



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

OCTOBER 2009
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 everychild.one voice.[®]

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome Back

With a lot of hard work and a great team effort, we have enjoyed another successful opening of school here at First Avenue Middle School. Here are some updates you might enjoy hearing about:

Staff - Thanks to an incredible level of support from *Arcadia Educational Foundation* (AEF) and some creative budgeting at the district level, we were able to bring back our incredible teaching staff intact. I am so proud of the creativity and passion of the First Avenue teachers. Their commitment to providing your children with

the highest quality educational experiences far exceeds any school I have previously been associated with nor have heard of. The 2009-10 school year will be filled with wondrous learning opportunities both in the classroom and through events and activities designed to reinforce learning and expand the young minds of our students.

PTSA - Coming off an incredible year of support from PTSA, under the leadership of Lee Callander, we are very excited to have Kathy Yamane heading up the board for the '09-'10 school year. Kathy has been rallying the troops to assist us with fundrais-

ing, library support, Spartan Day support, and many other activities where parental involvement is vital. Please contact Mrs. Yamane or Mrs. Callander to find out how you may be a part of the PTSA through your service to our students.

Construction - To say that the past year of construction has been easy would be misleading. But what I can tell you is that the results of the *Measure I* campaign are beginning to show that it has all been worth it. Here are some updates:

- *Music Building* - This spectacular center piece of the project is within weeks of opening its doors to

Continued on page 2

FIRST AVENUE PTSA

- ◆ Jeff Wilson, Principal
- ◆ Kathy Yamane, President
- ◆ Maryann Stevens, Editor

If you would like to submit an article or other information for the December issue, the deadline is **Friday, November 20th**. Email submissions to Maryann Stevens at fanewsletter@ausd.net.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Message	3
From the Desk of Mr. Rod	4
Attn. 8th Grade Parents	6
Mr. Danielson Honored	7
Direct Donation	9
First Dance	11
Reflections	15

Principal's Message

Continued from page 1

students. All that is needed for completion is for the hardwood flooring to be sealed and for cabinetry and technology pieces to be installed. We are thrilled with the way this building is turning out and know that it will be an incredible addition to our, already fantastic music program;

- *Classrooms* – With the exception of the northern wing, all classrooms are open and are having finishing touches put on in the area of technology. Teachers are thrilled with how the rooms have turned-out and our students love the way everything looks;
- *Technology Upgrades* – Imagine walking into a social science classroom and not just studying the topography of Mount St. Helens, but seeing it up close and at ground level on the big screen interactive whiteboard in the front of your classroom. Imagine your teacher taking out his magical wand (or stylus) and zooming back out to a satellite image of Earth, spinning the *Star Wars* view of the globe before your eyes, and locating the volcano Haleakala on the island of Maui and, once again, zooming in for an up close view of this beautiful mountain. That is just a glimpse of the educational possibilities that have become realities in our classrooms. Along with the interactive whiteboards, students are enjoying instruction supported by sound amplification, document cameras, big screen DVD, and much more;
- *Field and Track* – Our track is ready for use and will open this week. The field is presently undergoing weed abatement which will be followed by hydro seeding. We anticipate an early January opening of the field;
- *Auditorium* – Our beautifully remodeled auditorium is in use presently, however without chairs. New cloth theater seating will be installed in time for our winter programs.

Thank you parents and community for being so supportive of First Avenue Middle School through your ongoing service to our school and for the encouragement you give to your children to be the best students they can be.

Jeff Wilson

First Avenue Principal

CAN You Help? Canned Food Drive

Nov.16-Nov. 20 - Mark your calendar!

Our annual canned food drive this year will fall on the week before Thanksgiving. We have partnered with the Arcadia Welfare and Thrift Shop in the past to help local needy families in Arcadia by donating canned goods during the holiday season. This program started in 1932 and has transformed to a monthly canned food drive since last year. We hope you can continue the legacy of many FA families in the past to help support our local community. The specific kind of canned goods to be collected will be announced as we approach the month of November. Please mark your calendars and donate what you can in this special time of need. Thank you for your support.☺





President's Message

Welcome, welcome to First Avenue Middle School! It has been a very busy summer here at First Avenue and, from being a school that celebrated its centennial a couple of years ago, have completely changed our footprint and landscape. In a few months we will be moving into a new music building. Incredible! Our classrooms have all been touched by technology. As you saw at Back to School night, every classroom is a new world for our students and teachers. What a place for our children to be nurtured and yet encouraged to be independent. The dichotomy is seen in our 100+ year old campus and the modern technology. It reflects our children. Still our babies, yet learning to be teenagers, growing to be adults!

