

24 October 2008

Guiding Principle of the Week

Vision means seeing what could be and what will be and living the difference.

Kate's Desk

Hello Aveson,

I have just spent the past two days attending a "Simply Strengths" workshop conducted by the Marcus Buckingham organization. It was a wonderful time for me to learn and reflect. It also reinforced my belief in our vision at Aveson. We believe each child has innate talents and strengths. It is our job as educators and families to help our students recognize and maximize their strengths thereby experiencing academic and personal success.

I began implementing our "Strengths" training with the staff at the end of last year. We are continuing our work as a staff and beginning to work on how to support our students by knowing their strengths. Many of our families heard our advisors discuss student strengths at the goal setting conferences. You will continue to hear from students themselves at the student led conferences.

These are the messages we want our students to hear:

You were born different from everyone else.

You are the best teacher about what makes you unique and strong.

Join us in asking your students to complete this statement:

"I feel strong when...(fill in an activity).

This will help them recognize and maximize their innate gifts.

I will be offering a free strengths workshop for parents in the month of December. We will discuss our individual strengths and how to help your children identify their individual assets. Please look for specific details soon.

Entrepreneur Roll Call This Monday

If you are self-employed, a freelancing talent or a business owner, come connect with fellow Aveson entrepreneurs at the annual Aveson Business Mixer. This year's mixer will be hosted at the home of Elisabeth Dimopolus on Monday, October 27th at from 6:30-8:30pm. 1182 Sonoma Drive, Altadena.

Featured light fare will be prepared by our very own Gwen Kenneally (daughter Emma is at Aveson in the 6th grade), co-owner and chef at the catering company and cooking school - Back to the Kitchen. This is a great way to network your business and get to know the other fantastic resources our Aveson community has to offer. Please contact Cynthia Cohn at cynthia.cohn@sothebysrealty.com this weekend to confirm your attendance.

Steady Progress

The Hanleys have good news to report -- on Friday, 10/24, Phil will be moved from Kindred Hospital to a facility in Artesia specializing in therapy for patients having suffered traumatic brain injury. Given Phil's increased movement, responsiveness, and reactions, the move is appropriate and will address his changing needs. For now, we will suspend hospital visits until we know the schedule/policies at the new facility. Look for another update in the next week or two. Thanks to everyone for your visits and energy and continued positive thinking!

Exploring Eaton Canyon

K-2nd graders will take their first field trip Monday, October 27th to Eaton Canyon. Parents are warmly invited and encouraged to join their students. Please plan on meeting at the Canyon.

Jennee, Cid and Diane/Liz 9:00 - 11:30 Lunch at school.

Thea, Meg, Lisa/Rachel 11:30 - 2:00 Bring a sack lunch.

Don't forget to equip your child(ren) with a water bottle (labeled with name), snack for am or sack lunch for afternoon field trip, proper shoes for hiking, sunscreen, a hat and the appropriate Aveson team wear.

Work for Play

Aveson's Playground Action Team is seeking volunteers to help paint basketball, hop scotch and four-square grids on the K-5 black top. This is a low cost but high impact project that will enrich K-5 recess. To help, please e-mail Liz Culpepper at lizculpepper@aveson.org.

YOUR BOOK! OUR BOOK! We All Want a Yearbook!

3-5 cadre is taking on the task of designing and producing Aveson's 2008-09 yearbook. We are seeking a small team of parents dedicated to meeting with kids after school once a week (more often prior to deadline) to assemble Aveson's yearbook. 3-5 Projects teacher Brigid Hanks will facilitate meetings on either a Tuesday or Thursday. Brigid will be available to support a team of parent volunteers. Parent volunteers will help decide where photos need to be captured, make sure all classes and grades are fairly represented, coordinate the documentation of events and organize the sale of page dedications and books. Basic photography, computer and proofreading skills are a boon. This is a big assignment for one adult and several students... but a totally manageable feat for a coordinated team of adults and students! To get involved, please e-mail Brigid Hanks with "YEARBOOK" in your e-mail subject line.

Thank you!!!
bridgethanks@aveson.org

From the Compost Pile

Composting in Aveson's cafe kitchen has begun!

This week our garden received free plant plugs from a fellow Master Gardener. K-2 planted red and gold cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, and Brussels sprouts. K-2 has also been monitoring the progress of the seeds they planted in their root view cups. The third graders took soil samples, planted garlic, and cleaned out a bed to prepare for planting. We will do further investigation into how to develop healthy soil.

Electives began for 6-10. A group from 6-8 met Jill in the garden and began by planting lettuce, carrots and garlic (one can never have too much garlic). They also received a lesson about sheet mulching with a hands-on follow up. Another group met with Mr. Blandjzia - Aveson's guerrilla gardener and 9-10 English teacher - and our Master Gardener Jill. Mr. Blandjzia explored patterns found in nature with the students then took a campus tour to sketch examples of these patterns on campus.

If anyone would like to help in the garden anytime please contact Jill at freshvine@sbcglobal.net. We have a watering schedule to fulfill and mulch that needs raking.

K-2 Eat & Be Merry! November 7th

Your K-2 Liaisons hope you will join us for an evening of fun, camaraderie and community on NOVEMBER 7, 2008 from 6-8 pm

This is a Potluck Dinner event, so bring your favorite dish to share. Don't have a favorite dish and want a little direction? See the guide below. Your K-2 Liaisons will provide beverages, flatware, paper-goods and more! If you are interested in helping with set up and clean up, please contact your parent liaison. Please bring your whole family! There will be activities for the kids and information about our school and upcoming events.

~~If your last name begins with:~~

A-J: Dessert

K-S: Main Dish

T-Z: Salad or Appetizer