

10 October 2008

## Guiding Principle of the Week

Everyone's time is valuable.

## Kate's Desk

Hello Aveson Community-

As we finish our 5th week of school, I find myself reflecting on what a wonderful start of the year it has been. Our amazing staff, terrific students and supportive families have already: warmly welcomed new staff and new students into our growing community seamlessly transitioned into new groups and schedules taken field trips to dramatic performances conceptualized and successfully implemented two school-wide Community Days developed and participated in Goal Setting Conferences.

I wish every community member could have experienced our last Community Day on October 8th. Our students were in their K-10 villages participating in "Sense of Self" activities including Culinary Arts Pita Self Portraits, "I Am..." poems, personal interviews, storytelling and much more. Our advisors are building bridges of understanding and leadership in their new roles as "Village Guides and it was inspiring to witness 6-10th grade students working side-by-side with K-2nd graders; guiding their younger friends.

The feedback regarding Goal Setting Conferences was a resounding "Great!" Advisors loved having time to talk with families about the strengths of their students. And families reported much appreciation for the opportunity to see and hear how much our advisors already know about their children. The consensus is...Let's do it again next year!

I want to thank all community members for their overwhelming support for our school. Aveson Charter School is not business as usual. One of the charges of a charter school is to challenge traditional thinking by developing innovative ways to educate students. Aveson does this by focusing on three areas: 1) Personalized Learning, 2) Social Leadership and 3) Healthy Living. With such a beautifully diverse population, there are many opinions and expectations of what Aveson could or should be. Yet one of our strengths as a community lies in our commitment to who we are and where we are going. Our vision is strong, but it is crucial that we stay focused on perfecting what we do. As you all know, or are learning if you are a new family, Aveson will always listen, look at the data, and make changes if students are not being served in the best way according to our vision. As we embark on this second year of Aveson, let's keep in mind some of the realities that define who and what we are:

We are a public school with a public school budget

We are a new charter school with a big vision

We are an integrated Kindergarten-12th grade campus

We have an expectation of community service before and after school

We rely on parent involvement during school and non-school hours

We embrace a non-traditional homework policy

Our classrooms are comprised of multi-age groupings

We engage multiple teacher specialists

We seek to cultivate opportunities for student leadership at the school

We are committed to supporting social justice and celebrating diversity.

I could not be more proud of our advisors, staff, students and families. We are creating a place where "No Child is Left Unknown" and changing public education in the process. Thanks for taking this journey with us. No one ever said it was going to be easy...just worth it!

Best Regards,

Kate

### Exploring Eaton Canyon

3rd-5th graders will take their first field trip Monday, October 13 to Eaton Canyon. Please turn in your permission slip and \$7.00 contribution on Monday. This covers 4 field trips to the Canyon this year. Parents are warmly invited and encouraged to join their students. Though bus space is limited, the canyon is a short 1.5 miles from Aveson's campus. Consider simply meeting us there.

Kirk, Sally and Casey's students will explore the Canyon from 9:00am – 11:30am

Bridget, Renee and Jennifer's students will tour the Canyon from 11:30am – 2:00pm

Don't forget to equip your child(ren) with a water bottle (labeled with name), snack for am or sack lunch for afternoon field trip, proper shoes for hiking, sunscreen, a hat and the appropriate Aveson team wear.

Come for Lunch! Please

Mr. B and Kelly Peters have worked tirelessly this summer and they are finally ready to kick off the Aveson Lunch Program! To ensure the success of our fledgling school lunch service, we need all the help we can get! We will need at least 5 volunteers per day/per shift to help serve students their meals, guide them to their seats and helping maintain an atmosphere of peace and order. We are hoping to get the older kids involved in helping out as soon as everything is up and running.

Please consider joining us for one or several lunch dates between Monday Oct. 13- Friday Oct. 24th.

We have 4 different lunch shifts to cover:

M-T / Th-F

6-8/K-2 11:30-12:30 (we need the most support here)  
3-5/9-10 12:30-1:30

Wed.

K-2/6-10 11:00-12:15 (we need the most support here)  
3-5 1:05-1:20

If you are able to participate in this exciting turning point in our school's growth, please contact Erin Buoen at 644-4497 and ink your date! Thank you for joining us in making Aveson-made school wide lunches a reality.

