

Hello Alder Grove Students and Families,

We hope you had a wonderful long weekend for the Presidents' break. We know we all needed and deserved some rest!

We are dedicating most of this note to you to address the importance of statewide assessments.

To be frank, our school's future is dependent on our students taking the CAASPP. This is absolutely *not* what WE want, but it is the position we are in as a public charter school. Just like you, many families come to Alder Grove because they love the personalized and non-traditional education that we offer. We hope that we can continue offering this to your students and others for many years to come!

Please consider the following:

1) While the state of California recognizes a parent/guardian's right to opt out of CAASPP testing, the federal government does not. As a public school, we receive roughly a third of our funding from the federal government. Dipping below the 95% participation rate threatens a significant part of our funding, which would, in turn, *directly impact our capacity and the quality of education that we can provide to Alder Grove students.*

2) As a California public charter school, we have to "prove our case" every few years in order to have our charter renewed. Unfortunately, most of what is considered as "proof" that our school is worthy of existing is our standardized test scores. *When students opt out of testing, it not only impacts our participation rate, it also means that each student who opted out is assigned the lowest possible score for each test! We are doubly punished.*

Until these laws change, our hands are somewhat forced into asking that all eligible students participate in CAASPP.

To make testing easier on our students, we are implementing the following accommodations/strategies:

- Bark Bucks rewards and store opportunities
- Small group setting if requested
- Shorter test sessions
- Breaks as needed
- An extended testing window to allow spacing between sessions if desired
- Practice tests so that your child will be more comfortable with the testing platform

If you have other ideas for reducing testing stress and anxiety, please let us know! We are always open to feedback.

With care and warm wishes,

Tim Warner, Superintendent/Executive Director
Stefani Gambrel, Principal/Director of Operations

ALDER GROVE CHARTER SCHOOL HOURS OF OPERATION:

8:30am—4:30pm

Library Hours: 9am—4pm

**Graduating Seniors—Don't forget to turn in your
Cap & Gown forms by Friday, March 29th!**

COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORNER

As with the daffodils and plum tree blossoms, the Alder Grove Charter School community is blooming and blossoming! As I write this, students are excitedly getting ready for their musical. It feels alive and vibrant!

**WE ARE A
COMMUNITY**

Alder Grove Charter School is moving ahead with developing our Community School strategy. If you want to be involved, please join the wonderful group that is our Community School Advisory Team on **March 7, 2024, from 3:30-4:30pm,**

via Zoom. Please contact Shana Langer, Community School Coordinator, at shana.langer@aldergrovecharter.org if you are interested in attending and lending your interest and expertise and would like the Zoom link. *This meeting is open to students, parents, guardians and interested community members.*

SAVE THE DATE: We are so excited for our first Parent Cafe of the year on April 3, 2024, from 5:00-7:00. This event will include dinner, prizes and child care! We will be discussing our parent and student survey results, providing time to meet fellow parents and guardians and celebrating our school and community. We'd love to have a big turnout. Please [RSVP here](#). The first 25 people who RSVP and attend will get an extra raffle ticket! Respond no later than March 22, 2024 to secure your spot.

MEAL PROGRAM / WELLNESS POLICY

Check out the Alder Grove Meal Program tab on our website for links to healthy celebration treats and non-food rewards for students, healthy school fundraising ideas, and a Smart Snacks calculator and list of food and beverages that meet the Smart Snack nutrition standards.

Also, don't forget that Alder Grove serves breakfast and lunch to all students FREE of charge with no application or sign-up required!

Breakfast is offered:

Monday — Friday from 8:35am until 8:55am.

Lunch is offered:

Monday — Thursday from 12:40pm until 1:05pm, and on Friday from 12:00pm until 12:25pm.



PBIS BOOK OF THE MONTH

A simple, five-step program to overcome the social anxiety standing between you and a happier, more confident life

Do you worry about what others think of you? Does fear of being judged trigger intense anxiety? If you're one of millions of teens suffering from social anxiety disorder (SAD), you know how it feels to miss out on life because you're avoiding people or situations that you feel like you just can't deal with. The good news is there is a way to free yourself from the fear and uncertainty keeping you from the rich and fulfilling life you deserve.

