

Academy of Personalized Learning,

A Charter School

2195 Larkspur Lane, Suite 100
Redding, CA 96002

Phone: (530) 222-9APL (9275)

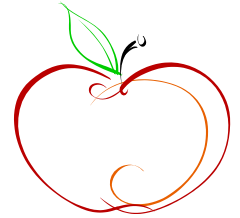
Fax: (530) 222-9281

Director: Dr. Patricia Dougherty

www.ourapl.org



September Apple News



September 1, 2013

Volume 6, Issue 2



September events

- ✓ APL Picture Day
- ✓ Lake Shasta Caverns
- ✓ CAL FIRE RAAB
- ✓ College Quest
- ✓ QuestBridge



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The 2013-2014 school year is off to a great start. This is an important year in the life of our school as we work to renew our charter with the Gateway Unified School District. We will be contacting families for support as we go through the renewal process. We thank you for the support you have shown and we hope that you will continue to support our school!

Newsflash! A student and staff member were almost hit in the parking lot and several near collisions have also occurred. Please honor our parking lot protocols for the safety of all concerned! The well-being of our students and staff is of utmost importance! And please remember to treat each other with respect and civility. All ingress and egress lanes must remain open at all times. When dropping off or picking up children, please park your car if you pull into the parking lot. Do not double park, block other cars, or create traffic congestion or safety issues. Elementary children must be accompanied to and from the building. Middle and high school students may be dropped off on the side streets adjacent to the school. Elementary students will remain inside the building until they are picked up. Middle and High School students may wait in the patio area directly outside the front doors of the building on Tuesdays and Thursdays when supervision is present. APL is a closed campus.

APL's Picture Day 2013 will be on Thursday and Friday, **September 12 & 13, from 8 am until noon.** All students (and siblings, if interested) are invited to get their photo taken and will receive a free ID card. McConnell Photography will be doing the photography this year. Bob McConnell is our Photography instructor. His work is superb and his prices, should you wish to purchase prints of your photos, are very reasonable. Please see the flyer included with this newsletter for Picture Day preparation tips, photo packages and prices. For those who are unable to attend, there will be photo make-up sessions at a later date.

APL will continue the **Good Apple Award** program this year to recognize students who demonstrate "good citizenship." This is not an academic award; the intention is to acknowledge students who demonstrate behavior that we want to encourage, especially students supporting others in a positive way. Good Apple Award tickets are given to students exhibiting good citizenship in class or around campus. When students are awarded a ticket, they put their name on the ticket and deposit it in the box on Patty's desk in the library. Two students' tickets will be drawn each month and winners will be announced in the newsletter. Winners may choose from among several prizes, including Cinemark and Barnes & Noble gift cards. The students selected this month are Howie Duff and Julian Officer. Congrats to our Good Apples!

Last year APL initiated the use of the "**Student Portal.**" This component of our Student Information System (SIS) enhances communication of information between teachers, students and families via the internet. The portal provides families access to students' assignments for the coming school week and grades for the previous week. This can help students keep up with assignments, and it is especially helpful when students are ill and missing classes. The portal also facilitates parents' ability to keep up to date on their children's academic performance. If you have yet to utilize the portal, please contact your PLT (Personalized Learning Teacher) for assistance.

The monthly newsletter can now be accessed from the Student Portal. The newsletter is also available on our website, www.ourapl.org, in addition to being available via email and "snail mail." The online edition arrives to you sooner, has the benefit of being in color, and the websites referenced are easily accessible as hyperlinks. Although we will continue to mail the newsletter to families per their request, if you prefer the online edition and no longer desire the print edition, please let our receptionist Darla know. She can add you to the email list and remove you from the mailing list. As always, we hope you read and benefit from the information presented in Apple News, the voice of our school.

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, the safety of our students is very important at APL. Students now check in and out of school using their student identification cards, which have a bar code they scan as they enter and exit the building. If students lose their ID card, it will be replaced one time free of charge. After that, there will be a \$5 charge incurred for replacement. Students need to take care to scan the correct computer as they come and go. (Only one computer scans in and the other scans out. This also helps to direct the flow of traffic through the proper half doors by the scan stations.) Parents and volunteers who want to pass into the interior of the building will be asked to sign in at the front desk and are given a badge to wear while onsite. (As a safety precaution, all parents must check in at the front desk for early release of their children.)



APL Orientation



APL is accepting new students for the **2013-14 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!

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



By the end 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. Some of the tests will use paper and pencil, and some will be on the computer. During September, every Monday, except 9/2, the computer lab will be available for Scantron testing (grades 3-11) from 9 am-2 pm. Call the office or contact your teacher to schedule an appointment. The detailed information provided by the tests will be useful for showing parents where students have made academic progress and in what specific areas they need to focus.

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. (Students are responsible for making up work when absent from school.) Being on time for classes is also important. The day's lesson often comes at the beginning of class and late arriving students not only disrupt the class, but also miss critical information. So plan to arrive at school so that students can be in class and ready to learn on time. And please remember to send students with a cold lunch.

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 2013-14 school year is due by September 13, 2012**. The form is available at APL. If you have questions or can't meet the deadline, contact Sherina.

Important dates:

September 27, the end of LP1, is the last day to make class changes for fall semester.

October 11, the end of 1st quarter, is the last day to add/drop high school courses.

November 22 is the last day for high school students to withdraw from a course without an F on their transcript

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.

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



Library News



Destiny Quest is our APL Library system which allows students and parents to browse our library holdings, place holds, create resource lists, and renew materials. The URL is : <https://ourapl.follettdestiny.com/>



Click on Academy of Personalized Learning. In the upper left hand corner choose "create account." You will then see a space that states: enter your last name and enter your barcode. The last name will be the student's official last name and the barcode is the student's school ID number that can be found on their student ID card, or can be obtained from your teacher of record or any library staff.

