

The Parent Post

Principal's Corner

Happy New Year!
Welcome back to school
and welcome to 2016!

January is a busy month for AVLA with several events going on this month. We have a Restaurant Night, a Choir Concert, Open House, and a new Parent Workshop. I hope you will join us at all our events this month, but our annual Open House event is a special one this year. Our goal is to make our school and programs better known to the surrounding community. Not only will we have free food for our attendees, a photo booth, and student performances, but if you bring a friend not currently enrolled, you (and your

friend) will receive an entry into a raffle to win one of several really cool prizes! I look forward to seeing you on January 21st and bring a friend!

Also this month, we celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day to honor a man who believed strongly in the fair treatment of all. Take some time this month with your student to research Dr. King's cause and find out why he urged us all to treat everyone with fairness. In conjunction with that, our Character Counts trait for January is FAIRNESS. Check out the Character Counts bulletin board to see what activities Ms. Goodman,

our school counselor, has planned for this month's character trait. We will also take Monday, January 18th off in honor of this man.

Please see inside this edition of the Parent Post for more information on everything going on at AV Learning Academy, including a change to the school calendar. We have a lot going on so please make sure to get plenty of rest, eat well, and stay healthy. As always, if you have any comments or suggestions, or just want to say hello, my door is always open...

Erin Wade
Principal, AV Learning

Inside this issue:

Capture Your Child's Super Strengths	2-3
Counseling Corner	4
School Events—Holiday and Restaurant Night	5
School Events—Open House	6
School Events—Parent Workshop	7
School Events—Field Trip	8
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.	9
Spotlight on Learning Resources	9
Revised School Calendar	10
Photo Gallery—Cocoa & Cookies Party	11

Mark Your Calendars:

- January 11: Begin Semester 2
- January 18th: MLK Jr. Day—School Closed
- January 20: Restaurant Night at Panera Bread
- January 21: Open House
- January 22: Parent Workshop—How to Engage Your Student
- February 12: Lincoln's Birthday—School Closed
- February 15: President's Day—School Closed
- March 29, 30: Physical Fitness Testing
- April 4-8: Spring Break



Character Counts

The Pillar of
Character for January
is
FAIRNESS

Play by the rules
Take turns
Be open-minded; listen to others
Don't take advantage of others

Don't blame others
carelessly
Treat all people fairly

Go to:
<http://charactercounts.org>



Capture Your Child's Super Strengths

Turn a talented reader into a math-lover (or vice versa) with these kid-friendly reframing strategies.



Learning Benefits

Attention and Focus
Problem Solving
Critical Thinking

Very few people — no matter their age — are good at everything. Some have a knack for numbers, while others struggle with the simplest calculations. Some have a way with words (writers), understand people (psychologists, social workers, teachers), or see the world as a series of lines, colors, and spaces (artists, architects). As adults, we have the option to ignore our weaknesses (or circumvent them, by, say, hiring an accountant).

In school, however, kids don't get to pick and choose their subjects. There's no option to take two art classes and no math (or, for that matter, recess all day). But what they can do is make the most of their strengths, to use their strong skills to improve upon their weak areas. Here's how to help your child be the best student he can be:

If this sounds familiar . . .

My daughter loves to sing. She knows the lyrics to dozens of songs by heart, but when it comes to learning the times tables, she's a mess!

Try this strategy: Auditory learners — children who love to talk and sing, and can't wait for story time — will probably feel overwhelmed by visual cues, such as multiplication charts and tables. Don't despair: using music to teach multiplication is a fairly common and successful technique. There are a slew of multiplication songs available, from simple ditties to rap tracks. Find a CD your child likes, and play the songs often. Reinforce the music by quizzing your child verbally.

If this sounds familiar . . .

My son has always been a strong reader, but he struggles with math.

Try this strategy: The best way to get a good reader more interested in math is to make math *seem* more like reading. The solution? Word problems. You can find them in your child's textbook, but they're also incredibly easy to make up on your own. Look to whatever book your child is reading for inspiration — Harry Potter, for example: if each goal in Quidditch is worth 10 points, but catching the snitch is worth 150, how many goals is the equivalent of catching the snitch?

