



FIRST AVENUE MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

F I R S T A V E N U E M I D D L E S C H O O L P T S A

JUNE 2011
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FIRST AVENUE PTSA

- ◆ Jeff Wilson, Principal
- ◆ Vicky Stiles, President
- ◆ Maryann Stevens, Editor

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

First Avenue Rocks!!

On April 20, 2011 a small group of PTSA volunteers and school staff sat down together to talk about the possibility of hosting a Community Festival to go along with our annual Community Concert. The brainstorming session led to suggestions about involving teachers in game booths, parents and volunteers with food booths, and our amazing students taking care of the entertainment. One of our teachers suggested adding a silent auction to the event. Ron Gutierrez volunteered to take on the food service and promised tri-tip sandwiches. Under Vicky

Stiles' leadership and a relentless team of PTSA volunteers including Vicky, Doris Hayata, Terri Powell, Randa Weir, Maryann Stevens and Theresia Liem, supplemented later by Ron Gutierrez and Judy Lee (prizes), we had an amazing Community Concert & Festival on Sunday, May 22nd. Nearly 2,000 people attended and nearly \$14,000 was made to support our schools through AEF. The event brought the community closer together and calls were immediately heard to make the Festival an an-

nual tradition.

On May 6, we had an assembly to celebrate the conclusion of state testing. Ishaan Dev, our Student Body President challenged the students to participate in a Jogathon the following Friday and to raise money to help maintain the excellence of our schools here in Arcadia and to help save teacher jobs. For one week, students elicited support through one-time donations and



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Principal's Message

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per lap commitments. When the dust settled on Friday the 13th, we had over \$30,000 in cash and checks. Following a final accounting this week, the Jogathon raised over \$58,800 – simply amazing.

Not content to rest on our laurels, a Penny War was initiated by Mr. Gould and, once again, the students jumped right in. After an 8-day war, the students had raised an additional \$5,700 towards the AEF campaign.



In a little over a month's time, the First Avenue community managed to raise nearly \$79,000 to support the Arcadia Educational Foundation knowing that all of that money would be used to support our teachers, and, as a result, allow us to maintain our elective programs, music, and all of the amazing extracurricular programs.

This is foreign territory for all of us who went into the teaching profession with an ideal to activate young minds by exposing them to curriculum, programs and activities that would produce knowledgeable lifelong learners ready to take on the world. Due to a broken system of state and federal educational funding and unfulfilled promises by various leaders from both political parties, we find ourselves in the uncomfortable position of having to fight for what we believe is the right of every Arcadia student – to be exposed to and have an opportunity to experience a world-class education where the needs of the whole child are met through a rigorous academic program coupled with a wide and varied elective and extracurricular program.

While it feels like all we have talked about is money for the past 6 months, I can assure you that the work of providing our students the best possible education continues to thrive here at First Avenue with hard-working and creative teachers using their gifts to challenge and prepare our students for Arcadia High School and beyond. Our robust elective program has produced some of the best musicians, actors, artists, videographers, wood-workers, and chefs that our school has ever produced. Our future writers, mathematicians, scientists, historians and athletes continue to produce excellence. I feel like the cohesiveness between our students, staff, parents and community has never been stronger. It is amazing what trials will do for you. What is the old saying? "What doesn't kill you will only make you stronger." I can tell you that today, as we close down a great, great year that First Avenue Middle School has never been stronger.

FIRST AVENUE ROCKS!!

Jeff Wilson
First Avenue Principal



President's Message

The past few weeks have been a whirlwind! We had California State Testing, Teacher Appreciation Week, Production Plays, 7th Grade Workshop in the Woods, 6th Grade Greek Days, Night at the Movies and the 8th Grade Ellis Island simulation. On top of all that we started two new traditions.

On Friday, May 13th we saw the entire student body participate in the first ever district-wide middle school Jog-a-Thon. First Avenue students ran/jogged/walked during their P.E. period while raising funds for the Arcadia Educational Foundation. School Principal Mr. Wilson blared rock anthems and encouraged the students by running laps himself, joining several teachers who came out to support the students during their prep periods. We had a few students who ran about six miles in 40 minutes, incredible! While students were running, some parent volunteers were passing out water to the runners and others were tallying lump sum donations. After collecting pledges in total, First Avenue students raised \$58,800!



The following week we had another first, the Community Concert & Festival. We have had community concerts in the past but this was different. We had teacher and staff sponsored game and activity booths; a silent auction; ticket auction; used book, DVD, and CD sale; bake sale, plant sale; and the very popular pie throwing booth and dunk tank. What's a festival without food? The aroma of grilled tri-tip sandwiches, hamburgers and hot dogs filled the air. Cupcakes, candy cotton, popcorn and sno-cones made for great snacks and dessert! The small team, drill team, production, and musical performances provided wonderful entertainment (although seeing Mr. Wilson in his colorful bathrobe was pretty fun too).

The planning committee was comprised of Principal Mr. Wilson, Assistant Principal Mrs. Issa, Office Manager Mrs. Weir; and parents Ron Gutierrez, Doris Hayata, Judy Lee, Theresia Liem, Terri Powell, Maryann Stevens, and myself. We had a crew of volunteers on festival day itself, and it's no cliché to say that we

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couldn't have done it without them! In addition to teachers and staff, parents, Boy and Girl Scouts and high school students also volunteered their time to work in the booths, sell tickets, serve food and award prizes.

