

AV LEARNING ACADEMY

Parent Post

Volume 8, Issue 4
December, 2015

Principal's Corner



December is here and that means the close of 2015. Once we return from Winter Break, we have just three weeks left in the Fall Semester! Wow! That was fast!

The Winter Break is from December 21st–January 1st. AVLA will be closed the entire two week break so that all staff can enjoy the holiday season with their families.

Upon our return to school in January (January 4th), things start to get busy around here. We will host our annual Open House, we have a Parent Workshop and a Restaurant Night, and we have several field trips and school events planned. Watch for the flyers so you can make plans to attend.

Have you heard? We are having an In n Out Burger giveaway for academic excellence. Drawings will be held upon our return from Winter Break and winners will be announced at Open House. Speak with your teacher to find out what it takes to be entered into the drawing!

Mark your calendars... we will be hosting an Open House just before the end of the Fall Semester on Thursday, January 21st from 3:00 – 5:30 PM. Classrooms will be open, student work will be on display, and students will be performing.

Schedules are under construction for the annual State Assessments in the spring—the

Physical Fitness Tests, the Smarter Balanced Assessments, and the Science CSTs. As soon as schedules are set, you will be notified so you can plan accordingly.

I want to take this time to wish you and your family a very happy holiday season, regardless of how you celebrate, and a very Happy New Year! Thank you for making AVLA part of your family!

Keep up the good work and see you next year!

Erin Wade
Principal, AVLA

Mark your calendar...

- Dec. 4–Field Trip: LPAC, “A Christmas Carol”
- Dec. 11–End LP 6
- Dec. 14–18–Blue Week
- Dec. 18–AVLA closes at 1:30
- Dec. 21–Jan 1– Winter Break
- Jan. 4–Return to school
- Jan. 15–Parent Workshop
- Jan. 18–MLK. Jr. Day: No School
- Jan. 20–Restaurant Night at Panera Bread
- Jan 21–Open House
- Jan. 22–End Semester 1
- Jan. 25–Begin Semester 2

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Character Counts—December

The pillar of character for December is

CARING.

Go to:

<http://charactercounts.org/sixpillars.html>

Once there, click on Resources and Lesson Plan Bank to get age-specific activities for the trait of **CARING.**

Be kind • Be compassionate and show you care • Express gratitude • Forgive others • Help people in need

Think of a heart



10 Ways to Motivate Your Child to Learn

Inspire your student's thirst for knowledge inside — and outside — of school.

If you want your child to be a stellar student, don't limit learning to the walls of his classroom. Although the skills he's learning there are crucial to his intellectual and social growth, your child needs your help to open up the world of ideas. His renewed joy in discovery will transfer to his schoolwork, so you'll boost his academic achievement too!

1. **Fill your child's world with reading.** Take turns reading with your older child, or establish a family reading time when everyone reads her own book. Demonstrate how important reading is to you by filling your home with printed materials: novels, newspapers, even posters and placemats with words on them.
2. **Encourage him to express his opinion, talk about his feelings, and make choices.** He can pick out a side dish to go with dinner and select his own extracurricular activities. Ask for his input on family decisions, and show that you value it.
3. **Show enthusiasm for your child's interests and encourage her to explore subjects that fascinate her.** If she's a horse nut, offer her stories about riding or challenge her to find five facts about horses in the encyclopedia.

4. **Provide him with play opportunities that support different kinds of learning styles — from listening and visual learning to sorting and sequencing.** Supplies that encourage open-ended play, such as blocks, will develop your child's creative expression and problem-solving skills as he builds. He'll need lots of unstructured play time to explore them.
5. **Point out the new things you learn with enthusiasm.** Discuss the different ways you find new information, whether you're looking for gardening tips on the Internet or taking a night class in American literature.
6. **Ask about what he's learning in school, not about his grades or test scores.** Have him teach you what he learned in school today — putting the lesson into his own words will help him retain what he learned.



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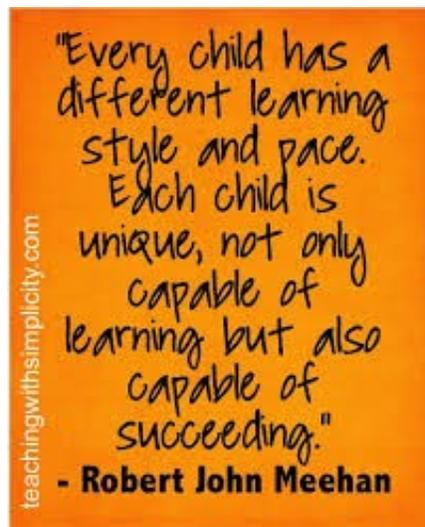
7. **Help your child organize her school papers and assignments so she feels in control of her work.** If her task seems too daunting, she'll spend more time worrying than learning. Check in with her regularly to make sure she's not feeling overloaded.
8. **Celebrate achievements, no matter how small.** Completing a book report calls for a special treat; finishing a book allows your child an hour of video games. You'll offer positive reinforcement that will inspire him to keep learning and challenging himself.
9. **Focus on strengths, encouraging developing talents.** Even if she didn't ace her math test, she may have written a good poem in English class. In addition to a workbook for math practice, give her a writing journal.
10. **Turn everyday events into learning opportunities.** Encourage him to explore the world around him, asking questions and making connections.

