

# Aveson Compass

*We change the world by teaching and inspiring individuals to change the world*

## Off to a Wonderful Start! Thanks to all our Volunteers!

*- by Kate Bean, Director Aveson*

### My November Guest

by Robert Frost

My Sorrow, when she's here with me,  
Thinks these dark days of autumn rain  
Are beautiful as days can be;  
She loves the bare, the withered tree;  
She walks the sodden pasture lane.

Her pleasure will not let me stay,  
She talks and I am fain to list:  
She's glad the birds are gone away,  
She's glad her simple worsted grey  
Is silver now with clinging mist.

The desolate, deserted trees,  
The faded earth, the heavy sky,  
The beauties she so truly sees,  
She thinks I have no eye for these,  
And vexes me for reason why.

Not yesterday I learned to know  
The love of bare November days  
Before the coming of the snow,  
But it were vain to tell her so,  
And they are better for her praise.



Henry Miller said, "The real leader has no need to lead...he is content to point the way." As the fourth year at Aveson unfolds, I feel increasingly like a real leader due to the amazing leadership being exhibited by staff, students and community members. At AGLA, students are setting new norms for their school and running their Monday assemblies. Advisors at both schools are creating personalized learning environments for students even when it results in taking on more work themselves.

Community members are leading action teams with a renewed fervor. As team members take charge of leading the vision of Aveson, I am filled with pride and humility.

When Aveson started more than three years ago, we knew we had an ominous task ahead of us and we needed to hold onto our common vision. At Aveson we behave differently than other schools and the Guiding Principles have proven to be the reason why. "Vision means seeing what could be and what will be and

living the difference". Aveson team members don't just imagine change, they make it happen. "There is no such thing as too much truth". When students' intellectual, emotional and physical health is at stake, truth is the only choice. "How you say it is as important as what you say". Respectful conversation conveys the intended message and achieves positive results. "Everyone's time is valuable". Respecting each other's time is our way of honoring each individual. "When identifying problems, offer strategies and solutions". At Aveson, our community has rallied around

the idea of problem solving, not criticizing. "Our growth together requires us to grow individually". Optimal growth of each team member drives the vision of the Aveson community. "Your commitment is to make others around you successful". Social responsibility is as important as personal responsibility. And finally, "Integrity is everything". We can't be all things to all people but we can stay true to our vision: To provide personalized learning in academics while developing 21st Century skills.



## Goals are the Fuel in the Furnace of Achievement

*- by Sebastian Coggnetta, Director, Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment*

The title of my contribution is taken from author Brian Tracy's book, "Eat That Frog". In the book, Tracy discusses the essential role goals play in achieving success. Goals enable us to do the work we want to do and ultimately live the lives we want to live. At Aveson School of Leaders, goals drive everything that we do. I would like to share three ways in which this concept is manifested at Aveson School of Leaders.

We have just completed our goal-setting conferences. Advisors have invested a great deal of time and energy into learning as much as they can about our students to pinpoint their strengths and needs and help them devise appropriate goals for this school year.

At the school level, we have articulated goals that we use to hold ourselves accountable to every community member. As you may recall, they are: (1) Every student will develop the academic/college-ready skills personalized to their strengths and needs; (2) Every

student will develop globally marketable competencies personalized to their strengths and needs.

To meet these ambitious goals we have to continue to strengthen our core instructional program so that it can benefit all students. For some students, this will result in targeted interventions to give them the skills and confidence to tackle grade level content. For others, we are aiming to provide rigorous yet relevant opportunities to challenge them to reach new heights.

Lastly, in an effort to realize my goal of keeping the community abreast of our efforts to provide students with the best education that we can, I will be initiating a Community Academic Forum. The forum will be similar to the well-known "Coffee with Kate" but will strictly focus on curriculum, instruction, and assessment. I am currently finalizing my calendar and will provide dates for the forums shortly. I welcome your presence and influence at these forums.

# Action Team Round-Up at Farnsworth Park Nov. 7, 1-4 pm

- by Joanna Simpson, Newsletter Editor

## Action Team Update

"You make a living  
by what you get;  
you make a life by  
what you give."

-Arthur J. Balfour

At Aveson we don't have a "PTA" by design; instead we have Action Teams. The goal of Ac-

tion Teams is to get parents and members of our community to come together and achieve a specific goal. Some Action Teams work together all year long and others achieve their goal in a short amount of time and disperse. Action Teams are headed up by a staff member to increase the inter-school communication

and make it easy for teams to make quick decisions. We have established different levels of decision making ranging from Level 1 decisions which can be made by team members to Level 3 decisions which require administrative approval. This removes roadblocks from the process.

Research shows that a student's achievement increases when their parent is actively involved in their school. Traditionally in most schools, parents are asked to come to PTA-like meetings which are often time consuming and don't result in real change. At Aveson we have found that parents are more likely to give time and energy towards causes for which they feel passion. Therefore we have a

wide range of Action Teams and are always open to ideas for new Action Teams.



