
Alexandria Avenue School Parent Newsletter

Issue 2
October 22, 1999

Letter From The Principal

Dear Parents,

Your children are being challenged in school this year. More than any other year, we are pushing hard for children to meet the skill levels established by the State of California and the Los Angeles Unified School District. Teachers are requiring more homework and striving to put more learning into every minute. I am telling teachers the pressure is on!



Why are we doing this? Because our Board of Education has voted a change in the way students are promoted from grade level to grade level. Your children will not be promoted from their current grade level to the next level unless they can show they know the skills required for their level. Students who are not "proficient" in the English Language also have standards set for their achievement. As the school Principal, I do not want to retain any of your children. I want all children in the school to achieve the goals set for them by June of this year.

I need YOUR HELP! First, all children need to be in school every day. Only keep your children home if they are ill. All children need to be in the classroom in order to receive the instruction on the skills they need to learn. Make sure your children go to bed by 9:00 p.m. at the latest. All children need adequate sleep in order to be alert in their classrooms. Find a place for your children to do their homework, ALL students have homework Monday to Thursday of from 15-30 minutes a day. ALL students bring homework to do when they are on vacation. Make sure your children read at home every day. Read anything. If you need books for them to read, become a visitor to the Wilshire Library weekly.

We are offering many opportunities for students to get extra assistance. We have programs after school and during vacations to help students who may need additional assistance in learning the skills required. If your children receive an offer, please make the adjustments needed in your family to send them to school. It is important they get the help they need.

Please support the teachers in this tremendous effort to make YOUR children successful. I have spoken with parents who feel we are pushing too hard, we are making their children "nervous," even asking for easier teachers. We are pushing hard, we are making students nervous. We are doing it to make sure **your children** learn the skills in English that will allow them to proceed in July to the next level. Join the effort and help your children be the best they can be!

Sincerely,



Carol A. Labrow
Principal

Letters From The Assistant Principals

I feel privileged to be at Alexandria Avenue School. Children, staff and parents have been most welcoming. I had the pleasure of getting to know some of you. We have met on the campus, in the Parent Center and during School Site Council meetings. Some of you have come to me with a particular issue, question or concern. I look forward to getting to know many more of you and seeing you during our workshops, parent conferences, assemblies, Open House, and as we work together on issues of importance to our children.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Jarakian

As I begin my first full year here at Alexandria, I look forward to working with both you and your child to ensure that he/she succeeds to their capacity. I have had an opportunity to meet many of you since February and am anticipating an ongoing partnership. If we have not met, please feel free to stop by to see me.

Sincerely,

Ms. Tandberg

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The New Elementary Report Card

We would like to inform you about an important change in reporting grades. Instead of the traditional A-F marks, your children will receive 4, 3, 2, or 1.

Explanation of Achievement Scores

- 4- Advanced
- 3- Proficient
- 2- Partially Proficient
- 1- Not Proficient

English Language Development Scores

- 4- Advanced Progress
 - 3- Advanced Progress
 - 2- Partial Progress
 - 1- Limited Progress
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Candy Sale

During the month of October and November, Alexandria Avenue School is having a Candy Sale. We need your help! Please help our school earn extra funds to purchase educational materials and much more. Every child who sells candy must have a permission slip signed by his/her parent. Selling door to door is not safe and not recommended for your child. Your child should sell the candy to friends, neighbors and relatives instead.

Parents On Campus

Those of you who have been frequent visitors on campus already know that our Parent Center has been relocated to Room 64 where we are holding our parent workshops and meetings.

Adult English-as-a-Second Language (ESL) Classes

We are pleased to inform you that our adult ESL classes are being held in the Multipurpose Room from 3:00 - 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday. We encourage all interested parents to attend.

Parent Workshops/Meetings and Parent/Teacher Conferences

Please plan on attending parent workshops and parent/teacher conferences as often as you can. By your presence, you validate the importance of your child's education. You also hear and have the opportunity to discuss many issues that affect the school and your children's social development as well as the academic progress.

Warning To Illegal Parkers

Any driver who illegally parks in front of the school or any place around the school where parking is prohibited will be photographed by video camera and cited by mail. Fines run from \$35.00 to \$60.00. This includes double parking, blocking crosswalks/driveways, parking in red zones and bus pick-up and drop-off areas.

Intervention and Extended Learning Program

These classes are being offered during intersession and after school. Students eligible are those who are below the 36 percentile in reading and language arts on the Stanford 9 Test or are in danger of retention using multiple measures.

Emergency Immigrant Education Program

The Los Angeles Unified School District has received a grant from the Federal Government to provide supplemental educational assistance to immigrant children. Any student who was born outside of the United States, has been attending school in the United States three years or less, and is currently enrolled in school is eligible to participate in the Emergency Immigrant Program.

"Connect With Your Child's Education"

Once again KLCS-TV will broadcast information that will be of special interest to parents on Wednesdays from 8:00 - 9:00 p.m. Call 1-800-527-8839 and press "2" for "connections".

