

Academy of Personalized Learning, A Charter School

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Apple News



January News

January 1, 2011

Happy New Year! Everyone at Academy of Personalized Learning wishes you a wonderful New Year full of stimulating lessons, academic rigor, and fun field trips! Winter Break started Dec. 20 and will run through Jan. 4. The following three days (Jan. 5, 6 and 7), are "independent study days" with no onsite classes, and students will do their schoolwork at home. Onsite classes will resume Monday, Jan. 10. The last day of the fall semester is Jan. 14. Monday, Jan. 17, is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, a school holiday. The spring semester begins Tuesday, Jan. 18. Most onsite classes will continue on through the spring semester. Ceramics classes and the grades 6-8 Art class are semester courses, so they will involve schedule changes. If you have questions about your child's schedule, please check with your teacher.

As you read the newsletter, please note the cancellation of afternoon classes on February 1 and 2 for CaHSEE testing. Classes have also been cancelled on the morning of Feb. 1 for a staff training session, so there will be no classes at APL on Tuesday, Feb. 1 and morning classes only on Wednesday, Feb. 2.

Check out the Events on page 3 to see what's happening in the neighborhood. This month offers concerts, planetarium shows and more. Also, talk to your students to see if they would be interested in participating in the History Day Project that Cassie Cable would like to offer this semester, described on page 4.

Of interest to seniors and their families, this newsletter has information about ordering graduation gowns, filing FAFSA, and Cash for College which we hope all of our senior families will attend.

The APL campus has been "closed" on high school days for several months. We will return to "open campus" on Tuesdays and Thursdays with the **expectation that students will conduct themselves responsibly**. Any student who wishes to leave campus at lunch time needs a **signed note of permission from a parent/guardian on file at APL**. Closed campus will continue to be the norm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Volume 3, Issue 4

January/February events

- ✓ Home School Skate
- ✓ Daisy Girls
- ✓ Legacy of Floyd Cramer
- ✓ Larry Cat in Space
- ✓ Hands On Lab
- ✓ Northern California Mushrooms
- ✓ Redding Library Tour
- ✓ Wonders of the Universe
- ✓ The Sound of Music



Students in the Spotlight



Alaythia (Drew) Scofield is a delightful first grade student. This is her first year with APL. Drew excels in all subjects and she is a treasure to teach and work with. She is attending weekly classes on site as well as an art class with Mrs. Salyers. Each month, Drew goes above and beyond what is required of her. Drew is excited to learn new things and loves to be challenged. She is an exceptional student who will go on to do great things in the future!

Mitchell Moutard has been an APL student since last school year. He completes his assignments thoroughly and accurately each month and is a voracious reader who particularly enjoys history. Always cheerful, polite, and engaged in his studies, Mitchell is able to recall and interpret, both verbally and in written form, what he is learning. In addition, Mitchell is quickly becoming an excellent pianist and will be playing for his church's Christmas program. For fun, he enjoys sword fighting with his sister, riding horses, and helping his dad. There's a good chance that he will one day be an archeologist. Watch out, Indiana Jones!

Michelle Mills is a 9th grader whose goal is to become a midwife. She took her first college class this semester at Shasta College, earning a good grade in Chemistry. Michelle sang a solo in APL's recent musical production and has been very active in drama. Michelle learned a hiphop routine in her dance lessons and performed in December. Although her family moved out of state in October, Michelle stayed behind to complete her college class, living with the Gilbertson family. Michelle is a very sweet and responsible young lady. She will be missed as she joins her family to live in Boise, Idaho. Good luck, Michelle!

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APL Orientation



APL is accepting new students for the 2010/11 school year. Orientation for interested families will be held **Thursday** evenings at **5 PM** at APL, 224 Hartnell Ave. There will be no orientations during winter break: Dec. 23 and Dec. 30. 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



The **CaHSEE** (California High School Exit Exam) for **all 10th graders and 12th graders** who have yet to pass one or both sections of the exam will be **Feb. 1** (Language Arts) and **Feb. 2** (Math) at APL from **1-4 pm**. If you are not sure whether you need to take this exam, please contact your teacher. **There will be no onsite classes on Feb. 1 or the afternoon of Feb. 2 (periods 4, 5 & 6).**

A **graduation gown** with cap and tassel can be ordered through APL for **\$19.95**. All orders must be submitted by **Jan. 31** to the APL office. Please bring a copy of the order form included with this newsletter, as well as cash or a check made out to Gordon International. Additional items can be purchased through Gordon International's website, <http://www.gordon-intl.com>.

The students whose names were drawn for **Good Apple Awards** this month were **Cedric Clark** and **Kamakani Cruz**. These students were cited with "good citizenship" and given tickets which were then selected in the monthly drawing. Congratulations to our "Good Apples!"