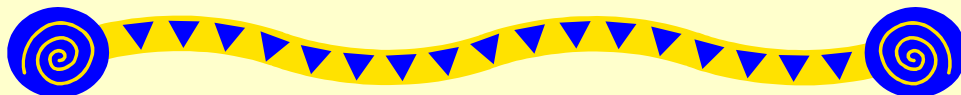
Local businesses and generous individuals (see page 7 & 8 for a list) donated all the game prizes, auction items and Wheel of Fortune prizes. So on top of showcasing the wonderful programs at our school, bringing in the community and having fun, we raised nearly \$14,000. It was a tremendously successful event on all counts.

Then most recently Mr. Gould organized Penny Wars among the grades. Penny by penny (and quite a few bills and checks in the other grades' jars), the 6th Grade class won bragging rights. Our students raised an additional \$5,700. All profits from the Jog-a-Thon, Community Concert & Festival and Penny Wars will be donated to the Arcadia Educational Foundation (AEF) to fund teacher and staff positions to help maintain the quality programs Arcadia Unified offers to its students. In total nearly \$79,000 was raised over the two weeks, more than enough for another teaching position in the district. The continuing generosity of the First Avenue family amazes and inspires me. Through the combined district-wide fundraising efforts, AEF is gifting the District enough funds for 12 positions!



However, we cannot let up. While this school year is winding down, we are still uncertain what the budget situation will be for the State of California and so for our schools. We need to be vigilant with our elected officials and to advocate on behalf of our children. We need to continue to talk to our friends and neighbors so they are aware of the problems our schools are facing and how it impacts them, regardless of whether or not they have children in the district. We need to continue to support AEF. We know the value of our schools. We have shown that our community will band together to protect the school programs that are important to us. Appropriately our PTSA theme this year was "Together We Can", and we have shown just how true it is! Congratulations First Avenue!

Vicky Stiles
PTSA President



FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S DESK...

Hello First Avenue Community,

Although I usually play the role of taking care of business, from discipline to schedules, and yes, the traffic line at drop off and pick up, I decided to reflect on my observations and heartfelt appreciation of our great school. Without a doubt, the overriding sentiment in my heart is that our students and families are incredible human beings in how they care so much about their teachers and each other. They represent the best of their families, many of whom are active PTSA members.

The morning begins on Diamond Street at 8am, as I chat with my colleagues and bid greetings to all the students getting dropped off. The students, ready for their day at First Avenue, walk briskly with enthusiasm to their first class. Then there are the late ones, who run towards the gate hoping to sprint by with a quick "Hi Mrs. Issa!" before it closes. Mr. Gund, a teacher who volunteers his time every day for morning supervision, loudly urges the students to rush before the tardy bell rings, but scolds the parents, good-naturedly of course, for driving too fast to get them to the gate. At the tardy bell, those students who are running through the gate rush in apologetically, and I say those dreaded words, "Go to the office and get a tardy slip!" The music goes on the school wide loudspeaker, alerting us that the Pledge of Allegiance is about to begin. Within a minute, the sounds around us are of students reporting the morning news, Student Council talking about the latest contest, and Mr. Wilson announcing which games will be played at lunch.

On this particular morning, the school is abuzz with the way all the 8th graders are dressed, in early 20th century immigrant clothing, ready to participate in the Ellis Island simulation. (See article and photos on page 18-19.) The 8th grade teachers have spent the morning setting up the final details for processing center, the museum, and other activities that the students will participate in. The week before, the 6th graders, fully dressed in Greek attire, participated in Greek Days (see page 24), showcasing their talents and representing their city-state. A few weeks before, the 7th graders participated in Workshop in the Woods (see pages 22-23), taking part in activities related to medieval time period. These simulations and events provide our students with a glimpse into the past, creating a memory that will help them to internalize what they have learned.

All around me, students are busy with studying in different ways, not just paper and pencil activities. The spirit of competition is healthy as I watch Mrs. Mora's 6th grade class walking noisily to a 7th grade class to "bomb them" for the penny wars. Squeals of laughter are heard down the hallway as they approach Mr. Gould's room. They might not know it, but these students are engaged in learning about civics by raising funds to save the teachers who are losing their jobs. This is just a sample of the type of experiences our students participate in to build their practical knowledge, and it is these experiences that students remember the most later in their lives. Our teachers believe this philosophy of educating the whole child provides engaging experiences that shape their minds and gives them a new perspective and appreciation of life itself.

AP's Message

Continued from page 5

One thing visitors to our school notice is that students are smiling and happy to be here. What they don't know is that our students are not only enthusiastic about learning, but they are accomplished in music, art, drama, industrial tech, video production, computers, sports, and of course, academics. However, they are also unaware of the fact that the PTSA is tremendously involved in the school, supporting the teachers and staff with every activity and event, whether it be taking pictures of the multitude of activities, setting up concerts, providing refreshments, taking on fundraising activities, counting money or planning the 8th grade promotion party. The students are amazing because of their families, who feel a close association to our school, and because of the teachers, who invest their hearts and minds into their students. Every day that goes by, I learn something new that makes me feel more connected to the school community and this connectedness is a gift that helps me to carry out my job better.

I feel extremely honored and blessed to be the Assistant Principal of the absolute best middle school in the State. First Avenue Middle School is the quintessence of what works in education. A school where the staff considers themselves an extended family; where the teachers educate your children with the philosophy of the whole child in mind while maintaining academic rigor; where the PTSA is extremely supportive of the school's endeavors in educating your children; all in addition to the fact that your children are such incredible human beings. When it comes right down to the heart of the matter, you all humble me, and I hope that I can be as good an administrator as you all deserve. Thank you *ALL* for a great first year. I look forward to many more.

