

Alder Grove News

April 2009



It's hard to believe that we are so quickly approaching the end of the year! The last couple of months are always busy!

STAR testing for all of our 2nd-11th grade students will take place April 21st-24th. You should have received a test schedule for your student by mail. Please call the office at 268-0854 if you need another schedule. We are pleased that last year we tested over 95% of our students.

We are gathering information from parents and guardians in order to make our school better. Attached please find the **parent survey**. Please take a few moments to complete it and return it in the provided envelope with the GC election ballot by Friday April 10th.

The **Governance Council** is the equivalent of a school board.
Our Governance Council is comprised of parents and community members.
Enclosed is the Governance Council Election information.
Please take a few moments to read through the information and vote.
Please return your ballot and parent survey by Friday April 10th!

The end of the year is a busy time with a lot of activities planned. Read on to learn more.

Look for more information to come about our May 2009 Theatrical Production, "**It's all in the Cards**".

High School Open House for 8th & 9th grade students and their parents. Wednesday, May 13 at 6:00 @ Sonoma & F Street. Topics to be covered will include: high school graduation requirements, recommended courses for college admission, earning high school credits, resources for high school students, on site classes offered by Alder Grove and more. Parents, students and teachers will be on hand to answer your questions. Please spread this information to friends and neighbors you have who are considering high school options for next year. Refreshments will be provided.

Be watching for more information to come regarding the June 2009 **Library Open House**.

Mark your calendars, **Graduation will be held on May 29th at the Humboldt Hill Grange**. Eighth grade graduation will be held at 3pm and twelfth grade will be at 6pm. Graduates will receive a graduation information packet by mail early in May.

Another fun activity being planned is a back to school **Family Camp-out** at Pamplin Grove Wednesday, August 26-Friday, August 28. Fun for the entire family in a beautiful outdoor classroom! Mark your calendars now.

Our **School Leadership Team** meets once a month during the day at school. This group is comprised of teachers and parents and works more on daily operational issues than the Governance Council. They are responsible for site evaluation, interviewing new staff members, developing and recommending new policies and more. If you have any issues you would like to discuss or if you are interested in being a member, please join us for the next meeting April 30th @ 1:15 (Sonoma & F St.).

Happy Spring,
Jenni Allen SanGiovanni, Director

STAR TESTING APRIL 20th-24th

Tips for Testing Success

Before Testing:

- Post test schedule (bright yellow page mailed to you last week) in plain sight.
- To help prepare your student, check out the released test questions at: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sr/css05rtq.asp> or see the test preparation books in the library for grades 3-8.
- Maintain a regular waking/sleeping schedule so your student is well rested.
- Pack snacks/lunch (if needed) and water, and books or dry art materials, the night before and put in the car so they are not forgotten. No electronic devices, such as iPods, Gameboys and MP3 players allowed.
- Communicate positively about student's participation in testing and the benefits to their school and themselves.
- Be sure to communicate with your CT or the school director if there are any special circumstances involving your student that may need addressing.

Each day of Testing:

- If your student cannot attend scheduled dates due to emergency or illness, call your CT immediately. If you can not reach your CT, please call the office and let them know the situation: 707-268-0854
- Awake early to eat a good breakfast and leave home at an appropriate time, considering weather and traffic so student arrives a few minutes before testing is scheduled to begin.
- Encourage students to do their best and have a positive experience.

Check in/out process for grades 2-8

- Walk in with your student(s) and sign them in on the sign in/out sheet.
- Write your emergency contact number on the sheet where you can be reached during testing.
- Because the tests are un-timed and students will finish at different times, you may be called early to pick up your student.
- If you are not called, plan to arrive at the designated end of testing time on your yellow schedule.
- When you arrive to pick up your student, come in and sign them out on the sign in/out sheet.

Check in/out process for grades 9-11

- Parent may drop off students or students may drive themselves with a signed letter stating student may arrive and sign in as well as sign out and leave when testing is over without parent/guardian being present.
- If you are bringing your student, sign in on sign in/out sheet with contact phone number where you are able to be reached during testing.
- Students should bring water, food, book or other quiet activity—no electronic devices such as iPods, Gameboys, MP3 players are allowed.
- Students will not be allowed to leave the test site during breaks.
- When you arrive to pick up your student, sign them out on the sign in/out sheet.

