

# *First Avenue Middle School*

## *PTSA Newsletter*

### *February, 2014*

## From the Top!



***Mr. Wilson***  
***Principal***

## COMMON CORE PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT-3.10.14

On Monday evening, March 10 at 6:30 p.m. First Avenue will be hosting a very special parent information night in our Auditorium where you will be able to learn more about the new *Common Core State Standards* and experience the *Smarter Balanced Assessment* system first hand. The sessions will include:

1. English Language Arts Shifts
2. Math Shifts
3. Close Reading
4. Thinking Maps and Write From the Beginning
5. Smarter Balanced ELA
6. Smarter Balanced Math.

Common Core Standards were designed and adopted to provide consistency from state-to-state, providing teachers, parents, and students with a set of clear expectations that have outcomes aligned with the expectations of our great colleges and careers. The standards are designed to provide an equal education to all students in the U.S. - no matter where they live, and to give them the tools and competencies to be able to compete with their peers in the United States as well as internationally. Common Core State Standards allow collaboration between states around the topics of:

- Teaching materials aligned-to and supporting the CCSS. This includes textual materials and electronic resources;
- Assessment. States participating in the *Smarter Balanced* assessment include California, Connecticut, Delaware , Hawaii , Idaho, Iowa , Maine, Michigan , Missouri , Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire , North Carolina, North Dakota , Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota , U.S. Virgin Islands, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming ; and
- How we might best help our teachers and administrators learn about the Common Core and give them the support and training to be successful in implementing these new standards.

Come on March 10 at 6:30 p.m. and learn ways to support your students as they transition to this new way of learning.

# DR. ISSA SPEAKS UP!

**Semeen Issa, Assistant Principal**

Hello First Avenue Community,

I just can't believe how time has just flown by. As of this writing, it is already March and before we know it, the end of school will be upon us. There's always a lot happening at FA and here's a quick recap.

## **ASB**

Our 6th, 7th, and 8th grade candidates delivered their speeches on Friday, February 14th and the actual voting took place on Wednesday, February 19th. This is the first time any school in AUSD has voted online, and I am happy to report that we had 85% of our students take part in the voting. Those are great numbers! Many thanks to Mr. Paszkiewicz, Ms. Zeuli, and Mrs. Mora for coordinating the schoolwide elections.

Our last dress up day that ASB hosted was Pajama Day, which took place on Friday, February 28, 2014. Unfortunately, the rain prevented any lunchtime activities, but there was great participation for dressing up in pajamas.

## **Clubs**

Our lunch period is always busy with club meetings and our students always have plenty to do. On any given day, we have the Garden Club, Destination Imagination, Culture and History Club, Powersave, BASIC, ASB, Yearbook, FBLA, Competitions, Speech and Debate, and others that meet to work on their activities. It's so exciting to see that our students are involved and enjoy being part of the FA experience.

## **Basketball Tournament**

Mr. Ryan and Mr. Klotzle are coordinating the basketball tournament and they have changed it a bit so that there can be 6 players on a team and games will be played full court. This is a new way of doing the tournament, but it will allow for more students to be part of a team.

## **Progress Reports**

It's progress grade time for the 3rd quarter. I have been urging students to make sure they check Powerschool for their grades and missing assignments and to approach their teachers to find out what students need to complete to improve their grades. Students need to develop the skill of communicating with teachers when they don't understand something about what they are learning, and to take a proactive approach. Parents, please encourage your child to

become independent and communicate with their teachers.

### **Upcoming Events**

As we approach Springtime, there are a few events that you might want to make a note of.

Our vertical concerts and Rock Band performances, 5th Grade Parent Orientation, 8th Grade Knotts Berry Farm Physics day, Civitan Track Meet, Spring Pictures, Common Core Parent Night, Open House, FA Spring Dance and then Spring Break. All these events can be found on the master calendar at <http://fa.ausd.net/>.

Thank you FA Community for being such a supportive community. We truly have the best students, parents and teachers.

Until next time!

Dr. Issa

P.S. Don't forget to hydrate!

# FIRST AVE'S GOT TALENT!

## ROCK BAND ROCKS!



## Drama Production







# FIRST AVE CARES!

## *Can You Help?*

Our school held their annual Canned Food Drive to benefit Arcadia Welfare and Thrift. Everyone donated cans during the week before Thanksgiving. WEB did a great job of collecting, sorting and counting the cans. Last year we collected 3500 cans and this year we collected 4500 cans. First Avenue collected more cans than Arcadia High School!

Because everyone donated so many cans and the goal of 4200 cans was surpassed, the students won an extra 30 minutes of lunchtime.

