

Academy of Personalized Learning, A Charter School

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Apple News



May News



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Another school year is winding down and everyone is looking forward to summer! This has been a wonderful, event-filled year for APL as we began our journey as "our own school" - a direct-funded charter school with the Gateway District. If you saw our site last August, you can appreciate all of the physical changes that have taken place. (We started the year with books stacked in organized piles on the floor!) So as the year has progressed, we have worked diligently to not only organize our space, but also to create a program that can meet the needs of our diverse student population. We've come a long way and the work continues!

We wish to thank all of the families who responded to the Parent Survey and the Possible Fall Courses Survey sent out in last month's newsletter. Your feedback is very important to us and we will use the results of these surveys as we plan for next school year.

The APL website is live! Check it out at www.ourapl.org. Note that you can now sign up for field trips via the website. (Three trips are listed for May.) There is a Field Trip Registration button below the navigation tabs on the left side of the web page. There will be more information added to our website as we move forward, but we're excited to have it launched.

Stay tuned for further developments at APL and get ready for another great year in 2010/11!



Students in the Spotlight



Sean Howard, an 8th grader, is new to APL this year and he has adapted to home school very well. You probably won't hear Sean talk unless you approach him directly, for he is extremely shy. Sean works hard to complete all his assignments, and he attends and participates in class consistently. Aside from sleeping, which Sean said he likes to do in his spare time, he enjoys hanging out with friends, playing games, riding bikes and hiking. Sean wants to go into the army after high school, but hasn't decided what to specialize in. Sean will be a success because he works hard to achieve his goals. We look forward to getting to know him better in the future, and hope he stays with us for a long time.

Hannah Miller is a graduating senior, finishing her high school work a full year early. Hannah is a strong student who worked very hard at all of her courses and especially enjoyed taking many classes at Shasta College. Hannah has also been a Museum Teen Volunteer at Turtle Bay Exploration Park since August of 2005. She has learned how to work with almost all of the animals at the museum, but is especially interested in the raptors, such as the hawks and owls. Hannah plans to enter the Vet Tech program at Shasta College in the fall with an aim of learning more about animal behavior. Her hard work and dedication have paid off. Hannah was recently hired by Turtle Bay as summer staff. We are all very proud of her accomplishments and wish her well as she moves forward with her life.

Tiffany Plunk is new to APL this year. She is doing excellent school work and is very active with 4H. Tiffany is an 8th grade girl with a "good eye" and a "big heart." She has a good eye for photography as one of her 4H specialties. Her fine images were on display at APL last month and have also been displayed at a local café downtown. Tiffany's BIG heart is for animals. For several years she has been involved with animal rescues. When she is notified of lost or endangered animals, she goes out even in the dead of night to rescue them, and cares for them until they are in permanent care at Haven Humane. Tiffany also cares for wild horses at a special ranch. Kudos to Tiffany for all of the wonderful work she is doing!

May events

- ✓ Dragonwood Celtic Faire
- ✓ Teen Writers Group
- ✓ Horsetown-Clear Creek Preserve
- ✓ Young Writers Reception
- ✓ YouthFest '10
- ✓ Dog-A-Thon
- ✓ Home School Skate
- ✓ Planetarium
- ✓ Pirates of Penzance
- ✓ Western Heritage Day
- ✓ Hands-On Science Lab
- ✓ Formal Dinner/Dance
- ✓ High School Graduation
- ✓ 8th Grade Promotion

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APL Orientation



APL is accepting new students for the 2010/11 school year. Orientation for interested families will be held Monday evenings in May and June at 5 PM at APL, 224 Hartnell Ave. (There will be no orientation on May 31, Memorial Day.) If you have friends or family looking at school

options, please consider suggesting us! Here's what we have to offer:

- K-12 program
- WASC accredited
- Curriculum choice
- Independent study
- Home school
- Classes, vendor courses & tutoring
- Flexible scheduling
- Credentialed teachers
- California standards based instruction



School Business



Pirates of Penzance **play rehearsals** have been scheduled for students in grades 4 and up on Monday, **5/3 and 5/10**, from 1 to 4 pm.

There will be **CaHSEE testing** on **May 11** (English) and **May 12** (Math) from 1-4 pm at APL for **10th** graders who were absent from the February or March sessions, **11th** graders, and **12th** graders who have yet to pass one or both sections of the test.

The last **Passport Club** of the school year will meet on Wednesday, **May 12th** from 11-11:50 am. The country of focus will be Spain. If you have any questions, please contact Cassie Cable at cassie.cable@ourapl.org. Also, we are so grateful for the supportive parents who have helped each month to make the Passport Club a success. Thank you to Tracy Lentz, Dorothy Tello and Lisa West.

Lost and Found at APL has acquired many stray items, especially jackets. Please pick up any items that belong to your children before the end of the school year.



The **APL Book Clubs** will meet as follows in May: The **Fantasy Book Club** will meet Tuesday, **May 11th** to discuss Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets by J.K. Rowling. The **General Book Club** will meet Friday, **May 21st** to discuss Point Blank by Anthony Horowitz. The **Mystery Book Club** has selected Shadow Club Rising by Neal Shusterman. They will meet Tuesday, **May 25th** for their discussion. All of the book clubs meet at **4:00 pm** at APL. The books can be checked out at the APL library.