First Avenue is special. Our students learn leadership, music, independence, academics and take that on with them as they grow into teenagers. I have seen it in my adult children, whom have come through First Avenue. We are blessed with a very unusual and closely knit teaching staff. They are our student's other family. Let us support them as they support and grow our children. Come support and help the PTSA, our volunteers, as they assist the teachers. There are not many activities that parents are asked to assist on, but the PTSA does offer the extras that encourage our children to participate in their world. Parents supporting their students' world offers a role model to our children of what we would like them to be as adults. We want them to be philanthropic, involved, engaged members of their society. We'd like to see our children give back to their community. They learn this by watching their parents. Join us now and it will be an easier transition to the high school in a bigger crowd of parents, but now you as a parent have your support group in us, and your child(ren) continue to watch you model philanthropy and having fun with us! (And you will have fun! Hold us to that promise!)

If you have been at Arcadia schools, we are doing the same things that we did at the elementary school level, i.e. Red Ribbon Week, Reflections, CAN Drive, but our fundraiser, the magazine drive, is different from the elementary school fundraisers. All three middle schools have magazine drives to support the many extracurricular activities our students have during the year. If you have the opportunity, I'd encourage you to attend a concert, a parade, have your child be engaged in their community by participating in the Reflections program. There is a dance coming up. We all know that our children should be able to interact in their society. Participate as their audience/chaperone...you will be amazed at how talented our children are when they get set to do things in their world. It is SO Fun! Come to a PTSA meeting, your children deserve your participation in their lives. I can tell you all about the studies about parental involvement, but you've heard about it already...so let's put theory into practice...these are our children – just do it!

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at 626-574-1858. I'd be happy to talk with you!

Kathy Yamane

PTSA President 2009-2010



Notes From Mr. Rod's Desk

THANK YOU, PARENT VOLUNTEERS

We have had a great beginning of the school year, but it really started with the "experiment" of having Spartan Days on ONE DAY, Thursday, August 20th. It was with the help of the wonderful PTSA volunteers that we were able to complete such a day of registration. The parents worked those long hours in the heat of the day while doing a stellar job and it turned out to be a very successful day. The staff is most appreciative of all this assistance.

THANK YOU

START OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

Each start of a new school year brings something that creates a sense of entering "new frontiers." In our case, we started the year with construction work clearly visible on campus. Although, we were surrounded by temporary fencing, the new look of the interior of the school buildings caused us to pause and see the "classrooms of the

future" on the first day of school. As our Mr. Wilson, our school principal, said at the opening faculty meeting, "We will **Survive and Thrive.**" Our students have picked up on the theme and they have had a great opening of school, also.

I must remind all who drive to school that we must adhere to the traffic plan set up for drop-off



before school and pick-up after school. Jaywalking is very dangerous and could result in serious injury, therefore, we tell all who approach or leave the school campus to use the crosswalks.

As for drivers making U-Turns, (on either California Street or Diamond Street), these kinds of turns in the middle of the block and street impede traffic and create an unnecessary interruption in the steady flow of traffic around the school. Please do not make U-Turns on California or Diamond Streets.

ACTIVITIES

As the school year gets underway, many events are organized and planned for our students. Keep an eye on the calendar and talk to your student about participating in such things as After School Intramurals, school clubs (Science/Ecology Club or Chess Club), lunchtime tournaments or ASB activities. Always encourage your student to participate in such events as this provides a means by which they will connect with new people and have a great middle school experience.



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.



PTSA Information

Resources for You!

Do you know what is happening at First Avenue this week? Are you subscribed to our weekly listserve? Are you connected with your child(ren)'s school? Sign up with FA's listserve and get email updates weekly. You can sign up by filling out this form <http://www.ausd.net/mailman/listinfo/first-ave> and submitting it online, or you can subscribe by emailing firstavepta@ausd.net and write SUBSCRIBE on the subject line.

Our PTSA also has a website this year! Check it out at: <http://fapta.pbwiki.com/>. Here you can look at our calendar, get miscellaneous information on the music program, Reflections, SCRIP, fundraising information and different links to the school. Take a look for really useful information!☺

Our California PTA website is: www.capta.org for additional resources and information.☺



2009-2010 Theme: Spartan Pride

“It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.” - Theodore Roosevelt

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President	Kathy Yamane
Executive VP	Lee Callander
1st VP - Legislation	Lynne Greenup
2nd VP - Ways & Means	Vicky Stiles
3rd VP - Membership	Deanna Nancarrow
4th VP - Newsletter	Maryann Stevens
Recording Secretary	Michelle Ganis
Treasurer	Karen Acosta
Financial Secretary	Dana Thompson
Auditor	Nina Chen
Historian	Terri Powell
Parliamentarian	Weiyei Ro

