



Antelope Valley Learning Academy Parent Post

Principal's Corner



Welcome to the 2015-16 school year at Antelope Valley Learning Academy! I hope you have had an enjoyable, restful and rejuvenating summer vacation! Whether you are a returning family, or you are brand new with us, we welcome you and look forward to an exciting school year with you!

The first few weeks of school are dedicated to meeting with teachers, getting books and lesson plans, review, signing up for classes, and getting your students assessed. We are utilizing a new assessment

program called MAP (Measure of Student Progress) by NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Association) as our in-house reading and math assessment. MAP is a computer-based, adaptive assessment designed to accurately measure and track student achievement. Every student will participate in these assessments twice to three times a year with the first assessment window in September-October. In addition, we will be continuing with some of your favorite programs, such as our popular Health and Fit-

ness class and our Friday Fine Arts program. All of this and more will be expanded upon in the pages of this Parent Post, so keep reading!

I wish you all a successful school year! As always, my door is open so please call or stop by with any questions, comments, and/or suggestions.

Erin Wade
Principal
AV Learning Academy

AV Learning Academy Parent Post

Volume 8, Issue 1

September, 2015

Mark your calendar:

- ☉ August 31: First day of school
- ☉ Sep 7: Labor Day
- ☉ Sep 18: End LP 3
- ☉ Sep 21-25: BLUE WEEK
- ☉ Sep 21: Learning Center classes begin
- ☉ Sep 24: Restaurant Night at Rubios
- ☉ LPs 4 & 5: MAP Assessments
- ☉ Oct 9: Parent Workshop—Let's Get Organized!
- ☉ Oct 14: Field Trip to Underwood Family Farms
- ☉ Oct 26: Restaurant Night—Shakey's Pizza

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Character Counts

The pillar of character for September is

RESPONSIBILITY

Do what you are supposed to do • Plan ahead • Persevere: keep on trying! • Always do your best • Use self-control • Be self-disciplined • Think before you act — consider the consequences • Be accountable for your words, actions, attitudes, and choices • Set a good example for others

8 Ways to Establish an Everyday Reading Routine



Are the books on your bookshelves gathering dust? Between doing chores and running around, it may seem impossible to find time to sit and read a story with your child. Find ways to squeeze in reading with these eight tips.

Are the books on your bookshelves gathering dust? Between doing chores and running around, it may seem impossible to find time to sit and read a story with your child.

"I think that the most important thing parents do ... is to teach [kids] to love books and stories so much that they will be very motivated to learn to read, even when it is a difficult task for them," says Dr. Pamela High, chair of the American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Early Childhood, Adoption and Dependent Care.

However, knowing reading is important and finding time to read are two different things. With all you have on your plate, sometimes it's hard just to get dinner on the table and fit in time to sleep. You must find creative ways to make reading part of your daily routine and help it stand out from the other activities that vie for your kids' attention. Read on for our eight tips to incorporate reading into everyday activities.

1. Surround Your Child with Books

Pull forgotten stories off of the bookshelf stuck in the dark corner

of your home, brush of the dust and bring them everywhere: the doctor's office, the park and even a few to live in the car. Mix a collection of classics into the toy box, and set books by his bed. By putting storybooks in your kid's everyday space, you'll help him connect reading with other everyday activities.

2. Set a Time to Read

You schedule doctor's appointments, soccer practice and bedtime, but do you schedule time for reading? Keep books from getting lost in the business of your day by designating a time to read. Tell a tale at bedtime or enjoy a book after lunch. It only takes a few minutes to curl up on the couch and share a story with your child.

3. Create a Space for Reading

Sure, you can read a book on the couch or while cuddled up in bed with your little one, but having a space just for reading makes it even more special. Turn an empty closet or dark corner into a reading nook. Add a comfy chair or pillows to make it inviting and your child will start spending hours reading in the space.

4. Visit the Library

You don't have to go to the library every day, but you should make regular trips. Challenge your child to find seven books—one for every day of the week—or bring home a stack and try to read them all before you head back again. Your little learner doesn't have to have all the fun—be sure to sneak a romance novel or thriller into the stack for yourself.

5. Make Connections to Books

Does your child remind you of Max from *Where the Wild Things Are*? Has he ever had a "terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day" like Alexander? Point out the connections between your child and his favorite characters, and share stories to help teach important lessons and get through difficult situations. Hand your child a potty-training classic such as *Once Upon a Potty* or *Everyone Poops* while he's sitting on his throne. Pick up a book such as *The Tenth Good Thing about Barney* or *I'll Always Love You* to help your kid cope when Fido passes away.

Continued on Page 3...

An Every Day Reading Routine, continued...