If this sounds familiar . . .

My daughter is a whiz at jigsaw puzzles, but she just doesn't get fractions.

Try this strategy: Kids who have strong visual and spatial skills respond well to colors, images, and other visual cues. Try using M&Ms (or dried kidney beans, if you find the chocolates disappear too quickly), pizza pies, or other such props to teach mathematical principles such as addition and subtraction, the times tables, and fractions.

Continued on page 3...



If this sounds familiar . . .

My son is great at math, but his vocabulary needs serious help!

Try this strategy: Get your mathematically inclined child interested in reading with word problems, word search puzzles, and other word games. For example, give your son a list of words (ideally culled from vocabulary lists he gets at school) and ask him to classify them into various categories. The logical part of your son's brain will love the very scientific act of classification, but he'll be expanding his vocabulary at the same time.

If this sounds familiar . . .

My son loves to make up stories, but he's just not interested in science class.

Try this strategy: Creative thinkers do well with "what if . . ." or "imagine that . . ." assignments. Thankfully, this strategy can be applied to almost all subjects. For a science project on recycling, you might suggest to your son, "Imagine that you are an aluminum can. What is your journey like from the time I throw you in the bin until you are something new?" Or, if your son is studying solids, liquids, and gases, ask, "What would you feel like if you were a gas? A liquid? A solid? How would you feel different from one phase to the next?" These questions will get his brain thinking about science topics, but in a manner that he's comfortable with.

"Capture Your Child's Super Strengths." *Scholastic.com*. N.p., n.d. Web. 22 Dec. 2015.

THE POWER OF "THINK TIME"

Researchers have found tremendous benefits to learning from the intentional and consistent use of silence both 1) after a question is posed but before a student is called on to respond, and 2) directly after a student's response. Student answers tend to be lengthier, more evidence-based, more complex, and more frequently correct and complete. Students also answer with more confidence. In addition, teacher questioning practices improve when teachers take the time to think—before calling on your student, while the student answers, and after the student answers. But the questions you ask must be worthy of thought. Pose questions that require your student to think rather than simply recall.

QUESTIONS BASED ON RECALL:

- Is 17 a prime number?
- In what year did the United States enter World War II?
- What is a renewable resource?
- In *Charlotte's Web*, how old was Wilbur when Mr. Arable decided he should live outside?

QUESTIONS THAT REQUIRE DEEPER THINKING:

- *Why* is 17 a prime number?
- Imagine that you are a US citizen during World War II. How would justify neutrality during the early years of the war?
- How might you convince a friend that it's important to know whether or not a resource is renewable?
- In *Charlotte's Web*, how do you think Mr. Arable attempted to help Fern understand his decision to move Wilbur outside?

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.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

By Janelle Goodman



Welcome Back and Happy New Year!

Hello and Welcome to the Counselor's Corner! My Counselor's Corner will be a section each month in the Parent Post Newsletter where I will share different topics related to school counseling, inspirational quotes, pictures, or information from resources I have researched. I may recap activities or events that took place in the prior month, announce upcoming events, or share valuable information for parents and students. I hope you enjoy my corner! Let's get started!

First, I would like to say, Happy New Year and Welcome Back! I hope that you and your family had a relaxing winter break. My name is Janelle Goodman and I am thrilled to be the new school counselor at Antelope Valley Learning Academy. I have been on campus since November and I know this is going to be a fun year filled with learning, growing, and lots of new adventures.

This will be my first year as a School Counselor, and I consider myself to be so lucky to have the opportunity to pursue my passion, school counseling. My hope is that the remainder of the year will be full of fun and successful experiences for all students.

