

31 October 2008

### Guiding Principle of the Week

There is no such thing as too much truth.

### Kate's Desk

October is over and Aveson is ready for the cool relief of Fall. As you know, it is never a "normal" week at Aveson. This week's activities started out with a K-2 trip to Eaton Canyon and ended with an "Egg Drop" for the 6-8 science students.

The K-2 families, advisors and students reported having a wonderful experience during their first of four Eaton Canyon field trips. Students rotated through three different learning activities led by the advisors and our Eaton Canyon trip coordinator Danielle Poulsen. As one advisor said, "It truly was an outdoor classroom."

On Friday, the entire middle school gathered around the auditorium to watch their egg drop projects fall from a launch site towering at 15 feet. Ms. Miyoko tasked her students to use physics principles to create a safe landing device for a raw egg. The varied designs were great to see and all students had a good time. After their eggs survived the initial drop, seven students put their designs on the line at 25 feet. Four eggs survived! Nice work students.

"There is no such thing as too much truth." As we continue our journey of creating an innovative school, please continue to speak up when you see a challenge or when you have a great idea. Remember, the best way to have an impact is to bring your ideas and concerns directly to the source who can make the necessary decisions or changes. Sharing ideas and concerns with others who have no control can actually have a negative impact on our community. We all know how "parking lot" conversations can misinform others and ourselves. Let's be the school who speaks truth to those who need to hear it.

Regards,

Kate

### Our Neighborhood Canyon

We've concluded our first month of outings to Eaton Canyon! K-8 students have all experienced the "outdoor classroom" on day trips to our neighborhood nature preserve. K-5 traveled by bus to Eaton Canyon and participated in hiking, environmental observation, journaling, sketching and al fresco dining. Middle school students walked from Aveson to Eaton Canyon's Midwick gate entrance with peers, teacher and parents, ending their trek at the nature center to refill water bottles and retreat in the shade. Aveson high school students will enjoy their first hike on November 7th.

In addition to field trips, Aveson was fortunate to participate in Eaton Canyon's new "Nature in a Box" program. Students had the opportunity to learn about local mammals this month in a mobile hands-on exhibit which was loaned to our school by Eaton Canyon. Included were items such as mammal pelts, skulls, molds of tracks, books and guides, a microscope, rubber "scat" and other educational materials which served to further enrich and prepare students for their time in Eaton Canyon.

Our thanks to all the parents who joined us in the Canyon! It was wonderful to have you and we warmly invite all parents to consider joining us on future Eaton Canyon adventures. K-5 will return to the Canyon in early December. Upper grades will hike Fridays on a rotating schedule.

If you have not already done so, please contribute \$7 per student to cover the costs of this exciting program.

### Calling All 6-10 Aspiring Chefs!

The Aveson Cooking Club will be meeting on Tuesday, November 4th at 3:15 in the kitchen to begin preparing our sweet treats for the upcoming 6-10 Family Mixer on Nov. 21st. If you love cooking, come and join the fun! Please contact John Dimopoulos ([johndimopoulos@aveson.org](mailto:johndimopoulos@aveson.org)) or Elisabeth Dimopoulos (parent coordinator) at [edimop@sbcglobal.net](mailto:edimop@sbcglobal.net) if you have any questions.

### Say Cheese, Not Cheesy

MUGSHOTS returns to Aveson for Picture Day on November 13th (K-5) and November 14th (6-10). There's nothing cheesy about these school pictures! Natural backgrounds, easy-going photographers and parent volunteers ensure relaxed and happy pictures of your student. We will need volunteers each day from 8 -1pm. Please contact Erin Buoen at [erinbuoen@aveson.org](mailto:erinbuoen@aveson.org) if you are available.

### Save the Date!

On Friday, November 21, Aveson Global Leadership Academy (grades 6-10) will hold the first Annual All Family Mixer for 6-10 students and their families. We will have dancing, a game room, potluck dinner, special treats prepared by the Cooking Club, and a great time! There will also be informational tables for our new Clubs and Action Teams. We need volunteers for this great event! Mark your calendars, and if you would be willing to help out, please contact Joseph Anthony-Gaffield ([joseph@themastersstudio.com](mailto:joseph@themastersstudio.com)) or your Parent Liason.

### Click to Contribute

We now have access to ONLINE DONATING Please go to our Aveson website ([www.aveson.org](http://www.aveson.org)) and click on Fundraising Opportunities or [click here](#).

In order to make up the deficit of the budget cuts to our school, we are asking every family to contribute \$250 per student. We know this amount may be difficult for many families so please give what you can. Every dollar counts!! We also have the ability to take monthly payments online so consider \$30 a month! It's as easy as that.

Thank you in advance for your generous donations.

On Your Mark, Get Set, Go!

The Pasadena Marathon and Half-Marathon take place on Sunday, Nov. 16, 2008. Please join the Aveson Team as we support our larger community and witness healthy living in action. We've been asked for volunteers to support a water station during the marathon and we're ready to make a big splash doing it. Don your Aveson wear and spend Sunday morning outside with the family. Exact time and location to be announced soon.

Grown-ups please sign up for the Aveson Charter School Team at [http://www.doitsports.com/volunteer/join-protected-group.tcl?event\\_id=196608](http://www.doitsports.com/volunteer/join-protected-group.tcl?event_id=196608) ; password is `avesoncharter`.

After registering for our team, please email Susan at [susanhixon@aveson.org](mailto:susanhixon@aveson.org) to say how many children you will bring. This activity may be best for grades 5 and up, however well-supervised younger children may help, too. Please also email Susan if you are planning to actually run in the race so we can all look out for you and cheer you on.

For general info about the event, go to <http://www.pasadenamarathon.org/>.

#### Give with Groceries

If you're a Ralph's shopper, help Aveson Charter School with every grocery cart load. Simply go to Community Contribution Program ([http://www.ralphs.com/myralphs/703/Pages/community\\_contribution.aspx](http://www.ralphs.com/myralphs/703/Pages/community_contribution.aspx)) and click on Participant/Enroll (at the bottom of the page). Our Nonprofit organization number (NPO) is 90941. Sign up with your 13-digit Club Card number, which is located on the back of your card. If you use your phone number at the register instead of your card, please call (800) 660-9003 to get your Club Card number.

#### Trick or Treat!

Thank you for your inquiries regarding prepaid lunch for K-5 students on Friday, October 31. Each order that was placed for that day will be canceled and credited to the forthcoming order for weeks 5 and 6. Thanks for your support, and for keeping us on our toes.

Happy Halloween,  
Lowell Bernstein