LEARNING BENEFITS:

Problem solving—problem solving is a mental process used to identify and reach a conclusion to a present condition.

Creativity—creativity involves using imagination and inventiveness to come up with original ideas, particularly in artistic production.

Retrieved from <http://www.scholastic.com/parents/resources/article/motivate-school-success/10-ways-to-motivate-your-child-to-learn>. November 18, 2015



Statements and opinions expressed in articles, reviews and other materials herein are those of the authors and not necessarily the opinions of the Learning Academies.



SPOTLIGHT ON...Learning Resources



Wow! Are you looking for educational resources to help you teach your child? Well, look no further than *For the Teachers*. This website offers a wealth of instructional strategies across all grade levels, K-8. There are resources for monitoring progress, learning note-taking strategies, getting kids to work in groups, comparing and contrasting ideas, solutions for making content more simple or more challenging, and so much more! Check it out at:

http://www.fortheteachers.org/instructional_strategies/

LC Class Schedule Updates for Spring Semester



Learning Center class enrollments are continuous throughout the entire school year, with the exception of Chess Club, Choir and Health & Fitness. That means if your student is enrolled in any class other than Chess, Choir or Health & Fitness, they do not need to be re-enrolled for the spring semester.

If you wish for your student to continue in Chess Club, Choir or Health & Fitness, your Supervising Teacher will need to submit an enrollment request for the spring semester.

Ms. Daa's Chess Club is enrolling for Spring Semester with an Intermediate Level class. Note—this is NOT an additional class and it is NOT for beginners. To enroll in Chess Club for Spring, you MUST have some chess experience and know how to Checkmate. If you completed Semester 1, the Beginning

Level class, you are eligible to enroll in Semester 2.

Mrs. Wagner will have a new musical for students to participate in during the spring semester, with a performance scheduled for late May, just before the end of the school year. Choir students also perform at the 8th grade promotion ceremony in June.

Coach Bob Porter will continue to teach the very popular Health & Fitness class in the spring. The focus turns to the Physical Fitness testing requirements for our 5th, 7th and 9th graders. All students may participate in the class regardless of testing requirements. This class meets every Tuesday and Thursday from 2:00—3:00 PM at our Athletic Training Center.



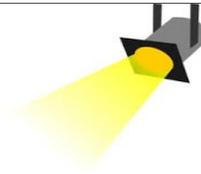
With the holiday season comes increasingly busy schedules, both inside and outside the home. We must, however, remind you of the importance of adhering to a daily schedule and maintaining a consistent learning environment. That includes not only your learning environment inside your home, but also remaining consistent with your child's class schedule in the Learning Center.

This time of year, we notice a significant drop in LC class attendance rates. Maintaining consistent attendance to all classes is important for several reasons. First, the classes are designed to build on one another so the lessons taught on one day reflect lessons taught on previous days and prepare students for future lessons. Second, the teachers spend a lot of time preparing for their lessons. When students don't show up to class, materials are wasted. Third, the students rely on each other to be there each week and each class day. The classes utilize project-based learning and group activities, and that requires all students to be present. Finally, we have a strict attendance policy. With many of the classes being full and on waiting lists, we do not permit students who have inconsistent attendance to remain enrolled in a class they do not regularly attend. Students who do not maintain good attendance will be withdrawn from the LC class so that a student on a waiting list may enroll. Your support of, and cooperation with, this policy is greatly appreciated.

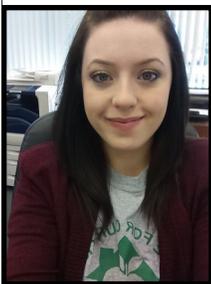
Thank you!

AV Learning Academy Staff

New Staff Spotlight



AVLA has some new staff this year. Please join me in welcoming the newest members of our team!



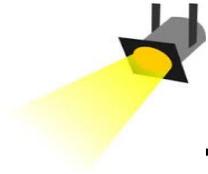
My name is Brianna Lopez-

I am a new Student Relations Technician with AVLA. I am originally from Lancaster and have lived in the Antelope Valley all of my life. I enjoy walking my dog and going to the beach. And Starbucks! I am so happy to be a part of AV Learning Academy and look forward to getting to know the students, parents, and teachers!

My name is Cynthia Aguilar. I am a new Student Relations Technician with AVLA and I am extremely excited to be a part of Antelope Valley Learning Academy and venture with the company to explore new opportunities. For the past five years I was employed as a Senior Customer Service associate with Bank of America working out of Pasadena, CA. Recently, I moved back to the Antelope Valley from Anaheim and have decided to pursue a new path attributing to my passion of working with children. I am the mother to a seven year old son named Aiden, and I enjoy watching movies and listening to music.