Each month, I will be teaching mini lessons in the learning center classes on a character trait. In the month of December, our character trait of the month was CARE. My goal was to help students learn the true meaning of CARE so I kicked off the month with some help from a favorite character, The Grinch. As students learned about CARING in the learning center classrooms, our entire school participated in a "Growing the Grinch's Heart" Bulletin Board. All staff and students were on the lookout for acts of CARING happening around our school. When we saw someone being kind, thoughtful or helping others, we wrote it on a heart and stuck it on the bulletin board. As many of us know, the Grinch's heart was 2 sizes too small! But not for long! At AVLA, several students really showed caring to others during the month and I am so proud to announce that our students grew the Grinch's heart 74 times. Here are some of the acts of CARING from our students...

"Got the tissue box for a student that needed one" - Logan

"Being a big buddy by helping a kindergartner color her art paper without an adult asking her" - Maribel G.

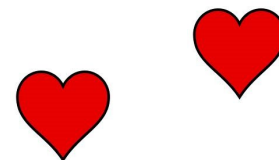
"Shared her pencil with her friend" - Natasha A.

"For helping a classmate understand a difficult math problem" - Will R.

"Setting up for class without being told" - Dean E.

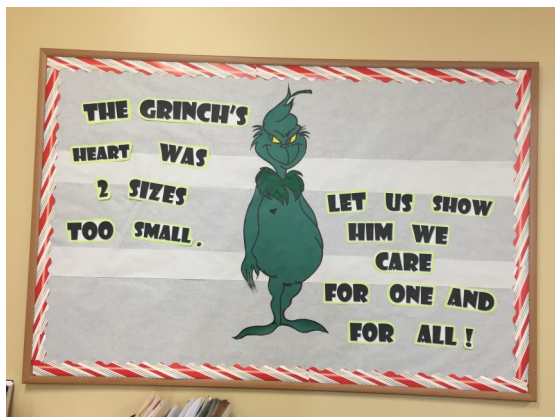
"Shared her art supplies with her classmate" - Ashira C.

I hope we all continue to be on the lookout for caring acts during 2016!



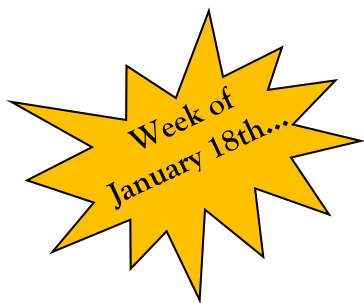
January's Character Counts trait is FAIRNESS. Stay tuned for upcoming FAIRNESS activities during the month of January!

Before



After





**No School
Monday, January 18th**



**In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. ,
AV Learning Academy and all school
offices will be CLOSED on
Monday, January 18th**

**Restaurant Night
Wednesday, January 20th**



EAT BREAD TO RAISE DOUGH

PLEASE JOIN

Antelope Valley Learning Academy

on

Wednesday, January 20th, 2016

from

4:00 pm - 8:00 pm

*Pick up a flyer at the
front desk or ask your
teacher.*

Panera Bread® located at 43458 10th Street W, Lancaster will donate a percentage of its sales during the event to Antelope Valley Learning Academy.

Note: Panera Card® gift cards, Panera® catering and other retail purchases are excluded from the event.



You are invited to join us for
our annual
Open House
at AV Learning Academy

***Classrooms will be open!**

***Chess Club will perform!**

Art exhibition!

***Musical Theater will be performing selections from “The American Revolution”!**

FOOD!

PHOTO BOOTH!

RAFFLE!**

****Bring a friend not currently enrolled for entry into the raffle**

**This is a family-friendly event!*

When: Thursday, January 21st, 2016 from 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM

***Performances begin at 4:30 PM**

**Where: AVLA—Lancaster Resource Center
1240 Commerce Center Drive, Lancaster,
CA 93534**



PARENT WORKSHOP

HOW TO ENGAGE YOUR STUDENT



Please join Mrs. Lindsay Gocke and learn:

- * Strategies for getting students out of the “end-of-semester” slump and how to finish the year strong
- * Ways to tap into your student’s learning style and make school more fun and engaging
- * Tips and resources for motivating your students and how to make working together more enjoyable

Specific topics will include:

- ⇒ Student choice
- ⇒ Personalized learning
- ⇒ How to meet objectives in creative ways
- ⇒ Lesson planning tips and tricks
- ⇒ Resources

Friday, January 22

Time: 10:00 AM—12:00 PM @ The Lancaster Resource Center

Please call 661-952-5520 to reserve
your spot



FIELD TRIP TO LOS ANGELES MUSEUM OF THE HOLOCAUST

What: LAMOTH Field Trip

When: February 29, 2015 11 am-2 pm

Where: 100 S. The Grove Drive
Los Angeles 90036

Cost: No charge, but donations are suggested. Parking at the museum is free.