6. Read Everything

Being able to point out every fast food restaurant within a mile of your house can be a good thing! Words are all around you. While riding in the car, challenge your child to read as many fast food signs, license plates and billboards as possible. Go through the kitchen and examine product labels or peruse a book of recipes together. Anywhere you find words, you can read.

7. Label Objects in Your Home

Make it impossible for your little one to avoid reading. Write the words of objects in your home on plain index cards and tape the index cards to those objects. Label everything from doors and windows to favorite toys. Stick to inanimate objects though; the family cat probably won't enjoy having an index card taped to his furry back!

8. Read and Play

Turn reading into playtime. Dolls and action figures can double as popular story characters, and a favorite stuffed animal can be the star of your budding storyteller's latest made up tale. You don't have to have a book in hand to retell a story or make up your own version of a classic fairy tale with your child.

Retrieved from <http://www.education.com/slideshow/everyday-reading-routine/read-play-time/>

Academy



New Resources



AVLA has added a new resource to help your child navigate in an increasingly technological world. Type To Learn 4 (TTL4) is a software program that teaches keyboarding skills. According to Common Core Standards, students must demonstrate sufficient command of keyboarding skills. Type to Learn 4 increases the ability to touch type, which is a necessity today. Without it, valuable time is lost, searching the keyboard. We have purchased the web-enabled version so your student can log in and practice anywhere they have access to a computer and internet connection.

TTL4 has 36 lessons, 5 engaging, skill-targeted typing games with each lesson, and 7 diagnostic, formative, and summative keyboarding assessments. We have purchased enough licenses for every student enrolled in AVLA and we expect every student to log in and practice daily. Your teacher will provide you with your student's log in information.

New Activities

Each month, teachers will be hosting a Restaurant Night at a local restaurant in order to fundraise to provide more opportunities and fun activities for your students. We hope you will join us once a month for dinner!

New Curriculum

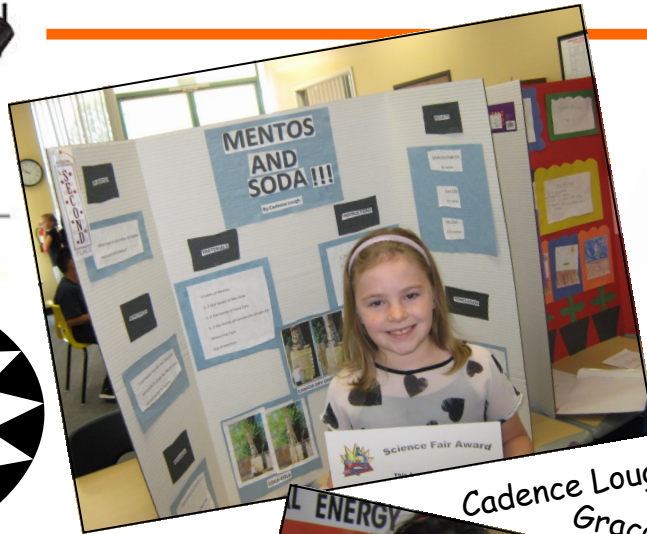
We've made the switch to Common Core in all math grades K-8.

Students in grades K-5 will be using enVision Math and students in grades 6-8 will be using Digits Math. We've created Parent Guides and Resources to assist you with navigating this new math curriculum and your teachers are here to help you, too. Students in grades 3-5 will also be using the new Language Arts curriculum called Journeys. All other grades will remain in the old Houghton Mifflin and McDougal Littell Language Arts curriculum until the new curriculum is ready.

Learning Center Classes

Learning Center Classes are scheduled to begin the week of September 21 EXCEPT the K-1 classes which will begin the week of October 5. Please speak with your ST about enrolling into the LC classes.

