

Academy of Personalized Learning, A Charter School

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Apple News



March News



March 1, 2011

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Spring is in the air and many of us are looking forward to the balmy breezes and beautiful blooms that it portends. There will be many opportunities for outdoor nature study in the days and weeks ahead, another one of the benefits of home study. At APL we are gearing up for **Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR)** in early March and April.

STAR is the cornerstone of the California assessment system. It was designed to primarily help measure how well students are achieving the California academic standards in English-Language Arts, Mathematics, History-Social Science, and Science. All students in grades 2-11 participate in this annual test each spring. The tests provide parents/guardians with information about their child's progress, are a tool for helping parents and teachers work together to improve student learning, help schools and districts identify strengths and areas that need improvement in their programs, and allow the public and policymakers to hold public schools accountable for student learning.

Parents/guardians cannot see the tests in the STAR program. Test questions can only be seen by the student taking the test. However, APL has purchased STAR preparation materials for students in grades 2-8. We recommend students use these to familiarize themselves with test format and content. Ask your teacher or come by the library if you have not yet received these materials.

The STAR Program results are used to comply with federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation that requires that all schools meet specific academic goals. The progress of each school toward achieving these goals is provided annually in an Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) report. Each year, California schools must meet AYP goals or risk program status. If you appreciate the benefits of our program, please help us to meet our AYP goals by helping your students be prepared to do their best on their STAR test. With your help we can continue to provide the materials, services, and program offerings that you now enjoy.

Please see page 2 for more information about STAR testing dates and times as well as schedule changes in the on-site classes during STAR testing.

We would like to thank everyone who has turned in their Parent Survey or High School Student Survey. We appreciate your feedback. If you have yet to turn your survey in, please do so by **March 31**. If you need a survey, ask your teacher or come by APL.

March/April events

- ✓ Handsome Little Devils
- ✓ Planetarium
- ✓ Home School Skate
- ✓ Post Office
- ✓ Young Writers Festival
- ✓ Junior Day
- ✓ French Chamber Orchestra
- ✓ The Sound of Music

Students in the Spotlight

Kanalei Brasch, a kindergartner, is off to an astonishing start! She is a highly self-motivated student who has excelled in all her subject areas. She amazes her family and teacher with her increasing reading ability. Kanalei attends Language Arts, Science, and Art classes at the Learning Center. She's always walking around with a smile on her face and you can see the excitement she gets from learning new things in class. Kanalei takes gymnastics lessons and will soon be starting her second season on a T-ball team. At home, she loves to play ball with her dad. Kanalei enjoys riding bikes with her younger brother, Keikona. She loves spending quality girl time with her mom getting their nails done, taking walks, and reading together. She also really enjoys doing art with her Grandma GG. Everyone is so proud of her. We look forward to watching Kanalei grow and are excited to see all she will accomplish in the future.

Malia Ewart is a bright and active 9th grader at APL. Malia has been involved in our program for over a year. She has made great progress in math, advancing far more than a full year growth while working with Mr. Nason and her family. Malia is also active in the Community Science Interns (CSI) program at the Schreder Planetarium. Working with CSI, Malia has helped to create and run hands-on science stations to teach science concepts to school groups during field trips. Malia also enjoys drawing, reading, and cooking yummy food for her family.

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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. 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 **STAR Writing test** for **4th and 7th graders** will be Tuesday, **March 1** from **9 am-noon** at APL. **Morning classes will be canceled on this date.** (High school students will have periods 4 and 5 at APL on 3/1.)

College-bound **11th graders** may want to participate in the **Early Assessment Program (EAP) Writing test** on **March 1** at **9 am**. EAP is a worthwhile option for students considering attending a CSU campus or community college as these institutions will use the EAP results as an alternative to taking their college placement tests.

The **make-up day** for students who miss STAR writing, including EAP, will be **March 2, 9 am-noon**. Classes will be held as usual on March 2.

APL's STAR testing weeks will be **4/4-4/8** and **4/11-4/15**. Elementary students will test in the morning, 9 am-noon, and high school students will test in the afternoon, 1-4 pm. Testing will be Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of the week selected, with Monday and Friday available for make-up days. Families will choose the week that works best for them. Let your teacher know your preference or contact Sherina at APL. **On-site classes are canceled during the two weeks of STAR testing.**

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

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.