Committee Chairpersons

AEF Rep	David Chen
CAN You Help	Melinda SooHoo
Food Drive	Weiyei Ro
	Grace Wang
Child Health Council	Deanna Nancarrow
Council PTA Rep	Dana Thompson
8th Grade Promo Party	Deanna Nancarrow
	Dana Thompson
	Terri Powell
	Violet Htoon
Honorary Service	Terri Powell
	Jill Trojanowski
Hospitality	Yoko Kikuta
Listserv	Kathy Yamane
Music Club President	Robert Kwan
President's Book	Dana Thompson
Procedure Books	Dana Thompson
Programs	Michelle Li
Red Ribbon Week	Niroo Dev
Reflections	Jessie Chen
Scholarship Committee	Mr. Rod
School Dances	Bernie Schmitt
School Liaison - BS	Jessie Chen
School Liaison - HA	Tracy Houltram
School Liaison - AHS	Amy Resch
Scrip	Jennifer Tom
	Jessie Chen
Volunteer Coordinator	Lee Callander

Attention 8th Graders & Parents

AHS Apache Preview Day for 8th Graders and Their Families

On Saturday, November 14, 2009, from 2 to 4 p.m. Arcadia High School invites all 8th graders in the city, as well as interested community member, to attend the Fall Preview Day which will allow you a sneak peak at some of the programs that Arcadia High School has to offer.

The afternoon will begin in the North Gym. Many of the parent booster clubs and other campus organizations will have tables and displays set up in the gym. Tours will start at the gym and will include a welcome and comments by David Vanasdall, AHS Principal, followed by in-depth campus tours. The tours will be lead by Arcadia High School students including Senior Men and Women, athletes, and musicians.



The tour will feature stops where families will view some of our many programs and facilities. Several programs will be featured during the tour. Among the facilities to be visited are the Rally Court, Library, Center, Athletic Stadium and the Weight Room. As the campus is preparing for major construction, renderings of the new buildings will be available as well. Hope to see you there!☺

Smoke Signals

Please click the link below to read the *AHS Smoke Signals* which is the Arcadia High School's tri-annual newsletter to incoming 9th graders, our 8th graders, Class of 2014.

Go to <http://ahspta.com/Newsletters>

Go to the bottom of the page denoted Smoke Signals (Newsletter for 8th grade families).

Click "October 2009 Smoke Signals."

You'll find a Calendar of Events for Incoming 9th Graders, information on how your child will transition from Middle School to High School as well as a letter from David Vannasdall, AHS principal.☺



Music to Our "Years"

"Everything that is worth anything requires sacrifice!" These words embody the teaching philosophy of First Avenue Music Program Director, Mr. Michael Danielson. For the last 22 years, Mr. "D" has been the heart and soul of FA music. His passion for music is only surpassed by his love of teaching positive influence and intellectual challenges to mold the young minds of FA students not only on music, but on lessons in life as well. As parents of Arcadia students, we acknowledge the talented teachers and administrators who make a difference to our kids' education. We are extremely proud to have First Avenue's own Mr. "D" who was unanimously chosen as California's nominee to the National Education Association Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence in 2009. Nomination to this award highlights the all around professionalism, creativity, and dedication to teaching and learning. Bravo, Mr. "D".



Throughout the year, FA music students will refine their skills in strings, woodwinds, brass, percussions, electric guitar, and vocal classes that converge into ensembles for orchestra, symphonic band, marching band, rock band, and chorus performances. You are all invited to attend these music performances and marvel at the discipline and energy showcased by our students under Mr. "D's" direction. Behind the scenes, the First Avenue Music Club supports the planning and preparation for these music performances outside of regular school hours by providing parental volunteers for chaperones, ticketing, decorations, parade helpers, instrument and equipment setup, loading and unloading, and club administration. You are cordially invited to our meetings which are held monthly at 8:15pm on the first Tuesday right after the PTSA meeting. The next meeting is Tuesday, Oct 6th. Please come join us!



Through First Avenue Middle School's wonderful music program, over half of our students will become connected with each other and forge friendship bonds. This year will see many changes on facility improvements. We will have a brand new music building, new uniforms for the marching band, and a renewed school spirit for an extraordinary music experience.

Coming up soon on Saturday, Nov 21st, Arcadia will host the 56th Annual Festival of Bands of band review and field show. First Avenue marching band will parade down Baldwin Avenue. We will need your help to volunteer at the different venues for this major event. Please contact Lynne Greenup (email lngreenup@yahoo.com) to sign up.