### Lunch Launch FAQs

Below are a handful of your good questions and our latest answers. We look forward to hosting you and your children in Aveson's Cafe and as always we invite and welcome your continued feedback.

Will we know when the vegetables and fruits are organic? Are they organic?

As previously mentioned, we have every intention to move in the direction of providing the highest quality, organic ingredients for our students. During this beginning phase, we are going to create healthy, tasty meals that satisfy our customers, our students. Moving forward we will only try to improve upon the quality of our lunches to create the healthiest product possible.

When will Culinary Arts classes return?

With all this excitement and need to get the lunches in order, Mr. B. hopes to have classes up and running around the middle of November. It's going to be a great year in the kitchen!

Will there be Dinners-2-Go this year?

Oh yes, and they will be better than ever. We just need to get the lunches together, and along the dinners will come.

Do kids have to sign up for all of the lunches for this initial 2-week period?

No. Order at will. Every order helps us grow and become stronger, but by all means order as you wish.

Can kids continue to bring in the lunch order form throughout the week?

Absolutely. We know we are rushed, so please keep the orders coming into the drop boxes. Click here to access the down-loadable version of Aveson's Lunch Order Form.

Finally, do you have anyone that you would like to thank?

Of course! Thank you to all of you who have showed such great support. A particular thank you and level of indebtedness to Kelly Peters, Paul Rosenbluh, Monique King, Erin Buoen, for stepping into the lunch program full force, Colleen Pollard for her great support last year, and to Elisabeth Dimopoulos, Gwen Kenneally and Tina Thornton for their continuous efforts to develop the "farm to school" aspect of our lunch program. And of course, the Aveson School Board who has granted us this opportunity.

Enjoy your weekend, and save your appetites for Monday!

## Fresh from the Garden - Jill McArthur's Latest Adventures in Our Living Lab

We've been discussing compost during our garden outings. Students now have a strong grasp of what qualifies for the compost heap and how composting works to reduce waste and enrich crops.

Our K-2 cadre has been busy planting salad greens and various winter vegetables. We made our own root view cups which we will check weekly and record the growth of carrot, beet and radish seeds. We are also tracking the phases of the moon which correlates with root growth. Check out the Aveson Grows blog which shows the phase of the moon on a daily basis.

Some of our 3rd and 4th graders continued planting while others participated in "Six of One Half Dozen of the Other" - a collecting game in which the students are paired and given an egg carton with opposite words written on the bottom. Each pair must collect items from the garden which match the qualities of the words on their carton while keeping the words a secret. Then students must guess what the words on each carton were based on the collected items. The kids really enjoy this exploration and best of all, it strengthens their observation skills. What does this have to do with gardening? One of the first things we do when we go into the garden is look at the plants to see how they are doing. Observation is our first tool in growing healthy plants!

The 6-8 cadre will begin investigating permaculture in the next two weeks and the 9th and 10th graders took their first trip to the future site of the Zen Garden where they brainstormed about how to develop and cultivate the space. The design of this environment will be an ongoing collaborative process.

Never a dull moment!

Aveson's Learning Garden is ripe with volunteer opportunities. To be a part of our garden's growth, please e-mail Jill at [freshvine@sbcglobal.net](mailto:freshvine@sbcglobal.net).

## Dreaming of Tuscany Dinner a Delicious Success!

A wonderful evening was had by all at last Sunday's Il Fornaio fund raising event. The four course dinner was paired with an unlimited supply of wines and our very own Eric Feidler set the mood with a cool collection of music. Thanks Il Fornaio for their generosity and to Eric and Leslie setting the tone for the evening. Just over \$1,000 was raised for Aveson! Thanks to all 32 friends that were able to attend! For those of you who missed the evening, no need to fret. The Fund Raising Team is planning another evening after the first of the year. Please plan on joining us at the lovely Firefly Bistro in South Pasadena!

**FREE MONEY for AVESON!**

Boxtops 4 Education collection is due by October 17th.  
Please turn in all box tops to the office by October 15th.

## Restaurant Nite October 22nd

Come get your BBQ fix. This month's Aveson Restaurant Nite is at Pasadena's BARN BURNER BBQ. Join us on Wednesday, October 22nd, 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM. Barn Bumer is located at 1000 S. Fair Oaks Ave., Pasadena, CA 91105. Bring a flyer, and Aveson Charter School will receive 15% back! Flyers are available in the main office.