Attendance

Regular and punctual attendance is expected of all students at Alexandria. Parents have a responsibility to encourage good attendance and to support the school's effort to establish high standards of pupil performance. Regular attendance is not only necessary for educational progress and growth, but it is a legal requirement of the California Education Code.

Emergency Readiness

On October 7th, our school held an emergency earthquake drill to help prepare us in case of an Earthquake or an emergency. It is a good time to review your own state of readiness. Have you checked the batteries in your smoke alarms? Do you have a first aid kit at home? Extra bottled water? A plan for evacuating your apartment or house?

Who will pick up your child in case of emergency? Do we have your current telephone numbers? It is very important that we can reach you in case of emergency.



Tips For Parents On Halloween

Plan an alternative activity that is a substitute for trick-or-treating.

If you allow your child to go trick-or-treating, the following precautions may help your child's safety.

- Children should always be accompanied by an adult. Set a time limit and a safe route. The best hours for young children are between 5:00 and 7:00 PM.
- Use a flashlight in the jack-o-lantern instead of a candle.
- Make sure that your child's costume is light in color and not too long. Both the costume and the mask should be flameproof. The mask should have openings large enough to see through. Appropriate makeup is usually safer than a mask.
- Follow the traffic rules and watch for cars at all times.
- Insist that your child have comfortable shoes for walking. High heels can be dangerous.
- Do not allow your child to carry or wear any sharp instruments or objects.
- Keep your porch and yard lights on for safety.
- Caution your child not to enter any homes and not to invite other children into yours.
- Instruct your child not to eat any of the treats until he/she gets home and the treats are examined by an adult.
- Make sure that the Halloween decorations that you use are flameproof. Parties should be supervised by an adult at all times.

* Adapted from an information sheet titled "Back to School Safety" published by the 31st District PTA.

Fourth Annual Alphabet Junction Family Reading Fair

Will be held on the campus of Los Angeles City College on October 30, 1999, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This event is sponsored by the Speaker of the Assembly, Antonio R. Villaraigosa's office. Its goal is to promote literacy in our community and strengthen the educational bond between parents and their children. Volunteers and celebrity readers will be there to perform favorite storybooks on stage. There will be a variety of family oriented activities and free books will be given to all the participants.

The Governor's Reading Award Program

We are pleased to inform you about an exciting new program designed to encourage students to do more recreational reading. The Governor's Reading Award Program will award \$5,000 to 400 schools whose students read the greatest number of pages. Schools in grades K-8 may participate, and we are encouraging all of our students to be a part of this effort.

Students will need to read 15-20 minutes a day. The goal is for students in K-3 to read over 500 pages a month based on books with 50 words per page. Students in grades 4 & 5 need to read over 350 pages a month, based on books with 250 words per page.

September/October Students Of The Month

Congratulations to the following students:

Green (C) Track

Tansy Aguilar
Sammy Aguilar
Jesús Hernández
Cristian Esteban
Isaac Irula
Jasmin Maldonado
Elder Ramirez

Daniel Garcia
Grigor Gevorkyan
Joshua Aguilar
Karen Alfaro
Ana De Paz
Shawn Clark

Madis Lopez
Rafael Cervantes
Stephanie López
Erika Moya
Julia Cho
Vernon Espinoza
Indira Kissoondyol

Red (B) Track

Leslie Granados
Daniel Mercado
Kathy Paredes

Emma Reyes
Laura Mena
Sheila Ico Diaz
Stephanie Quiñonez

Jessica Matias
Emmanuel Portillo
Andres Alvarez



Parent Advisory Councils

Alexandria has two parent advisory councils, Title 1 and Bilingual. These councils are to advise the principal on issues that pertain to the Title 1 program and the Bilingual Program. The elections for both councils were held in August and September and the first meeting was held on October 21, 1999. The councils meet eight times a year at 8:30 a.m.

The schedule for the remainder of the year is as follows:

November 18, 1999	February 17, 2000	March 16, 2000	June 15, 2000
December 16, 1999	April 20, 2000	May 18, 2000	

Any parent may attend the meetings to hear information that is presented. The officers and elected members of the councils are responsible for advising the principal on the development of an effective educational program that will raise student achievement through the Title 1 program and Bilingual program.

The members of the 1999-2000 Parent Advisory Councils are:

Bilingual

Sylvia Sosa - President
Reina Gonzales - Vice President
Suyapa Torres - Secretary
Sandra Maldonado - Asst. Secretary
Sylvia Sosa - Zone Representative
Socorro Hernandez - Zone Alternate
Margarita Zelaya
Maria Diaz
Maritza Duran
Delmy Rodriguez
Julio Minera
Juana Hernandez
Sagario Contreras
Antonieta Guevara

Title 1

Maribel Jovel - President
Ana Soriano - Vice President
Maria Marroquin - Secretary
Patricia Blanco - Asst. Secretary
Alland Tobie - Zone Representative
Ana Soriano - Zone Alternate
Antonieta Guevara - Parliamentary
Luz Maldonado
Zerafina Avalos
Maria Tejada
Margarita Zelaya
Reina Gonzalez
Gricelda Dominguez
Juana Hernandez
Socorro Hernandez