

# Alder Grove News January 2010

## January School Holiday

Monday, January 18th, No School  
Martin Luther King Day

## From the Director

Welcome back to a New Year and new semester at Alder Grove Charter School! Below are a few notes about orders and curriculum.

As you prepare curriculum orders for the coming semester, please keep in mind that the educational items you request must support new learning, and they must adhere to the California State Content Standards for the student for whom the materials are being purchased. Be prepared to give your CT complete ordering information, including the name of the item, the item number or ISBN, the price, and the vendor from which the item is to be ordered. You can expect your order to be placed within 7 days of your CT's receipt of complete ordering information from you. When your CT receives the order from the vendor, it will be delivered to you at the next regularly scheduled meeting, unless it is deemed critical that the student have it immediately.

We have ordered test prep books which will be available in our resource center for students to check out at no cost. Stop by to check one out or ask your CT to bring one at your next meeting. Although we realize that these tests do not show the true growth of our students, we are mandated by the state and federal government to show improvement year to year on these tests. Look for test taking practice sessions to be scheduled in early March.

As always, I welcome your ideas, comments, and input on our program. Please do not hesitate to contact me.

*Jenni Allen-SanGiovanni, Director*

## Contact Us At:

Alder Grove Charter School  
1615 Highland Ave.  
Eureka CA 95503  
707-268-0854  
www.aldergrovecharter.org (web)  
aldergrove@sbcglobal.net (email)

## Exit Exam Information for 10th and 12th Grade Students

All tenth grade students are required to take the California High School Exit Exam.

This year it will be held on February 2nd and 3rd at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall at the Sonoma and F Street site.

Tuesday, February 2nd is Language Arts and Wednesday, February 3rd is Math.

Passing the High School Exit Exam is a requirement for a diploma in California. Students who do not pass one or both parts of the test will have several opportunities to take the test during their junior and senior years.

Twelfth graders who have not passed are also eligible to come on these dates to take the test. Letters will be going out by mail to parents/students regarding the upcoming exam.

## Thank You Emblem Club

Alder Grove would like to thank the Emblem Club of Eureka for their donation of 45 books to our school.

The books will be on display in front of the librarian's desk during the month of January. Come in and take a look!

## 7th Annual Student Bird Art Contest at Godwit Days

Students in kindergarten through grade 12 are eligible to enter the Bird Art Contest at Godwit Days. A total of \$500 in prize money will be awarded, divisions to be based on total number of entries received.

Maximum size of artwork is 8.5" x 11".  
Deadline for submission is March 26, 2010.  
Flyers available at the main office.

## K-3 Input Wanted

I am putting together an AGCS parent guide for grades K-3 Language Arts Curriculum. I will be listing favorite resources for the following categories: oral language (listening, speaking, playing with sounds, songs, chants.), phonics, reading, and writing. Please email me @ [sunshinerooselee@yahoo.com](mailto:sunshinerooselee@yahoo.com) if you have information you would like to contribute.

## On-site Class Information

On-site classes for spring will start on Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup> (Monday is a holiday). Please remember to walk your students in on the first day they attend and be sure to fill out an emergency card and the discipline policy if you haven't already done so. If your child is on the waiting list for a class, you will be notified by your CT prior to the first day of classes. Students on the waiting list should not attend the first day of classes. Your CT will let you know if and when there is an opening. Any student who misses their first two classes will automatically be taken off the roll sheet in order to make room for other students. Thanks for your cooperation and we look forward to seeing you.

## Drama Presentation

Show your support for the 7th-12th grade Drama class, as they showcase their hard work in a one-act play that is sure to keep you laughing!

The show begins at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 14th at Eureka First Baptist Church on the corner of Del Norte and E Street.

If you have any questions contact Rachael Hernandez at (707) 498-5372.

## 5th Annual Student Writing Contest

The 5th Annual Student Writing Contest Sponsored by Redwood Region Audubon Society is here. Up to 3 cash prizes to be awarded to the best essay or poem composed by a student in grades 4-12 on "What Nature Means to Me". The deadline is March 22, 2010. Flyers are available at the main office.