Robert Kwan

President
First Ave Music Club

“Happy Birthday To You!”

Our administration/teachers recognize our student's birthdays during their public announcements, and since we are a Parents, Teachers, Students Association (PTSA), we'd like to recognize First Avenue's Staff & Teachers' birthdays also. Turnabout is fair play!

Happy Birthday and we wish you many happy returns of the day!



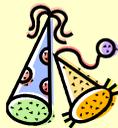
First Avenue Parents

AUGUST

Mike Greep
Michael Graves
Tiffany Crosby
Carol Rengers
Erika Speed

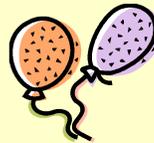
SEPTEMBER

Jaime Holmes
German Anguiano
Susi Reck



OCTOBER

Catherine Keyston
Jay Ryan
Marianne Martin



NOVEMBER

Sherwin Olavi

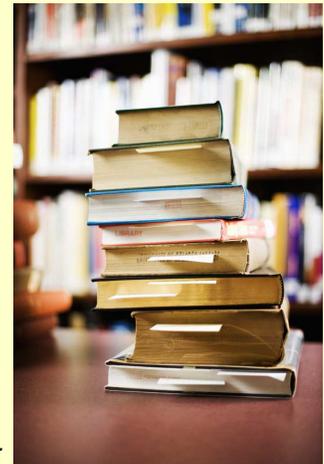


HELP WANTED!

Volunteers needed!

Because of budget cuts, our First Avenue library will only be open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. We need parent volunteers to help man the library on Mondays and Fridays, so that our students can continue to have access to their library.

Our staff is hoping for a core group of 4 or 5 volunteers whom they could train. They would be working with our new librarian, Jenny Diefenbach. If you or a friend are interested in being part of this group of volunteers, please contact our volunteer coordinator, Lee Callander at lcallander@ausd.net.



We still have to work out the timeline of moving the library while it is remodeled, so this commitment may be later on in the year. Thanks for helping our students hands on. We all appreciate you, and the students will be especially glad to have access to the library every school day.☺

Dear fellow parent,

“How can I help?” That’s the question many parents ask their children’s teachers at the beginning of the school year. We all want to support the teachers and staff so that our children’s years at First Avenue Middle School are the best possible. But you may or may not be able to volunteer at school and are left wondering, “How can I help?” PTSA provides you with an answer: **Direct Donation**.

Direct Donation gifts are gifts to First Avenue PTSA to help support programs and events that enhance the middle school experience of your children which include the following:

Educational Programs, Career Day, PALS, Peer Tutoring
Red Ribbon Week, Reflections, Fine Arts Programs
Family Movie Night and parent programs
Eighth Grade Promotion, Scholarships
PTSA Newsletters, publications
Teacher Appreciation/Events/Hospitality
Honorary Service Awards, Public Relations
Legislative support for issues relating to education in California

Every dollar given through Direct Donation stays at First Avenue Middle School!

We’re asking for a one-time donation of \$50 per family. That’s less than one night at the movies for a family of four! And your gift qualifies as a charitable contribution! In return, your children will receive an entire school year filled with entertaining and educational events. Please submit your donation to **First Avenue PTSA** to the school office by **October 31st**.

So when wondering, “How can I help?” The answer is “Direct Donation!”

Thank you for supporting PTSA,

Vicky Stiles

Vice President, Ways and Means
First Avenue PTSA

RED RIBBON WEEK

Red Ribbon Week is the oldest and largest drug prevention campaign in the country. This year First Avenue Middle School will celebrate Red Ribbon Week on October 19-23.

Red Ribbon Week serves as a vehicle for communities and individuals to take a stand for the hopes and dreams of our children through a commitment to drug prevention and education and a personal commitment to live drug free lives with the ultimate goal being the creation of drug free America.

And, perhaps more importantly, Red Ribbon Week commemorates the ultimate sacrifice made by DEA Special Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, who died at the hands of drug traffickers in Mexico while fighting the battle against illegal drugs to keep our country and children safe.

The Story Behind the Symbol

Enrique "Kiki" Camarena grew up in a dirt-floored house with hopes and dreams of making a difference. Camarena worked his way through college, served in the Marines and became a police officer. When he decided to join the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), his mother tried to talk him out of it. "I can't not do this," he told her. "I'm only one person, but I want to make a difference."



The DEA sent Camarena to work undercover in Mexico investigating a major drug cartel believed to include officers in the Mexican army, police and government. On Feb. 7, 1985, the 37-year-old Camarena left his office to meet his wife for lunch. Five men appeared at the agent's side and shoved him in a car. One month later, Camarena's body was found in a shallow grave. He had been tortured to death.

