

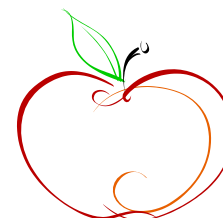
Academy of Personalized Learning, A Charter School

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Apple News



Greetings. We hope that you are enjoying your **Spring Break, April 1-April 8**. School resumes on **Tuesday, April 9**. Shortly thereafter, **Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR)** will take place. All public school students in grades 2-11 participate in this annual test each spring. APL encourages families to prepare their students for **STAR testing**. Ask your PLT about test prep booklets for grades 2-8 as well as STAR Released Questions for all grade levels and all subject tests. Your PLT also has access to State Blueprints, which allow teachers and parents to know what students will be tested on. State-mandated **physical fitness testing** for students in **grades 5, 7, and 9** will be given during the weeks of STAR testing. The mile run portion of the test and PFT make-ups will be at Enterprise Park on the morning of Monday, May 6, with a schedule forthcoming. Visit our website, www.ourapl.org for STAR information and schedules as well as Physical Fitness testing information and videos.

The STAR Program results are used to comply with federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation, which requires that all schools meet specific academic goals. The progress of each school toward achieving these goals is provided annually in an Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) report. Each year, California schools must meet AYP goals or risk program status. APL did not meet AYP last year because our STAR scores went down. We must show improvement this year in order to have our charter renewed. If you appreciate the benefits of our program, please help us to meet our AYP goals by helping your students be prepared to do their best on their STAR test. With your help we can continue to provide the materials, services, and program offerings that you now enjoy.

We are doing everything we can to provide a positive testing environment for our students. We will extend the time to conduct STAR testing to three weeks, with students spending a portion of their day testing and the other portion in their usual classes. **April 15-April 19 will be the 1st week of testing, April 22-April 26 will be the 2nd week, and April 29-May 3 will be the 3rd week of testing.** During the 1st and 3rd weeks, students will test during the morning and have their afternoon classes as usual. During the 2nd week, morning classes will be as usual, with testing in the afternoon. By spreading the testing over three weeks, we hope that students will be able to take their time and do their very best. Home school students will test with their grade level peers. After you receive your student's STAR test and class schedule from your PLT, please make sure you have the dates/times on your calendar as attendance is extremely important. Completion of assigned schoolwork during STAR testing is also important. (Parents, please read how you can support your child during STAR testing on page 2.)

In 2015, state testing will change to a new online format. To prepare for this, APL is participating in a **Smarter Balanced Pilot Test** with one additional test for **3rd graders in Math and 4th graders in Language Arts**, which will be online. These tests are informational and will not affect student scores.

April 1, 2013

Volume 5, Issue 8

April events

- ✓ Home School Skate
- ✓ High School Juried Art Reception and Awards Ceremony
- ✓ Community Concert
- ✓ Early Bird Watchers
- ✓ Whole Earth and Watershed Festival
- ✓ History Day Celebration
- ✓ STAR Testing!



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Students in the Spotlight

Noah Shackelford is a bright and active third grader. He is a big brother and is kind to all around him. An avid builder with many different materials, he eagerly attends APL's Lego/Robotics Design class and Ceramics each week. He also enjoys playing the violin, singing in a choir, and drawing and painting. Noah plays roller hockey and participates in other sports. Noah is inquisitive, actively exploring and hiking on Redding's trails with his homeschooling family. He is a joy to have at APL.

Christopher Cabbage has been an APL student since his 5th grade year. This year, as an eighth grader, Chris has taken the initiative to make sure he is turning work in on time and staying up on all of his assignments. In addition to the core classes which he takes on-site, Chris is enjoying the Lego/Robotics Design class. It is a pleasure to have him in the classroom as he is a shining example of a hard working student and he encourages others to do well. We are all very proud of the young man Chris is becoming and are grateful to have him as a part of our student body.

Mariela Ortiz is a senior this year and has attended APL for two years. Mariela graces our school with an outstanding attitude and earns exceptional grades. Furthermore, her smile brightens up any room that she is in. Her teachers are impressed with her strong work ethic as she always gives 110% effort to all of her assignments. Mariela is a wonderfully helpful young lady, and is an asset to her Spanish class as well as to her many other on-site classes. When Mariela is not here at school, she enjoys listening to music, riding her bike, or diligently working at her job or on her school work.



APL Orientation



APL is accepting new students for the **2013-14 school year**. Orientation for interested families will be held the **2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at 5 pm** at APL, **2195 Larkspur Lane**. If you have friends or family looking at school options, please consider suggesting us!