Arcadia Welfare and Thrift is a wonderful organization located on First Avenue. They provide food for the homeless in Arcadia. These donations of canned food, help the people in Arcadia.

Congratulations to all the students at First Ave for being so generous to help those who are less fortunate than us.

Sue Selinske  
Chair of *Can You Help?*

## PTSA Legislative Issues

The "Keep Arts In Schools Fund" (Senate Bill 571) was approved by Gov. Brown last September and allows individuals to make voluntary tax contributions on their annual tax return forms.

Here are two links with more details info:

<http://www.scpr.org/blogs/education/2013/10/01/14869/arts-education-donations-make-a-comeback-on-califo/>

[http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201320140SB571](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201320140SB571)

This might be a good way to help taxpayers plan for this year's filing season.

Karen McGarry

# From the Prez!

It is already March and more than half the school year is already over. Where has all the time gone?

Thank you to everyone who participated in our two major fundraisers of the year: magazine sales and direct donations. Although magazine sales were down, we were still able to meet our goal of supporting First Avenue Associated Student Body (ASB) and all of its various programs. A majority of the magazine fundraiser supports ASB while direct donations support most of the other PTSA programs. A very special thank you to our Ways and Means Vice President Doris Hayata for all the \$\$\$ raised.

FA PTSA also sponsors the PTA Reflections program. This year's theme was "Believe, Dream, Inspire". Congratulations to all of the First Avenue award winners: RukanSaif for Literature, Sunny Huang for Music Composition, Daniel Ho for Photography, Kate Noble for Film Production and Sandi Khine for Visual Arts. They did a great job in representing our school. Thank you Reflections Chairperson Mary Wu for all hard work in managing the contest. It's never too late to start thinking about next year's Reflection program. Next year's theme is "The World Would Be A Better Place If ..."

The CAN You Help food drive was also a great success. We raised over 4500 CANS (which exceeded the CANS collected at Arcadia High School) for all the needy families in Arcadia. As a reward, the students were given an extra 30 minutes of lunchtime. Thank you to Sue Selinske for taking charge of the CAN You Help food drive.

I am honored to announce that First Avenue PTSA has met its goal of 100% membership based on student enrollment as well as 100% teacher membership. About half the schools in Arcadia reach 100% membership goal and very few schools reach 100% teacher membership. THANK YOU FA TEACHERS! First Avenue has met this goal the past few years. Thank you to all of you who have joined PTSA and adding your voice to speak on behalf of all children. For those of you who are not members, it's never too late to join PTSA. Membership is a collected all year long, join today. Thank you to Janette Minik for all her hard work in achieving our goal of 100% membership.



*Michael  
Tom  
PTSA  
President*

PTA's birthday is February 17th. PTA will be 117 years old this year.

"The National PTA is the oldest and largest volunteer association working exclusively on behalf of all children and youth. For more than 100 years, the National PTA has promoted the education, health, and safety of children, youth, and families. PTA's founders Phoeby Apperson Hearst and Alice McLellan Birney, and the founder of Georgia's Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers, Selena Sloan Butler, were women of imagination and courage. They understood the power of individual action, worked beyond the accepted barriers of their day, and took action to literally change the world.

"They had a simple idea - to improve the lives and futures of all of our children. As much as other conditions in America may have changed, that idea has not. PTAs keep it alive. Our members represent the ethnic diversity of our nation, and they come from the ranks of traditional families, single-parent households, blended families, grandparents, and other caring adults. Together, we continue to advocate for children and youth." (quoted from : [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org)).

If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact me at [president.faptsa@gmail.com](mailto:president.faptsa@gmail.com).

Michael Tom  
FA PTSA President

# Reflections

Congratulations to all participants of First Avenue PTSA's Reflections Program!

Each year students reflect on a specific theme and create original works of art, literature, music, dance choreography, film, or photography. Each entry then goes through a blind judging process by local professionals in their category.

The following entries have won places of distinction in this year's program:

**Film/Video Production** 1st place: Kate Noble.

**Literature** 1st place: Rukan Saif, 2nd place: Sandi Khine, 3rd place: Anviksha Srivastava, Honorable Mention: Daniel Oo.

