

Academy of Personalized Learning, A Charter School

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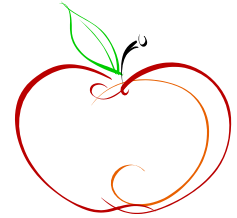
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August Apple News



Greetings! The 2012-13 school year is just around the corner and the staff at APL is busy getting everything prepared for another successful school year. As we continue to develop and improve our program, incorporating suggestions made in last spring's surveys, we hope that you will be pleased with the schedule of classes that we are offering onsite this fall. Tuesdays and Thursdays will be middle school and high school site days this year. High school classes will each meet for 1.5 hours two days per week, with the other three days for completing work at home. Enrichment classes for middle school students will meet on Tuesdays and their core and remediation classes will be Tuesdays and Thursdays. Although they are on campus on the same days, the middle school students will be on a different class schedule than high school students with a separate lunch time. Wednesday and Friday classes will be for elementary students. Elementary-level enrichment classes meet once a week, while core and remediation classes for elementary grades meet twice a week. As per parent request, we have added core classes in math and language arts starting at second grade.

Student attendance is important for success in classes. **If your child is unable to attend site classes, please call the school** with the following information: student's full name, date of absence, and reason for absence. 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.

APL will continue to provide vendor courses for our students. Attendance in VEP classes is also important so please call vendors if your child will be absent from their class. **If a student misses more than one vendor class per month (ie. Attendance is less than 80% for the month), the student will lose the privilege of attending VEP classes for the remainder of the school year.**

As a public charter school, the instructional materials and services that we provide for our students are funded by the State of California. In exchange for these materials and services for which they pay, the State expects students to make academic progress and growth. The State, APL, parents and students all share the same goal: for students to be successful learners.

To meet this goal, APL offers various curriculum choices for homeschool students as well as the opportunity to take core, remediation, and enrichment classes on-site. For students who need remediation in language arts or math, there are Academic Success classes and Skills Mastery classes offered to help students get extra help. If students are not able to make adequate progress in the home environment, they will be expected to attend remediation classes.

The means to determine whether students are making progress is assessment, which comes in many forms. STAR testing is but one of these measures. APL needs to do ongoing assessment of students to make sure the curriculum they are using is effective. To this end, younger students will be given the DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) assessment on a regular basis. Ed Performance (Scantron) is another assessment tool we use to determine students' reading, language arts, and math skills, and it will be administered at the beginning and end of the academic year to chart progress.

APL hopes that families will understand and appreciate the assessments that their students will be given. Assessments are essential tools to make certain that students are learning and to focus the lens on their education so that students can make the best use of their time and energy for success in learning.

APL is gratified to have received a six year accreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). Earning the maximum term possible is a great validation of our educational program. APL also applied for and received NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) sports eligibility status. This will enhance our student athletes' ability to earn college sports scholarships.

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! Please consider joining us on **Monday, September 17, from 4-6 pm as the Academy of Personalized Learning co-hosts an Open House with National University** to showcase our site, staff, and program offerings. Refreshments will be served.

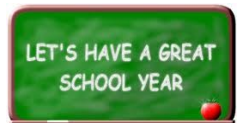
August 7, 2012

Volume 5, Issue 1



August/ September events

- ✓ Whiskeytown Kayak Tours
- ✓ 1st Day of School
- ✓ Roots & Shoots
- ✓ Scottish Country Dancing
- ✓ 42Five Concert
- ✓ APL/National University Open House



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APL is accepting new students for the **2012-13 school year**. Orientation for interested families will be held **Wednesday** evenings at **5 PM** at APL, **2195 Larkspur Lane**. If you have friends or family looking at school options, please consider suggesting us!



Starting August 15 through the month of September, all students in grades K-11 will be assessed in language arts and math. Students will be assessed in their core LA and math classes or during their monthly meeting. The assessment tests can be taken on the computer or with paper and pencil. 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.

Parking Lot Etiquette: The parking lot we share with National University is a busy place and some safety issues have come to our attention. Small children are difficult to see and are at risk of being hit if not accompanied by an adult. When dropping off or picking up children, please park your car and walk children to and from the building. Do not double park, block other cars, or create traffic congestion or safety issues. **All students will remain inside the building until they are picked up. APL is a closed campus.** Thank you.

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,"

APL Orientation

Here's some of 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

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 graduation credits for this position. Some of the classes whose teachers would appreciate a TA are kindergarten and elementary classes as well as Math, Language Arts, Science, Art, and Ceramics classes. There are also positions available for Office Assistants. Students, if you are interested in earning 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 2012-13 school year is due by September 14, 2012. The form is available at APL. If you have questions or can't meet the deadline, contact Sherina.

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 August 15**. If you have questions, contact Sherina at 222-9275.

Picture Day: LifeTouch will be at APL on Friday, **October 5** from **8:00 am until noon** to take photos of students (and siblings, if interested). Stay tuned for more information next month.

Library News

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.

Reading Incentive Program: APL will facilitate a reading incentive program for students again this school year. 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.

"Education is when you read the fine print. Experience is what you get if you don't."

Pete Seeger

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.





August/September Events



On Monday, **August 20 at 9:30 am**, there will be a **Kayak Tour** 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. 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, shoes that will stay on your feet (no flip flops), and clothes that can get wet. Bring water to drink. All equipment (including life jackets, a safety talk, and a guided tour) is provided. Please register at ourapl.org by August 17.

There will be another **Whiskeytown Lake Kayak Tour** on Monday, **September 17 at 9:30 am**. Please see the kayak tour described above for details. Register at ourapl.org by September 14.