Within weeks of his death in March of 1985, Camarena's Congressman, Duncan Hunter, and high school friend Henry Lozano, launched Camarena Clubs in Imperial Valley, California, Camarena's home. Hundreds of club members pledged to lead drug-free lives to honor the sacrifices made by Camarena and others on behalf of all Americans. These coalitions began to wear red badges of satin, red ribbons, as a symbol of Camarena's memory. The Red Ribbon Week campaign emerged from the efforts of these clubs and coalitions.

Today, Red Ribbon Week is nationally recognized and celebrated, helping to preserve Special Agent Camarena's memory and further the cause for which he gave his life. The Red Ribbon Campaign also became a symbol of support for the DEA's efforts to reduce demand for drugs through prevention and education programs. By wearing a red ribbon during the last week in October, Americans demonstrate their ardent opposition to drugs. They pay homage not only to Special Agent Camarena, but to all men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice in support of our nation's struggle against drug trafficking and abuse.☞

First Dance of the Year!

First Ave will be having the first school dance of the year on Friday, October 23 from 6 to 8 p.m. School dances are held in Baldwin Stocker School's multi-purpose room at 422 W. Lemon Avenue in Arcadia.

Parents we need your help! Snack donations and chaperones will be needed.

If you are available to chaperone, help set-up or donate snacks (cookies, chips, cupcakes, powdered lemonade mix or 5 oz cups), please let me know.

You can email me at rockinfs@aol.com or call me at (626) 447-1892 for further information.

Bernie Schmitt,

School Dance Chairperson

P.S. For those who aren't yet into dancing there will also games available. Everyone who comes has a good time!☺



Spartan Days Thank You...

Greetings and Thank You to our Spartan Day volunteers! Vicky Stiles, Michelle Li, Yoko Kikuta, Rita Chianglin, Lynne Greenup, Deanna Nancarrow, Niroo Dev, Violet Htoon, Jessie Chen, Tracy Houltram, Yi-Ying Kuo, Jackie Lehal, RuHua Yu, Vicky Liu, Lisa Wang, Lynn Hung, Jamilyn Hunter, Stefanie Lam, Melissa MacKinnon, Stella Wu, Susanna Mok, Melinda Taylor, Heather Daly, Weiyi Ro, Maribel Santin, Nora Wilson, Deanna Romey, Cristina Cervantes, Vinay Garg, Yang Yuan, Liqun Si, Annie Yan, Meili Chen, Trung K. Thai, Cindy Yap, Julie Wong, Lucy, Maribel, Pam Reifer, Lee Callander, Dana Thompson, Jim and Margaret Barrows, Tan Gates and Yukie Sugiyama!

Thank you for your help, your time and commitment to our students at First Avenue School. We couldn't have assisted all of our 700+ students without your help and we appreciate each and every one of you. You are all an amazing group of people!

We are wishing you and your children the best school year ever! Thank you again.☺



Counselors' Corner

Welcome back, First Avenue! It's going to be a great year! We are thrilled to see our students' enthusiasm as they begin the 2009 - 2010 academic year.

Keeping in Touch:

Parents, you may feel that your middle school aged child does not want you around as much as before - but your involvement is vital at this important time of life and critical to their success as a student. Be there for your son or daughter to cheer them on through the ups and downs of early adolescence.

There are many ways you can help children believe in themselves and do well in school.

1. Model your enthusiasm for learning by sharing new things you learn. Instead of just asking if your child has finished his/her homework, ask what they are learning.
2. Attend your child's concerts, parades, drama performances, etc. Please do not just drop them off for these events. Our students work so very hard to prepare for these superb performances. Your child needs and appreciates your involvement and you will be so proud to see your son or daughter perform. Cherish these moments while you can.
3. Give your love and support.
4. Make your home a place for learning by starting a homework routine. Set a time and place to do homework every day. Make sure the place has good light, is quiet and that your child has the supplies he or she needs. Look over your child's work and let them tell you what they are most proud of.
5. Help your child learn how to prioritize and manage time. Our school agendas are packed full of helpful resources.
6. Be a good role model. Be positive about school, and participate by taking your child to the library and exploring educational activities together.
7. Communicate with your child's teachers. You may email teachers by going to the First Avenue website at www.ausd.k12.ca.us/firstave/ and clicking on "Teachers" on the left side of the page. Click on the name of the teacher to send them an email.

Get "On TRAC!"

