more teacher/parental guidance and structure for projects and behavioral supervision; parent-teacher conference at least once per year; weekly email from teachers summarizing week's program; after school care more in tune with Aveson's guiding principles; more support in the classrooms and in the playground; conflict resolution training for all playground supervisors; clearer common areas (sidewalks, walls, bathrooms); steps to the front of school (instead of walking up driveway) and combination lock to allow access through front gates; monthly paper calendar; and revitalizing/revamping action teams.

Schedules 2008-2009

K-2: 8:10am to 2:45pm

3-5: 8:10am to 3pm

6-8: 8:10am to 3:20pm

9-10: 8:10am to 3:20pm

Kinder will get 10 to 15 weeks together as a cohort and a later lunch.

Over 20 Volunteers Showed Dedication

The K-2 Project Classrooms had a tremendous work day with over 20 volunteers coming out to show their dedication and support within our community. We built two custom sandboxes, a custom art easel, we sanded and varnished a donated picnic table, the children painted a mural, planted an herb garden, and we assembled the play house. To top off the day, our chicken coop was completely revamped and our eight chicks moved in! We will be looking forward to another work day in the summer to build a picket fence, finish sanding and varnishing our wooden structures, install shade sails, and build a water table. In the warm June sun, an incredible community came together to create something for our students. Our goal is to open the 2008-2009 school year with what we like to call K-2 Project Play!

Organic T-shirts--Collector's Item

We made history and now have in our hands a definite collector's item.

Our 1st ever June Jubilee organic T-shirt is available for purchase at the office during the week of June 23rd. Some of them sold during the Celebration of Learning. We got an amazing deal on these shirts from EmbroidMe in Arcadia, and they are graciously willing to donate 50% of each T-shirt to our school, but we need to sell them first.

Please purchase a shirt or two. They can be worn to school and look amazing!

\$10 for 1 shirt' and \$15 for 2 shirts++++cash or checks only please.

Team Cluck In Action

Are you around this summer? Help take care of the chickens! You can sign up for one day, or a week.

We still have the following dates available:

6/30 - 7/13

8/3 - 8/9

8/17 - 8/24

If you are interested, please email your name and the dates you are available!
jennifersonnenberg@aveson.org