

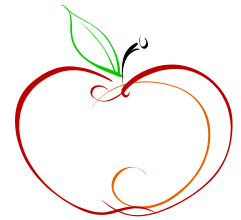
Academy of Personalized Learning,

A Charter School

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www.ourapl.org

Apple News

March



Spring is just around the corner with the Vernal Equinox on March 20. APL's **Spring Break** will be **Friday, March 25 through Monday, April 4**. The annual state testing will begin the following week. **There will be no onsite classes during the two week testing window of April 11-22.**

California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP), the online state testing, will be conducted **April 11-22** for students in **grades 3 through 8 and 11**. Make-up tests will be given **April 26-29**. In the meantime, students are encouraged to go online to www.caaspp.org to get familiar with the testing format so they understand how to take the test. Practice, and the understanding that comes with it, will alleviate test anxiety. After logging into the CAASPP website:

1. Click on **Practice and Training Tests** (under the **TA Resources** tab)
2. Click on **Student Interface—Practice and Training Tests** (Green)
3. Click on **Sign in** (Make sure the Guest User/Guest Session say Guest)
4. Select a **grade level**, then click **"Yes"**
5. Click on **Math Practice Test, Math Performance Task, ELA Practice Test, or ELA Performance Task** (It would be good to do this four different times so students are able to try each of the above options.)
6. **Choose Settings** (Leave these alone and just click **"Select"**)
7. **Is This Your Test?** Click **"Yes, Start My Test"**
8. **Test Instructions and Help** Click **"Begin Test Now"**

Students in **grades 5, 8, and 10** will take the **Science STAR test** (paper test) that is the same as in previous years. **Physical fitness testing** for students in **grades 5, 7, and 9** will also be in April. See page 2 for more information about preparing for the physical fitness testing.

Looking ahead to graduation, this year's **commencement** will take place at **5:30 pm on Wednesday, May 25** at the **Stirring**, 2250 Churn Creek Rd. (right around the corner from APL). Each year at graduation, APL presents a slideshow of the graduates. If you have a student graduating, please select some baby and recent photos (at least one of each). Email them to jparks@ourapl.org (specify "graduation pictures" in your title for the email), or drop them off for her at APL. If you bring in the actual photos, be sure to label them with the name of your graduate and the teacher of record so the photos can be returned.

March 1, 2016

Volume 8, Issue 7



March events

- ✓ Shasta Dam Tour
- ✓ Simpson U. Spring Preview Weekend
- ✓ Spring Break



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Students in the Spotlight

Elijah Hiner is a Kindergartner with APL. He is a bright student who enjoys learning and playing his drums. Elijah attends onsite classes and is a pleasure to have in class. He is kind and considerate, and has made many friends in his short time with us. We are lucky to have Elijah and his sister, Isabella, as part of our APL family!

Ben Carrillo-Keller is a hard working 6th grader at APL who always has a smile and a positive attitude. He loves participating in Mrs. James' onsite 6th grade class and especially enjoys Science. Ben also loves his Lego Creative Design class. Some of his other interests include reading graphic novels and watching Pokemon videos. Ben is always willing to lend a hand to everyone. He is a great addition to APL this school year!

Abigail Scarbrough, a junior, has attended APL for the past two years. Abigail has continuously made academic progress and has earned the love and admiration of the 1st and 2nd grade students, whom she helps one day a week as a classroom TA. Abigail's honesty, thoughtfulness, responsible attitude, and gentle nature are qualities that will benefit her throughout her life. After graduation, Abigail is considering a career in either education or law enforcement as the next step in developing her talents and interests for future success.



APL is accepting new students for the **2015-16 school year**. If you have friends or family looking at school options, please consider suggesting us! **There will be no orientation sessions during the month of March.**

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



Between the dates of **February 22** and **March 24** all students in grades **K-12** will be assessed in **language arts** and students in grades **2-12** will be assessed in **math**. Students in grades K-6 will be given the DIBELS language arts assessment. Students can complete Scantron testing at their meeting or schedule a Monday time to test on site if they're not doing their tests in their English or Math site class. On all Mondays during this testing window, the computer lab will be available for Scantron testing (grades 2-12) from 9 am-3 pm. Contact your PLT 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. It will also be good preparation for State testing later in the Spring.

APL Yearbook 2015/2016: If you are interested in purchasing an APL Yearbook for this school year, **they will cost \$15 until spring break, and then the price will be \$20 starting April 5, 2016.** You can find order forms and place your order at APL's reception desk.