In Peace,

Semeen Issa



★ Attention Current 7th Grade Parents ★

★ Looking for something fun for your student to do next year during Spring Break? Well, it's still not too late for the current 7th graders to sign up for the Washington D.C./New York trip. Next year 8th graders can travel with a company called *WorldStrides* from March 30-April 4. The early bird registrations ends on June 8, 2011. This is a non-school sponsored event, which some First Avenue teachers will be chaperoning. Pick up your informational packet in the office today. Thank you!

★ *Melinda Soothoo* ★



A Huge THANK YOU to ALL of the Community

Concert & Festival donors & supporters:

Individual Donors:

Emily AuYeung
 Lee Callander
 Lilian Chen
 Tiffany Crosby
 Irene Den
 Roberto Diaz
 Jenny Diefenbach
 Michael Graves
 Scott Green
 Perlita Guzman
 Melody Isabela
 Semeen & Saad Issa
 Linda Johnson
 Irene Kahn
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 Erika Speed
 Dana Thompson
 Linda & Jim Thompson
 Doug & Donna Townsend
 Randa Weir
 Jeff Wilson
 Merilyn Zeuli

Business Donors:

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 AYSO Region 2
 Bahooka Ribs & Grog
 BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse
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 California Pizza Kitchen
 Capital Seafood Group
 Carmine's Italian Restaurant
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 Dave & Buster's
 Din Tai Fung Dumpling House
 Domenico's - Arcadia
 Domenico's - Monrovia
 DUB Publishing
 Fresh & Easy
 Golf 'N' Stuff
 Heidar Baba Persian Restaurant
 Huntington Library
 Image Foundry
 Island's Fine Burgers
 Jim's Original Burgers
 Just Tires
 Kabuki Restaurant Group
 Los Angeles County Fair
 Los Angeles Zoo
 Matt Denny's Ale House Restaurant
 Norton Simon Museum
 Old Navy

Parents...

When you visit these businesses during the summer please express your appreciation for their support of First Avenue Middle School!

We are so thankful for everyone's investment in our school!

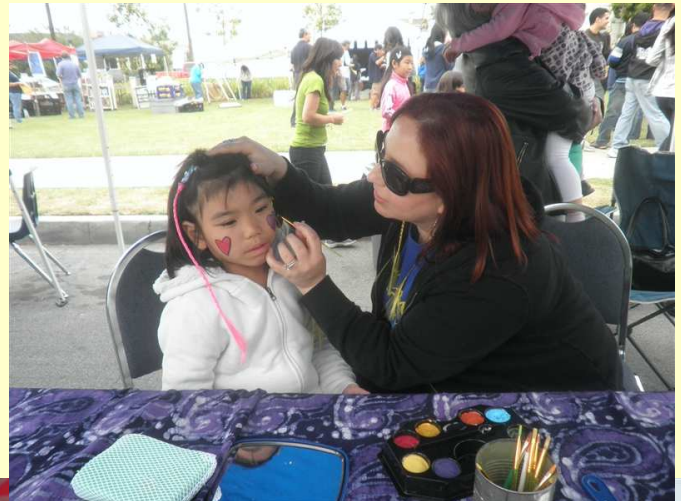
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Olive Garden
Panera's
Party Pronto
PartyWorks Interactive
Pavilions
Picca Inc.
Purrfect Auto Service
Ralph's Market
Round Table Pizza
Sanrio
Santa Anita Golf Course
Sinbala
Souplantation
Starbucks
Stiles Law Group
Taco Lita
The Arcadia Spine Center
The Only Place in Town
Togo's
Trader Joe's
Universal Studios
Yogurtland
7-11 (Santa Anita & Duarte)



A big thank you to the Staff, Parents & Students of First Avenue Middle School who went above and beyond in their support of this event. Other schools, Scouts and PTAs in Arcadia who volunteered time & resources were:

Arcadia High School Interact Club
Arcadia High School Leo Club
Arcadia High School Music Club
Assisteens
Baldwin Stocker PTA
Boy Scout Troop #111
Dana Middle School & PTA
Girl Scout Troop # 9131
Holly Avenue PTA



Production







Orchestra



Band

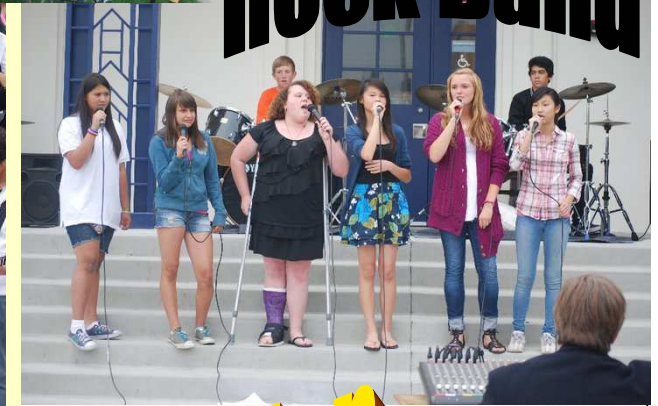


Drumline





Rock Band



Flags



Baton



FA Helps Children in Japan by Making Origami Cranes

On April 25, 2011, Emily Tom with all the help and support of students, teachers and administrators at First Avenue Middle School was able to deliver 4,918 origami cranes to OshKosh children's clothing store. OshKosh, in turn, will ship the cranes to the children in quake-stricken Japan. Emily's initial goal of 100 to 200 cranes mushroomed to the point where everyone at First Avenue was making cranes of all sizes for Japan.