Social Anxiety Relief for Teens offers a simple, five-step cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) program to help you stop your fears and worries from getting the best of you. You'll learn to recognize your triggers and identify the unhelpful behaviors you use to try to cope with or avoid them now. Then you'll discover ways to slowly and gently challenge yourself to face anxiety-inducing situations, until you gradually increase your comfort levels. Finally, you'll develop the skills you need to build on your progress and work toward mastering your anxiety.

If you're ready to break free from social anxiety and build the self-confidence you'll need to reach your goals, this book will give you the boost you need to get there.

Click here for more information:

<https://www.newharbinger.com/9781684037056/social-anxiety-relief-for-teens/>



On Campus & Virtual Labs

All labs are free.



Learning Lab

Monday-Friday

9:00-3:00



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Suzanne (9:00-1:00)	Jasper (9:00-10:15)	Cassie (9:00-1:00)	Jasper (9:00-10:15)	Travis (9:00-3:00) *Learning Lab is in Room 2 on Fridays
	Tavia (10:15-12:00)		Tavia (10:15-12:00)	
Tavia (1:00-3:00)	Cassie (12:00-3:00)	Rachael (1:00-3:00)	Cassie (12:00-3:00)	



Science Lab

Grades 5-12

Mondays, 2:10-3:30
(on campus or virtual)

Virtual Link:



Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/98450313082?pwd=UzhWUkw2dmpFSGZPWGpiclFvYTFBUT09>

Google Classroom Join Code: 7wl4szh

The Science Lab is a place for students to come for help with their science coursework or to complete hands-on science labs. Additionally, the Science Lab supports students pursuing A-G Independent Study credits in Biology and Chemistry using the Inspire Biology or Chemistry curriculum and is supported with online labs.

Spanish Games/Homework Help

Grades 4-12

Mondays, 1:10-2:05
(on campus or virtual)

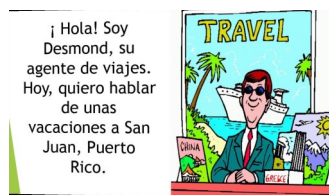
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/7282229011?pwd=aDQ3NDlDdkdtZXBxOVZaU0piTXZaQT09>

Meeting ID: 728 222 9011

Passcode: Hola2023

The first half hour of this free lab will focus on in-person games designed to increase students' Spanish fluency. The second half hour will include any student who needs homework help with their Spanish both in person and online.





Conquer the CAASPP is a proven, online, self-paced test prep program for California students in grades 3-8 and 11.



Here are some of the ways your students will benefit from Conquer the CAASPP:

- Growth in executive functioning skills like time management, focus, goal setting, and organization
- Increased confidence on the CAASPP and other tests
- A gamification approach to learning
- Support and encouragement to do their best
- Assemblies to engage and motivate students

Reach out to your CT to learn more and how to register!

Alder Grove will cover the cost of \$75 per student for ELA and \$75 per student for Math.

ALDER GROVE CHARTER SCHOOL

HEALTHSPORT SWIMMING FIELD TRIP

UP TO 30 PEOPLE FROM TK-12TH GRADES MAY SIGN UP IN THE FRONT OFFICE

THURSDAY MARCH 28 1-2PM Admission **FREE!**

Remember:

- ✓ Parents Stay
- ✓ Bring your own towel
- ✓ Bring your own water
- ✓ Bring a lifejacket if student can't swim

Healthsport Eureka
3441 Pennsylvania Ave
Eureka, CA 95501
(707) 443-3488
healthsport.com

More Information randi.mead@aldergrovecharter.org

REGISTER NOW FOR SPRING SAT TESTING

SAT TESTS WILL BE ONLINE AND AVAILABLE FOR 11TH & 12TH GRADE STUDENTS TO TAKE AT NO COST AT ALDER GROVE.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24 - 9AM-12PM

STUDENTS MUST REGISTER BY EMAILING JEN.BURTRAM@ALDERGROVECHARTER.ORG NO LATER THAN MARCH 1ST.