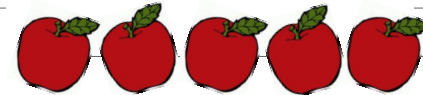
Applications are available on our website, www.ourapl.org. Here's some of what we have to offer:

- K-12 program
- WASC accredited
- Curriculum choice
- Independent study

- Home school
- Classes, vendor courses & tutoring
- Flexible scheduling
- Credentialed teachers
- California standards based instruction



School Business



Parent support during STAR: We have shared the importance of students participating in and doing well with STAR to ensure the viability and success of our school. We request that students get plenty of rest the night before testing and eat a healthy breakfast to help them perform well. Please have students bring a book to read silently when they have finished their tests. APL will provide snacks, but we suggest that students bring a water bottle with a fitted lid. We hope the weather will allow students to spend time outdoors during breaks.

The students whose names were drawn for **Good Apple Awards** for April were: **Faith Brumit and Sophie Strawn**. These students were cited with "good citizenship" and given tickets, which were then selected in the monthly drawing. Congratulations to our "Good Apples!" Students, please see Ms. Lynn to choose your prize!

The **Oral Health Assessment Form for students who will be in 1st grade in the 2013-14 school year is due by May 31, 2013**. The form is available at APL if you need it. If you have questions or can't meet the deadline, contact Sherina.

Current 6th graders who will be 7th graders next school year, 2013-14, need to have their **TDap immunization** complete and turned in by **August 30, 2013**.

Student IDs: For an APL student identification card, stop by the school and see Sherina to get your photo taken. For more information, contact Sherina at 222-9275.

Work Permit applications are available at the office. Parents can fill out the request and drop it off at APL or fax it to Sherina at 222-9281.

Attention senior families: Each year at graduation, APL presents a slideshow of the graduates. Please select some baby and recent photos (at least one of each). Email them to jparks@ourapl.org (specify "graduation pictures" in your title for the email), or drop them off for her at APL. If you bring in the actual photos, be sure to label them with your graduate's name and their teacher of record so the photos can be returned.

The APL **high school graduation** ceremony will be **Wednesday, May 29 at 5:30 pm** at the McLaughlin Auditorium, 1805 Sequoia St. (Sequoia School). Graduation practice will be at the auditorium at **12:30 pm**. (If students will arrive on time, the practice will take about an hour.) Graduating seniors should return to the auditorium at **5 pm**.

The **8th grade promotion** ceremony will be at APL on Thursday, **May 30 at noon**. Eighth graders will meet at **11 am** to practice. An ice cream social will follow the ceremony.

"Nothing is particularly hard if you divide it into small jobs." (like STAR testing!)
Henry Ford



The **library** will be **closed** during **STAR testing** at the following times:
 April **16-19:** 8 am-12:45 pm
 April **22:** 8 am-3 pm
 April **23-26:** 12:30 pm-4:30 pm
 April **29:** 8 am-3 pm
 April **30-May 3:** 8 am-12:45 pm
 May **6:** 8 am-3 pm
 (May change, if needed, for testing)

Library News



Library Returns: If you have completed a course, or have finished using any materials checked out from the APL Library, please return these materials to the library. Other students may be in need of what you have. In these tight financial times, we cannot afford to leave books unused on a shelf, so please return materials that you are not using. Thanks!

Box tops: Have you noticed all of the new books in the library? Thanks to YOUR Boxtop donations we received \$270. We have purchased several popular picture books and chapter books, as well as books for our Young Adult readers. The 2013 Caldecott and Newberry Medal winners have been purchased and added to our shelves. If your student has a book request, please let Ms. Patty or Ms. Kimberly know, so we can order them next time. Please keep bringing in those Boxtops! We are planning to do another order soon.

Scholastic Book Catalogs are available at the APL library. Scholastic book orders are a great way for you to get new books, CHEAP! Each order that you place also helps to buy books for our library and for our students. You can place your orders either through our library with a check, or online with a credit/debit card. To order online, go to www.scholastic.com/bookclubs. Follow the prompts to create your own username and password. When prompted, enter the one-time Class Activation Code, GJXLB. If you have questions, contact Kimberly at APL.



April Events



The last **Home School Skate** events for this year will be **4/10** and **5/8**, from 3-5 pm at Viking Skate Country, 735 Auditorium Drive. Cost is \$3 per person with one free admission for supervising adult. All participants must be accompanied by an adult.