## Upcoming Meetings

Leadership Team  
Mon., January 25th @ 2:45  
Christie Hall

Governance Council  
Mon., February 8th @ 6:30  
Highland Office



## A Quick Note About State Mandated Testing and Your Participation

Although we don't believe that STAR testing or any other state mandated tests truly measures the value of our personalized approach to education, it is the instrument that the state uses for measuring our success and continued existence. It is integral to our school that all students participate in the mandated testing process. **Thank you all in advance for your cooperation.**

Please mark the following dates on your calendar and plan to be at all State Mandated tests this year. You will be receiving detailed information from your Credentialed Teacher regarding specific dates, times and locations. Please direct any questions you may have to your Credentialed Teacher or the Alder Grove Testing Coordinator Debbie Lammers. Debbie can be reached @ 268-0854 (Tues. – Fri. after 1 pm).

DATE	TEST	GRADE	LENGTH
February 2 & 3	California High School Exit Exam	All 10 <sup>th</sup> grade students AND any 12 <sup>th</sup> grade student who has not passed one or both parts	Approximately 3 hrs
March 2	STAR Writing Assessment	All 7 <sup>th</sup> grade students	Approximately 1 hr
April 13 – April 16	STAR	All 2 <sup>nd</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup> grade students	3-4 days
February 1 – May 1	CA. Physical Fitness Test	All 5 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> , and 9 <sup>th</sup> graders	Approximately 2 hrs
May 11 & 12	California High School Exit Exam	11 <sup>th</sup> or 12 <sup>th</sup> grade students who have not passed one or both parts	Approximately 3 hrs

### Alder Grove Student Council

If you are in high school, please consider joining Alder Grove's new student council. We are planning an end-of-the-year party that includes fundraising activities and school spirit weeks. If you have ideas to share about how to make Alder Grove the best school in Humboldt County please come to our next meeting.

Next Student Council Meeting:

Thursday, February 4th @ 12:50 (Sonoma & F)

Fundraising Activity:

We began our fundraising activities for our end-of-the-year party on November 12<sup>th</sup>. Most Thursdays at 12:50, we have been and will continue to sell fudge during lunch at the F & Sonoma site. The cost of the fudge is 50 cents per piece.

Upcoming Spirit Weeks:

January 19th-22nd  
February 17th-19th  
March 15th-19th

Crazy Socks Week  
Wear Pink or Red Week  
Wear Green Week



## 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 if you plan on coming by calling the school at 268-0854 or emailing Wendy at [wendyschulze@gmail.com](mailto:wendyschulze@gmail.com). Feel free to email Wendy with any questions.

*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.*

## Alder Grove Charter School Field Trips 2009/2010

### **Field trips with Tickets (space is limited to 30):**

Student tickets will be paid for from their school budget. However, family members must reserve their spot by paying for their ticket with exact cash. Give exact cash to Sarah Garrett at the school administrative office. Spots will be reserved on a first come, first serve basis. For a refund you must call to cancel five business days before the field trip.

Jan. 27	11am	Center Arts	Spirit of Uganda	\$6.50	RSVP by 1/19
April 30	11am	Center Arts	Calypso Band	\$3.50	RSVP by 4/22
May 25	11am	Center Arts	Folk Dance and Music Ensemble	\$5.50	RSVP by 5/17

HSU Parking Information: For your convenience you may purchase daily parking permits for \$3.50 in advance or purchase passes through the parking pass dispenser. You may also pay for metered parking with quarters or park off campus and walk on.

Directions: From Hwy 101, take Sunset exit, go east to L.K. Wood Boulevard, left on Harpst Street, Left on Rossow Street for Parking with a day pass, or left on B Street- go to the top of the hill, cross the street, walk up the stairs to The Van Duzer Theatre.

### **Non Ticket Field trips:**

Feb. 18	11am	Sun Valley Floral Farms Tour		RSVP by 2/10
March 9	12:30-5:30	VOYAGES OF DISCOVERY SAILING	\$35	RSVP by 3/1
March 25	11am	Jacoby Creek Land Trust: Kokte Ranch Tour		RSVP by 3/17

Monthly field trip information will be in each newsletter and is available on the website.

Please contact Sarah Garrett at the main office with questions or to pay for tickets.