GET AHEAD OF THE CURVE AND SECURE YOUR SPOT

CAL POLY HUMBOLDT

Trip

A CHANCE FOR 8TH GRADERS TO EXPLORE COLLEGE

WE HAVE TRANSPORTATION FOR THE FIRST 9 STUDENTS TO REGISTER

FRIDAY, MARCH 1ST 9AM-1PM

email jen.burtrame@aldergrovecharter.org to register



UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS / EVENTS



HEALTHSPORT SWIMMING - EUREKA

THURSDAY, MAR 28TH / 1-2:00PM

30 PEOPLE. TK-12TH GRADES. FREE!

**PARENTS STAY. BRING OWN TOWELS & WATER
BRING A LIFEJACKET IF STUDENT CAN'T SWIM**

SCHOOLS TO SYMPHONY

THURSDAY, APR 11TH / 9:30-10:30AM

30 PEOPLE. TK-8TH GRADES. FREE!

ARKLEY CENTER, EUREKA.

END OF YEAR PARTY

FRIDAY, MAY 3RD / 5-7:00PM

ALDER GROVE PARKING LOT

PROM

FRIDAY, MAY 10TH / 7:30-10PM

WHARFINGER BUILDING

SPRING PERFORMANCE

FRIDAY, MAY 17TH / 10:00AM-NOON

ALDER GROVE STAGE

THE BIG, BAD MUSICAL

FRIDAY, MAY 17TH / 6-7:30PM

EUREKA THEATER

GRADUATION

THURSDAY, MAY 23RD

8TH GRADE AT 3:30PM

12TH GRADE AT 5:30PM

EUREKA THEATER



GYMNASTICS

Gymnastics. Always been my sport. I've done cheer, soccer, softball, t-ball, basketball, dance, and more. I never really found my place in those sports, though. I've been in gymnastics since I was three. My mom and dad thought it would just be a dumb little activity for me to do to get all my energy out. I thought gymnastics is a sport that is a lot of fun.

As I got older and moved up levels and had side sports I started to slowly realize gymnastics is what I'm good at. It calms me down, helps with my breathing, is something to think about when I'm bored or overthinking. Plus the team is such a good group of girls.

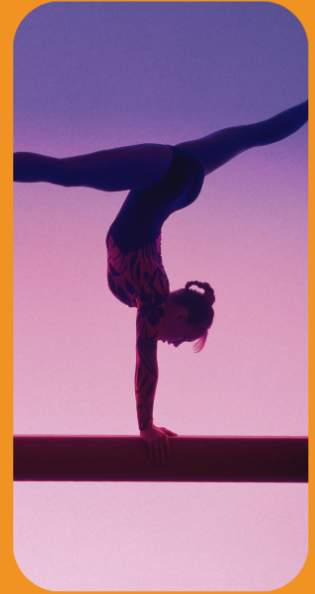
Gymnastics feels like my second family, my second home. Everyone on the team is very supportive and nice. I love them partly because they understand a gymnast's life. None of my other friends get that. They have other sports but not gymnastics. I stuck with gymnastics because I knew I was good at it and it kept me entertained.

When I was little and doing gymnastics, it was my dream to make it to the Olympics and be in competitions. I never actually thought I would make it, though. I always thought that girls in competitions were cool, and the shiny medals were pretty. I never thought I would get them though. Truly, I never even thought I would make it to the team. Then I made it on to the team and worked really hard. I am now a level five and accomplishing a dream of mine.

A dream since I was three? Big freaking deal! Everyone else is kind of like, "Oh, ya, cool... Can you do the splits? Okay and that's not a big deal. You're just a level five that's not that big of a level. No, you suck at gymnastics. You should do basketball or something. You would be better at track. Ever try another sport?" It's like no one really sees the struggle of being a gymnast that goes to competitions and no one really sees the all the work I do for 12 hours every week in the gym.

Tumbling, beam, bars, and running for vault all involve using every bit of your arm, leg, and ab strength, using every part of your body to keep yourself tight and squeezed so you get one good routine that the coaches look at and then they tell you what you need to fix. Or sometimes I get a rip on my hand, but I still do more bar routines and swing on my rip so I can make my coaches proud. This is my sport. I feel like I can accomplish this dream of mine. I am so glad I stuck with this sport because now this is my family. I can't imagine my life without gym.

