

7 December 2008 - Sunday Edition

### Guiding Principle of the Week

Everyone's time is valuable.

### Kate's Desk

It was another busy week at Aveson with an Eaton Canyon field trip, a community forum, Nature in a Box, and a K-2 Coffee. I am constantly amazed by the Aveson staff and their ability to flow with our flexible philosophy and still get great teaching into the mix.

As you know, each year Aveson must request a renewal of our facility lease agreement with Pasadena Unified School District. The district has been a great partner by allowing us to lease our beautiful campus. The only reservation the district has about Aveson is the neighbor opinion regarding our presence. This year, a few neighbors began circulating a petition asking the district to deny a lease for our 6th-11th grade students. These neighbors feel strongly about not having secondary students attending school in their neighborhood. Aveson is proactively responding by holding a Neighborhood Forum on January 22nd at 6:30 p.m. to introduce our school and listen to any concerns. One concern we know they have is traffic. It is imperative for our Aveson school community to following the agreements we made to PUSD.

- \* We must pick-up and drop off at the designated spots only.
- \* We must not park on the street when parking is available on school grounds.
- \* We need to slow down in the neighborhood and be mindful of blocking neighbors' driveways.

Please help Aveson by following these agreements. Also, if any of you live in the neighborhood, please promote the positive messages from our school and remind neighbors to contact Kate at the school if they have any concerns or questions. Thanks for your help. We don't want to lose our Aveson home!

### Everyone's Time is Valuable

The Aveson day for our students starts with Advisory at 8:10. Advisory at Aveson is just as important as academic time. It is the time for students to bond with peers and their advisor while working on our Social Leadership focus through the following activities: circle time, service projects, self projects, team building, conflict resolution, peer mentoring, etc. It is critical for students to be ready for advisory circle at 8:10. If students trickle in during advisory time it is disruptive and disrespectful to their advisory. Please have your students on campus at 8:00 so they can be in their advisory block by

8:10. Advisory is a key component to making Aveson what is and what it can and will be.

K-2 Eaton Canyon Field Trip Reminder: Monday, December 8

Ulmer, Cranston-Cuebas, Detwiler/Chadwick – 9:00 – 11:30

Sonnenberg, Hanley, Simonsen/Culpepper – 11:30 – 2:00\*

\*Aveson will provide a sack lunch for those who pre-order a school lunch for Monday. All others need to provide a sack lunch if their child is in the afternoon group.

Please send your child to school with appropriate clothing and shoes for hiking in Eaton Canyon, water, and wearing Aveson team wear.

Parents are always welcome to attend Eaton Canyon field trips!

From the Compost Pile

Our students have been very busy in the garden. We had our first tastings this week. The students tried seven different types of lettuce, spinach, chard, radishes - in three colors, and the kindergarden favorite, beet greens! The snow peas have blossoms and the garlic is beginning to emerge, the compost pile is growing and active. All of the classes have been learning how to plant crops for maximum yield in a small area. To do this we have been planting around the outside of a hexagon. As an addendum to this lesson the 6th-8th grade elective students cut up an apple to see how much soil on the earth is available to grow food for everyone on the planet relative to the size of the earth. You can do this at home:

The whole apple represents the Earth. Cut this in quarters.

Remove three pieces as the Earth is 75% water.

Cut the remaining piece in half. Remove one piece.

The piece removed represents uninhabited desert, swamps and arctic areas.

Cut the remaining piece into quarters. Remove three pieces.

These three pieces represent areas that are too hot, rocky or with soil that is too poor to support crops.

Take the remaining piece, 1/32 of the apple. Skin it. The pulp represents areas where we live, roads, buildings etc...

The skin represents the amount of soil available to grow food for everyone living on the Earth.

The Garden Action Team would love your help. Join us next Sunday the 14th for a few hours in the afternoon as we spread mulch, and complete our drip irrigation network. Please contact Jill at [freshvine@sbcglobal.net](mailto:freshvine@sbcglobal.net) to RSVP.

### Get Fruity: Tree People Fruit Tree Giveaway

Every January Tree People gives away fruit trees to community groups, schools, and non-profits. They will give a maximum of 150 trees to a group. In turn we must supply the names and addresses of everyone who receives trees. If you would like to sign up for a tree please go to [treepeople.org](http://treepeople.org) and click on the Fruit Tree Program. You can find out more about the program and what types of trees are available. Then if you would like a tree please email Jill McArthur with all of your contact information and the type of tree you would like. The trees are ready for distribution between the 3rd and the 25th of January. We will have a planting workshop at school to help answer any questions you may have about planting your tree. The application is due on December 15th. We would like to have the application in by the 12th to help ensure our selection. You may email Jill at [freshvine@sbcglobal.net](mailto:freshvine@sbcglobal.net).