For each crane donated, OshKosh was to donate an article of clothing (up to 50,000) to a child in Japan. Emily received an email from an OshKosh representative thanking everyone for a great job. With over one million cranes received, OshKosh stated it is now sending 80,000 garments to the children of Japan.

The cranes will be shipped to Japan and put on display in Tokyo in early June. Follow up on Facebook in June to follow the cranes' trip to Japan. In Japanese culture, cranes are a powerful symbol of health and well-wishes. In fact, the Japanese people believe that anyone who makes 1,000 origami cranes will have a wish granted. Together, we can make a difference and support our peers in Japan. Great job everyone.



Michael Tom

Parent Volunteer



FA Spartan Cancer Awareness Club

The FA Spartan Cancer Awareness Club is up and roaring. Here are a few highlights of what our wonderful kids have accomplished so far:

- Raised over \$1300.00 for the American Cancer Society Arcadia Relay for Life.
- Held a Great Stuffed Animal Give Away where they raised \$180.00.
- Have hand-tied more than 200 Purple ribbons and place them around the campus in support of the AUSD resolution declaring the month of May as Cancer Awareness month.
- Have decided to plant "Forget-Me-Not" flowers in memory of those who lost their battle with cancer.
- Have made arrangements for a special guest speaker (Samantha Betran's Grandmother, who is currently undergoing cancer treatment) to come to school and talk to club members about what it is like to be a cancer patient.
- Anastasia Barkow has developed a plan to sell Popsicle sticks after school on Mondays to raise funds for her team for the Relay For Life.
- These kids have made Mr. Townsend the proudest teacher on this planet.

Doug Townsend

Advisor-Cancer Awareness Club



Industrial Tech Class

Have you ever gotten the feeling when you entered a room and knew that you belonged right there? That's how so many of us feel when we enter the Industrial Technology class at First Avenue Middle School. It's in this class where our ideas, no matter how odd and queer, come to life. The smell of wood is refreshing and the hum of machinery is loud and is like a substitute for the coffee that you down during every passing period to keep you awake in your next class, addicting, but won't stunt your growth. We've been introduced to many things like architecture, wood working techniques, and more, things that aren't taught in core subjects like math and science. Most, if not all, of us have had a great time and cherish what we've learned in Industrial Tech!



Vickie Chew & Ariel Chan

Advanced Tech. Students

Congratulations to the Darr Family!

Son Ezekiel was born May 11th and weighted 10 lbs 1 oz. His friends call him Zeke. His siblings are Gianna (5), Aliya (4) and Gabriel (1).

Micaela and I are very thankful and blessed.

Kevin Darr

Bridge Counselor
First Avenue & Arcadia High School



8th Graders & Parents

Be sure to check out the following pages:

16 — AHS New Marcher's Camp & Music Camp Information

17 — Transitioning from Middle School to High School, article by Mr. Darr

18-19 — Ellis Island article and photos

20 — Spartan Mile photos

21—AHS Apache Day Information

Arcadia Music Club Important Dates

2011 Incoming Freshman Marching Camp:

June 13 - June 17 (6 p.m. to 9 p.m.)

Music Camp Information:

If your student will be involved in Band, Orchestra, Percussion or Color Guard at Arcadia High School these dates are really important:

Sunday, August 21 — Friday, August 26: **Music Camp**

Wednesday, August 24 — **Visitor's Day** at Music Camp

If you have not received a packet, please download the information at www.arcadiamusic.org. For questions please contact either Mr. Doug Failing (Orchestra) or Mrs. Coyla Grumm (Band, Percussion & Color Guard). They can be reached at:

Mr. Doug Failing at 574-1135 or dougfailing@hotmail.com

Mrs. Coyla Grumm at 355-2078 or cgrumm@ausd.net

Music Camp is an important step for incoming freshman—at Music Camp they will not only concentrate on music skills and their instrument they will also be involved in team building activities! Music Camp is a great way to meet new friends before school even starts!

Transitioning from Middle to High School

We are entering that exciting time when the 8th Grade students are getting ready to wrap up their middle school careers and begin to prepare for life at the high school. For many students, it is a mixture of emotions; both of nervousness and excitement.

Though adjusting from middle school to the high school takes time, there are things that students can do to help ease this transition. We always encourage students to get connected to the high school. There are many ways students can get involved; students can join sports teams, academic teams or student clubs. If they have a love of the arts, they can join the theater arts class or one of the many music classes. For some, student government may be an option. Freshman year is a great time for students to explore and expand on different interests. Hopefully all students will find an activity they can be involved with throughout high school and possibly beyond.

A useful thing to do would be to explore the Athletics, ASB and Counseling sections of the AHS website www.ahs.ausd.net. This is a wonderful time for both parents and students to get familiar with the courses offered at AHS. The AHS Curriculum Guide is a very important resource. In addition to having descriptions of the classes offered at the high school, it has information about Arcadia High School graduation requirements as well as entrance prerequisites for the Cal State and UC colleges.

Throughout high school, the students will get the chance to work with the counselors on activities pertaining to college and career exploration. Freshman year is a time to let students get adjusted to life at the high school while exploring and building on their skills and interest. Summer is a time when students begin this process and this can come in many forms; some students enroll in summer school, some join sports, others do volunteer work in their community, and some students just need time to relax. These are just a few examples of what students can do during the summer.