The 2013 Whole Earth and Watershed Festival will be Saturday, **April 27** from **10 am to 4 pm** at Redding City Hall and Sculpture Park and along Park Marina Drive. There will be more than 100 exhibitors, great food, and live music. Find interactive, educational fun for all ages, including the Earth First Young Children's Zone (age 0-8), the Watershed Passport Program (gr. K-12), and Family Biking Day. Park Marina Drive will be closed at Athens all the way under the Cypress Bridge to Parkview Dr., then along one lane of Cypress Ave. up to the entrance to City Hall for the use of bikes, skateboards, dancers, pedestrians and any other non-motorized entity. **RABA** will be offering a **free ride day** on all buses on 4/27 as well as an Event Shuttle between the Sundial Bridge parking lot and City Hall from 10-4. For more information, visit www.WholeEarthAndWatershedFestival.org.



The **Shasta Community Concert Association** will present **The Prima Trio** at the Cascade Theater on Wednesday, **April 17 at 10:30 am** (arrive at 10:10). For more info, go to www.shastacomunityconcerts.com

This is a free concert, but we must FILL our seats. Seats are limited. Attendance is mandatory if you sign up for this show! There will be a wait list. Sign up at www.ourapl.org by 4/12/13. **This show conflicts with STAR testing at APL for 2-6th graders. Please be prepared to sign up for a make-up testing session for your child if you are attending this show.**

Please join the APL History Day participants for the **History Day Celebration** on Monday, **April 29**, from **9-11:00 am**. Students will display their hands-on projects for all to enjoy.

Fiddler on the Roof will be presented at the Cascade Theater on Wednesday, **May 1 at 9:00 am**. No other musical has so magically woven music, dance, and laughter into such an electrifying and unforgettable experience. **Please pay \$5 per seat to reserve a seat.** Pay Darla at APL's front desk, making checks out to the Cascade Theater. **This show conflicts with STAR testing at APL for 2-6th graders. Please be prepared to sign up for a make-up testing session for your child if you are attending this show.**

College Corner

Attention Juniors: The best time to take the **SAT** (Scholastic Aptitude Test) is in the spring of your junior year. Many students also decide to take the SAT again in the fall of their senior year. It is a good idea to take SAT Subject Tests in the spring while course material is still fresh in your mind. There are two more administrations of the **SAT** this spring, on **May 4 and June 1**. Learn more, register and practice at www.sat.collegeboard.org or www.sat.org/register. (You will be required to provide a photo in order to register for the SAT and SAT Subject Tests.) We have a limited number of SAT fee waivers available for students with financial need. See Sherina for info. about fee waivers.

There will be one more administration of the **ACT** on **June 8, 2013**. Go to www.actstudent.org to register.

Juniors, spring is a good time to visit some local colleges—large, small, public and private, to get a feel for what works for you. Develop a list of colleges that are of interest to you. Request viewbooks and information about financial aid and academic programs. Perhaps you can visit some colleges during spring break.

Seniors, you should receive college acceptance letters and financial aid offers by mid-April. Colleges cannot require your deposit or your commitment to attend before May 1. By that postmarked date, you must inform every college of your acceptance or

Early Bird Watchers: The Horse-town-Clear Creek Preserve invites families to enjoy early morning bird watching with local expert Barbara Peck on Sunday, **April 21 at 8:30 am**. This will be an opportunity to see spring migrants and learn more about them. *Bring binoculars if you have them to this free event.* Directions: Meet at the HCCP parking area on Clear Creek Road, about 7 miles west of Hwy 273, just west of the Clear Creek Bridge. Call 241-2026 for information.

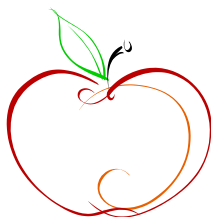
Please join APL for an evening of entertainment on Saturday, **May 11** at the McLaughlin Auditorium, 1805 Sequoia St (Sequoia School). The doors will open at 6 pm and the **APL dance classes** will perform at **6:30 pm**. Curtain for the APL Players will be at **7 pm** as they present **After the Show: A Play Documenting What Happens After the Final Curtain Call**. The play was written by students Ashley Nascimento and Jasmine Vu, and directed by Bill Collins. Tickets are \$5 per seat and will be available at APL's front desk and also (cash only) at the door.

Field Trip Registration: If you find that you are unable to attend a field trip for which you have registered, please call or email **Barbara Mehr** to let her know. There are often other families on the waitlist who would love to attend the event (instead of leaving empty seats). Barbara's contact info is: (530) 472-1239 or bmehr@ourapl.org. Thanks!

rejection of the offer of admission and/or financial aid.

