

Academy of Personalized Learning, A Charter School

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Apple News

August/ September



August 18, 2011

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Greetings! The 2011/2012 school year is just beginning and we hope that you are excited to be back in school. APL is looking forward to another great year. We are pleased to announce our **new school site at 2195 Larkspur Lane** in Redding. We will be occupying the first floor of the building that currently houses National University on its second floor. Dr. Dougherty and the landlord are working diligently to complete the needed site improvements so that we can begin classes on **September 6**. We invite our families to "drive by" and see where we will be located, but **please do not attempt to enter the building** (for safety reasons as well as impeding the progress of the workers). We want to express our appreciation to all of our families for their patience and support as we have labored through this move. It has been a challenge living out of boxes these past few weeks, but it will all have been worth it once we are set up in our new facility that offers twice as much space! **In the meantime, (through the month of August), we will continue to operate at our old site at 224 Hartnell.**

As we continue to develop and improve our program, incorporating suggestions made in last spring's parent surveys, we hope that you will be pleased with the extensive schedule of classes that we are offering on-site this fall. Tuesdays and Thursdays will be high school site days again this year, with high school classes meeting two days per week. Wednesday and Friday classes will be for students in grades K-8. Enrichment classes meet once per week and core classes for elementary grades meet twice a week. **As students have the opportunity to attend classes all day long, we ask parents to send their students with a cold lunch and/or snack provisions to last them throughout their day.** Copies of the class schedules are included with this newsletter. If you haven't yet signed up for on-site classes, please contact your teacher.

APL is pleased to continue providing vendor courses to our students. We offer a diverse selection of VEPs (vendor elective providers), with some new vendors to choose from this year. Students may select one VEP and APL will cover the cost (up to \$50 per month). Your teacher can discuss our vendor program with you and arrange for participation in these classes.

Student attendance is important for success in classes, whether they are on-site classes or vendor courses. **If your child is unable to attend site classes, please call the school or email Sherina** at sweide@ourapl.org with the following information: student's full name, date of absence, and reason for absence. Please call vendors also, if your child will be absent from their class. Absences, (such as for illness) can be excused and arrangements can perhaps be made to make up the lesson. Without a phone call or email by the end of the day, however, the absence is unexcused. Repeated unexcused absences may result in disenrollment from the class, so please make every effort to attend classes and report absences.

Field trips and other events and activities will continue to be announced in the monthly newsletters. Registration for future field trips will be via our website at www.ourapl.org, but for this month field trip sign-ups will be via phone, email, or website as listed for each trip. See the Events section on page 3 for some interesting events in August and September.

APL will have various bulletin boards at our new site to display news, information, and events that are of interest to our families. This will include career planning and college information, which is not just for seniors! We encourage students and their families to start thinking about college early. If you are even considering the *possibility* of attending college, it would be wise to plan an appropriate course of study during junior and senior high school that will allow you to do so. Keep your options open! See College Corner on page 3 of this newsletter for more information.

As we strive to offer our students a rich and rewarding educational experience, we welcome you and your family to this village we call APL!

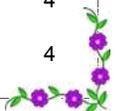
August/ September events



- ✓ Peter Gros and the Wild Kingdom Animal Show
- ✓ Whiskeytown Kayak Tours
- ✓ Secrets of the Sun
- ✓ Edgar Cruz, Guitarist Extraordinaire
- ✓ Scottish Country Dancing
- ✓ College Quest
- ✓ QuestBridge

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APL Orientation



APL is accepting new students for the **2011/12 school year**. Orientation for interested families will be held **Wednesday** evenings at **5 PM** at APL, **224 Hartnell**, through the month of August. **Beginning September 7, orientation will be at our new site, 2195 Larkspur Lane**. 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



We are hoping to have all continuing students in **grades 3-11** take the **Scantron Assessment Test** during the month of September. (New students have been tested before enrolling). **These tests must be proctored by a teacher**, but the tests can be given at any location that offers a quiet testing environment with a computer and internet access. Until we make our move, teachers can proctor tests at the libraries in Burney, Anderson, and Redding, as well as the APL library, students' homes, or teachers' homes. The detailed information that the tests provide will be useful for showing parents where students have made academic progress and in what specific areas they need to focus.

Student IDs: For an APL student identification card, stop by the school and see Sherina to get your photo taken. For more information, contact Sherina at 222-9275.

Teaching Assistants: Many of the classes at APL would benefit from the able assistance of a Teaching Assistant (TA), a high school student who can earn credits for this position. Some of the classes whose teachers would appreciate a TA are Algebra, Ceramics, Reading, and Science. There are also positions available for Office Assistants. Students, if you are interested in earning graduation credits while offering support to our school with your work in a classroom or office, please let your teacher know.

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 at 222-9281.