After login, you will get a page that looks like the adjacent picture:

At the top of the page there are several tabs including Quest Home, My Info, Advanced Search and Visual Search. You can search for books and resources by clicking on the Visual Search or the Advanced Search Tabs. You can also type in a book or subject after the "Find," then click on "Go." If you click on the "My Info" tab at the top of the screen a new window will pop up that gives students/parents the option of viewing a student's current check outs.

The theme of this year's reading incentive program is "**Super Readers are Super Heroes.**" Pick up your reading logs at the APL library or from your teacher. Happy reading!

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.



September Events



Join APL for a **Lake Shasta Caverns Tour** on Monday, **September 16 at 9:30 am**. The cost is \$7 per student and \$18 per adult. (Pay at the door, cash or credit card only, please.) The boat leaves at 10 am sharp, so you must pay and walk 1/4 mile to the boat dock by 10 am. Bring a picnic lunch and/or purchase a bag of mining rough and play with the sluice box after the tour. The Caverns is located about 17 miles north of Redding. Take I-5 exit 695, then follow Shasta Caverns Road east for 1.5 miles. The road dead ends in their parking lot. Please register at www.ourapl.org by Monday, **September 9**. For more information, visit our website or contact Barbara Mehr at bmehr@ourapl.org.

On Thursday, **September 19**, join APL students in a tour of the **CAL FIRE Redding Air Attack Base (RAAB) at 9 am** and then tour **Fire Station #43 at 10:30 am**. The tour will end at 11-11:30 am. RAAB is located at the CAL FIRE Northern Operations Center at 6101 Airport Road in Redding. Students will have the opportunity to see aircraft used to fight fires in this region. RAAB has a vast response area, spanning from Red Bluff to the Oregon border and from Hayfork to Mt. Lassen. CAL FIRE's goal is to provide air resources to any fire incident within 20 minutes. See our website for more information about this field trip. Please register, with number of attendees, at www.ourapl.org by Wednesday, **September 18**.

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!

"All our dreams can come true—if we have the courage to pursue them."
~ Walt Disney



College Corner



College Quest, the 2013 College Information Night will be Monday, **September 23 from 5-8 pm** at Simpson University. APL encourages students and families to attend this free community event. Numerous colleges and universities will be represented, plus military and other career pathway information. Experts will be on site to help answer your questions and there will be workshops on how to pay for college.

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.

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 or 530-245-1845)

College Entrance Exams: There are several college entrance exams available for students. The **SAT** (Scholastic Aptitude Test) is an aptitude test that measures students' ability to understand and process elements of mathematical and verbal reasoning. The test has three components: critical reading, math, and writing. Some colleges require students to take both the **SAT** and **SAT II** (subject-specific tests).

The PSAT will be offered at APL on Wednesday, October 16 from 8:00 am-noon. Students must register with Sherina by **September 25**. The test costs \$14.

QuestBridge National College Match program pairs outstanding low-income high school seniors with admission and full four-year scholarships to some of the nation's leading colleges. College Match scholarships cover the full cost of tuition, room, and board, worth approximately \$220,000. QuestBridge invites applications from high school seniors who have demonstrated academic excellence and come from households earning less than \$60,000 annually for a typical family of four. The free online application is due **September 27, 2013**. www.questbridge.org

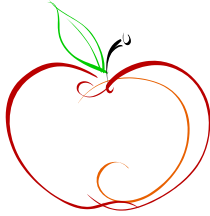
Students take the SAT in the spring of junior year and/or the fall of senior year. The first administration of the SAT this year will be at **Enterprise High School on October 5**. The regular registration deadline is **September 6**. Register at www.sat.org/register. The cost is \$51.

There are a limited number of **fee waivers available for the PSAT and SAT** for qualified students. Contact Sherina for more information about the waivers. For more information about the tests themselves, visit www.collegeboard.org.

The **ACT** (American College Testing) is an assessment test of students' general educational development (like a cumulative final). It covers English, math, reading, and science with an optional writing test. The ACT will be offered at **Liberty Christian** on Saturday, **December 14, 2013 and April 12, 2014**. The cost is \$36.50 (or \$52.50 w/ Writing). For more information about the ACT, see www.act.org.



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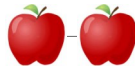
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Tutoring



Meetings



NCAA



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: 1:00-3:15 pm at APL

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

Fridays: 1:00-3:15 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.**

The **APL Board Meetings** are the **3rd Thursday** of each month at **5:15 pm**. The **September meeting has been changed to September 12, 2013**. The public is invited to attend.

The purpose of **APL's Advisory Council** is to gather input from the vested members of our school community (evenly weighted between staff and families) and use that information to improve our school. This includes addressing concerns of the families/staff and creating needed school policies to present to our Board of Directors.

Advisory Council meetings are the **1st Wednesday** of each month at **3:30 pm**, with the next meetings on **September 4**. The Council is in need of a high school student and the parent of an elementary student. If you are interested in serving on the Council, please contact waidenkeller@ourapl.org.

NCAA Registration Time:

The NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) is a nonprofit association that organizes the athletic programs of many colleges and universities in the U.S. and Canada. It is time for college-bound student-athletes to register with the NCAA Eligibility Center.

Who Should Register?

Any current sophomore, junior or senior who wishes to participate in inter-collegiate athletics at an NCAA Division I or II college or university should register.

How Does Registration Work?

Registrants may access the site at www.eligibilitycenter.org. From the home page, click on "Enter Here" for NCAA college-bound student-athletes, then on the "New Account" link in the upper right corner. From there, they simply follow the prompts.

APL will send transcripts to NCAA for student-athletes who register.

"The secret in education lies in respecting the student."

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