The **STAR Writing test** for **4th and 7th graders** will be Tuesday, **March 1** from **9 am until noon** at APL. **Morning classes will be cancelled on this date.** (Last year the 4th grade test was cancelled due to state budget cuts but all 4th graders will be tested this year once again.)

The **Board & Ski program for 2011** starts on Friday, **January 7** and will continue every Friday after that for a total of 10 Fridays at the Mt. Shasta Board & Ski Park. Family registration is \$20. Lessons are \$11 each. Rentals with lessons are \$10 for skis and \$15 for boards. Without lessons, skis are \$14 and boards are \$19. Lift tickets are \$11 each. The whole family can go with the discounted rates. Lessons are only for students ages 5-18 and all students are required to participate in lessons for a minimum of 2 visits. For more information, go to freewebs.com/kyleeneh or call Wendi at 530-244-7758.

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

Please **do not park** directly in front of the businesses here at the Cobblestone Court as it does not allow for their customer parking. Thank you for helping us to be good neighbors!

The **Lost and Found** is overflowing with jackets and other items that are hoping to be claimed by their owners.

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.

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.

Cyndee Bruster would like a **teaching assistant** for her 6th period K-5 Art class on Wednesdays if there is a student who would be interested.



Library News

Since the APL library only sends out overdue notices at the end of the school year, you may not realize that library materials have varying due dates. Textbooks and the curriculum materials that accompany them are checked out for the school year. General circulation books and movies check out for 30 days with the option of renewal. Library materials are in great demand and there are frequent requests for materials in circulation. We would appreciate having families return materials they are not currently using. Thanks for your support.

Book clubs for the month of **January** will be:

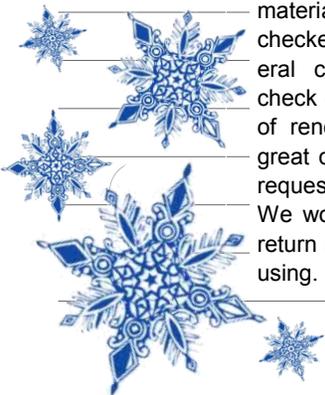
Thursday, **Jan. 27** from **4-5 pm** our high school/middle school book club will meet to discuss *Maximum Ride*, *The Angel Experiment* by James Patterson.

Friday, **Jan. 28** at **2 pm** our other book club will meet to discuss Rick Riordan's new book, *The Lost Hero*. This book club is for any age level as long as they can read the book.

Check with the library for the books.

"We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day." Edith Lovejoy Pierce

The theme of this year's reading incentive program is **"Reach For the Stars."** 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.





January/February Events



Home School Skate is the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 3-5 pm at Viking Skate Country, 735 Auditorium Dr. The dates will be **Jan. 12, 2/9**, 3/9, 4/13 and 5/11. Shasta Lake Alternative School, Gateway Unified School District, subsidizes the program, open to all home schooling families. Cost is \$3 per person with one free admission for supervising adult. All participants must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, contact Heidi Hillesheim, 90alana@shasta.com.

On Tuesday, **Jan. 25**, join APL at the **Schreder Planetarium**, 1644 Magnolia Ave. for the show "**Larry Cat In Space**," a playful, imaginative cartoon presentation about an inquisitive cat who takes a trip to the Moon. The show starts at **1:15 pm**. (Be on time, they lock the door when the program begins.) Reserve your seat at www.ourapl.org by **Jan. 20**.

On Monday, **Feb. 7**, join APL teacher Rosanne Atzet at **2 pm** in the foyer for a tour of the **Redding** branch of the **Shasta Public Library**. The new building, one of the first of its kind in Shasta County, showcases a rooftop garden, numerous solar panels, and thermal energy storage, as well as The Giving Tree and several other donated pieces of art. The tour will be about 1 hour long.

The new **Daisy Girl Scout Troop** is accepting members. Interested girls in grades K-1 are invited to attend meetings from 1-2:15 pm in room 4 at APL on **1/14** and **1/28**. If you are unable to attend but would like more information about joining, please contact Trina Rueber at 945-2188 or note2trina@sbcglobal.net or www.girlscoutsnorcal.org. Girl Scout membership is only \$12 for the year. (Financial Aid is available for those who qualify.)

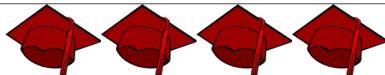
There will be a **Hands-on Lab** about **Digestion** geared toward students in grades 3-8 on Wednesday, **Feb. 2** at Shasta College. The lab begins promptly at **8:45 am**, so arrive by 8:30 to make sure students have taken the pre-test on Digestion. (Students should be finished by 10:45.) Meet Robin Thorne in the Northeast Parking Lot by the pool. (Parking costs \$1). Sign up at www.ourapl.org by **Jan. 28**.

On Wednesday, **Feb. 9**, the show **Wonders of the Universe** will be featured at the Schreder Planetarium at **11 am** for APL students. Peer deep into space through the eyes of the orbiting Hubble Telescope and travel back billions of years in time to witness the birth of the universe. Reserve your seat at www.ourapl.org by **Feb. 4**.