Congratulations to our 8th graders and AHS looks forward to welcoming the class of 2015!

Mr. Kevin Darr

Bridge Counselor
First Avenue MS [\(626\) 821-8362](tel:(626)821-8362)
Arcadia HS [\(626\) 821-1795](tel:(626)821-1795)

Ellis Island—8th Grade!

On Thursday, May 26, First Avenue's 8th Grade Class journeyed over 50 years back in time for our annual Ellis Island Day. Ellis Island served as the principal immigration station from 1892 to 1954, processing over 12 million men, women, and children. About 4 out of 10 Americans have ancestors who entered the country through Ellis Island.

In the morning, students arrived at school dressed as European immigrants. They simulated the process of going through the Ellis Island Immigration Station. The immigrants were greeted by 6 Second Doctors Mr. Klotzle and Mrs. Issa. The Ellis Island 6 Second Doctors received their



names from the short amount of time they had to quickly diagnose each immigrant during a brief medical inspection. They checked immigrants for numerous conditions and diseases that would render the immigrants "undesirable." The students next visited Background, Vocation, Character, and Health stations where fellow 8th grade student processors questioned the immigrants in Spanish, Korean, Mandarin, Japanese, Cantonese, Indonesian, Tagalog and Vietnamese to simulate the language challenges immigrants experi-



enced at Ellis Island. Though translators were available at the real Ellis Island as well as First Avenue's, students faced much frustration as they travelled through processing.

After successfully passing through these stations, all of the students were cleared, their passports were stamped and they were sent to enjoy their life in America and the rest of the activities for Ellis Island Day.

One of the highlights of the day was the First Avenue Middle School's Immigration Museum. The Museum contained almost 300 mini-posters created by fellow 8th



grade students using information collected from oral history interviews which students held with former immigrants prior to Ellis Island Day. Countries represented in the museum included: Egypt, China, Vietnam, El Salvador, Mexico, Korea, Malaysia, India, Philippines, Taiwan, Burma, Hong Kong, Japan, Lebanon, Panama and Great Britain to name a few. Each student enjoyed analyzing several of these posters.



Ellis Island was one of many fun and educational events that this year's 8th Grade Class experienced.



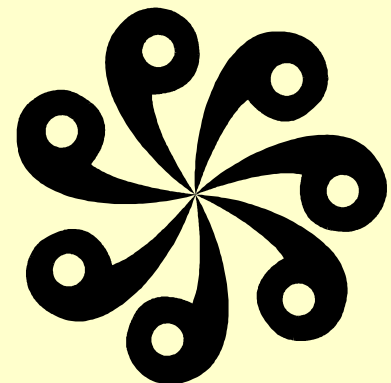
Earlier this year, they took part in First Avenue's Spartan Olympics (Congratulations to the Yellow Team!) and also took a field trip to Knott's Berry Farm for Physics Day. Recent events included the competitive Spartan Mile and the Poetry Coffee House. Congratulations to Spartan Mile champions Kareem Zeenni (5:31) and Laura Guidolin (6:05 – a Spartan Mile Record!) (See page 19 for photos)

The Poetry Coffee House provided an opportunity for students to invite their parents to come drink coffee and enjoy

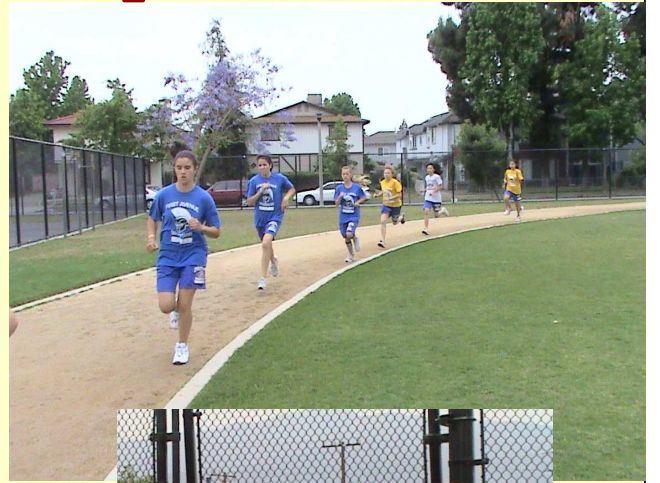
student produced poetry. The end of the year will come quickly with many more fun and memorable activities including the much anticipated 8th Grade Promotion Party "An Evening Masquerade."

Jonathan Matsumoto

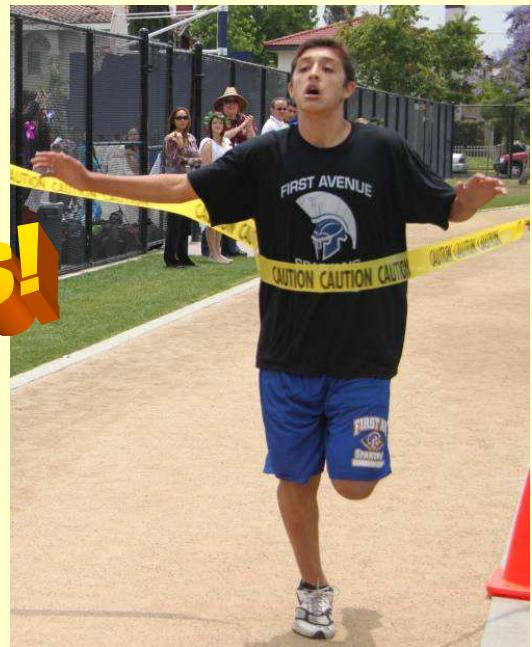
8th Grader at First Avenue



Spartan Mile!



