

Alder Grove News February 2010

1615 Highland Ave. Eureka, CA 95501

707-268-0854

aldergrovecharter.org

No School

Monday, February 15th

Tuesday, February 16th

No onsite classes 2/15/10-2/19/10



New Address or Phone Number

Please let your teacher know ASAP if you have a new physical or mailing address or new phone number.

Graduation Ceremonies

Save the date! Graduation Ceremonies will be held on Thursday May 27th. The 8th grade ceremony will be held at 3:00 pm and 12th grade will be held at 5:30. The location is Humboldt Grange. Be watching for more information.

Upcoming Meetings

Governance Council
Monday, March 8th @ 6:30
Location: Highland Ave

Leadership Team
Monday, February 22nd @ 2:45
Location: Sonoma & F

Spelling Bee

We will be having the Alder Grove Spelling Bee on Tues., March 2nd at 4:15 p.m. at the Sonoma site. The age categories are 4th-6th grades and 7th-9th grades. There are word lists that can be checked out at the Highland site resource center. There can be two winners per category who will then compete in the Regional Bee. If you are interested, please call Marian at 445-4650 and leave a message with the participant's name and phone number, or email Marian at marianmcneil@yahoo.com.

Yearbook Information

The school yearbook is under construction! If your child did not get their school picture taken this year, it is not too late to have one of the yearbook staff take a picture to include in the school yearbook. Call Rachael Hernandez at (707) 498-5372 to make arrangements.

Math Fair

There will be a MATH FAIR on Friday, February 26th, from 10 am to 12 noon at the Sonoma and F Street site. Come and have some fun and learn a little at the same time. There will be games and prizes. Don't miss out! Parents - plan to attend with your students to learn strategies to use at home. Hope to see you there.

Governance Council

Our charter continues to do an excellent job of serving our children's educational needs. As with any public entity, there must be a strong, ethical governing group of volunteers with concern for all aspects of the school. Please consider getting involved with the Governance Council. We need new members every year. It is not a huge time commitment, but it is a very important position. Anyone, involved with the school or not, could serve the community in this way. We suggest attending a council meeting to watch, participate and/or express your interest in becoming a candidate.

The Governance Council is essential to our school. One seat will be available in June.

Parents - please check the **Lost and Found** box at the classroom site.
Items not claimed will be donated to St. Vincent De Paul.

The Director of Alder Grove Charter School, Jenni Allen San Giovanni, has an open door policy and encourages any input you may have whether it be suggestions, common questions, or concerns. She can be reached by phone at 268-0854 or via email at aldergrove@sbcglobal.net.



STAR TESTING and YOUR PARTICIPATION

It's not too early to remind everyone about STAR testing! STAR testing is a state mandated component of public school education. All students in grades 2—11 need to participate. Testing will be held the week of April 12th, so please mark your calendars now. No onsite classes will be held that week. Watch your mail for testing dates, times and locations.

Spring 2010 Testing Schedule

DATE	TEST	GRADE	LENGTH
March 2	STAR Writing Assessment	All 7 th grade students	Approximately 1 hr
April 13 – April 16	STAR	All 2 nd – 11 th grade students	3-4 days
February 1 – May 1	CA. Physical Fitness Test	All 5 th , 7 th , and 9 th graders	Approximately 2 hrs
May 11 & 12	California High School Exit Exam	11 th or 12 th grade students who have not passed one or both parts	Approximately 3 hrs each day



What is a Student Success Team meeting?



A Student Success Team meeting is a service offered at our school for students who may be experiencing academic difficulty. At these meetings the student, their parent or guardian, certified teacher, school counselor, and any other people working with the student whose input may be valuable get together and brainstorm ideas to find new ways to support the child's learning. The focus of the meeting is on identifying the child's unique qualities and learning style and figuring out how to build on these strengths to help them become more successful learners. It is also an opportunity to discuss different kinds of curriculum or other school supports that the family may be interested in integrating into their program. Student Success Team meetings are automatically provided for students scoring below or far below basic on the STAR Test. They are also available to children whose certified teacher or parent has concerns about their learning development.

I'd like to encourage any families who have concerns about their child's learning to talk to their certified teacher or contact me to request a meeting. These meetings have been a great opportunity for sharing and discovering resources that have been helpful to many of our students. Often times parents share with the staff teaching methods or interesting curriculum or instructional supports that they've discovered in their search to support their child. The school staff is then able to share these with other children and families who may be experiencing similar problems. It has also helped our school identify new kinds of programs or instructional supports that we'd like to implement to benefit all of our families.

Please feel free to contact me to request a meeting or with any other questions or concerns. I am at the Highland site on Fridays and can be reached via e-mail at duboseceleste@yahoo.com during the week.

Sincerely, Celeste Dubose, Alder Grove School Counselor



Learning Workshops

In February and March Wendy Schulze will give two learning workshops on Friday mornings at 10:00 during our math lab time at the Sonoma and F Street site. The first topic will be "Why learning is not all in your head" and will look at the importance of movement and brain/body integration. Incorporating purposeful movement into your school routine can add fun and countless learning advantages. The second topic, "The Righting of Writing", will address key skills that need to be in place for successful writing. This topic is especially for home educators who are looking for solutions for children whose handwriting, sentence structure and organization of thoughts are getting in the way of writing output, but will also address how to teach handwriting for all ages.

Both of these topics are near and dear to Wendy's heart. She began looking for solutions when she saw that her son's academic success didn't match his brilliance. He struggled with reading, math, handwriting, and of course writing his thoughts on paper. Wendy's experience working with other Alder Grove students as a reading therapist has shown her that these challenges aren't unique to her son. It is her hope to encourage and support other home educators to overcome these challenges by reducing the frustration and implementing workable strategies.

Why Learning is not all in your Head
The Righting of Writing

Friday, February 12th
Friday, March 12th

10:00 am
10:00 am

Please RSVP BY emailing Wendy at wendyschulze@gmail.com.

Wendy Schulze is Alder Grove's reading therapist. She has trained with Read America, Handwriting Without Tears, Bal-A-Vis-X, and is highly influenced by the writings of Carla Hannaford and Dr. Mel Levine. She tutors students one on one and in the small group setting.

Upcoming Field Trips

Feb. 18th Sun Valley Floral Farms Tour 11 am RSVP by 2/12/10 Free/No Charge

Directions to Sun Valley Floral Farms: From Hwy 101 get off on GIUNTOLI LN/JANES RD going toward Mad River Hospital. Just after the School turn right on Upper Bay Road. Sun Valley Floral Farms is about one mile down the road on the left hand side. We will all meet in the parking lot and take the tour as a group.

March 9th Voyages of Discovery Sailing Trip 12:30-3:30pm RSVP by 3/1/10 \$35 per person

Please note: This activity is for grades 4 and up only.

City of Eureka: Adorni Recreation Center
1011 Waterfront Drive
Eureka, CA 95501

Directions: In Eureka on Broadway turn on to 2nd street going west (toward ocean), turn left at Front street/ Waterfront Drive

Educational packets available upon request or visit
<http://www.historicalseaport.org>