Martha Boltzen



ALDER GROVE CHARTER SCHOOL

SPIRIT WEEK

APRIL 1-5TH

Unleash Your
School Spirit

Monday:

Sports Team Day

Tuesday:

Favorite Band T-Shirt
Day

Wednesday:

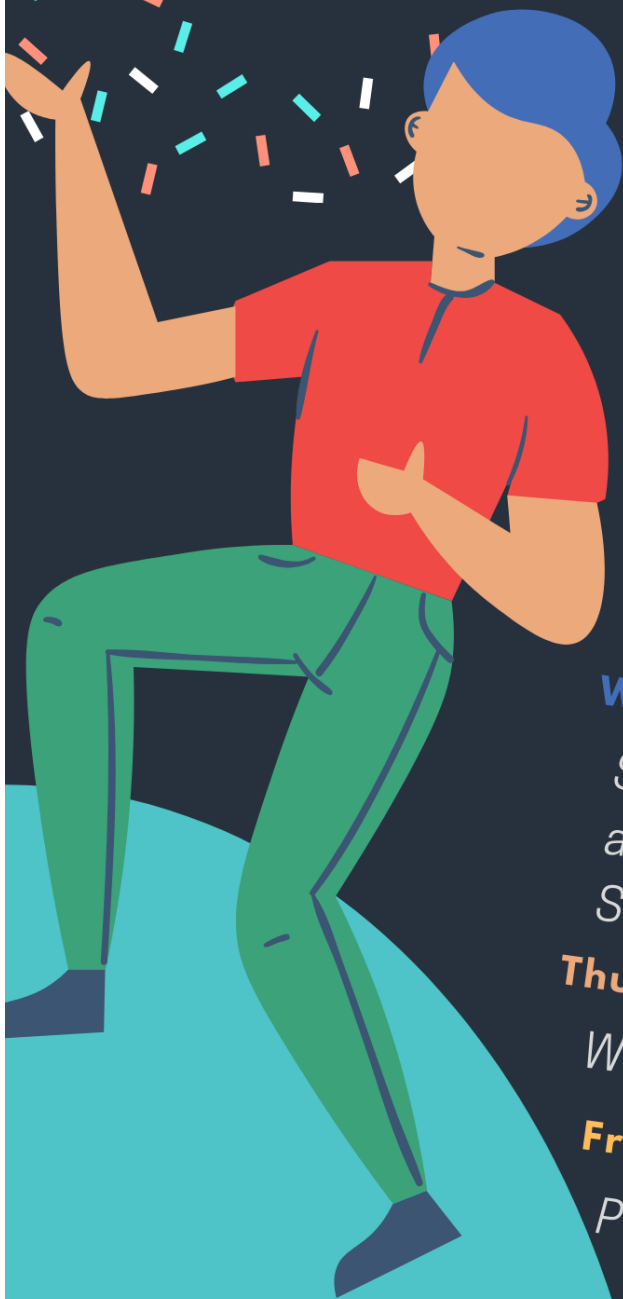
Students Dress Like CT
and CT's Dress Like
Student Day

Thursday:

Western Day

Friday:

Pajama Day





TESI

Technology Exploration Summer Institute
An Education at Work Initiative

Explore Tech Careers!
June 17 - July 12 at College of the Redwoods



Sign up to get exclusive info here!

Covered topics to include:

- TESI Fundamentals
 - Explore the six main domains of ICT.
 - Visit local worksites that showcase technology.
- TESI AI
 - Targeted for students who have previous experience in computer programming.
 - Dive into Artificial Intelligence (AI) and many other domains.
 - Explore careers through a short, work-based learning experience.

TESI is a free four-week summer education program that allows local high school students to explore career fields in Information and Communication Technology (ICT). *Space is limited! Priority may be given to graduating Seniors & early applicants.

Follow us on Facebook
EDUCATION AT WORK



Questions? Email:
Ann Marie Rocha at arocha@hcoe.org




Former TESI student, Varien Goode helped create the figure on the left.




TASI

TRADES ACADEMY SUMMER INSTITUTE
an Education @ Work Initiative



Explore Careers in Trades!
June 17-28 at College of the Redwoods

TASI is a free two-week summer education program that provides local high school students the opportunity to explore careers and acquire skills in product manufacturing, welding, and construction techniques.

Topics covered include:


- Fabrication
- Welding
- Construction
- Workplace Safety

Visits with local industry partners will be included in the program and participants will have the opportunity to earn OSHA 10 certification.



Scan the QR code to fill out an interest form!
For more info or to apply, contact **Ann Marie Rocha** at arocha@hcoe.org or 707-441-3954.