Congrats!



Attention FA 8th Graders—Incoming AHS 9th Graders:

Apache Days for the 2011-2012 SCHOOL YEAR will be August 16-22nd! Seniors will register on Tuesday 8/16, Juniors on Wednesday 8/17, Sophomores on Thursday 8/18, and **Freshmen on Friday 8/19th**. Make-up Day for all grade levels is Monday August 22nd. AHS families will be receiving passwords from Arcadia Unified School District the first week of August. Using these passwords, families are required to fill out two District forms: the Annual Notification to Parents and the Emergency Contact Form. Each form has a signature page which must be printed out and signed by the parent. Bring these two forms to Apache Days along with the rest of the Apache Day Packet. (Same as you did at FA.)

When you complete the district forms, you **MUST** continue online to the high school site. These forms must be completed, printed out, and signed **BEFORE** you come to Apache Days. If you do not bring these forms, you will not be allowed to start the registration process. If you do not have access to a computer and cannot get to the Arcadia Public Library prior to your scheduled registration time to access a computer, please arrange to come to Arcadia High School with a parent to complete your paperwork in the computer lab. Filling out the online forms will take a full hour, so please allow for time to complete these forms before your scheduled registration time. Please make sure your parent brings all the emergency contact information, insurance form numbers, and identification materials necessary to fill out all the forms. On July 1st, there must be proof of immunization of the tDap in your student's file prior to the 2011-2012 school year. If your student does not bring their proof, they will **NOT** be going through the registration process. This translates to they will **NOT** be attending school until they have an immunization and the immunization record recorded at school. Please bring proof of vaccination to the school health office as soon as possible to avoid this delay of registration.

Apache Days...every year, during the five days of registration, thousands of students (over 95%) are able to pay their fees, get their schedules and books, and begin the process of orienting to our campus. There will be more than 300 parent volunteers for the entire process. Please be timely, fill out the forms, bring your 8th grade school ID (save it over the summer) and bring a backpack for your books. Thanks to our efficient volunteers and staff, no student should take longer than 2 hours to register during Apache Days!

In advance, we'd also like to say a big **THANK YOU** to all the parents who say yes when they are contacted to help! It takes over 300 volunteers to make this event a success. Apache Day volunteers are such a valuable resource, we appreciate your participation! Please contact us ASAP if you are available to volunteer for a 3 hour shift. Let us know what day and time (morning or afternoon), you can work. A perk for your student, if you volunteer to help, is that they will get a First in Line and a "Fast Pass" for the 2 impacted contact points. We will also need volunteers on the first morning of the school year, August 29th, at 6:45a.m.until 10ish. Thank you for all of your time in assisting our students when we welcome all back to AHS! So email us, sign-up and we wish you a terrific summer!

Lori Kodama and Kathy Yamane

mikatyam@aol.com (Kathy)

snoweelo@yahoo.com (Lori)

Apache Day Chairs, 2011-2012

Workshop in the Woods—7th Grade Experience

What a great way to celebrate the end of state testing with a field trip! First Avenue's annual Workshop in the Woods field trip took place on Friday, May 4, 2011. Seventh grade students and teachers dressed in costumes from the middle ages and attended various workshops throughout the day as an apprentice. Student-apprentices were greeted by their masters and learned about puppetry, weaving, cloth making, apothecary, juggling, dancing, and even crime and punishment during the middle ages.

The workshops provided an out-of-classroom opportunity for students to interact with historical characters led by the staff from *The Crossroads Group* located in Corona, California. Students rotated throughout the day and attended five out of the ten workshops. Prior to the field trip, students were grouped in various guilds and created banners representing real guilds from the 16th century. Some guild names included: blacksmiths, carpenters, goldsmiths, woolmen, cutlers, poulterers, ironmongers, haberdashers, gardeners, and masons. Next year, we are looking forward to inviting The Crossroads Group to come to our school.



This field trip would not have been possible without your generous donations. The seventh grade teachers would like to extend our gratitude to each and every seventh grade parent. We are simply amazed and fortunate to work for a community that is dedicated in supporting the education of our students.

"Many and hearty thankings fine Lords and Ladies. In good sooth, we surely thank thee."

Continued on page 23

Workshop in the Woods Photos Continued



Greek Days – 6th Grade

This month the sixth grade saw the culminating activity for their study of Ancient Greece take form in Greek Days, a two-day event that included a number of exciting activities designed to celebrate all things Hellenic. Thursday the 19th saw the 6th graders and teachers festooned in traditional Greek garb and organized into city-states, ready to compete. Thebes, Athens, Sparta, Delos, and the rest of the groups prepared for the more cerebral day of competition, including Ancient Greek Jeopardy, a contest for 2D art, 3D art and architecture, and Greek inventions. Students presented plays based on Greek mythology, and there was also a costume contest. The day culminated with an entertaining presentation by a professional acting troupe of The Odyssey, with support from a group of students playing the roles of the traditional Greek chorus.