Our Premier School Agendas are packed with many more keys for school and life success. The "OnTRAC" feature is new this year. Parents, please watch the short OnTrac video with your child to see how to best utilize the agenda. The link is:

<http://www.premier.us/movies/ontrac.html>

Have you heard of the *7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens* by Sean Covey? You will see these good habits featured in the agenda. Check out the book to learn more.

Continued from page 12

The Counselors Are In

First Avenue Middle School has two counselors, Ms. Nancy Martin and Mr. Kevin Darr who work closely with students, parents, faculty and administration to help students have a successful and positive school year. Students and family members with any concerns, be they academic or personal, can contact Ms. Martin or Mr. Darr at anytime.

Ms. Martin works most closely with the 6th and 7th graders. As First Avenue's Bridge Counselor, Mr. Darr works with the 7th and 8th graders. Mr. Darr works closely with the 8th graders throughout their 8th grade year and will continue as their counselor in 9th grade, in order to facilitate a smooth transition to high school.

Students wishing to speak with Ms. Martin or Mr. Darr can fill out an appointment request slip in the school office. Parents, please feel free to contact your child's counselor anytime. Since they are often out on campus, email may be the best way to reach them.

Ms. Nancy Martin

Assignment: 6th Grade (All) & 7th Grade (Last Names M-Z)

Availability: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday-(Morning)

Contact: nmartin@ausd.net

Phone: 821-8362 x 6232

Mr. Kevin Darr

Assignment: 7th Grade (Last Names A-L) & 8th Grade (All)

Availability: Monday, Wednesday & Friday

Contact: kdarr@ausd.net

Phone: 821-8362 x 6238

Haunted House at Arcadia High School

The AHS Pep Squad is sponsoring a Haunted House on Friday,
October 23, from 8-11pm.

Entrance to the Haunted House is \$7 per soul.

ARCADIA FESTIVAL OF BANDS

The 56th annual Arcadia Festival of Bands starts at 8:45 a.m. on Saturday, November 21. Be sure to come and support the **First Avenue School Spartan Marching Band** as they perform for the Festival judges on Baldwin Avenue and the Tournament of Roses judges on Duarte Road. With the High School Percussion lines leading the parade, the Arcadia High School Marching Band and Color Guard followed by each of the middle school marching bands are the hosts to this longest running band review in the state! Over 40 top Southern California High School bands will be performing during the parade, which begins just south of Huntington Drive.



After the morning parade, participants and spectators will assemble at Salter Stadium at Arcadia High School for the Percussion Performance and Awards Ceremony. Food and drinks will be available for purchase.

In the evening, the Festival of Bands hosts a premier field show competition at Citrus College Stadium in Glendora. It's a great performance!

Here's a link for more information on all the events taking place that day:

<http://www.arcadiamusic.org/festivalofbands/2009-2010>

Arcadia has hosted this competition since 1953 and volunteers are needed to make this year's Festival run smoothly. All those who sign up through First Avenue will be earning money for our music program! If you can help for a two hour shift, please contact Lynne Greenup via e-mail: LNGreenup@yahoo.com ☺



Come, Get Connected...

PTSA Meetings

7 p.m. in the School Library

October 6
November 3
December 1
January 5
February 2
March 2
April 13
May 4
June 1

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!☺



National PTA Reflection Program

40 Years of Achievement in the Arts

2009 - 2010 Theme :

"Beauty is..."

Categories are:

Dance Choreography ∞ *Film Production* ∞ *Literature*
Musical Composition ∞ *Photography* ∞ *Visual Arts*

Additional Information can be found at:

<http://www.capta.org/sections/programs/reflections.cfm>

Pick up rules and entry forms in the office.

Return completed projects and entry forms to the office

Deadline is October 23, 2009

Students may submit projects in more than one category.

To qualify, entry form must be completed in full.

Artist statement is required.

Parent signature is required.

Any question please contact Jessie Chen at

mightymiceusa@netzero.net



First Avenue PTSA Fundraiser Flash Drive Gift Card Order Form

Instruction to Student

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Enter your name on Student Name line. | 3. Advise the Gift Card will be delivered within 2-4 weeks. |
| 2. Collect money with all orders. | 4. Turn orders and money into PTSA. |

Instruction to Buyer

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Enter the name of the person to whom the Gift Card will be delivered. | 3. Enter quantity next to capacity of cards being ordered. |
| 2. Hand the order form and payment to the student. | _____ 1GB, _____ 2GB, _____ 4GB. |

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: FIRST AVENUE PTSA

Student Name: _____ Date: _____

Buyer Name: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____



Available Colors:

- | | | | |
|--|----------|--|-----------|
| | Titanium | | Cranberry |
| | Black | | Green |
| | Aqua | | Orange |
| | Blue | | Purple |
| | Lime | | Silver |
| | Pink | | Gold |
| | Red | | Chocolate |

Are you tired of looking for CDs to copy files?
 Does your child need flash drives to copy files from the classroom to work on at home?
 Is your child working on multiple projects and sharing files with their groups?
 Do you want to differentiate your flash drive from your child's?
 Need an easy last minute gift for students, teachers, coaches or anyone with a computer?