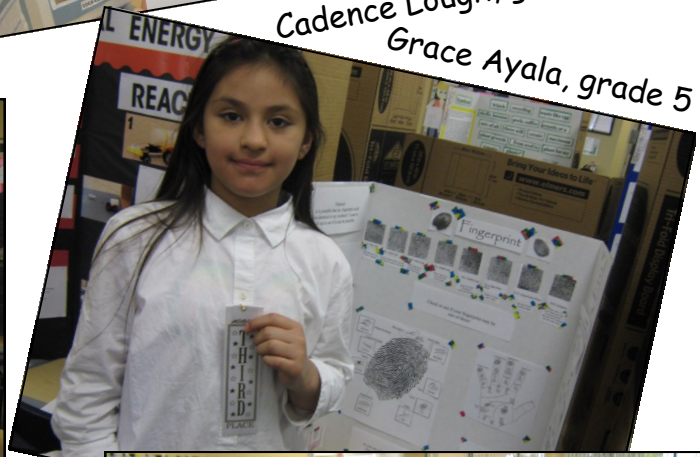
In the Spotlight



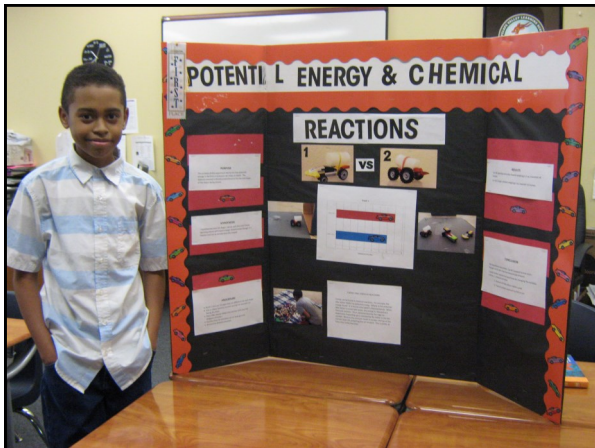
Cadence Lough, grade 3
Grace Ayala, grade 5



Dakota Manaseri, grade 3

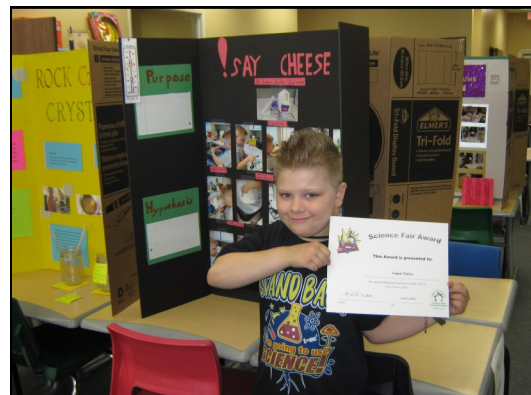


James Lough, grade 4



Joseph Distan, grade 5

Logan Taylor, grade 2



School Programs & Events



October—March

For students
in grades K-6

The BOOK IT! Program was established over 25 years ago to help motivate children to read more. Your role in this mission to instill a love of reading in every child is the most critical one. Regularly reading aloud, encouraging independent reading, and being seen enjoying reading yourself, are all effective ways to make reading a priority and a habit in your home. My challenge to you is to spend just 20 minutes each day focusing on raising a reader .

<http://www.bookitprogram.com/default.asp>



Box Tops for Education has helped America's schools earn over \$400 million since 1996. You can earn cash for your child's school by clipping Box Tops coupons from hundreds of participating products. Box Tops also offers easy ways to earn even more cash for your school online.

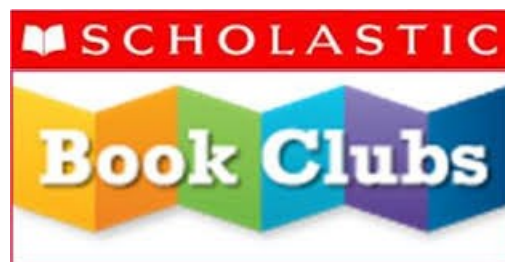
Just clip those box tops from participating products and turn them into the Box Tops box at the LRC...that's it! First turn-in date is September 21st for an opportunity to win an extra 25,000 Box Tops for our school! Thanks for participating!

<http://www.boxtops4education.com/Default.aspx>

September—June

AV Learning Academy participates in Scholastic Book Clubs

Delve into the world of reading with a variety of Book Club flyers—there's one that's just right for every age and reading level. Books are carefully selected by Scholastic's editors to help develop reading skills and foster a lifelong love of reading.



PLUS, every book purchased earns Bonus Points for AV Learning Academy, which we use for FREE Books and educational supplies. Book flyers are available on the table by the Front Desk, or you can order online. Look for the Scholastic Books Parent Letter, located right next to the book flyers.

School Programs & Events

Continued...

AV Learning Academy Chess Club

2015-2016 Chess Club!

- Who:** Open to all AVLA students
Parents are welcome and encouraged to participate or volunteer!
- What:** In this free, once-a-week chess club, one or two new chess concepts are introduced each week and lots of hands-on, fun practices of those concepts follows. Whether you're a beginner or seasoned chess player, this club provides lots of opportunities to learn and improve! **PLUS, we will participate in the 2015/16 Scholastic Chess League!**

NEW: All skill levels are welcome all year long! Each learner will be assessed for placement in the Red Group (Beginners/Beyond Beginners) or the Blue Group (Intermediates/Advanced). After that, each week each group will have 25 minutes of instruction by Ms. Daa and 25 minutes of hands-on practice/puzzles/assignments.

