

Alder Grove News January 2009

January School Holidays

Monday, January 19th
Martin Luther King Day

No on-site classes Monday or Wednesday January 19th or 21st due to the above holiday.

Flips for Kids Field Trip

Tuesday, January 27 from 2:00 - 3:00

Flips for Kids is located at 1489 Hoover St near the intersection of Myrtle and Hoover in Eureka.

Sign up by calling 268-0854. The \$5.00 charge will be deducted from the student's budget. All non students will be required to pay \$5.00 cash to Flips For Kids on the day of the field trip.



Want to be in the Yearbook?

The yearbook class would like your contributions to the yearbook. If you would like a picture of yourself in the yearbook, you have two choices:

Email us a favorite picture of yourself
or

Come to have your picture taken by a professional on January 28th. Please see picture day on the right of the newsletter for more information.

If you have a picture of yourself, short writings or artwork, turn them in at the Highland office by February 1st firm.

Email contributions can be sent to:
loparnell@gmail.com.

Contact Us At:

1615 Highland Ave
Eureka, CA 95503
707-268-0854

www.aldergrovecharter.org

IMPORTANT !! Exit Exam Information

All tenth grade students are required to take the California High School Exit Exam. This year it will be held on February 3 and 4 at 9:30 am in the Fireside Room at the Sonoma and F Street site. The test is untimed, but most students finish in about 3 hours. Tuesday February 3 is the English/Language Arts portion with a multiple choice section and a written essay required and Wednesday February 4 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.



Governance Members Needed

The Governance Council is the oversight board of Alder Grove Charter School, much like a school board in a regular district. Currently we have four active members on our board, which seats five. We also have two members whose terms expire at the end of this school year. The group meets once a month in the evening and is responsible for monitoring fiscal solvency, budget approval, monitoring student performance, hiring and evaluating the school director and more. This is a great opportunity to get involved in the school and is not limited to parents of current students. If you have any friends, family members or neighbors you think may be interested please let them know. Contact Jenni, the school director, or any of the current members: Kellie Leahy, Carole Porter, Brad Woodward, Kathy Ortiz or Lorraine Parnell, our teacher representative, if you are interested or have questions.



PICTURE DAY

Wednesday, January 28th from 9:00 to 12:00 at the Sonoma and F classroom site. Please see attached flyer for packages and pricing. Payment is required on picture day. Appointments not required. Just show up between 9 and 12 on January 28th.

On-Site Class Information

We are adding a new class for high school students who wish to explore their writing skills. This course will be based around the Oak Meadow curriculum "**Fundamentals of Writing Short Stories.**" The class will be Thursdays from 10:15-11:45.

Class Change : The Group A Drama/Music class on Mondays will change to Math Skills.

Home Schooling Parent Resource Meeting

Our first parent meeting to share resources and information about home schooling will be held on Monday January 26 from 2:00-3:00 in the Fireside Room at the F and Sonoma Street site in Eureka. We are hoping this evolves into a monthly event. We encourage parents or others who are home schooling to come with your ideas and questions and anything you'd like to share. This first meeting will be a brainstorming session to see what direction the group should take, possibly a different subject area or learning style each month or whatever the parents attending feel is most useful. We have all felt at times in our home schooling journeys that it would be valuable to talk to and ask questions of folks with different experiences. This is your opportunity!

From the Director

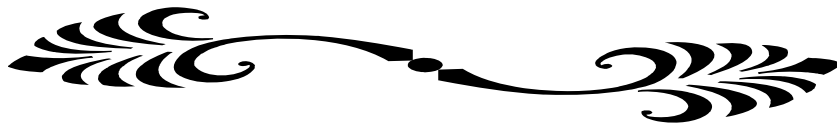
I hope the holiday was refreshing and joy filled for all of you and that you spent time with your loved ones. These cold, rainy days bring opportunities for staying inside. Some of my daughter's favorite home school days were those she spent in her pajamas around the fireplace reading and working on projects.

Our holiday craft making workshop, held the Friday before the break, was a wonderful opportunity for students to make practical and thoughtful gifts for their family and friends. Students made wreaths, scarves, and candle holders from CDs to name a few. Thanks to teachers Heidi, Patty, Sunshine, Rachael, Marian and parents Lori and ElizaBeth for their creative projects and help with running the activities.

We are excited to be offering an opportunity for parents to come together and share some of their ideas and questions about home schooling—look for specific information in this newsletter.

I would like to remind all of you that this is your school and I welcome your questions, concerns and suggestions. You can email, call or stop by if you have anything you'd like to discuss.

Sincerely, Jenni Allen San Giovanni



The Importance of Reading to Children

There are many reasons why reading aloud to your children is important. Even 20 minutes a day can make a difference for your child. The following come from the Little Ones Reading Resource website.

- In this day and age of hectic lives and busy schedules, reading together is a simple and enjoyable way for parents to take time out and focus on the family. Young children need lots of special, dedicated time with their loved ones.
- Reading children's stories is a wonderful [bonding](#) experience that fosters meaningful one-on-one [communication](#) with our kids.
- It shows our children in no uncertain terms that they are important to us.
- It molds our kids into becoming readers, and [raising a reader](#) significantly increases our child's potential for academic success as well as lifelong success in general.
- It is a vital and integral part of teaching our kids how to read as children learn how to read by being read to.
- It helps our children master [language development](#).
- It builds [listening skills](#), increases a child's [attention span](#), and develops the ability to concentrate at length.
- It develops children's ability to express themselves more confidently, easily, and clearly in spoken and written terms.
- It develops and fosters a child's natural curiosity.
- It develops creativity and a children's ability to use their imagination!
- It [expands](#) our children's horizons, quells fears, exposes them to new situations, and teaches them appropriate behavior.
- Reading children's stories to our children provides the best opportunities for true "[teaching moments](#)."
- Reading picture books develops a young child's appreciation for the arts through exposure to many different styles of art and illustrations.