First Avenue PTSA has the solution for you!

Personalized flash drives! Buy a gift card for a flash drive and you will be able to order a flash drive with the color and design you want. Also, your name, phone, email, or message is engraved so your flash drive stands out from everyone else's!

Best of all, your purchase supports First Avenue Middle School. Twenty percent of the purchase price goes directly to PTSA.

Submit your orders by October 31st to the school office in an envelope marked FAPTSA-flash drive. Make checks payable to First Avenue PTSA. ☺





Career Day Returns to First Avenue

Who Do YOU Know?

Every other year, First Avenue Middle School invites guest speakers from a variety of careers to introduce their professions. Each student attends four presentations of their choice.

We are seeking speakers for our Career Day, March 11, 2010. Do you have any recommendations? We are looking for speakers who can:

- Represent a broad range of careers
- Connect with our students
- Involve students in the presentation
- Have a passion for life and learning



Sales & Marketing

If you know someone who might be a good speaker, please email our counselor, Nancy Martin at nmartin@ausd.net.

Volunteers to assist in a variety of areas during Career Day are also needed. Please contact Ms. Martin if you can help.

Some of the speakers and careers we have been fortunate to offer in the past are listed here:

- Actor
- Aerospace Engineer
- Air Force Officer
- Animal Trainer
- Architect
- Artist / College Professor
- Artist, Teacher, Scientist, Author
- Business & Sales / Marketing
- Careers in Law
- Chef
- Chemist
- Child Development
- Civil Engineer
- Classical Musician
- Computer - Microsoft Corp
- Environmental Analyst
- Event Planner
- FBI Agent
- Film & TV Make-up



Veterinarian & her guest "speaker"



Film & TV Make-up

Continued on page 18

Continued from page 17

- Forensics
- Geneticist
- Hobbies / Avocations
- Home Design & Construction
- Hotel Management
- Interior Designer
- Journalism
- Landscape Architect
- Medical Careers
- Medical Examiner Forensics
- Money & Finance
- Museum Curator
- Nursing
- Pharmacist
- Physician
- Police / Detective
- Professional Organizer / Coach
- Psychologist
- Race Horse Trainer
- Real Estate Finance
- Realtor
- Recreation Director
- Veterinarian
- Video Game Designers
- Video Production
- Web / Graphic Designers



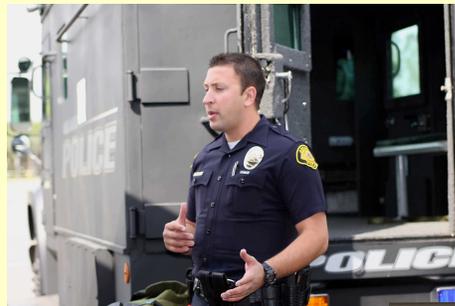
Chef



Business & Sales



Red Cross & CPR



Police



Landscape Architect



Volunteers



Museum Curator—
Thumbs down on protecting the egg!



Child Development



Medical



Luncheon for guest speakers



Chemist



Architect

Sweet Treats for Teachers

On Friday, October 30 PTSA plans a special treat for First Avenue teachers in celebration of Halloween - a buffet of dessert & sweets all day long!



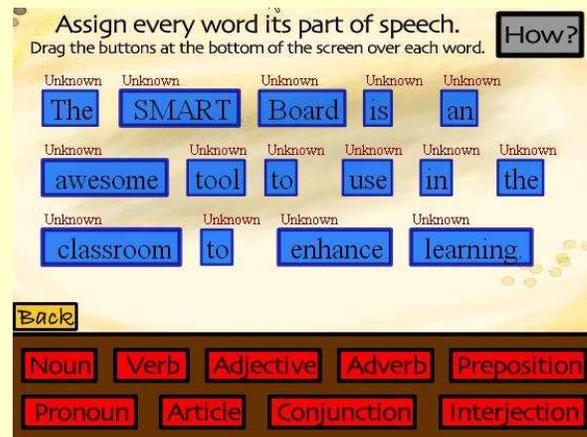
If you can help by contributing a treat please contact Yoko Kikuta, Hospitality Chair, at yokofrph@hotmail.com.

All contributions will need to be at the school by 10 a.m. on Friday, October 30. Thanks!