HESI

Health Career Exploration Summer Institute
An Education at Work Initiative



Explore Careers in Health Care!
June 12 & June 13 [evening]
June 20 - June 30 | July 6 & July 7

HESI (Health Careers Exploration Summer Institute) is a free two-three week summer education program sponsored by HCOE's Career and College Resource Department. It provides high school students the opportunity to discover if they are interested in a career in health care. This year, the program will be accepting 26 students.

Interested in a career in health care?
Gain experience in the health care industry



<https://hcoe.org/hesi>
Apply by Friday, April 17
Questions? Email mfreitas@hcoe.org

Must be 16 years and older to apply

INK PEOPLE CENTER FOR THE ARTS

MARZ

MEDIA ARTS RESOURCE ZONE
INKPEOPLE.ORG/MARZPROJECT
marzproject@inkpeople.org | (707) 442-8413

MEDIA ARTS TRAINING FOR YOUTH AGED 12-26
627 3RD ST IN EUREKA

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO FIND THE LATEST UPDATES & DROP-IN IN HOURS!




NATIONAL ENDOWMENT for the ARTS
arts.gov



THE PHYSICAL FITNESS TEST IS BACK

The Physical Fitness Test (PFT) is part of the California state testing program. California has chosen the FITNESSGRAM as the annual PFT for students in public schools.

The FITNESSGRAM is a comprehensive health-related fitness test developed by The Cooper Institute.



WHO?

AGCS Students
5th, 7th & 9th
Grades

WHEN?

February 12 -
March 22

WHAT?

The FITNESSGRAM measures:

- Aerobic Capacity
- Abdominal Strength & Endurance
- Trunk Extender Strength & Flexibility
- Upper Body Strength & Endurance
- Flexibility

HOW?

Your child's CT can administer the PFT, or they can attend AGCS's Field Day on Thursday, February 29, and complete it there!

Students with disabilities have the chance to participate in the PFT and should be given as much of the test as possible.

WHY?

FITNESSGRAM results are one measure of information students and their families may use, along with other information, to monitor overall fitness.

Alder Grove may also use the results for the purpose of evaluating our physical education program.

PARENTS:

Support your child's fitness by encouraging them to exercise for 60 minutes a day!

ALDER GROVE SCIENCE FAIR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6 AT 2PM!

Alder Grove's Science Fair is March 6! Please contact our Science Fair Coordinator, Kathy Yeager, if you are interested or would like support for your student to develop their project!! With so many different types of scientific research, the possibilities for interesting projects are endless.

Each year, the Alder Grove Science Fair follows the protocol outlined by the Humboldt County Science Fair. This year, The County Science Fair has added a non-competitive science poster showcase for TK-12 students. In the poster showcase, students can make a poster to share the Science concepts that they are learning. Posters can include pictures and student art. The Humboldt County Office of Education is offering a free printed 11x17 poster for any entry received by February 27th!



To learn about more about the Science Fair, please check out our [Science Fair Information Slideshow](#) (use this link or the URL below). Once you have completed this step, contact our science fair coordinator Kathy Yeager at: kathy.yeager@aldergrovecharter.org to ask questions, discuss ideas, and sign up for our science fair!!

JOIN TRACK THIS SPRING



THE SEASON IS 4/22/2024 - 5/31/2024

3 MEETS!

GRADES 7-12

We have the opportunity to participate in a short Track season this year! The 3 meets at Fortuna Middle School are on 5/7, 5/14 and 5/31. If there are any interested runners please let Cedar know!

CEDAR.SMITH@ALDERGROVECHARTER.ORG

BOOKLEGGER'S READING CHALLENGE

Terek Adams and his mom Chelsea are taking part in Booklegger's reading challenge together, and they went in to ask for recommendations for a few prompts.

They needed a recommendation for a banned/ challenged book, and were shown a list of titles that have been banned or challenged by some schools or libraries that were also good for Terek's age range. They found that they already had many titles at home, like *Charlotte's Web* (banned some places, where the idea of talking animals is found offensive by some.) They decided to pick *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe*, which they hadn't read yet, though they already owned it. (It is banned in some areas for depicting violence and mysticism.)

Another prompt was, "featuring a culture that is not your own," and after some searching and discussing which option appealed most to both mother and son, they settled on *Kiki Kallira Breaks a Kingdom* by Sangu Mandanna, which is about a girl whose drawings of Indian mythology vividly spring to life!