Targeted age of students: grades 7-12



We will be lead by a docent, so it is important to arrive on time.

Teacher sponsors: Cindy Carver & Rebekah Vandermark

RSVP to ccarver@avlearning.org or rvandermark@dschs.org

Permission Slip & RSVP due by February 19th



A siddur, a Jewish prayer book, which belonged to Bernd Steinitz. Steinitz escaped to New York from Germany in 1938.



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Martin Luther King, Jr. fought for equal civil rights for African Americans. Each year, on the 3rd Monday of January, we celebrate his life and his dream. The day was made a national holiday in 1986.

Martin Luther King, Jr. was born on January 15, 1929 in Atlanta, Georgia. He was a minister who participated in many peaceful demonstrations in regard to unfair treatment of African Americans. He is famous for his meaningful speech "I Have a Dream." He won the Nobel Peace prize in 1964.

Schools across the country take advantage of this time of year to teach students about Martin Luther King Jr., the civil rights movement, and the importance

of racial equality.

But you don't have to let your children's teachers do all of the talking-MLK Day offers a perfect opportunity for families to spend time together learning about King's legacy.

Here are some recommended books for parents to read with their kids:

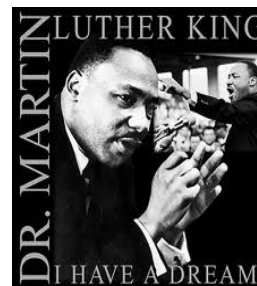
A Picture Book of Martin Luther King, Jr. by David A. Adler: King's life illustrated for kids.

My Brother Martin: A Sister Remembers Growing Up With the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by Christine King Farris: King's sister offers her perspective on what influenced him..

Dear Dr. King: Letters from Today's Children to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. edited by Jan Colbert and Ann McMillan Harms: A look a race relations in America today through the eyes of children.

"Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education"

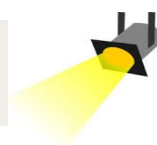
Martin Luther King, Jr.



AVLA will be closed on Monday, January 18th in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Day.

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

Spotlight on Learning Resources...



Check out Teaching Channel (www.teachingchannel.org), a website filled with videos in which teachers demonstrate various instructional techniques. There are video demonstrations for every subject across all grade levels. There is even a Q&A section. This is a terrific resource for helping you to be the best instructor for your child that you can be!

AV LEARNING ACADEMY SCHOOL CALENDAR REVISION

Just prior to Winter Break, we were advised that the school calendar had inadvertently been miscalculated. As a result, a revision to the 2015-2016 school calendar is necessary. The following are the resulting changes to the school calendar...

1. Learning Period 7 now ends on Friday, January 8th and the calculated learning days for the learning period changes from 19 (on the original calendar), to 10 on the new calendar.
2. Semester 1 ends on January 8th
3. Semester 2 begins on Monday, January 11th
4. All subsequent learning periods end two weeks earlier than on the original calendar, so LP 8 will now end on February 5th, LP 9 will end on March 4th, LP 10 will end on April 1, LP 11 will end on April 29, LP 12 will end on May 27th.
5. School remains in session until June 10 with 9 days into LP 13 and we will complete the mandated 175 school days

As always, Blue Week falls on the week following the end of the Learning Period.

There will be NO CHANGES to school holidays and breaks. Spring Break remains the week of April 4–8.

We appreciate your patience as we revise all the necessary documents to reflect the changes in the school calendar.

Thank you,
AV Learning Academy



Cocoa and Cookies



A great time was had by all!!!