School Business

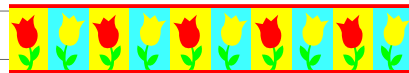
Attention all 5th, 7th, and 9th graders: Physical fitness testing will take place in April, so students might want to start practicing the exercises and getting into shape. It is especially important for all 9th graders to take the test. Not taking the test means that you fail the test, and you will be obligated to take a PE class all four of your high school years. The performance standards have been included with the newsletter to help you figure out what a student needs to do to pass the fitness test. To calculate Body Mass Index or BMI, visit our website, www.ourapl.org. Our website also has videos available to explain the test and how it will be administered. There is a video available for each test. To access the videos, click on Student Resources, then select Physical Education and click on Required Student Testing. The following videos are available: Aerobic Capacity, Abdominal Strength, Trunk Lift, Upper Body Strength, Flexibility, and Body Composition.



The **Good Apple Awards** for February go to **Keira Gifford** and **Havok Martin**. These students were cited with "good citizenship" and given tickets, which were then selected in the monthly drawing. Congratulations to our "Good Apples!" (See a librarian to claim your prize.)

Seniors: Graduation gown packages can be purchased through APL for **\$26.87**. This includes cap, gown and tassel with a 2016 charm. Checks, made out to **Herff Jones**, or cash should be turned in to our library along with the order form by **March 15**. If you would like to order **graduation announcements**, you can order them through the Herff Jones website at www.highschool.herffjones.com. Once at the site, type in our school name: Academy of Personalized Learning and click the search icon. Using a debit or credit card, order and pay through the website and the products will be shipped directly to your home.

Work Permit applications are available at the school office. Parents can fill out the request and drop it off at APL or fax it to the office at 222-9281.



Library News

Library Returns: If you have completed a course, or have finished using any materials checked out from the APL Library, please return these materials to the library. Other students may be in need of what you have. In these tight financial times, we cannot afford to leave books unused on a shelf, so please return materials that you are not using. Thanks!

Reading Incentive Program: APL facilitates a reading incentive program for students. The theme of this year's program is "**Read It! Imagine It!**" 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.

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.





March Events



Shasta Dam Tour: Join APL students for a tour of Shasta Dam on Monday, **March 21**. Shasta Dam is on the Sacramento River, about 10 miles north of Redding. From Redding, take I5 north to Exit 685. Turn west onto CA 151 (Shasta Dam Blvd.) and follow it to the dam. The scenic route includes a vista point turnoff with views of the dam, Shasta Lake, and Mount Shasta. **Meet at the visitor center at 11:30 am** for a movie and museum tour. Bring a sack lunch. The tour will end at 2:30 pm. Seats are limited. Sign up at www.ourapl.org.

Mary Poppins will be performed at the Cascade Theater on Thursday, **April 14 at 10 am**. Mary Poppins is an enchanting mixture of unforgettable songs, breathtaking dance numbers, and astonishing stagecraft. Tickets are **\$5** each. To register, sign up at www.ourapl.org and pay at APL's front desk. Only payment reserves seats. **Checks** should be made to **Cascade Theater**.

Field Trips: If you need to cancel your registration, please contact **Barbara Mehr**, bmehr@ourapl.org. There are often other families on a waitlist who would love to attend the event. Thanks!

"A bird does not sing because it has an answer. It sings because it has a song."

~Joan Anglund



College Corner



Senior Year College/Financial Aid Checklist for March:

- **March 2** is the Cal Grant deadline to submit the FAFSA.
- Review your FAFSA Student Aid Report and make corrections at www.fafsa.ed.gov if necessary. If you don't receive your report within three weeks of submitting your FAFSA, call toll free 800-433-3243.
- Watch for college acceptance letters and financial aid offers via email and your college portal(s).
- Manage your Cal Grant at www.webgrants4students.org. Look for email messages from the California Student Aid Commission and check your status.
- Planning to attend a community college? Apply, take assessment tests, send in your high school transcripts, and sign up for an orientation. Apply for EOPS and SSS.
- Apply for scholarships!

Scholarships: There are many scholarship opportunities available for students. The following websites offer free scholarship information:

- www.fastweb.com
- www.collegeboard.com/pay
- www.scholarships.com
- www.studentscholarshipsearch.com

www.californiacolleges.edu is designed to be a "one-stop shop" website for all things about college and career in California (exploring, preparing, planning, applying and paying). Geared to students and families in grades 6 and up, the website has excellent tools and information, and students can create a

personalized "portfolio" account for collecting information about various colleges and more.