New Staff Spotlight



My name is Katie Benadom and I am the new part time Educational Specialist for AV Learning Academy. I am a California State University, Bakersfield graduate. I hold dual teaching credentials; a single subject English credential and an Mild/Moderate Special Education Credential. Additionally, I hold a Masters in Education with a focus in Special Education. In 2015, I was elected the Outstanding Graduate Student in the field of Social Science and Education for California State University, Bakersfield. My education experience includes teaching sixth through eighth grade general education and Kindergarten through fifth grade RSP. I am committed to helping students achieve academic success.

Hi! My name is Ms. Christine Bastian and I'm eager to be teaching math to your 7th and 8th grade students this year. I recently graduated from California State University, Long Beach and it is exciting to be back in my hometown. Math has always been a passion of mine and teaching those around me was something that was instilled in me at a young age. It is my goal to make the world of math more approachable and understanding. I want to do away with the fearful stigma surrounding it, and open your students' eyes to the reality that math is a skill that can be obtained by anyone. Just like sports and arts require patience and practice, so does math. The students will quickly see that putting that extra effort into studying and keeping up with the coursework can make all the difference. So let's crack open those books and whip out those calculators because I can't wait to see what this school year has in store for us.



My name is Janelle Goodman, and I am your new School Counselor. I hold a Master's Degree in Educational Counseling with a Pupil Personnel Services Credential earned through the University of La Verne. This is my 16th year in the field of education. Previously, I worked as an Office Manager at a supplementary private school where I wore many hats and often found myself mentoring students and parents. As the School Counselor, my goal is to create a positive learning environment for all students. My passion is helping students discover their strengths and talents so they gain courage and confidence to succeed in life.

When I am not at AVLA, you will find me having fun with my 10 nephews and nieces or spending time with my friends. A few of my favorite things are exercising, listening to the rain, and eating fresh spun cotton candy.

I am looking forward to meeting each of you!

Welcome to all our new staff this year!

AV Learning Academy Upcoming School Events

Thursday,
January 21st



Open House at AV Learning Academy



Classrooms will be open!

Chess Club will perform!

Art exhibition!

Program information!

Upcoming Field Trips!

Musical Theater will be performing "The American Revolution"!

Student Incentive Raffle winners will be announced!

Refreshments will be served.
This is a family-friendly event.

3:00 PM - 5:30 PM

Please
join us!



Happy Holidays from AVL A!



December 21st–January 1st

**AV LEARNING ACADEMY
WILL BE CLOSED**

**from December 21st through
January 1st so that all staff
may enjoy the Winter Break
with family and friends.**

**We will re-open on Monday,
January 4th at 8:00 AM**





Community Events for the Holidays

A MAGICAL BLVD CHRISTMAS

Saturday, December 12th,
2015

5:00-9:00 PM

On Lancaster Blvd.
between Beech and
Genoa

Enjoy the sights, sounds, and feel of the holiday season with a Magical BLVD Christmas, Lancaster's winter wonderland celebration. Bring the entire family and spend the evening with carolers, dancing, and outstanding Christmas entertainment on two stages.

- Browse through the Christkindlmarkt for Christmas crafts, foods, and a farmer's market.
- Children can enjoy a train ride or make crafts in Santa's Workshop.
- Donate a new, unwrapped toy to AVTA's Stuff-a-Bus campaign.
- Be dazzled with a brilliant display of lights, wreaths, decorations, and numerous holiday scenes.
- Shop for the holidays or dine at one of the BLVD's outstanding restaurants.
- And, of course, Santa will be there



Pancake Breakfast with Santa!

Warm pancake breakfast, holiday music and cheer!

Saturday, December 19th, 2015

Tickets on sale now!

Tickets will go on sale
November 16–December 18th!

Seating Times:

8 a.m.
9 a.m.
10 a.m.
11 a.m.

Ticket Prices:

Adult \$8.00
Child \$5.00

Tickets will be available November 16 - December 18, or until sold out. Tickets can be purchased at the City of Lancaster Parks, Recreation & Arts counter, 44933 Fern Ave.

Join Santa, Mrs. Claus, and the elves for a warm pancake breakfast, holiday music and cheer each December when Lancaster hosts Breakfast with Santa at [Lancaster City Park's Stanley Kleiner activity center.](#)



The High Desert
Runners present...

The 2015 Jingle Bell Fun Run
5k and Kids 1k Elf Run

Saturday, December 12th
5k starts at 9:00 AM
1k starts at 10:00 AM
at

Marie Kerr Park

Custom designed medals for
all finishers and tech shirts for
all participants

Finishers medal and elf hats
for all kids 1k participants

Appropriate seasonal attire is
encouraged. Prize for best
costume!

Preregistration Entry fees:

Adults: \$30

Students and High Desert
Runner Members: \$25

Kids 1k Elf run 10 or under:
\$10

All proceeds benefit Antelope
Valley Search and Rescue and
Grace Resource Center.

AVLA's Classroom Door Decorating Contest



1st Place—Mrs. Gates, Mrs. Kielman, Ms. Woodley, Educational Resources



2nd Place—Mrs. Pickus, Grade 2-3



3rd Place—Mrs. Robinson, 6th Grade