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

The Oral Health Assessment Form for 1st grade students in the 2011-12 school year is due by September 15, 2011. The dentist will fill out a form, which you can get from the APL office. If you have questions or can't meet the deadline, contact Sherina at 222-9275.

Tdap booster shot: All students in grades 7-12 are required to have a Tdap booster shot to protect them from whooping cough. Students attending site classes must have this immunization before **September 16**. If you have questions, contact Sherina at 222-9275.

Picture Day: LifeTouch will be at APL on **October 7** to take photos of students (and siblings, if interested). Stay tuned for more info next month.

Destiny Library Catalog: Families can search our library holdings by going online to <https://ourapl.follettdestiny.com>. You can browse without logging in, but if you wish to look at what your children have checked out, click in the upper right hand corner of the home page on "login." You will be asked for your student's username (first initial followed by last name) and password (patron number). Your teacher can provide you with the patron number. You will then be able to create your own password to access Destiny online. If you do not like the Destiny Quest format, click in the upper right hand corner "Exit Destiny Quest," which will bring you to a less visually imposing screen that might be more familiar and easier to navigate. If you have any questions or need any help, call Kimberly in the library.

Library News

Scholastic Book Catalogs are available at the APL library. Scholastic book orders are a great way for you to get new books, CHEAP! Each order that you place also helps to buy books for our library and for our students. You can place your orders either through our library with a check, or online with a credit/debit card. To order online, go to www.scholastic.com/bookclubs. Follow the prompts to create your own username and password. When prompted, enter the one-time Class Activation Code, GJXLB. If you have questions, contact Kimberly at APL.

"In times of change, learners inherit the Earth, while the learned find themselves beautifully equipped to deal with a world that no longer exists."
Eric Hoffer

Reading Incentive Program: The theme of this year's reading incentive program will be **"One World, Many Stories."** Pick up your reading logs at the APL Library or from your teacher. For each log completed, students win a small prize. For every 10 logs submitted, students will receive a book of their choice through Scholastic, and they will be entered into a drawing for a Barnes & Noble gift card. Ten gift cards will be awarded at the end of the school year.





August/September Events



Peter Gros and the Wild Kingdom Animal Show will be at the Cascade Theatre on Friday, **September 2 at 9:30 am**. Peter Gros has nearly 30 years of field experience with captive wildlife so this show should be fascinating! Tickets are **\$5 per seat** and going fast. Pay your teacher or Lynn at APL, making checks payable to the Cascade Theatre.

On Thursday, **September 8 at 9:30 am**, there will be **Kayak Tours** for APL families at Whiskeytown Lake. Students must be at least 6 years old and know how to swim. 6-12 year olds need one parent per child, and 13-17 year olds need one parent per 2-3 children. Preregistration is required, so email Barbara Mehr at bmehr@ourapl.org or call 472-1239 and leave a message with your name, number of people attending, and phone number. Meet at the Brandy Creek Parking Lot B. There is a parking fee of \$5 per vehicle (unless you have a park pass). Wear a t-shirt, hat, shoes that will stay on your feet (no flip flops), and clothes that can get wet. Bring water to drink. All equipment, a safety talk, and a guided tour are provided.

On Wednesday, **September 21**, the show **Secrets of the Sun** will be featured at the Schreder Planetarium promptly at **1:15 pm**. Join APL teacher Barbara Mehr for "an intimate look at the role the sun plays in the life of our solar system. From the nuclear forces churning at the heart of the sun to the mass ejections of solar material into surrounding space, we will experience the power of the sun and its impact on the planets and ultimately life on Earth. We will trace the life cycle of the sun itself, going back to its beginnings and moving forward in time to its eventual death." Reserve your seat at www.ourapl.org by **Sept. 14**.

The **Shasta Community Concert Association** is presenting **Edgar Cruz, Guitarist Extraordinaire** on Thursday, **September 29 at 10:30 am** at the Redding Convention Center. Edgar Cruz has played throughout America, Europe, and South America. Cruz offers an incredible live repertoire of the greatest hits of the guitar. Audience interaction/participation, clapping, singing, dancing, snapping, "olé" and "yee-haws" are all encouraged. Register for this free concert by **September 22** at www.ourapl.org. In the event that you need to cancel your reservations, please contact Barbara Mehr at bmehr@ourapl.org.

It may be early but before you know it **A Cascade Christmas** will be here. The show is Wednesday, **November 30 at 11:00 am** and tickets are **\$5 per seat**. Please pay now to reserve a seat as these sell out fast. Pay your teacher or Lynn at APL, making checks out to The Cascade Theater.