**Musical Composition** 1st place: Sunny Huang, 2nd place: Anviksha Srivastava, 3rd place: Martina Chen

**Photography** 1st place: Daniel Oo 2nd place: Linzi Qi

**Visual Arts** 1st place: Sani Khine 2nd place: Vickie Yang 3rd place: Olina Chang, Honorable Mention: Rose An

The following also won places of distinction at the Arcadia Council PTA Reflections Program:

**Musical Composition** Sunny Hung (First Place)

**Literature** Rukan Saif (Third place)

**Photography** Daniel Oo (Third place)


**Visual Arts** Kate Noble (Third Place)


All of these students were honored at an award ceremony at Arcadia Performing Arts Center (PAC) on the evening of December 6, 2013. Congratulations again to all participants! To learn more about the Reflections Program, please visit [www.pta.org/reflections](http://www.pta.org/reflections). The theme for next year's Reflection's Program is "The world would be a better place if..."



**CONGRATULATIONS**  
**to the 2013-2014 Mini Grant Recipients**  
**\$30,000 (approx.)**  
**funded by the Arcadia Educational Foundation**


 <b>BALDWIN STOCKER</b>		
Henley	Chu	Google Chromebooks
Carolyn	Grumm	Typing Pal Subscription
Denise	Landis	Social Rules Game
Grace	Lee-Navarrete	Accessorizing iPads
Sandy	Whitney	Library for RSP


 <b>CAMINO GROVE:</b>		
Josephine	Chia	Google Chromebooks
Renee	Costarella	iPods for Reading


 <b>HIGHLAND OAKS:</b>		
Kris	Johnson	Books for Common Core
Erika	Kish	Frogs for Dissection





 <b>HOLLY AVENUE:</b>		
Kelly	Castillo	Google Chromebooks
Melissa	Hada	Camera
Teresa	Hecht Oakland	Love & Logic Books
Alejandra	Perdices Worozaken	Frogs for Dissection

 <b>HUGO REID:</b>		
Kate	Pallan	Dragon Speaks Software

 <b>LONGLEY WAY:</b>		
Gerri	Tyminski	Google Chromebooks

 <b>DANA:</b>		
Tracy	Duhamel	Non-Fiction Support
Kristen	Eichorst	iPad
Penney	Huntzinger	Camera & Microphone
Allan	Le	iPad for RSP

 <b>FIRST AVENUE:</b>		
Jenny	Diefenbach	Book Battles
Melody	Isabela	Solar Cell Kits
Ken	Klotzle	Books for ELD
Rosemarie	Tkocz	Hi-Lo Reading Center

 <b>FOOTHILLS:</b>		
Lisa	Lucas	Book Battles
Esther	Oh	Explore Learning

 <b>ARCADIA HIGH:</b>		
Yumiko	Goto	Science Demo Kits
Robert	Ilgenfritz	Photography Table
Neda	Kuso	Spectrophotometer
Jorge	Munoz	Lab Kits Environ Science
Georgette	Tuttle	Canvases
Christina	Vaughn	Sony Recorder
Peter	Vo	Environmental Sci Kits

# First Avenue Middle School SCRIP Order Form

Arcadia Educational Foundation

Scrip Chairman – Linda Davis – Room 2

FA 626-821-8362

AEF 626-821-6606

<u>Specialty Scrip</u>	<u>Donation</u>	<u>Denominations</u>	<u>Order Amount</u>
AMC Theater	8%	\$25	Total _____
Amazon.com	3%	\$100, \$25, \$10	Total _____
ARCO	1.5%	\$250, \$100, \$50	Total _____
Bed, Bath & Beyond	7%	\$100, \$25	Total _____
Best Buy	3%	\$250, \$100, \$25	Total _____
California Pizza Kitchen	4%	\$10	Total _____
Cheesecake Factory	5%	\$25	Total _____
Chevron	1%	\$250, \$100, \$50	Total _____
Chipotle	10%	\$10	Total _____
Gap/Banana Republic/Old Navy	14%	\$25	Total _____
Home Depot	4%	\$500, \$100, \$25	Total _____
iTunes	5%	\$25, \$15	Total _____
Khol's	4%	\$100, \$25	Total _____
Macys	10%	\$100, \$25	Total _____
Marshall's/T.J. Maxx/HomeGoods	7%	\$100, \$25	Total _____
Office Depot	4%	\$100, \$25	Total _____
Outback/Roy's	8%	\$25	Total _____
Panera	9%	\$10	Total _____
Sam's Club/Walmart	2.5%	\$250, \$100, \$25, \$10	Total _____
See's Candy	20%	\$17.50	Total _____
Shell Oil	2.5%	\$100, \$50, \$25	Total _____
Smart & Final	3%	\$100, \$50, \$25	Total _____
Souplantation/SweetTomatoes	8%	\$25	Total _____
Starbucks	7%	\$25, \$10	Total _____
Subway	3%	\$50, \$10	Total _____
Target	2%	\$100, \$25, \$10	Total _____
Toys R Us/Babies R Us	3%	\$20	Total _____