There will be a **California Physical Fitness Test make-up day** for students in grades 5, 7, and 9 at Kids Kingdom Park on **May 19th** at 9 am.

Seniors: We would like to have 3-5 photos of you to use for the graduation slide show. A baby picture and more recent photos as well would be great! Please email them to jeanna.parks@ourapl.org. Or you can give Jeanna photos with contact information on the back, so she can scan them and return them to you.

We are hoping to have all students in grades 4-11 take the **Scantron Assessment Test** before the end of the school year, if they have not yet taken it. We have just switched to the short version of the test which should take about one hour to complete. For the last two weeks of school, 5/17-5/27, we will have testing from 9 am-3 pm each day. There will be 20 computers available. Please check with your teacher or call the office for scheduling.

The students whose names were drawn for **Good Apple Awards** in April were Sean Perry and Christian Johnson. These students were cited with "good citizenship" and given tickets which were then selected in the monthly drawing. Congratulations to our "Good Apples!"

The **Oral Health Assessment Form for 1st grade students in the 2010-11 school year is due by September 15, 2010**. You can get the form from your teacher or the office. If you have questions or can't meet the deadline, contact Sherina at the office, 222-9275.

Immunizations for kindergarteners should be completed within the first thirty days of enrollment. If you have questions about immunizations, please contact Sherina.

Work Permit applications are available at the office. Parents can fill out the request and drop it off at APL or fax it to Sherina, 222-9281.

Library News

The APL Library will close on **May 14th**, except for book returns. Families may bring in returns and put them in the drop box for check-in. This early closing date will allow APL library staff to complete end of the year cataloging and inventory to prepare for next school year.

All APL materials are due back into the library by **June 15th**. After that time, we will be sending out notices to let you know what materials are overdue. We do not fine for overdue materials, however, families are responsible for lost materials. If you plan to school over the summer and there are items that you need,

"There is a good reason they call these ceremonies "commencement exercises." Graduation is not the end; it's the beginning."

Orrin Hatch

please let your teacher know so that he/she can renew those materials for next year. We are asking for as much to be returned as possible this year for cataloging.

APL would like to thank all of the people who collected and donated "boxtops" to our school. We earned \$185 and plan to purchase books for the library that have been requested by students. Thank you so much!



May Events



The **2010 Annual Shasta Dragonwood Celtic Faire** will be held at the Anderson River Park on **May 1-2**. Celebrate the spirit of the Celtic nations with great entertainment including music, Highland games and a Renaissance village. Enjoy ethnic food and drink and merchandise native to Scotland and the Celtic fringe. Highlights of the weekend will be Black Irish Band and a hard hitting joust provided by nationally acclaimed Knights of Avalon. Enjoy some living history!

YouthFest '10, a community event for teens, will be **May 8th**, 11am-4pm at Library Park in downtown Redding. There will be live music, great prizes, free food, and information booths. Sounds like fun!

The last **Home School Skate** of this school year will be **May 12** from 3-5 pm. Cost is \$3 per person with one free admission for supervising adult. All participants must be accompanied by an adult.

APL has scheduled monthly planetarium shows at the **Schreder Planetarium** on Magnolia Ave. Join APL on Thursday, **May 13th**, from 1-2:45 pm, for Secrets of the Sun, "an intimate look at the role the sun plays in the life of our solar system." Sign up for the show on our website, www.ourapl.org, or call Rose at APL, 222-9275.

APL's spring musical performance, **The Pirates of Penzance**, will be **Friday, May 14th and Saturday, May 15th at 7:00 pm** at the Center for Spiritual Living, 1905 Hartnell Avenue, Redding. Tickets will go on sale the first week of April and all seats will be \$5.00 each. See Lynn at APL to purchase your tickets.

There will be a **Hands-on Magnetism Science Lab** at Schreder Planetarium on **May 19th** from 12:30-2:00 pm. The lab targets 3rd-8th grade standards but it is open to all students. Register on our website, www.ourapl.org, or call the office at 222-9275.

The **Teen Writers Group** will meet Sunday, **May 2nd** from 2-3 pm in the Foundation Reading Room at the Redding Library. Poets, novelists, short story writers, or just avid readers age 13-18 are welcome. For information, call 245-7253.

Young Writers Reception: APL would like to invite students (and their families) who wrote Treasure Books and/or entered The Shasta County Young Writers Festival to a reception at APL on Monday, **May 3rd** from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. Treasure Books will be distributed and refreshments will be served. There will be an opportunity for authors to read a selection from their work.

Walk with your canine pal, or just come and walk, in the second annual **Dog-A-Thon, May 8**, 10 am to 1 pm at Haven Humane Society, 7449 Eastside Rd., Anderson. There will be contests, prizes, animal rescue groups, merchandise, demonstrations and displays. A \$35 registration fee includes an event t-shirt and lunch. Individuals and teams can preregister at www.havenhumane.net or 241-5262.