For students in Modoc, Shasta, Siskiyou, Trinity, and Tehama Counties, plus Big Valley High School District in Lassen County, please be aware that The McConnell Foundation scholarship applications are available at northstatescholarships.communityforce.com. The

McConnell Foundation Scholars Program helps students seeking bachelor's degrees at four-year colleges and universities. It provides recipients with a total financial award of \$30,000 plus non-financial support such as personal mentoring, a caring community of fellow Scholars, and professional development opportunities. Many students face significant challenges on the road to academic success. The purpose of the **McConnell Vista Program** is to provide financial and non-financial support to students who have the potential to successfully complete an AA transfer degree, AS degree or Certificate Program at College of the Siskiyou or Shasta College, but who might not otherwise have the opportunity. It offers a monetary award of up to \$7,500 per year with a maximum of \$30,000 over the recipient's academic career. Unused amounts may be rolled forward for a total of six years and may be applied towards a bachelor's degree or higher for those recipients who transfer to qualified universities. The Vista Program provides mentoring and development opportunities in

addition to financial support. The submission deadline for these applications as well as the **George Grotefend Scholarship** (see February newsletter) is **8:30 pm on March 5, 2016**. Also note, the application deadline for **College OPTIONS Summer Program Scholarships** for students in grades 9-11 (see January newsletter) is **5:00 pm on March 21, 2016**.

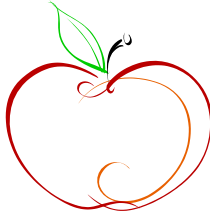
Simpson University invites students to experience a day in the life of a SimpsonU student during **Spring Preview Weekend, March 11-12**. There will be festivities, music, and informative seminars. The cost is **\$30** per person. Prospective students age 16 and older can spend the night in the dorms. For more information and to register: www.simpsonu.edu/visit.

The next administration of the **ACT** will be **April 9 at Central Valley High School**. The regular registration deadline is **March 4**, and there is late registration (with a \$25 late fee) **March 5-18**. The cost of the ACT is \$39.50 (or \$56.50 With Writing.) For more information, go to www.actstudent.org.

The new **SAT and Subject tests** will be administered at **Enterprise High School and Central Valley High School on Saturday, May 7**. The regular registration deadline is **April 8**. There is late registration (with a late fee of \$28) through **April 26**. Register at www.collegeboard.org. The SAT costs \$54.50. Fee waivers are available for qualified students.



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 **Tutoring**   **Meetings**  **QuestBridge** 

Tutoring: APL has made changes to our tutoring model to better meet the needs of our students. Please contact your PLT if your student needs tutoring assistance.

APL teacher Vanessa Burger will continue to be 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.**

Ceramics

The junior/senior high school Ceramics students recently participated in a design contest as they assumed the role of commercial artists to create a "prototype for production." Each student selected a piece of ware to decorate. Two students were selected for each of three categories as follows. Contemporary: teaset by **Angelina Paiva** and plate by **Sarah Vader**; Folk Art: vase by **Angelina Hernandez** and plate by **Meadow Voss**; and Cottage/Country: cookie jar by **Caitlyn Parks** and teapot by **Kyra Baker**.

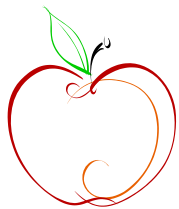
The **APL Board Meetings** for this school year are the **3rd Thursday** of each month at **5:15 pm**, with the next meeting on **March 17**. The public is invited to attend.

Art Contest

Calling all children artists! Enter **YourArt's 1st Art contest** and have a chance to win a scholarship or other art prizes. The theme is **"Future Helpers of the Community."** Children ages 3-14, draw something showing what it means to be a helper in our community or what you can do to be a future helper. Submit artwork with your name, contact info, and grade to YourArt c/o Rosalyn Duran at PO Box 494658 Redding, CA 96049. Drawings will be grouped Preschool, K-3, 4-6, 7&8. The contest runs through **April 30**, and winners will be announced at a KidDraw event in May 2016 at the YourArt Studio, 660 Azalea Avenue Suite B, Redding, CA 96002. Phone: 530-605-0430. To learn more about YourArt Studio, visit www.yourartclub.org.

The **QuestBridge College Prep Scholars Program** was designed to give high-achieving, low-income juniors an early advantage in college admissions to top colleges. **College Prep Scholars** are uniquely prepared to gain admission and full scholarships to top-tier colleges through QuestBridge. The majority are also selected as Finalists for the National College Match. Being selected as a College Prep Scholar is a notable distinction that celebrates your achievements and gives you an early start in applying to college. Who should apply? High school juniors who: have strong academic records; come from households earning less than \$65,000 per year; may be eligible for free or reduced-price lunch; may be part of the first generation in their family to attend college. How to apply? Visit www.questbridge.org to learn more about award details and selection criteria. Fill out an online application. Apply by **March 23, 2016**.

"What sculpture is to a block of marble, education is to the human soul."
~ Joseph Addison



March 2016

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 FAFSA/Cal Grant deadline	3	4 3rd Quarter Ends	5
6	7 Staff meeting: 8 am-4 pm	8	9	10	11 Simpson University Spring Preview Weekend	12 Simpson University Spring Preview Week- end
13	14	15	16	17 Board Meeting: 5:15 pm	18	19
Student Meetings Week						
20	21 Shasta Dam Tour: 11:30 am	22	23	24	25 Spring Break	26
27	28	29	30	31	Please read newsletter for event details!	
Spring Break						