## Grocery Store Scrip

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

Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ ID# \_\_\_\_\_

School/Group you are supporting \_\_\_\_\_

Total Order \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make check payable to AEF. \$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. Signed \_\_\_\_\_**



*Celebrate Volunteerism - Let's Make a Difference in Our Child's Education*

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**PTA OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

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WEBSITE: [HTTP://FAPTA.PBWIKI.COM/](http://FAPTA.PBWIKI.COM/)  
EMAIL: [PRESIDENT.FAPTA@GMAIL.COM](mailto:PRESIDENT.FAPTA@GMAIL.COM)  
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[HTTP://WWW.AUSD.K12.CO.US/FIRSTAVE/](http://WWW.AUSD.K12.CO.US/FIRSTAVE/)

ASSOCIATION MEETING – FIRST TUESDAY, 7:00 P.M.  
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING – THIRD TUESDAY, 7:00 P.M.  
FIRST AVENUE MIDDLE SCHOOL – SCHOOL LIBRARY

MR. JEFFREY WILSON, PRINCIPAL, [jdwilson@ausd.net](mailto:jdwilson@ausd.net)  
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301 S. FIRST AVENUE, ARCADIA, CA 91006  
(626) 821-8362

SCHOOL MASCOT: SPARTAN  
SCHOOL COLORS: BLUE AND GOLD  
301 S. FIRST AVENUE, ARCADIA, CA 91006

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**PRESIDENT**

Michael Tom  
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**EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT**

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**3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President-Membership**

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**Historian**

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**Parliamentarian**

Connie Mimura  
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**COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

**AEF Liaison**

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**Arcadia Child Health Council**

Sue Selinske  
(H): 626-446-2806  
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**Book Fair**

Vacant

**CAN You Help Food Drive**

Sue Selinske  
(H): 626-446-2806  
[skeball@aol.com](mailto:skeball@aol.com)

Melinda SooHoo  
(W): 626-821-8362  
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WEB (Where Everyone Belongs)

**Council PTA Representative**

Michael Tom  
(H): 626-446-8622  
(C): 626-272-9462  
[m.e.tom@sbcglobal.net](mailto:m.e.tom@sbcglobal.net)

**Eighth Grade Promotion Party**

Sue Selinske  
(H): 626-446-2806  
[skeball@aol.com](mailto:skeball@aol.com)

Karen Acosta  
(H): 626-574-1097  
(C): 626-975-2468  
[kacosta58@hotmail.com](mailto:kacosta58@hotmail.com)



*Celebrate Volunteerism - Let's Make a Difference in Our Child's Education*

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PTA OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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**COMMITTEE  
CHAIRPERSONS  
(Continued)**

**Family Movie Night**

Carmen Martinez  
(C): 626-318-8813  
[emy2girls@yahoo.com](mailto:emy2girls@yahoo.com)

**Garden Club**

Catherine Keyston  
(H): 626-446-2806  
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**Honorary Service**

Vacant

**Hospitality**

Janette Minick  
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**Jog A Thon**

Maria Barriga  
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**List Serv**

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**Music Club President**

Doris Hayata  
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**Procedures Book**

Michael Tom  
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**Red Ribbon Week**

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Melinda SooHoo  
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WEB (Where Everyone  
Belongs)

**Reflections**

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**Restaurant Fundraiser**

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[wdhayata@hotmail.com](mailto:wdhayata@hotmail.com)

**Scholarship Committee**

Vacant

**School Dance**

Fay Shin  
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**School Liaisons –  
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**School Liaisons –  
Baldwin Stocker  
Elementary School**

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**School Liaisons – Holly  
Avenue Elementary**

**School**  
Maria Barriga  
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**Scrip**

Linda Davis  
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**Spartan Day**

Doris Hayata  
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**Teacher's Appreciation**

Janette Minick  
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**Volunteer Coordinator**

Liza Tedford  
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[ltedford@ausd.net](mailto:ltedford@ausd.net)

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 4	FA PTSA Meeting, 7:00 pm/Music Club, 8:15
March 6	School Site Council meeting, 2:30
March 10	Common Core State Standards: Parent meeting, 6:30pm
March 13	Zero period, Choir, Drumline concert, 7:30 pm
March 17	AUSD District holiday
March 20	Rock Band Concert, 7:00 pm
March 26	Orchestra Vertical Concert, 7:00 pm
March 27	Open House, 6:30-8:00 pm
March 28	School Dance, 6:00-8:00 pm
March 28	Minimum Day

END OF NEWSLETTER  
FEBRUARY/MARCH, 2014