By conducting the club this way, both groups will have the opportunity to learn and improve their chess play at their own pace and will be helped to prepare for matches against other schools.

Parent and/or Grandparent volunteers are needed 10-11am every week to help monitor the group not currently receiving a chess lesson from Ms. Daa. Please volunteer!

- Where:** Antelope Valley Learning Academy
Lancaster Resource Center
1240 Commerce Center Drive in Lancaster



- When:** 10-11am, Fridays
September 25 through May 27 except when the Resource Center is closed.
PLUS the 2015/16 Scholastic Chess League will be held, March 9 & 16, 2016

- Why:** Chess is fun! Plus, playing chess helps with those skills needed for academic success such as problem solving, forward thinking, pattern recognition, spatial relationships, planning, etc. Plus, playing chess improves reading and math skills! But most of all, chess is fun!

- How:** Sign up with your ST.

- Note:** All chess equipment is supplied by Ms. Daa – just bring your brain and plan to have fun!

School Programs & Events

Continued...



Field Trip!

Come celebrate the
harvest at
Underwood Family
Farms

FAMILY FRIENDLY!

Who: All AVLA and MVLA K-8 students, siblings, and parents are invited. Parents, you **MUST** supervise your student at all times.

When: Wednesday, October 14th at 10:30 a.m. (Please meet at the entrance by 10:15 so we can begin the tour on time—look for the green AVLA field trip sign)

Where: Underwood Family Farms

3370 Sunset Valley Road in Moorpark, 93021

Cost: \$6/person (CASH due with Permission Slip by October 9th)

How:

Please contact Lindsay Gocke at lgocke@avlearning.org to sign up for this field trip. Include in your email the names and grades of your students, as well as the number of adults and siblings that will be attending.

Please join us for
our first Parent
Workshop of the
year!

Parent Workshop

Let's Get
Organized!

Let us help you
with...

WHEN: Friday,
October 9th
10:00 AM—12:00 PM

WHERE: The
Lancaster Resource
Center

PRESENTED BY:
Mrs. Katie Mercado

- reading the assignment sheets
- creating daily and weekly lesson plans
- developing a schedule that works
- setting up a learning environment in your home
- making sure your student is learning
- finding the teaching moments in everyday life
- filling out all that paperwork
- reaching out to other home study families

FREE!

Call the LRC at
661-952-5520
to reserve
your spot
TODAY!

Space is limited

School Programs & Events

Continued...

Choir/Musical Theater

2015-16

**Are you interested in singing in the
Choir? Performing in Musical
Theater?**



**Join Mrs. Wagner for auditions:
Friday, September 25th
@2:00 PM
Lancaster Resource Center**

***All students who have signed up for the class
MUST attend the audition first.**

**Parents—please attend as well so you can
receive all the info regarding Musical Theater
requirements.**



**Choir/Musical Theater meets every Friday
from 2:00—4:00 PM. For more information,
please email Mrs. Wagner at
cd.dschs@gmail.com**



Personal Health and Fitness with Coach Porter

**For all AVLA
students and
their parents!**

**Learn4Life
Sports Facility**

**42450 12th St. W.
Lancaster, CA 93534**

From 10th St. W., head West on Avenue L-8. Turn right onto 12th St. W. Turn right into the first driveway. (Look for building with address 42436—the Sports Facility is directly to the left of that building—there is not an address on the Sports Facility building).

Join Coach Porter at the Learn4Life Sports Facility!

In this course, students will work on:

- Cardiovascular exercise
- Body composition
- Strength
- Endurance
- Flexibility
- Resistance training
- Heart rate monitoring
- Preparing for state mandated Physical Fitness Test
- And LOTS and LOTS of FUN!!!

WHEN?

Tuesdays and Thursdays,
2:00-3:00 PM

Fall Session begins Tuesday,
September 22

Sign up via your ST

*Dress for exercise: shorts, t-shirts,
yoga pants, athletic shoes.*





The only thing better than a good cause?
A good cause with a side of fish tacos.



Original Fish Taco®

Salsa Verde Shrimp Taco

Regal Springs®
Blackened Tilapia Taco

Join us for a fundraiser to support
**Antelope Valley Learning
Academy**

Present this flyer to the cashier when you dine in, take food to go,
or pick up a Catering order,* and **we will donate 20%** to this cause.

Date: Thursday,
September 24th, 2015

Time: 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Rubio's Restaurant(s): **LANCASTER**
43530 10th Street West, Lancaster, CA 93534

Come in and enjoy our sustainable grilled seafood,
chicken and steak tacos and burritos, salads and more.

*We request 24 hours notice for Catering orders.

8th Grade Class of 2015