If you would like to take part in Booklegger's reading challenge, stop by the store to pick up our list.



TESTING SCHEDULE: MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Hello Students and Families,

I cannot believe it, especially with this weather, but Spring is just around the corner, and with that comes state mandated testing, i.e. CAASPP and the PFT. If you haven't read Tim's notes about the high stakes of testing all eligible students, laws impacting charter renewal have made it more critical than ever to test all of our eligible students.

I am not exaggerating when I say that the future of our school depends on our students' participation in state testing!

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS WITH THE FOLLOWING DATES:

April 1 - April 12: Week One of CAASPP testing will take place from April 1 - April 5. Students in 3rd through 8th grades, along with 11th graders, will be tested in Mathematics and Language Arts. All students in 5th, 8th, and some 11th and 12th graders will also take the California Science (CAST). Your CT will be contacting you about scheduling these sessions soon! **Week One of testing coincides with on-campus classes and labs.**

April 8 - April 12: Week Two of CAASPP testing will take place from April 8 - April 12. **There will be NO ON-CAMPUS CLASSES during Week Two of testing.**

PFT due by March 22: The California Physical Fitness Test (PFT) is also coming up for 5th, 7th, and 9th grade students. The test involves several quick aerobic, strength, and flexibility activities, including a timed one-mile walk/run. Contact your CT to ask any questions you might have about your student's completion of the PFT. We will be administering the PFT as part of our 2nd Annual Alder Grove Field Day on Thursday, February 29. See the flyer in this newsletter. For those who wish to do this independently, forms, along with links to instructional videos, are also available on the Alder Grove website. **The deadline has been extended, and these forms are due NO LATER than Friday, March 22nd.**

REMINDER: A link to the CAASPP practice tests is available on the Alder Grove website under Quick Links. Please consider sitting down with your student and going through each practice test TOGETHER. You and your student will benefit from getting better acquainted with the testing platform and the type of questions that will be on these assessments. You can find an answer guide here: <https://www.caaspp.org/ta-resources/practice-training.html>.

**THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR HELPING US ACHIEVE
100% PARTICIPATION IN STATE MANDATED TESTING!**



EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAM!

Earn high school and college credit at the same time!

NO COST TO STUDENTS!

- Complete a CR online application
- Complete a concurrent enrollment form and return to the office
- Register for classes within two business days
- Contact your CT or jen.burtram@aldergrovecharter.org for more info

Students can take any classes offered at CR including ASL, Science, Math, English, Art, Theater, Spanish, Construction, Computer Science, History, Music...and MORE!! Check it out www.redwoods.edu



COLLEGE CREDIT FOR WORKING AND VOLUNTEERING!

- Apply to CR online
- Complete a Concurrent Enrollment Form
- Sign up for CR Work Experience (Through AG and put on master)
- Pick one day/time per week to check in virtually or in person with instructor (Jen) for 10 mins.
- Earn 1 college credit per semester.

Sign up for a FREE Math and/or Reading program

Did you know that is as little as 15 minutes a day, your student can work towards closing gaps they have in Reading and/or Mathematics? Ask your CT today if you would like for your student to participate in this FREE program, courtesy of Alder Grove Charter School!

Targeted Intervention that Delivers a Better Path Forward

Edgenuity MyPath® K-5 and MyPath® 6-12 are personalized learning programs for reading and math that deliver high-impact, engaging lessons that target the specific skills students need to get back to grade level. These innovative programs tailor learning to the needs of each student with technology that prioritizes age-appropriate content and optimizes learning to maximize student success.



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



MIDDLE + HIGH SCHOOL

March 2024

Sun

Mon







Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

					<p>1</p> <p>IBAC Cal Poly Field Trip 9am</p> 	2
3	4	5	<p>6</p> <p>Science Fair 2pm</p> 	7	<p>8</p> <p>SCHOOL CLOSED INT'L WOMEN'S DAY</p>	9
10	11	<p>12</p> <p>Governance Council 10:30am</p> 	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	<p>22</p> <p>Last Day to Complete Physical Fitness Test</p> 	23
24	25	26	27	<p>28</p> <p>Healthsport Swimming Field Trip 1pm</p> 	29	30
31	<p>8th and 12th grade graduation will be at the Eureka Theater on May 23rd.</p>					

Alder Grove Charter School
714 F Street
Eureka, CA 95501