On the next day, Friday the 20th, the more physical competition began. The day started with a rousing discus throwing event, then a 50 meter dash, and next, the great boulder-roll game. Sisyphus himself would have been proud! The morning concluded in an exciting relay race and ring toss. That afternoon saw the completion of the plays as well as the rewarding of ribbons for all of the events. The teachers were thrilled to see the high level of participation and fantastic projects that the students worked so diligently on. All in all, Greek Days was a resounding success!

Laura Nelson

6th and 8th grade English Teacher



Here are a few ways you can help support AEF & First Avenue through the summer:

RAISE MONEY USING AMAZON

You can raise money for Arcadia schools by shopping at Amazon.com. Go to the AEF website and go to Amazon through their link. AEF is registered through the Amazon associates program. When you follow the link to Amazon and complete your purchases within an hour, AEF will receive a referral fee (typically 6%), so your purchases will help support excellence in Arcadia schools.

Start shopping at: www.aef.ausd.net

Then click on.....→



DONATE ONLINE WITH AEF

Click here for a link to DIRECT DONATION information:

<http://aef.ausd.net/site/index.php/appeal>

In these economically difficult times every penny counts. If you can't give the suggested amount please contribute what you can.

Arcadia Educational Foundation (AEF) does a lot to support our teachers and school district! Visit their website to learn more: www.aef.ausd.net!

BUY SCRIP

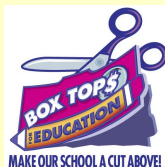
The scrip order form can be downloaded from the First Avenue website (fa.ausd.net) or from this link:

http://fapta.pbworks.com/f/SCRIP_Order_form.FA.PDF

The order form can also be found on page 25 of this newsletter. Contact Jennifer Tom at j.j.tom@sbcglobal.net—she can help you get your order filled so you can start shopping.

Box Tops for Education! ✂

Look for Box Tops on the all sorts of packages and clip them for the school. Your child can turn them in at the office and our school gets money! The funds from these box tops help pay for office supplies for the office and classrooms.



Do You Shop At Office Depot?

Office Depot has a 5% Back to Schools program all year long! If you are planning to shop at Office Depot (in the store or online) please be sure to include **First Avenue's School ID #: 70005681**.

Office Depot will give First Avenue a percentage of your purchase!☺

**Arcadia Educational Foundation
First Avenue SCRIP Order Form**

Specialty Scrip	Donation	Denominations	Order Amount
AMC Theater	7%	\$25	Total _____
Amazon.com NEW	4%	\$100, \$25	Total _____
ARCO	2%	\$100, \$50	Total _____
Baja Fresh	7%	\$25	Total _____
Bath and Body Works	13%	\$25, \$10	Total _____
Bed, Bath & Beyond	7%	\$25	Total _____
Best Buy	3%	\$250, \$100, \$25	Total _____
Borders Book Store	9%	\$25, \$10	Total _____
California Pizza Kitchen	4%	\$10	Total _____
Cheesecake Factory	5%	\$25	Total _____
Chevron NEW	1.5%	\$250, \$100, \$50	Total _____
Chili's, Macaroni Grill...	11%	\$25	Total _____
Gap/Banana/Old Navy/Piperlime	9%	\$25	Total _____
Home Depot	4%	\$500**, \$100, \$25	Total _____
iTunes NEW	5%	\$25, \$15	Total _____
Jamba Juice	7%	\$10	Total _____
KFC	9%	\$5	Total _____
Macys	10%	\$100, \$25	Total _____
Marshall's/T.J. Maxx/HomeGood	7%	\$100, \$25	Total _____
**Nordstrom ~ Buy with your Albertsons or Vons/Pavilions SCRIP			
Office Depot	4%	\$25	Total _____
Outback/Roy's	5%	\$25	Total _____
Sam's Club/Walmart NEW	2%	\$250, \$100, \$25	Total _____
See's Candy	23%	\$16.10	Total _____
Shell Oil NEW	2.5%	\$100, \$50, \$25	Total _____
Smart & Final	3%	\$100, \$50, \$25	Total _____
Starbucks	7%	\$25, \$10	Total _____
**Target ~ Buy with your Albertsons or Vons/Pavilions SCRIP			
Toys R Us/Babies R Us	1.5%	\$20	Total _____
Williams Sonoma/Pottery Barn	8%	\$25, \$100	Total _____
**Home Depot \$500 cards will only be ordered by special request. Please allow approximately 10 days for delivery.			

Grocery Store Scrip

99 Ranch	5%	\$100, \$50, \$25	Total _____
Albertson's **	4%	\$100, \$25	Total _____
Arcadia Super Market	5%	\$100, \$50, \$25	Total _____
Henry's Market	3%	\$50, \$25	Total _____
Safeway/Vons/Pavilions **	4%	\$100, \$25	Total _____
Whole Foods	5%	\$100, \$50	Total _____

Parent Name _____ Date _____

Address _____ Email _____

Student Name _____ ID# _____ Phone _____

School/Group you are supporting _____

Total Order \$ _____ Cash _____ Check # _____

Please make check payable to AEF. Please treat Scrip as you would cash, it can not be replaced if lost.
\$30 fee for returned checks. All sales are final.