The **Shasta Community Concert Association** is presenting **42Five—A Capella Pop Group** at the Cascade Theater on Wednesday, **September 12 at 10:30 am** (arrive at 10:10). 42Five (pronounced “Four Two Five”) evolved from a street corner barbershop sound, and draws on funk, rock, jazz, and blues, recreating an entire instrumental band with nothing but their voices, a feat which has to be seen to be believed. This is a free concert, but we must fill the seats we reserve. Please make attendance a priority. Seats are limited. There will be a wait list. Sign up at ourapl.org by 9/7/12.

Field Trip Registration: Families, if you find that you are unable to attend a field trip for which you have registered, please call or email **Barbara Mehr**, our field trip coordinator, to let her know. There are often other families on the waitlist who would love to attend the event (instead of leaving empty seats). Barbara’s contact info is: (530) 472-1239 or bmehr@ourapl.org. Thanks!

Learn Scottish Country Dancing: September 6 will be the first evening of the new dancing season for the **Shasta Scottish Country Dance Club** and they are recruiting new dancers (ages 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 Jacquie at 244-4183 for more info. Check YouTube for Shasta Scottish Dance to see the demonstration team performing at the Redding Library.



College Corner



The California Community College System is the largest system of higher education in the world serving 2.6 million students on 110 college campuses throughout California. Community colleges offer a smooth transition to a four-year institution. According to the 2009 edition of Getting Ready for Life After High School, sixty percent of students who received their bachelor’s degree at a California State University and 30 percent of students who graduated from a UC school started their education at a California Community College. Eighty percent of the students who attend a community college also work at the same time. Fees are a bargain at about \$700 per year.

There are five ways to be eligible to attend a community college:

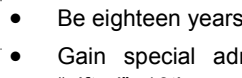
- Be a high school graduate, or
- Be eighteen years of age, or
- Gain special admission as a “gifted” 10th grade student or earlier in an enrichment pro-

gram not offered in your school’s curriculum. This requires a recommendation of your principal or counselor, parental approval, a minimum GPA of 3.0, and passing English and reading placement tests, or

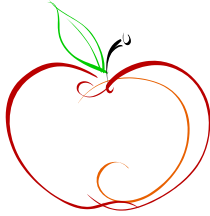
- Gain admission as a high school junior or senior to take transfer-level college courses. To qualify you must be recommended by your principal or counselor, have parental approval, a minimum GPA of 2.5, and pass English or reading placement tests, or
- Gain admission as a high school junior or senior to take occupationally-oriented or activity courses. To qualify you must be recommended by your principal or counselor, have parental approval, a minimum GPA of 2.0, and pass English and reading placement tests.

College OPTIONS provides free programs and services to strengthen the college-going culture in Shasta, Siskiyou and Tehama counties, and to help students of all ages and their families make informed decisions about post-high school educational opportunities. They are located on the Market Street Promenade opposite the Shasta College University Center. (www.collegeoptions.org)

QuestBridge National College Match program: The nation’s leading colleges are actively seeking to enroll high-achieving low-income students. If you are an outstanding student who has overcome economic challenges, you have a real chance to attend a top-tier college on a full scholarship. The QuestBridge National College Match can help you make it happen. The QuestBridge application is free, due at the end of September, and is available on their website. You can visit the program’s website (www.questbridge.org) for more information.



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PAID
NCP



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Tutoring

Students in need of tutoring assistance in English and math have the opportunity to attend **Directed Study Halls** to receive help with their assignments. Please see the Fall Semester Schedules for these class days and times. Students must bring assignments with them to work on.

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

Tuesdays: 4:15-5:00 pm at APL

Wednesdays: 8:00-9:05 am at APL
1:00-3:00 pm at the Local Indians for Education (LIFE) Center, 4440 Shasta Dam Blvd., Shasta Lake City. Their phone number is (530)-275-1513.

Thursdays: 4:15-5:00 pm at APL

Fridays: 8:00-9:05 am at APL
12:40-2:55 pm at APL

APL teacher Vanessa Burger is available for tutoring at the **Burney Library from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm on Tuesdays. Please call ahead to arrange an appointment with her at 276-7936.**



Meetings

The **APL Board Meetings** for this school year are the **3rd Thursday** of each month at **5:15 pm**, with the next meeting on **August 16**. The public is invited to attend.

The **APL Advisory Council** is a group of 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 meetings on **August 8** and **September 5, 2012**.

First day of school: Site classes begin on the first day of school, Wednesday **August 15**. Please have your student bring a copy of their schedule to help them navigate their first day. Schedules will be available onsite but the line may be long!

"All who have meditated on the art of governing mankind have been convinced that the fate of empires depends on the education of youth."

Aristotle



Roots & Shoots

Roots & Shoots is the Jane Goodall Institutes's environmental and humanitarian program for youth (preschool to university). Their mission is to foster respect and compassion for all living things, to promote understanding of all cultures and beliefs, and to inspire each individual to take action to make the world a better place for animals, the environment, and the human community.

In local groups, Roots & Shoots members plan and implement projects based on their group's unique interests, resources, and community concerns.

To find out more about this group, visit www.shastarootsnshoots.com. The following activity is planned for August: "August is the month when the apples are ripe at the Tower House in Whiskeytown Rec. Area and we look for evidence of bear visits. We'll be checking on that and the tropical migrants, then do our annual inspection of Clear Creek. We'll meet in the parking lot. Please confirm that you are coming two days in advance." Dates are: **9:00 am Thursday August 9**, **Friday August 17**, or **Saturday August 25**. Contact Karen Scheuermann, karens2020@gmail.com, 530-347-1687.

