

September 5, 2008

Guiding Principle of the Week

Vision means seeing what could be and will be and living the difference.

The Scores Are In, A Phenomenal First Year at Aveson

No one ever imagined that both schools, our K-5 School of Leaders and our 6-10 Aveson Global Leadership Academy, would achieve the highest Academic Performance Index scores in all of Pasadena Unified School District, surpassing all schools. Congratulations to the finest team of professional educators who are living the difference between what could be and will be. We are change agents in public education. Again, congratulations! Felicitaciones!

But of course, you know Aveson, we want to know how each student did individually and work from there to meet the needs of each child. That is the Aveson way. Well thought-out structural changes have taken place school wide, and we have brought in additional phenomenal educators--so we expect even higher scores next year. But test scores are only one accountability measure. You are in the classrooms, engaging your children in conversations about their work, looking at personal learning plans and work products, and of course helping us develop the culture of respect, collaboration and self-efficacy that we are promoting with Aveson's guiding principles. This is another accountability measure for you.

Kate would not want to be singled out, but look what she has given birth to. It started with a thought in her brain. As Aveson grows to maturity, it will become the model learning community for the country.

API scores:

Aveson School of Leaders = 871

Aveson Global Leadership Academy = 788

Aveson Officially a 501 (c) (3)

Another celebratory event! The Department of the Treasury sent us the news we have fought to receive for over a year now. Contributions to Aveson are deductible under section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code. Aveson is qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under section 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the Code.

The Fund-raising and Grant Writing Action Teams can request a copy of the letter for their purposes.

Let's get those grants!!!!

Mark Your Calendars

13 September - Movie Night

AVESON FAMILIES!

Please join us for the second annual OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT featuring National Treasure 2 (rated PG for some mild language and suspense.)

Next Saturday, September 13th, 2008.

On the field at Aveson

Field opens at 6:30, movie to start at dusk.

Please bring:

A picnic supper

Drinks of your choice (no alcohol, please)

A blanket or beach chairs

A flashlight

Jackets

Family and friends

This is a joyous community event; a great way to meet new families and to catch up with old friends. Please join us!

5 October - Dreaming Of Tuscany Fund-raiser

On Sunday evening, October 5th, 2008 at 6pm, the fund-raising committee is hosting "Dreaming of Tuscany" dinner at Il Fornaio in Pasadena. This intimate but casual dinner for 36 people will include four delicious courses with accompanying wines in a private banquet room. Tickets are \$75 per person and over 45% will go directly back to our school. Please consider joining us. Since seating is limited, reserve your seats now and send a check directly to Cynthia Cohn (made out to Aveson Charter School) at 2060 Paloma Street, Pasadena, CA 91104 at your earliest convenience. Any questions contact Cynthia at 626.818.2577. We look forward to a fun and successful evening celebrating our community. Thanks so much for your support!

School Food Action Team

Thanks to Elizabeth Dimopoulos who has taken the initiative to form an action team. The School Food Action team is committed to developing a healthy food climate at Aveson, with the vision of an eventual School Lunch program based on the groundbreaking work by the Chez Panisse Foundation in the Berkeley School System. The Team will develop a school wide food policy in collaboration with the administration, and provide support by drawing up suggested guidelines, providing speakers and information as needed for teachers and students, and assisting with concrete plans and securing funding for phasing in a complete garden-and-farm-to-school program. Also, to provide guidance and support to food-related student activity, such as the student store.

Our first task is to draw up manageable food guidelines for the campus, and to educate our students to understand them and to participate in our quest for a healthy food environment. We would provide speakers to discuss nutrition and to inspire children to choose healthy food and to participate in what will become the Aveson Lunch Miracle!

New Release Times for Grades K-10

Our first two days of school have been amazing! In response to concerns regarding the time span between K-2, 3-5 and 6-10 school release times, Aveson is adapting the 6-10 daily schedule to make it easy for families to pick up their students. Starting Monday, September 8, 2008, the new 6-10 release time will be 3:10 pm.

Also starting on Monday, September 8, 2008, the official Kindergarten release time will be 2:45 pm. If you wish to pick up your Kinder student between 2:30 and 2:45, you must go to the student's classroom.