Action Teams are divided into four categories: General Operations, Personalized Learning, Healthy Living, and Global Leadership/Learning. Within General Operations are Fund Development, Fundraising, Maintenance and Communications & Community. Personalized Learning includes Visual/Media Arts, Learning Differences, and Music. Healthy Living includes Culinary Arts, Gardening, and Outdoor Education. Global

Leadership Learning includes Student Travel and World Language.

Our Action Team Round-Up meeting and picnic will be Sunday, November 7 at Farnsworth Park in Altadena from 1-4 pm. We ask that our whole community come together and that families pick one or more Action Teams to join. At the meeting you will have the opportunity to hear short presentations about the teams and get a feel for what they are working on. Then, parents go to the areas where their team is meeting and exchange ideas and contact information. They may accomplish some of their team's tasks immediately or arrange for future meetings.



## Harvest Wheat-Berry Salad

Serves 3-4; Prep time: 30 minutes

½ cup wheatberries  
1½ cup vegetable broth  
1 T extra-virgin olive oil  
1 T walnut oil  
3 T lemon juice  
1 T apple cider vinegar  
2 large scallions (white and light green parts), thinly sliced

1 large celery stalk, diced  
1 crisp red-skinned apple, unpeeled and diced small

½ cup dried cranberries  
½ cup walnuts, chopped  
½ cup finely minced Ital. parsley  
½ cup pinenuts  
½ cup red pepper, diced small  
¼ cup jicama, diced small  
¼ cup currants,  
¼ cup honey (optional)

Other optional seasonings: mustard, cumin, nutmeg  
Pinch ground cinnamon  
Salt to taste

Combine wheat berries and broth in small saucepan and place over medium heat. Bring to boil. Reduce heat to very low. Cover and simmer for 35 minutes or until most of the water has been absorbed and the kernels are tender yet chewy. Drain excess water. In medium serving bowl, whisk both oils, lemon juice and vinegar. Add drained wheatberries. Add all remaining ingredients to bowl; toss to coat. Season with salt to taste. Refrigerate covered until ready to serve. Serve cool or at room temperature.

Have a great recipe for the newsletter? E-mail it to us at [newsletter@aveson.org](mailto:newsletter@aveson.org)



## Fundraising Update

- by Stephanie Wilson, Fund Development

Aveson's Fund Campaign and the Fundraising Action Team are quickly gaining momentum. The Annual Fund Campaign has raised nearly \$40,000 since it began in early September, a quarter of the way towards our 2010-2011 fundraising target. The goal of the campaign is for every family at both Aveson School of Leaders and Aveson Global Leadership Academy to participate. We have asked each family to contribute \$50 per child attending Aveson towards their materials fees as well as \$350 per child which will go directly into the Aveson General Fund. As you may know, the government has been drastically cutting the amount they give schools for each student. Today it is only about \$5,500! So we rely heavily on our General Fund to supplement this and pay for teachers and supplies to maintain our small class sizes. It is important that we get 100% participation from our families. This 100% participation is essential for us when we are applying for grants. It shows that all of our families are invested in our school. So give generously. Give whatever you can to show your support. Every dollar counts!

The Annual Fund Campaign is being supported by the Fundraising Action Team (FAT) which consists of several sub teams including June Jubilee, Events, Painless Giving, Baked Goods and Annual Fund. If you are interested in joining the Fundraising Action Team, please contact Sidra Golwal at [fundraising@aveson.org](mailto:fundraising@aveson.org).

## Cultural Music with Arlynn

- by Joanna Simpson, Newsletter Editor

Arlynn Page, mother to three Aveson students has been sharing her musical gifts with our children, teaching and performing cultural songs in their classrooms. So far she has been volunteering for Ms. Liz's first/second grade class but hopes to expand her teachings to include all Aveson classrooms.

I was truly honored to watch Arlynn and Evan Porter (another Aveson parent) perform with the children. First the kids sang a lovely African song from memory. They were so joyous in their singing! Then they performed a traditional harvest song in which half of the children played the role of the farmers and the other half the bunnies. As they sang the farmers stepped towards the bunnies (which hopped forward) to the beat of the song. The next song they moved in a circle acting out a caterpillar transforming into a butterfly! Arlynn explained the history of the songs and Evan demonstrated his instruments; a pandeiro and a Brazillian rattle.

Arlynn is a vocalist and song writer. For fifteen years, she made musical arrangements for The Roots, Erika Badu, Outcast and others. She sang backup for Stevie Wonder! Arlynn learned many cultural songs from the founder of Zapp Mama. Her vision is to bring music as a culture to our children. If you are interested in helping teach music at Aveson or would like to contact Arlynn, please e-mail [newsletter@aveson.org](mailto:newsletter@aveson.org).