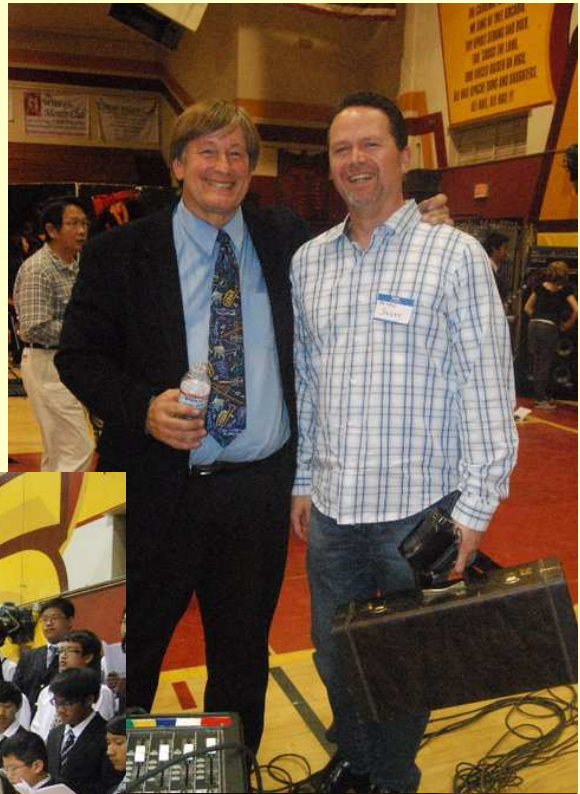
By signing below, I authorize the School Office to have the SCRIP sent home with my child. I realize the school is not responsible for the loss of scrip once it is delivered to my child.

Signature of Parent/Guardian:

**Use these cards to buy Nordstrom, Target and many more gift cards. Allow 24 hours for activation.

FA SCRIP Sales: Jennifer Tom j.j.tom@sbcglobal.net

Night At The Movies



Music Club

Thank you to all the parents and family members who have donated time this year to the music program. It is with your effort that every single performance of each of the music groups has been so successful and so well received, by students, families and the community at large. Our program has a very positive reputation, which among other things, is strengthened by our parent involvement. Thanks to the scores of you who made Night at the Movies a whopping success, helping to raise \$6,184.05. Together we will build on what we've done and make next year even better. Happy Summer!

Jeff Leonard

Music Club President





Thanks to all the volunteers who helped load & unload the truck, set up tables & chairs, move instruments, decorate the room, sell refreshments & tickets! Your hard work is appreciated!

Spartan Days – August 18th

DON'T FORGET TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR SPARTAN DAYS on THURSDAY, AUGUST 18, 2011. MAKE UP DAY WILL BE ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2011.

All grade levels need to register on Spartan Day, Thursday, August 18th at First Avenue. If you are unavailable then, the makeup day is Tuesday, August 23, 2011. Registration packets will be sent out over the summer. DO NOT THROW AWAY OR MISPLACE. Make sure to bring all necessary paperwork as there will be no replacement packets on Spartan Day or on the Make up Day.

At Spartan Days, all students should be available to register, take their school picture, pick up their class schedule, agendas, textbooks, and purchase gym clothes if needed. You can sign up for the PTSA and Music Club to support our school and activities. In addition, new this year, we will have a special deal for school supplies! You can pick up many essential school supplies at bargain prices on Spartan Days at First Avenue. (One less trip for all the parents!) Make sure to bring separate checks for all necessary fees and donations.

Make sure students have turned in verification of their Tdap (pertussis) vaccination to the health office, returned all textbooks and library books, and paid any lunch monies owed before you leave for the summer. Any problems with these items will cause delays in their registration, so make sure to address them immediately.

We will need lots of parent help to make the registration process flow smoothly. If any parents are available to help out either or both days, please contact Doris Hayata at wdhayata@hotmail.com. Have a wonderful summer and we will see you back at First Avenue on August 18th, or August 23rd!

NEW CALIFORNIA IMMUNIZATION LAW

All students entering 7th through 12th grade in the fall, must show proof of receiving a Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis) booster on or after their 10th birthday. The law specifies that no student will be allowed to begin school without it, so avoid delays in registration, get your vaccine now and bring proof to the health office. Personal belief exemptions may be accepted, but must be signed by the parent or guardian in-person in the school office.

Garden Club Garden Club



Our school garden is such a beautiful sight! It provides a wonderful opportunity for our kids to learn about plants, vegetables and taking care of the environment!

We have had a great time getting our garden started. We meet every Tuesday at lunch and plant, prune or clean our garden. We have had pumpkins, lettuce, cabbage, carrots (even purple and yellow ones), onions, blueberries, blackberries and raspberries. We just recently planted some herbs, corn, a naval orange tree, a pink lemonade tree (the flesh of the lemon will be pink) and lots of flowers. We are hoping to have a few summer activities. Keep an eye out for additional planter boxes as we continue to expand.

Catherine Keyston



Upcoming Events

June

- 6 School Concert (Choir, 7/8 Band & 7/8 Orchestra)
- 6 PTSA Meeting & Installation (Note night change to Monday; at a private residence)
- 6 Music Club Meeting (Note night change to Monday; at a private residence)
- 7 Yearbook Distribution for 8th Grade, during period 1
- 7 School Site Council & School Leadership Team, 2:30 p.m., Faculty Lounge
- 7 8th Grade Promotion Party
- 8 Yearbook Distribution for 6th & 7th Grades
- 8 8th Grade Assembly & In-n-Out Truck
- 8 Minimum Day – school ends at 12:15 p.m.
- 9 Minimum Day – school ends at 12:15 p.m. / Last Day of School
- 9 PTSA Staff Luncheon

Have a great summer break!

See you for Spartan Day on Thursday, August 18.



Many thanks to Mrs. Keyston, Home Economics teacher and Garden Club advisor, for her leadership.

Flowers from the Garden Club!

Happy Summer!