

Alder Grove August 2009 News

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WELCOME BACK

a note from the director

Welcome to all new and returning families! I hope you are all enjoying the sunshine and long days of summer!

Our classes are set to start the week of August 31. If you have not already done so, please get your enrollment forms in right away. Several classes are already full and others will be cancelled if not enough students sign up.

Due to unforeseen circumstances our camping trip, originally scheduled for the week of August 24th, has been postponed. We will try to offer this trip at the end of the school year. If you are interested in helping organize or offering your talents to lead a nature walk, sing a song, teach a short class or bar-be-que please let Tiffany or me know and we will keep you posted on the progress.

STAR test scores have been mailed to all returning students. In an attempt to increase academic success for all of our students, we will be scheduling meetings with students who performed well below average. It is our intention at these meetings to review curriculum and offer ideas, support and strategies that can help each child in our school succeed academically. We recognize that these tests show us a small piece of who your child is and do not come close to capturing all of the skills and talents possessed by our students.

Look for opportunities this year to become involved in group Focus on Learning sessions as part of the process for continued WASC accreditation. We will need input from parents, students and teachers in completing this self review that will help establish goals for growth in our school.

I'd like to welcome back teacher Debbie Lammers to our staff. Debbie has been managing our webpage, but will now be back serving students and teaching on site English classes. We're glad to have you back Debbie!

Thank you also to all of the parents, students and family members who continually spread the word about their positive experiences in our school. More often than not when I ask a new family how they heard about our school, it is from a parent at the park or grocery store or a neighbor or friend who has been happy with our school. I appreciate this word of mouth advertising!

Feel free to email, call or stop by anytime for any reason, even if it's just to say hi! I welcome all of your ideas and suggestions. Together I hope we can make this the best year ever for Alder Grove Charter School!

NEW C.R. TEXTBOOK POLICY

Beginning this school year, Alder Grove staff will be picking up all textbooks from CR. Classes begin on Monday August 24th. Please submit your book list to your teacher ASAP. If the student is on a waitlist the order needs to be submitted to your teacher as soon as the student is accepted into the class. The teacher deadline for CR/text book requisitions is Monday August 17th. The text books will be available Friday August 21st at the school office for students or teachers to pick up.

NEW COMMUNITY VENDOR POLICY

We are requesting that community vendors do NOT begin classes or lessons with Alder Grove students until they receive authorization from the school to do so. Once the vendor form and the corresponding requisition from the teacher is received the vendor will receive written notice that it is OK to begin serving the student(s) in question. This means that students need to bring the blue vendor forms to the vendors at least 2-4 weeks before the anticipated start date of their class.

If you have any questions or concerns about the new vendor policy or ordering CR textbooks, please call Sarah at the Alder Grove office 268-0854.

LIBRARY INFORMATION

We have a large selection of videos available to check out from the library! Among our many titles are: "The Standard Deviants": Public Speaking, American Government, Pre-Algebra, Algebra 1, Grammar and Punctuation; Battle at Little Big Horn; Gettysburg; The Civil War; WW II; In Search of Shakespeare; Golden Gate Bridge; Statue of Liberty; The American President; The Congress; The Secret Life of the Brain; Art: 21; Simon Shama's Power of Art; America's Civil Rights Movement; The West; The Donner Party; Journey of Man; The Human Genome; Peter and Paul; Martin Luther; The Spartans; The Greeks; The Roman Empire; The Medici; Queen Victoria's Empire; Islam: Empire of Faith; Japan; Egypt; Roman City, Cathedral, Pyramid, Castle, and Mill Times (hosted by David Macaulay, author of The Way Things Work), the Animated Hero Classics series; Physical Science for Children series; various PBS biographical films; Sign Language DVDs for grades K-2; and 100 Bill Nye DVDs from "Animal Locomotion" to "Wind." Feel free to stop by the office and take a look.

Submit a statement about how their products have helped your student and enter to win a \$50 gift certificate to The Critical Thinking Company! For details visit: <http://www.criticalthinking.com/company/testimonials.jsp>

SEPTEMBER FIELD TRIP

When: Thursday, September 10 @ 10:45 am

Where: Sequoia Park Zoo, 3414 W Street, Eureka, CA 95503.

Activities include: Petting Zoo, Guided Tour, Movie, and Free Time

Fees / entrance information: Student fees come out of school budget, adults are free, non-student guests three years or older pay \$2.50 at ticket booth. Tell the attendant at the ticket booth you are from Alder Grove Charter School and then walk to the petting Zoo.

Please RSVP to the school office 268-0854.

HUMBOLDT HOMESCHOOLER SWIM LESSONS @ ARCATA POOL

Alder Grove parent Kathy Ortiz is coordinating swim lessons for homeschoolers again this year. Her contact information is 443-2296 or katzz75@suddenlink.net.

Register now for the fall swimming session offered from September 15th to November 17th.

The registration deadline is August 31st, no students will be permitted to sign up after this day. You may sign up by calling or emailing Kathy Ortiz at the above email address.

Fees: Super Tots and up are \$60 and Tiny Tots and Teeny Tots are \$30. If you would like a description of each class, let Kathy Ortiz know via email and she will send it to you. Information is also available in the school office. If you want the class fees deducted from the student's budget please provide Kathy Ortiz with a completed vendor form. Vendor forms are available from your teacher or on the school website. For this activity you do not need your teacher's signature on the vendor form. Kathy Ortiz will obtain the vendor signature and then mail them to the school office.

OFFICE STAFF / HOURS

Director: Jenni Allen — San Giovanni

Administrative Assistant / Student Records: Jenifer Doane

Librarian / Vendor Relations : Sarah Garrett

The office is open Monday through Friday 8:30—4:30 (excluding school recesses and holidays).