Spotlight

Nje Nje

(from the Ivory Coast)

Nje Nje Nje  
Kalengela

Kati kalengela

Sabala kAta

ka gulu kalala

Kamweni kitolo

Kamweni kitolo

Kemweni Kitololo

Filapo

M'kani, M'kani,  
M'kani, M'kani

## AGLA Update: Its About Place not Space

- by Larry Simonsen, Director, Aveson Global Leadership Academy

This month at AGLA, we had a terrific Open House. Families came together to learn more about the advisory program, content seminars, our new and improved fitness program, and everybody's favorite time of the week, Elective Mondays!

AGLA students are cooking, dancing, playing basketball and volleyball, singing in choir, studying other cultures, painting and drawing, and making documentary films just to name a handful of our electives. We launched a new ASB student government group, which will be holding a campaign process and elections soon. Mr. Kinley is holding tryouts for an AGLA competitive middle school basketball team! They will play against other area middle schools and city league teams according to Mr. Kinley's arrangements with other coaches and league reps. Tom Hyatt is underway with an ambitious student travel endeavor, hoping to take dozens of students to New York and Boston this June. AGLA will be hosting a group of students from NY at an ISSN Student Leadership Summit which was architected by Steve Regur and Kate Bean with school leaders from the East Coast.

With all of the activity, Aveson advisors and content teachers are maintaining a focus on personalization, making sure each child is known well and served well both academically and socially.

AGLA students are tremendously fortunate to have the adults at this school working with and caring for them. Numerous AGLA parents have stepped forward to chaperone a field trip, teach an elective class, or serve as parent liaisons for a particular class. We welcome all the parent support we can get!

We continue to be thankful for the support and flexibility of the Boys and Girls club leadership and staff as they share their space with us. It is a special place to be able to call our school, and students from both far and near, right from the neighborhood, continue to enroll even as late as this week. Our best days are ahead!



## Did You Know?

- ☼ The state pays us each day for the number of kids that are in attendance at Aveson.
- ☼ For every child that is out sick or out of school per day, Aveson loses \$35.
- ☼ If you need to take your child out for a vacation during school time, you can arrange for them to do "independent study" for that time. Their teachers will give them "home work" which may even keep them quiet and occupied in the car/plane/train... And Aveson will still be paid for those days! (Minimum 3 days)
- ☼ We have spaces available in grades 1,3-12.

## ALL School Events

- Sunday, November 7  
Aveson Picnic and Action Team Roundup, Farnsworth Park in Altadena from 1-4 pm
- Thursday, November 11  
Veteran's Day/ School Closed
- Saturday, November 13 - FREE BABYSITTING!  
Bingo Night and Bake Sale in ASL Cafe, 6:30-9 pm
- Monday - Friday, November 22-26  
Thanksgiving Break/ School Closed
- Monday - Friday, December 20-31  
Winter Break/ School Closed - Have Fun!

## AGLA Events

- Wednesday, November 3  
☕ Coffee with Larry @ 8:10 am in AGLA Courtyard
- Wednesday, November 17  
Community Forum @ 6:30 pm in ASL Auditorium
- Wednesday, December 1  
☕ Coffee with Larry @ 8:10 am in AGLA Courtyard

## ASL & Home Study Events

- Thursday, November 3  
Home Study Orientation (Spaces in K-2 class) @ 3pm
- Wednesday, November 10  
☕ Coffee with Kate @ 8:10 am in ASL Auditorium
- Wednesday, November 10  
Community Forum @ 6:30 pm in ASL Auditorium
- Tuesday, November 16  
Parent Ed. Workshop: Strategies for Reducing Childhood Stress @ 6:30 pm in Homestudy Bungalows
- Wednesday, December 1  
Make-up Photo Day (Individual)
- Thursday, December 9  
☕ Coffee With Kate @ 8:10 am in ASL Cafeteria
- Friday, December 10  
ASL Mixer @ 6:30 pm in ASL Cafeteria
- Tuesday, December 14  
Parent Ed. Workshop: Advocacy for Children with Learning Diff. @ 6:30 pm in Homestudy Bungalows
- Wednesday, December 15 & Thursday December 16  
Minimum Day/ Celebration of Learning



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2020 Fair Oaks Ave.  
Pasadena, CA 91107  
(626) 797-1938

ASL  
1919 E. Pinecrest Dr.  
Altadena, CA 91001  
(626) 797-1440

[www.aveson.org](http://www.aveson.org)



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## Why We Chose to Become a Newsletter Sponsor

- by the Malone Family

Within a couple of weeks of my daughter entering kindergarten here at Aveson, our family has found itself welcome and comfortable with not only other new families but with those who can proudly call themselves "alumni" and I started thinking of how I might be able to contribute to Aveson. As a working parent, I'm unable to give as much time as I'd like, and let's face it, the economy has hit almost all of us hard. But I realized that, as a real estate agent, I have a unique ability to take a portion of my own commission and donate it to Aveson. What better way to give back?

I am hoping that my concept for donating and sponsoring the newsletter will inspire others to think of alternate means of supporting and contributing to Aveson.

For more information on sponsoring an Aveson newsletter, e-mail [newsletter@aveson.org](mailto:newsletter@aveson.org).