The **Golden State Seal Merit Diploma** (GSSMD) provides **recognition** to graduates who have demonstrated mastery of the high school curriculum as **demonstrated by their scores on STAR tests**. To qualify for the GSSMD, students must be receiving a high school diploma, and must have earned a scale score of 370 or above on six qualifying California Standards Tests. *Many students don't think their scores matter on STAR tests, but they do! Students who earn a GSSMD will receive an insignia on their diploma and their transcript, which may be helpful for college acceptance and scholarships.*

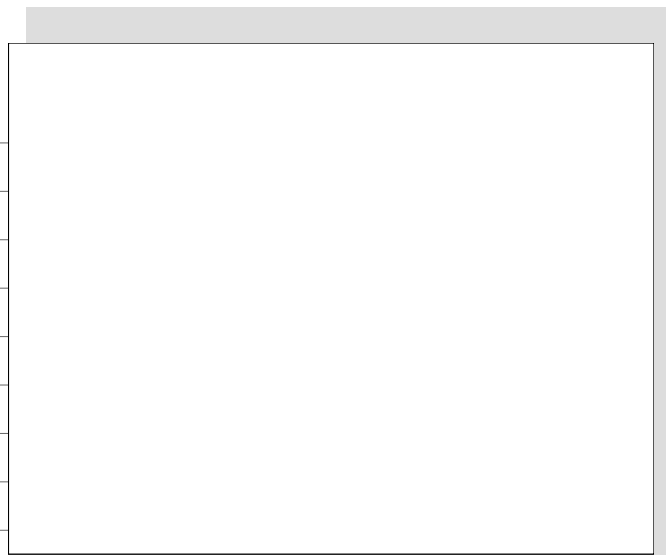
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Tutoring



Meetings



Recognition



There will be no **Math Tutoring available during STAR testing sessions.** Math tutoring with Mr. Nason will be offered as follows:

Tuesdays: 4:15-5:00 pm at APL (No tutoring on **4/23**)

Wednesdays: 8:00-9:05 am at APL (No tutoring at this time on **4/17 or 5/1**)
1:00-3:00 pm at the Local Indians for Education (LIFE) Center, 4440 Shasta Dam Blvd., Shasta Lake City. Their phone number is (530)-275-1513.

Thursdays: 4:15-5:00 pm at APL (No tutoring on **4/25**)

Fridays: 8:00-9:05 am at APL (No tutoring at this time on **4/19 or 5/3**)
12:40-2:55 pm at APL (No tutoring at this time on **4/26**)

APL teacher Vanessa Burger is available for tutoring at the Burney Library from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm on Tuesdays with an appointment. **STAR testing will affect tutoring in Burney.** If you need tutoring, please call Ms. Burger at 276-7936 to arrange for tutoring.

The **APL Board Meetings** are the **3rd Thursday** of each month at **5:15 pm**. The next meeting has been changed to **April 11**. The public is invited to attend.

Sports recognition: APL would like to congratulate 5th grader **Caleb Bonneville**. Caleb was invited to compete in the **2013 USASA** (United States of America Snowboarding Association) **National Championships** in Colorado. He qualified for 4 events, but he has chosen to focus his efforts on 3 of those events. For those wanting to watch and support Caleb, they can watch videos and check results on the website www.usasa.org. Caleb will be competing in: Slopestyle (performing tricks while going through an obstacle course); Rail Jam (performing tricks on rails, pipes, and other features); and BoarderCross (racing). The Snowboarding Nationals take place from March 30th-April 4th. Caleb has worked and trained hard all year and we are so proud of him! Everyone at APL wishes Caleb the best of luck!

In an impressive show of artistic talent, entries submitted by five APL students from Christy Vail's Graphic Design class were selected for the **14th Annual High School Juried Art Show**. Congratulations to **Adrian Deras, Caleb Gates, Savannah Kirkland, Lucas Miller, and Mellow Peoples**. The artwork can be seen at the Shasta County Arts Council's Old City Hall Gallery, 1313 Market Street in Redding through April 13. The gallery is open Tuesday-Friday, 11-5, and Saturday, 11-3. There will be a **reception on Saturday, April 13 from 5-8 pm** with an **awards ceremony at 7 pm**. Congratulations to these artists!

The **APL Advisory Council** is a group of staff members, parents and students whose common goal is to enhance our school by sharing ideas. Advisory Council meetings are usually the **1st Wednesday** of each month at **3:30 pm**, but the next meeting will be on **April 10**. The Council is in need of a teacher and a parent of an elementary age student. If you are interested in serving on the Advisory Council, please contact lweidenkeller@ourapl.org.