Last Chance to take Mosaic Classes

K-5th grade
April 24th, 2009
9:30 am- 11:45ish
@ F and Sonoma School Site

6th grade through 12th
May 1st, 2009
8:45 am- noonish
@ F and Sonoma School Site

The cost for each of these classes is \$25 per student, to be deducted from their budget. It is very difficult to anticipate the length of time that it will take each student to complete their project, as it is solely based on the individual, so please be considerate of this. If you have a student who does not quite match the age bracket for the class that you'd like them to attend, I'd be willing to compromise on the ages in each class (the division between ages is mostly because the older kids tend to take longer doing their projects). If you're interested, but the class is full or the dates don't work for you, please contact me, Space Welch at (707) 445-2779 because I'd like to give everyone one more opportunity to take this class.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to teach and inspire the students at Alder Grove!

Amy Peterson qualified to compete in three events at the CA Junior Olympics in March, and placed sixth in the finals with a time of 35.18 in 50yd Breaststroke, for 11-12 age girls. She will go on to compete in Far Westerns, a national competition, in April.

"I LOVE swimming breast stroke!" Amy Peterson

The Peterson family is grateful to Alder Grove Charter for the freedom it offers to students to pursue their passions while getting an education.

Good luck Amy! You go girl!



Rock Climbing Reminder

Students in the 6th-12th grade who have signed up for the Patrick's Point rock climbing trip will meet at the Bishop Pine Picnic Area at 1:00 on April 24th. Students will need to have their forms with them, filled out, and signed by a parent. When you drive in at Patrick's Point you can look on the map or go online ahead of time. There is a fee to enter the park. I think it is \$3-\$5, but you can drop kids off at the gate or get permission to drive in temporarily. Questions? Call Terri Tripp at 826-0682.

"The Secret Garden"

Featuring Alder Grove Student Brianna Schatz

We have arranged for Alder Grove students and parents to attend a performance of the musical "The Secret Garden" at the Ferndale Repertory Theater on Sunday, April 19th at 2 p.m. One of our students, Brianna Schatz, will be playing Mary Lennox, the main character in the story!

Seating is limited to the first 30 people who sign up. Please call Sarah at 268-0854 by Friday, April 10th and let her know how many students and how many adults plan to attend. Student tickets are \$12 and the cost of the ticket will be taken out of their student budget. Adult tickets are \$14 each. Parents may pay for their tickets at the door.

Governance Council Candidates

Carole Porter — I am a current Governance Council member and would like to continue the work of building and maintaining a fiscally and academically strong school while preserving our emphasis on parent choice and personalized learning.

Randy Davis— My name is Randy Davis. I am 52 years old and a graduate of Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. My wife and I have been married 13 years and have seven children at home. Five of the children are adopted and one is pending. The oldest four are currently schooled through Alder Grove with my wife being the primary educator. I am a building contractor specializing in small projects and a lots of 'honey-do' things. My past experiences have included managing a large cattle/hay/rice ranch in the Sacramento valley, president of Yuba/Sutter Cattlemen's Association, trustee of our church, study group leader, equipment operator, logger and musician. I want be a part of my children's education. I feel I have common sense and leadership skills that would be beneficial to the Governance Council. I look forward to being a part of the team that directs Alder Grove School. I would like to see Alder Grove expand to a branch location in the Fortuna area to better reach our southern students. I will do my best to help keep Alder Grove moving forward to serve its students in the best possible manner.

Susan Driscoll— I am the Mother of 5, one is an exchange student, 2 are foster children. I am the Director of HCAR Transportation. In the past I have sat on the Eureka Junior League Football Board and have been a Girl Scout Leader. I am looking forward to contributing to the continued growth of Alder Grove Charter School.

Jesse Cox— I am a former student of an alternative educational program and I am the older brother of a current Alder Grove Student. It is extremely important to me that I am involved in my younger brother's education. I am a music major at CR. Having been a past student of alternative education I feel I have a lot of insight and a new perspective to contribute to Alder Grove Charter School. I would appreciate your vote and I am excited to serve on the GC.

Brad Woodward— I am currently the President of Alder Grove Governance Council (GC). I volunteered my time as a GC member 2 years ago to fill a vacant spot because, a previous board member had stepped down. As a GC member I have participated board member work shops and training. I have learned through experience that not only should a person be a leader but a student as well. I try to stay involved with the school, children, and teachers. In addition donate my time to help with school functions. My personal goal is honoring parent choice and giving the freedoms of a diverse education that we are lacking in public schools today. This school has been on the forefront of what education should be, freedom for education. This is why I would like to continue to be a member of the Governance Council.

Governance Council Election Ballot

(detach along dotted line and return in the provided envelope by 4/10/09)

Please vote for three (3) candidates:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carole Porter | <input type="checkbox"/> Jesse Cox |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Randy Davis | <input type="checkbox"/> Brad Woodward |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Susan Driscoll | <input type="checkbox"/> Write in: _____ |