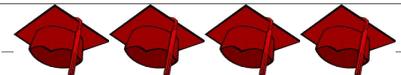
The **Shasta Community Concert** Association sponsors free 45 minute programs for schools. The shows begin at **10:30 am** at the Redding Convention Center. On Tuesday, **1/18**, the concert will be **Legacy of Floyd Cramer**. Keyboardist Jason Cramer, grandson of Floyd Cramer, entertains audiences by giving new life to Floyd's beloved music. Please register at www.ourapl.org by **Jan. 14** for the concert.

Horsetown-Clear Creek Preserve free family events: **Feb 4** (Friday) at **1:30 pm: Northern California Mushrooms**. Join Susan Libonati (Shasta College instructor with a Ph.D. in Botany) to learn about the fascinating habits of northern California mushrooms. Bring specimens of different mushrooms for identification. Susan will discuss safety of eating wild mushrooms. Meet at the HCCP parking area (orange pipe gate), on Clear Creek Road, about 7 miles west of Hwy 273, just west of the Clear Creek Bridge. Call 241-2026 for information.

The Dance Project will present one school showing of **The Sound of Music** on Friday, **April 15** at **10:00 am** at the Cascade Theatre. Tickets are \$5 per person. Sign up at www.ourapl.org. Payment is due by **March 18** at APL. (Make checks payable to The Dance Project.)



College Corner



Applying for financial aid is free. Complete the **FAFSA** (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) for all federal financial aid and submit a verified **Cal Grant GPA by March 2** to apply for a Cal Grant. You should apply for financial aid every year, from your senior year of high school through your senior year in college.

Try to submit the **FAFSA** as soon as possible on or after **Jan. 1**. Financial aid is awarded on a first-come first-serve basis so the sooner you submit the better. Parents do not have to file taxes prior to submitting the FAFSA; you can estimate your income and tax information on the FAFSA and then submit. Once your taxes are filed you may go back into your FAFSA to update the tax infor-

mation and resubmit. The online FAFSA form is signed electronically so the student and one of their parents must register for a PIN number prior to completing the online FAFSA form. The PIN serves as your electronic signature.

Cal Grant awards are need-based eligibility grants determined from the information filed on the FAFSA and the student's GPA. The California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) sets forth income and asset ceilings to determine Cal Grant eligibility. All students are encouraged to apply for financial aid, regardless of whether or not their family income and assets are above the ceilings. A **GPA Verification Form**, which includes the student's SSN, must be submitted to

the CSAC by **Mar. 2**.

Cash for College is a college workshop that will be held at APL on Tuesday, **February 8** from **6-8 pm** to help seniors and their parents fill out the **FAFSA forms**. Seniors who attend the event, complete their forms and a survey will qualify for a chance to win a scholarship. Last year two APL students won scholarships!

The **BOGG Grant** is a financial need-based grant for students attending junior college, including high school students. Teachers can help families fill out BOGG Grant applications, so please don't hesitate to ask for assistance. APL has the forms.

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Tutoring  **Meetings**  **History Day**

There will be **Open Tutoring** for APL students on-site as follows:

High school students: Tuesdays, 9:00-12:55 and 1:30-4:05; and Thursdays, 9:00-11:35 and 1:30-4:05.

Elementary/Middle school students: Wednesdays, 10:10-11:15; and Fridays, 10:10-12:25.

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.

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

Tuesdays: 3:00-4:00 pm at APL

Wednesdays: 9:00-11:45 am at the Local Indians for Education (LIFE) Center in Shasta Lake City. (Call 275-1513 for directions.)

Thursdays: 3:00-4:00 pm at APL

Fridays: 9:00-11:45 am at the Anderson Library.

The **APL Board Meetings** are the **2nd Wednesday** of each month at **5:15 pm**, with the next meeting on **January 12**. The public is invited to attend.

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 **2:00 pm**, with the next meeting on **January 5**. The Advisory Council is still in **need of two members, a parent of a high school student and a high school student**. Please consider serving on this important committee. If you would like more information, contact the APL office at 222-9275.

“Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.”

Alfred, Lord Tennyson, 1850

The **History Day Project** will take place next semester if there are enough participants. The theme of this year's nationally based project is *Debates and Diplomacy: Successes, Failures and Consequences*. In this competition all students are required to write a research paper, present an oral speech and create a hands-on project that demonstrates his/her topic. Each student will receive a detailed handbook with clear homework assignments. This class **does** require outside homework and families must be committed to the project. The grade level focus is 4th-8th grade, although high school students are welcome to participate as well. The requirements are greater for the high school level. The class time/dates for the project are **Mondays 9:00-11:00 am: 1/24, 2/7, 2/28, 3/14, 3/28, 4/4, and 5/9**. For more information, contact Cassie Cable at cassie.cable@ourapl.org.