6th Grade Update

The sixth grade classrooms are in full swing with many different technological advances to help our students learn. Sixth graders seem to have transitioned well into the new school year and many are now experts at finding their classes and managing their work. The use of the agenda is extremely helpful and parents can always look in their child's agenda to see what is happening in their classes.

Classrooms have seen an upgrade in the latest technology allowing teachers to show video clips, computer presentations, as well as using microphones to enhance lessons and student presentations. Many teachers were able to give a preview to parents at back-to-school night of how they are using new technology in the classroom. Some examples taking place in sixth grade classrooms include: teaching the Five Themes of Geography by showing examples of each on Google Earth, using the SMART Board to teach different thinking maps, and looking at visuals for science and history. The installation of ceiling speakers and new media tables has enhanced each classroom's learning environment as well. Math has also seen an upgrade utilizing this new technology by displaying answers from the book, using the document cameras for daily warm-ups, working out solutions provided by the publisher, working with number lines, and using the EasyTeach software. What a fun time to be in sixth grade!☺



Classroom upgrades: speakers (embedded in ceiling), SMART Boards, lightbox presenters (attached to ceilings), document cameras, dvd/vcr players, lapel microphones, hand-held microphones, new flooring, and a new PA system.

SCRIP

When you buy SCRIP through First Avenue you are helping raise funds for our school! Check out the list below and see if your favorite stores are part of the SCRIP program.

SCRIP for the Specialty Stores are gift cards to those stores. You can buy them and use them yourself or give them away as gifts.

If you'd like to purchase any SCRIP please e-mail Jennifer Tom at jj.tom@sbcglobal.net and she will be happy to help you. Here's a link to the SCRIP order form:

<http://fapta.pbworks.com/SCRIPOrderForm>

Available SCRIP

Grocery Stores:

99 Ranch

Hong Kong

Super A

Arcadia Super Market

Safeway / Vons / Pavilions

Whole Foods

Specialty Stores:

AMC Theater

Baja Fresh

Bed, Bath & Beyond

Blockbuster

California Pizza Kitchen

GAP / Old Navy / Banana Republic

Jamba Juice

Macy's

Outback Steakhouse

Smart & Final

T.J. Maxx / Marshall's

Williams-Sonoma / Pottery Barn

ARCO

Bath & Body Works

Best Buy

Borders Book Store

Cheesecake Factory

Home Depot

KFC

Office Depot

See's Candy

Starbuck's

Toys R Us / Kids R Us

4-in-1 including Chili's Restaurant

Chinese Translators Needed

We would like to provide Chinese translation of the First Avenue Middle School Newsletter and need your help! If you are available to *help* translate the newsletter please contact Weiyi Ro at weiyilin@gmail.com. The newsletter comes out every other month so there are only four more issues this year to translate! Your help would be so appreciated.

Upcoming Events

OCTOBER

- 6 SSC/SLT Meeting, 2:30 p.m., Lounge
- 6 PTSA Meeting, 7 p.m., Library
- 6 Music Club Meeting, 8:15 p.m., Music Room (<http://fapta.pbwiki.com/Music>)
- 12-16 7th Graders to OSS (Science Camp) 
- 23 Wear **RED** Day
- 23 National PTA Reflections Deadline (for more info see page 15)
- 23 Arcadia High School Pep Squad sponsored Haunted House 8-11 p.m.
- 23 School Dance, 6-8 p.m., Baldwin Stocker MPR (for more info see page 11)
- 26-30 Red Ribbon Week (for more info see page 10)
- 29 Fall String Concert, 7 p.m., Pasadena High School
- 30 PTSA sponsored "Sweet Treats for our Teachers" (for more info see page 19)
- 31 Halloween

NOVEMBER

- 1 Daylight Savings Time Ends, FALL Back
- 3 PTSA Meeting, 7 p.m., Library
- 3 Music Club Meeting, 8:15 p.m., Music Room
- 7 Baldwin Park Parade (Marching Band)
- 11 Veterans Day – no school
- 14 Apache Preview Day (8th Graders), 2-4 p.m. AHS North Gym (see page 6)
- 19 Great American Smokeout
- 16-20 "CAN You Help?" Can Food Drive (see page 2)
- 20 Newsletter Deadline, submit articles to fanewsletter@ausd.net
- 21 Festival of Bands, Baldwin Ave. – All Arcadia School Marching Bands will perform near the beginning of the festival, 8:45 a.m. (see page 14)
- 25 PTSA Sponsored Thanksgiving Luncheon for our Teachers 
- 26-27 Thanksgiving Day Holiday – no school
- 30 Staff Development Day – no school