There will be a **Formal Dinner/Dance** for teen-age home-schoolers on Saturday, **May 22nd** from **6:00-10:00 pm** (note change in date and time) at the Moose Family Center, 320 Lake Blvd. in Redding. Tickets are available for \$15 per person until 5/19 at APL For info: Rosanne Atzet, 604-2202.

The APL high school graduation ceremony will be **Thursday, May 27th at 5:30 pm** at the McLaughlin Auditorium, 1805 Sequoia St (Sequoia School). Seniors will rehearse at **12:30 pm** on the day of graduation. And please remember that no food or drink is permitted inside the auditorium.

The promotion ceremony for 8th grade students will be **Friday, May 28th at noon at APL**. If you have yet to RSVP, please contact your teacher if you are interested in having your 8th grader participate.

Redding Rodeo's Western Heritage Day will be Friday, **May 14th**, from 9 am-12 pm at the Redding Rodeo Grounds, 715 Auditorium Dr. A BBQ lunch will be provided at 11 am. Register for this event on our website, www.ourapl.org or call APL, 222-9275. Please register by noon on May 3rd. Meet at the front gate of the rodeo grounds at 8:30 am on the day of the rodeo.

Horsetown-Clear Creek Preserve free family events:

Early Bird Watchers: Enjoy early morning bird watching with local expert Barbara Peck on Saturday, **May 8** at 8:00 am. Barbara has a Masters in Wildlife Biology and Ecology. She will point out birds and fascinate us with information about them. Bring your curiosity and (if possible) **binoculars**. Meet at the HCCP parking area on Clear Creek Road, about 7 miles west of Hwy 273, just west of the Clear Creek Bridge. Call 241-2026 for information.

Close Up Encounters With Birds of Prey: Shasta Wildlife Rescue works to rescue and rehabilitate these magnificent birds. When one is not a candidate to be released back to the wild, they are cared for by this non-profit organization. Through their educational outreach program you have the opportunity to see the birds up close and learn more about them. This is an excellent program for all ages on Sunday, **May 16** at 10:00 am. Meet at the HCCP parking area as described above.

Bugs on the Bottom—A Look at Stream Bottom Ecology in Clear Creek: Wade the stream with Shasta College instructor Morgan Hannaford, PhD—or watch from shore—as he gathers strange and fascinating insects from their underwater homes. Bring sneakers if you want to wade. This event for all ages is Sunday, **May 23** at 11:00 am. Meet at the HCCP parking area as described above.

Children are welcome at all Horsetown-Clear Creek Preserve events. All events are free. Call 241-2026 for more information on any of these events.

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 **Tutoring**   **Meetings**   **End Notes** 

There will be **Open Tutoring** for APL high school students on-site Tuesdays, 9:00-2:00, and Thursdays, 9:00-12:00, through the last week of on-site classes which end on May 14th.

Math Tutoring with Mr. Nason will be offered as follows:

Mon: 1:00-3:00 pm at the Redding Library (Last session will be 5/17)

Tues: 3:30-4:30 pm at APL (Last session will be 5/18)

Thurs: 3:30-4:30 pm at APL (Last session will be 5/20)

Fri: 9:00 am-noon at the Local Indians for Education (LIFE) Center in Shasta Lake City. (Call 275-1513 for directions.) Also, 1:00-3:00 pm at the Anderson Library. (Last session will be 5/21)

APL will provide tutoring at the Burney Library on an as-needed basis. Students can contact APL teacher Vanessa Burger at 276-7936 for tutoring assistance.

The APL Board Meetings are the **3rd Wednesday** of each month at **5:15 pm**, with the next meeting on **May 19th**. Barring a schedule change or special meeting, the schedule of board meetings for the rest of the school year is as follows: **5/19** and 6/16.

The next APL Advisory Council meeting will be **Friday, May 21st at 2:30 pm**.

“You cannot help but learn more as you take the world into your hands. Take it up reverently, for it is an old piece of clay, with millions of thumbprints on it.”

John Updike

May calendar: The last day of on-site classes is **May 14th**, which is also the last day the library will be open for check-outs. The final day of school is **May 27**. All APL materials are due back into the library by **June 15th**.

The office will be closed during the month of July. The 2010/11 school year will begin on **August 18th**.

Schreder Planetarium is offering hands-on science and technology **summer camps** as follows: **Engineering & Exploration**, 7/19-7/23, for students who will be in 6th-8th grade next fall; **Bio Detectives**, 7/19-7/23, for students who will be in 4th-8th grade; **Astronomy Camp**, 7/26-7/30, for students who will be in 4th-6th grade; **Quirkles/Technology Camp**, 8/2-8/6, for students who will be in 6th-8th grade; and **Environments**, a half-day camp 8/2-8/6, for students who will be in 1st-2nd grade next fall. For more information about the programs and to register, visit www.shastacoe.org/planetarium.

There are a limited number of scholarships available. For additional information, contact Karen Cross at (5 3 0) 2 2 5 - 0 2 4 1 o r kcross@shastacoe.org.

“It takes courage to grow up and become who you really are.”

e.e. cummings