APL would like to know if we have students in grades 5 or 6 interested in attending camp at the **Whiskeytown Environmental School (WES Camp)** this spring. The cost of the camp is \$170 per student for 4-5 days and \$115 for 2.5 days. Also, if there are students at least 16 years old, or parents, who would like to serve as cabin counselors, please let us know. Call Lynn at 222-9275 for more info.

Attention all 5th, 7th, and 9th graders: PE testing will take place during the STAR testing weeks. It is important for all 9th graders to take the test. Not taking the test means that you fail the test. In the event that you fail the test, you will be obligated to take PE class for all four of your high school years.

There are videos available online to explain the test and how it will be administered. There is a video available for each test: one-mile run visit http://pft-info.org/pft_videos/one-mile%20run.html, curl up visit http://pft-info.org/pft_videos/curlup.html, trunk lift visit http://pft-info.org/pft_videos/trunklift.html, pushup visit http://pft-info.org/pft_videos/pushup.html, shoulder stretch/flexibility visit http://pft-info.org/pft_videos/shoulder%20str.html, body composition bmi visit http://pft-info.org/pft_videos/bmi.html. Please note that pushups are boy pushups to be counted as correct. To find your Body Mass Index or BMI, please visit the following website: <http://www.nhlbisupport.com/bmi/>.

The **Lost and Found** at APL is full of coats and other personal items.

Library News

Earning cash for our school is easy! Shop online and watch **eBoxTops** give our school earnings a boost! This is the easiest way to earn **BoxTops** for our school as there are over 100 retailers to shop from at the Marketplace. Sign up to support our school at www.btfef.com. Start every online shopping trip at the Box Tops Marketplace www.btfef.com/marketplace. Also, visit www.btfef.com/coupons to save money on your favorite brands while earning money for our school. You can download a complete list of products that earn BoxTops at www.btfef.com/products.



Spring has returned. The Earth is like a child that knows poems.
~Rainer Maria Rilke



Book clubs: For the high school book club, which will meet on Thursday, **3/24** from **4-5 pm**, the book is *The Thief* by Megan Whaley Turner.

Our general book club will meet at **2 pm** on Friday, **3/25** to discuss the book *Tunnels* by Roderick Gordon. This book club is for any age level as long as they can read the book.

Check with the APL library for the books.

Your Box Tops have helped raise \$183 dollars for the school library. When you come into the APL office, take a look at the new book displays. They were purchased with our first round of Box Top money. Keep clipping and saving those Box Tops...they do make a difference.



March/April Events



A reminder for the folks who registered for the **Shasta Community Concert, Handsome Little Devils:** The show is **March 3 at 10:30 am.**

Join APL teacher Rosanne Atzet for a tour of the **Redding Post Office** located on Churn Creek Rd. on Thursday, **March 24.** Meet at the front entrance at **10 am.** Register for the tour at www.ourapl.org by **March 18.** (Check the APL website for updates as the Post Office set the date tentatively and it may change.)

The Shasta Reading Council presents the 6th annual **Shasta County Young Writers Festival.** This juried competition is open to all K-12 students in Shasta County (with entries also accepted from Trinity, Siskiyou, Modoc, and Lassen counties.) Entries may be submitted in three genres: non-fiction, fiction, and poetry. The grade divisions are K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12. All 3-12th grade entries must be proofread and typed, double-spaced (12 or 14 point font). Please limit entries to 10 pages; one entry per genre per student. Author identity should not be printed on student work. Please use entry form which can be picked up at APL and must be attached to the back of the student work. All submissions are due by **March 31** to Lynn at APL.

On Tuesday, **March 8,** the show **Secret of the Cardboard Rocket** will be featured at the Schreder Planetarium at **11 am** for APL students. "Embark on an outstanding adventure as two children spend a night touring the solar system alongside their ships navigator...an astronomy book. Produced with state of the art 3-D animation and a 5.1 soundtrack with spectacular effects created at George Lucas' Skywalker Ranch." Reserve your seat at www.ourapl.org by **March 4.**

Juniors are invited to the **2011 Shasta County Junior Day** sponsored by College OPTIONS and hosted by Simpson University on Thursday, **March 31.** This is an opportunity for juniors to experience a college campus, learn about financial aid and plan for their post-secondary options beyond high school. Registration begins at **8:45 am** and the event runs **9:00 am-12:30 pm** with a pizza lunch included. Please register for this event at www.ourapl.org by **March 25.**

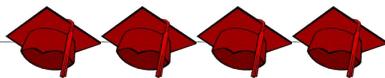
Students in grades 4 to 8 are encouraged to enter "**How a Bicycle Would Change My Life**" **Essay Contest** for a chance to win a new youth-sized Trek bike. Entry forms are available at www.healthyshasta.org, starting 2/5 through 4/10/11.