Learn Scottish Country Dancing: September 1 will be the first evening of the new dancing season for the **Shasta Scottish Country Dance Club** and they are recruiting new dancers (age 12 and up). They meet each Thursday evening at **6:30 pm** at the Millville Grange Hall in Palo Cedro (on the corner of Old 44 & Deschutes) to learn the traditional folk dances of Scotland. No prior dance experience or partners are required. Graced by live music, the evening begins with easy warm-up stretching exercises followed by dance instruction and a cool down for new dancers around 7:30 pm. Wear comfortable tennis-type shoes. No sandals please. There is a small fee to help cover the hall rental but there are discounts for families. Your first class is free. Contact Peggy at 347-0825 or Jacque at 244-4183 for more info. Check YouTube for Shasta Scottish Dance to see the demonstration team performing at the Redding Library.



College Quest: The 2011 College Information Night will be Tuesday, **September 27 from 4:00 to 7:30 pm** at the Redding Convention Center. This is a great opportunity for students who are considering a college path. Many colleges send representatives who are interested in meeting students, answering questions and providing informational brochures. There are also sessions about financial aid and other topics of interest to college-bound students and their parents. For more info, contact www.MyCollegeQuest.org.

There are several college entrance exams available for students. The **SAT** (Scholastic Aptitude Test) is an aptitude test that measures a student's ability to understand and process elements of mathematical and verbal reasoning. The test has three

College Corner

components: critical reading, math, and writing. Some colleges require students to take both the **SAT** and **SAT II** (subject-specific tests).

The **PSAT/NMSQT** (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) is taken in the fall of junior year, although 9th and 10th graders are encouraged to take the test to help them prepare for the SAT. Juniors can qualify for the National Merit Scholarship Competition based on their PSAT results. **The PSAT will be offered at APL on Wednesday, October 12 from 1:00 to 5:00 pm**. Students must be registered with Sherina by **September 23**.

The **ACT** (American College Testing) is an assessment test of students' general educational develop-

ment (like a cumulative final). It covers English, math, reading, and science with an optional writing test.

The **PLAN** is a practice test for the ACT and is usually taken in the fall of sophomore year.

Please see the inserts in this newsletter for more information about college entrance exams for 2011-12 as well as the following:

- **College OPTIONS**, a local organization that provides free programs and services for students and families in determining post-high school educational options.

- **QuestBridge National College Match** program, which helps outstanding low-income high school seniors gain admission and full four-year scholarships to some of the nation's most selective colleges.



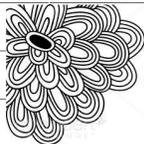
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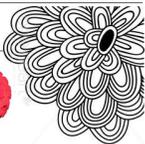
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Tutoring    **Meetings**    **CSI** 



High school students who need tutoring assistance in English or Math will have the opportunity to attend a **Directed Study Hall** for assistance. **English** meets T/Th 8:30-9:45 am. **Math** meets T/Th 12:50-2:05 pm. Students must bring work with them.

*There will be a math tutoring session with Mr. Nason on **Friday, August 26 from 1-3 pm at our "old site."*** After the move, **Math Tutoring** with Mr. Nason will be offered as follows:

Tuesdays: 3:30-4:30 pm at APL

Wednesdays: 1:00-3:00 pm at the Local Indians for Education (LIFE) Center in Shasta Lake City. (Call 275-1513 for directions).

Thursdays: 3:30-4:30 pm at APL

Fridays: 12:30-3:00 pm at APL

APL teacher Vanessa Burger will provide general tutoring at the **Burney Library** from **10:00 am to 1:00 pm on Tuesdays** beginning **September 6.**

The **APL Board Meetings** for this school year are the **3rd Thursday** of each month at **5:15 pm**, with the next meeting on **September 15.** The public is invited to attend. The board is in need of two parent representatives. We hope to add a parent of a high school student and of an elementary student. Let your teacher know or contact Lynn at APL if you are interested in becoming a part of the board.

The **APL Advisory Council** is a group of APL staff members, parents and students whose common goal is to enhance our school by sharing ideas. Advisory Council meetings are the **1st Wednesday** of each month at **3:30 pm**, with the next meeting on **September 7.** The Advisory Council is in need of new members also: a high school student and the parent of an elementary student. Let your teacher know or contact Lynn at APL if you are willing to serve on the council.

The **Community Science Intern Program (CSI)** is launching its third year of serving the community in stellar science! APL is proud to participate and hopes that we have students interested in becoming CSIs. The CSI program is open to students in grades 7 to 12. This is a leadership program in which students inspire their peers in science. CSI students are trained to lead students who are attending planetarium field trips to a deeper understanding of science concepts in a fun and engaging way.

Requirements: Leadership skills, ability to conduct and lead a group independently, team player, self-motivated, teachable, punctual, reliable.

There will be an orientation for parents and prospective students on **Friday, August 19, 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm** that will focus on Orientation and Program Overview. There is an application to the program that will be made available at the orientation meeting.

Location: Schreder Planetarium, 1644 Magnolia Avenue, Redding

Involvement with NASA, JPL, SETI Institute, Shasta College and CSU Chico

Please RSVP to dewart@shastacoe.org

"Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself."

John Dewey