### Smile-A-While - Your Feedback, Please

As you know, Aveson Charter School partners with Smile-A-While (SAW) who provides an after school enrichment program for our students. Aveson provides the space and utilities for the program and expects Smile-A-While to provide a high quality and affordable care and enrichment program. Given this expectation, we are conducting a mid year evaluation and need some feedback from our families. If you are a family who currently has students enrolled in the SAW program, please take time to fill out the survey using the following link. It is important to get the students perspective so please talk with your students before completing the survey.

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=6ILHmqbzxHjUYA\\_2f\\_2f220esA\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=6ILHmqbzxHjUYA_2f_2f220esA_3d_3d)

### Take Care of Yourself - and Aveson - at Petal Holistic Skincare

Revitalize and Renew yourself at Petal.....

When you treat yourself to any of our Dr. Hauschka Holistic Services, Petal Holistic Skincare will donate 10% to Aveson Charter School

During the month of December, enjoy an "extra indulgence" of your choice with any Hauschka Treatment. Gift Certificates are always available and make great stocking

stuffers! Give yourself and loved ones the gift of time, nurturing and well being and give back to Aveson at the same time...

Kathleen Van Dusen @ 626-290-9666  
petalcare@yahoo.com

### Volunteer Survey, Do Tell

Have you had a chance to tell us about your interests and how you might want to get involved at Aveson?

Our Volunteer Survey is still open and it will only take a few minutes of your time. Follow this link or access the survey from the volunteer page on Aveson.org.

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=4B4DNVjACMTFIk\\_2fOj6BfJg\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=4B4DNVjACMTFIk_2fOj6BfJg_3d_3d)

### Holiday Giving, Aveson Style

Have grandparents or friends called to ask what the kids want for the holidays? Lighten your load and benefit your community by suggesting one of the following:

A. Aveson needs playground balls! Basketballs, footballs, soccer balls, bouncy balls... we need them all! If you want an easy online option, see the following link, where soccer, football and basketballs are only \$6.45 each and bouncies are \$3.45. Direct your ball donations to Susan Hixon in the office and we will be sure the donor is acknowledged with a special Aveson thank you.

<http://www.discountschoolsupply.com/Product/ProductList.aspx?category=2>

B. Make a toy donation for the children of incarcerated women. The Altadena Sheriff's Dept. takes the collected toys to the California Institute for Women in Corona, CA, where women can select and wrap them, then give these gifts to their children at the holiday visitation time. It's a great program that brings a sense of celebration to families who struggle with separation and loss at holiday time. Please bring your new, unwrapped toy donations directly to the office or give them to staff at drop-off (bag them well, so as not to distract our students!).

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

10 December - Wednesday - Community Day

Students will be in their K-10 villages participating in "sense of self" activities and creating some fantastic artwork as part of the Chalk Festival. The day will also include

games, reflection, storytelling, photography, and village lunches. Parents are invited to join us at any point during this exciting, community-building day, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Please check in at the front desk.

#### 15 -18 December - Scholastic Book Fair

It's time once again to browse your favorite book titles at Aveson's Scholastic Book Fair. Our schedule includes preview days on Dec. 15 and 16, when advisors will bring literacy block students to the fair. Students and advisors will have a chance to make their own wish lists. Families are invited to visit the fair during the Celebration of Learning from 4:00-8:30 p.m. on Wed. Dec. 17 and Thurs., Dec. 18. Check your Wednesday packet for more details. Volunteers still needed. Please email [susanhixon@aveson.org](mailto:susanhixon@aveson.org) if you can help out.

#### 17 December - Wednesday - Aveson Restaurant Nite

Join Aveson family and friends for December's Italian restaurant nite at Pinocchio's Italian Restaurant on No. Lake in Pasadena from 11am to 10pm!

#### 10 January 2009 - Action Team Kickoff Event!

Aveson is ready to put your New Year's resolution energy to work! Come to the Action Team Kickoff Event on Saturday, Jan. 10 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00. We will have a general session in the auditorium and then break off into the action teams listed below. An action team is a group of parents, students and staff who come together around a common passion to accomplish a positive outcome for our school.

Please note that we have facilitators for the teams marked with \*. If you are interested in serving as a facilitator for a team not marked with \*, please email [erinbuoen@aveson.org](mailto:erinbuoen@aveson.org). We are excited that many Aveson advisors will be joining action teams beginning in 2009.

#### AVESON ACTION TEAMS

Arts Action Team  
Culinary Arts Action Team (The Foodies)\*  
Culture and Climate Action Team  
Foreign Language Action Team  
Fundraising Action Team (FAT)\*  
Gardening Action Team\*  
Grants Action Team\*  
Green/ Environmental Action Team  
Learning Differences Action Team

Library/ Literacy Action Team\*  
Music Action Team\*  
Neighborhood Action Team\*  
Physical Education Action Team  
Playground Action\*  
School Safety Action Team  
Service Learning/ Global Outreach Action Team\*