Home School Skate is the 2nd Wednesday of each month from **3-5 pm** at Viking Skate Country. The dates will be **March 9, 4/13 and 5/11.** Gateway's Shasta Lake Alternative School, 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.

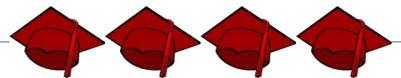
The **Shasta Community Concert Association** sponsors free 45 minute programs for schools. The shows begin at **10:30 am** at the Redding Convention Center. On Friday, **April 1,** a **French Chamber Orchestra** will perform. Register for the concert at www.ourapl.org by **March 28.**

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.)**

There are still openings in the **Daisy Girl Scout Troop** for girls in grades K-1. For more information, please contact Trina Rueber at 945-2188 or note2trina@sbcglobal.net.



College Corner



After filing the FAFSA: Once the student completes the FAFSA, several things can be done to make sure that the FAFSA is processed properly and that follow-up information can be exchanged.

1. In their e-mail program, mark calgrantoffice@csac.ca.gov and studentsupport@csac.ca.gov as "safe" or "trusted" e-mail addresses so e-mail from the Student Aid Commission will not be treated as "junk" e-mail.
2. Look for an e-mail from the FAFSA processor within 72 hours of filing the on-line FAFSA. If they do not receive a confirmation of filing within that time frame, the student should call the Federal Student Aid

Information Center at (800) 433-3243.

3. When the student receives their Student Aid Report (SAR) from the FAFSA processor, every entry should be checked for accuracy. The SAR will give instructions on making corrections, if necessary.
4. Students can add or correct colleges by going to the **FAFSA on the Web** home page (www.fafsa.ed.gov) and clicking **Start Here** to log in. The student will be given the option to **Make FAFSA Corrections.** Colleges may be added or removed, and any corrections can be submitted.

WebGrants for Students (WGS): 72 hours after filing the FAFSA, students should establish a WebGrants for Students (WGS) account. WGS can be accessed 24/7 and is an efficient way for students to stay on top of their application and, if awarded, their Cal Grant award. To establish a WGS account, students should go to www.webgrants4students.org and follow the instructions.

Scholarships: There are many scholarship opportunities available for students. The following websites offer free scholarship directories: www.fastweb.com, www.collegeboard.cm/pay, and www.scholarships.com. For more scholarship information, see page 4.

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Or current resident



Tutoring



Meetings



Scholarships



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

High school students: Tuesdays, 10:20-12:55 and 1:30-4:05; and Thursdays, 9:00-12:55 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 **March 9**. 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 **March 2**.

Please note: We have been advised by the **Redding Police Department** that the Superintendent of Schools for Shasta County has imposed a **daytime curfew** for students between the hours of **8 am-1 pm**. Please be aware of this information. We suggest that all APL students carry their student ID card to show they are home-school students.

Everything is blooming most recklessly; if it were voices instead of colors, there would be an unbelievable shrieking into the heart of the night.

~Rainer Maria Rilke, *Letters of Rainer Maria Rilke*

College OPTIONS offers several scholarships as well as information about where to find and how to apply for scholarships. Visit them at www.collegeoptions.org/scholarships.html or 1407 Market St. in Redding (530-245-1845).

The Grotefend Scholarship, offered by the Shasta County Office of Education, is a substantial, multi-year award to Shasta County high school seniors. The deadline is **March 31**. For more information and an application, talk to your teacher, Lynn at APL, or visit www.ourapl.org.

QuestBridge's College Prep Scholarship provides awards that equip high-achieving low-income students to compete for admission to leading colleges. If you are a high school **junior** who has a strong academic record and an annual household income of less than \$60,000, you are encouraged to apply. Apply online for free by **March 29** to www.questbridge.org.