New Release Schedule

K-2 2:45 pm
3-5 3:00 pm
6-10 3:10 pm

Have a great weekend,

Revolution Foods, Our New Lunch Program

Hot and cold organic school lunches will be provided this year by Revolution Foods. The cost of daily lunch is \$3.14 and includes an entree, a side, fruit and milk. All food is organic and meets the national school lunch program guidelines. For more information or to place your prepared lunch order visit www.revfoods.com. Please note, when placing your on line order, you must select the 7-12 grade option even if your children are in grades K-6.

Lunches will be available for delivery beginning September 15th. Until then, students are required to bring their own lunch to school.

Peace To You, Dear Aveson and Farewell

Dear Aveson Families,

Peace to you...

I am humbly grateful to have served you during the historic opening of Aveson.

Serendipitously, a principal-ship at a project-based learning high school under the New Tech Foundation network of schools became available and was offered to me, and after some serious thought and reflection and Kate's unconditional support, I accepted. I want to work at a school where I can replicate some of the great things I learned here at Aveson - under Kate's phenomenal leadership. I want to see the achievement and access gaps close shut through a small learning community and PBL model like Aveson. It's a great team of hardworking teachers who work collaboratively in a project-based learning environment at a 9-12 high school with an API score of 591, where the AYP was not met in any of the categories. I love this kind of challenge, and I believe from my heart that I will make a difference. Kate

has promised to mentor me and continue working with me in different capacities. I am sincerely humbled by her brilliant example. She far surpasses all the leaders I have ever worked with.

Thank you for the gift of community you have shared so generously throughout the exemplary first year of Aveson. I am particularly touched by the commitment you have shown to the vision for this most amazingly innovative educational model. It has become a collective vision now, and how wonderful to see you owning it.

I tried writing a goodbye letter, and every time I started to cry. I just love you, your kids, and everyone at Aveson. The greatest gift you can give another person is your friendship, and that's the gift I take with me from you. And it's the gift I leave here at Aveson for you. Thank you all for your kindness. I will always be a part of Aveson. You will see me at Phil's side, along with the rest of you, helping him come back to us.

A special note to all Aveson students: please know that I am very proud of you and look forward to visiting you from time to time.

With love and peace,
Felipe Velez

Smile A While (SAW)

SAW campers enjoyed a fun summer!. We had a full 10 weeks of enrichment, amazing field trips and a sack full of long lasting memories. This school year we have great plans for the children of the SAW Before and After School Enrichment Program. If you thought that last year was a great start, wait until you see how much better the experience will be this year. We are forming a more collaborative relationship with Aveson (Avesaw J); programming and supervision are more structured and we have added a few new classes that everyone will be able to experience, i.e.: culinary arts, drama, weekly community outings, entrepreneurship, music & dance classes, gymnastics and volleyball. We have also set aside an hour prior to workshops for academic assistance. SAW and Aveson Teachers will work together to provide such support to the campers, if this assistance is not needed it will continue to be a time for reading, journaling, makeup or computer work.

From the experience we had last year, SAW struggled to maintain the quality of the program. Quality it was, a financial struggle even more.. Thus, this year we must make adjustments to the tuition so that we are able to retain quality staffing and improve programming. As we would like to accommodate for everyone's individual schedule and needs, it will be important to consider, not only, the needs of the Aveson Community but also those of SAW, the program and those we serve. We have received a number of requests for SAW to return and continue serving at Aveson. In order for SAW to even open our doors we will need no less than 40 full paying participants signed up by September. Registration is open now through September 12th.

Families requiring Financial Aid will be able to participate on a first come first serve basis, with required verification, or will be put on a waiting list. Sibling discounts are available at 10% off each additional sibling.

The way SAW works is it is based on a weekly schedule. Each day builds upon the day before, as it is a goal oriented program. After each session there will be a spectacular show to present and highlight what

the children have been working on. SAW is NOT simply a babysitting/childcare service. Although, if you would like to know more about our childcare services, please contact Jessica in the SAW Office for coordination. SAW is a program that, like Aveson, is focused on the development of the whole child. However, to accommodate for varied work schedules our daily rate is \$30 with prior notice and \$40 without 24 hour notification.

Late payments will incur a late fee of \$35 after a three day grace period. Late pickups will continue to be \$1 per min. per child, paid that day to the remaining staff. Our new email address is SMILEAWhileProgram@yahoo.com.

I will continue to make myself available to you, either on campus or easily reached via phone or email. We look forward to a fun and enriching school year this 2008/2009.

Regards,

Sussannie DaCosta, M.S., C.R.C., R.P.C.
Executive Director