

ACACIAWOOD SCHOOL NEWS

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CONCESSIONS REPORT

Intense and mammoth! These are fitting words to describe the labor and quantities of food that were needed to provide food concessions at the past Living Stream Ministry winter training. Hundreds of pounds of meat, vegetables, and rice; hundreds of gallons of soda, water, and hot drinks; hundreds of slices of pizza, hundreds of pounds of ice, and enormous amounts of other foods all added up to a successful fund raising project. This time, the school prepared more food from raw ingredients, and purchased less pre-packaged food from vendors than in the past. This increased the food quality and funds for the school. Although the week was very labor intensive, all who participated enjoyed working together and serving the trainees.

The school thanks the Parent Support Group along with the many students, and friends of Acaciawood School that prepared food and manned the food and hot drink stations. The concessions will provide funds needed to equip our science programs, support upgrading/maintenance of school computers, and finance expenses for play equipment and the athletic programs. The school hopes that every family can help with the food concessions at least one day during each training. Thanks again!

PE RESUMES

Beginning this **Friday, January 31, 2003**, PE resumes and regular daily school day dismissal will be at 3:10 pm. On a Friday when there is inclement weather, PE will normally be conducted indoors so parents should plan on their child participating in PE and be here for the regular 3:10 pm pick up. Should PE have to be cancelled due to weather, parents will be notified by phone and e-mail.

ALL- SCHOOL OUTING

After first semester finals on January 17, students and 20 chaperones attended an all-school outing playing miniature golf at *Camelot Golfland*. Although it was not a mandatory outing, 100 students attended the outing and got acquainted with students they normally do not associate with. The students and chaperones were grouped into over 20 golf teams and scattered over Camelot's five golf courses. It was a big project just to form the "blending" teams and arrange the transportation. But by day's end, everyone was able to play a round of golf, there were no mishaps, and it was accomplished in the allotted time. Special thanks to the ASB student council, all who arranged transportation, and the chaperones.

SOAR GOLDEN EAGLES!

It's the peak of the basketball season and the team is peaking too. The coaches have skillfully trained and played the boys to

work as a team, with no single player bearing most of the load. The efforts have paid off. The victory over Liberty Christian on January 17 positioned the team for a 3-way tie for first place in the league, and the 99 points in last Friday's game earned the team the notoriety of being the highest scoring team in southern California. However, more challenges are still ahead. Perhaps the most crucial game of the season is the one scheduled for this Thursday against Tarbut V'Torah (TVT) on their court at 6:30 pm. TVT is the only team that AWS has not defeated this season in regular league competition. Come to support the Golden Eagles and cheer them on to tame the Lions!

AWARDS ASSEMBLY-FEBRUARY 3

All Acaciawood families are invited to come and celebrate the accomplishments of our students at the mid-year awards assembly on Monday, Feb. 3rd at 7 p.m. This is a **mandatory** function for all AWS students so attendance will be taken. Please encourage friends of the Acaciawood community and new prospective student families to also attend. The 5th-8th grade students will display their science fair projects. Winners will be announced at the evening awards assembly. The elementary students will present the story of America by entertaining you with a historical sketch of American history through song. Refreshments will be served following the program. Don't miss this special event!

2003-04 PRE-REGISTRATION OPENS FEB 25

Record enrollment last fall nearly overloaded the office and extra effort was required to get the school year under way. This year, AWS will institute a pre-registration process for fall classes so it can better assess and plan to meet the needs of the new school year.

AWS attempts to limit the student-teacher ratio to 17:1 in each classroom. Based on this, present enrollment in grades 5-6 is closed and the high school and junior high school classes are nearly at capacity. Next year, it is anticipated that classes may reach maximum capacity quickly in grades 7-12, and classrooms for grades 2-6 may have to be changed due to increased enrollment.

Pre-registration will begin on February 25 and close on April 18. A **non-refundable** pre-registration fee of \$50 per student will be required and submitted to the office with an application form to secure a seat in class for the next school year. The \$50 fee will be applied towards the fall registration fee. After pre-registration, high school students who qualify will later be given an opportunity to select honors classes and choose any electives that are available. Those who do not pre-register can register in the fall on a space-available basis. Parents who are planning to enroll their children at AWS in the 2003-04 school year are urged to pre-register their student(s)

in order to guarantee a space for them and assist the school in classroom planning and staffing.

SENIORS BOUND FOR ORIENT

The senior class of 2003 has chosen the destination of their annual senior trip: China and Japan. Twelve seniors and their chaperones will board a plane on March 22 for Hong Kong, and then tour Shanghai, Beijing, and Tokyo; returning on April 6. The senior trip is not a school-sponsored trip; instead, it is planned and funded in its entirety each year by the seniors and their parents. The trip usually takes place over spring break, but this year, in meetings with the Board, school administration, and teachers, the senior parents requested and were granted additional days off from school because a significant educational component had been incorporated into the itinerary. Each senior will read over 200 pages of background material and participate in daily group discussions during the trip. The seniors are destined for an extraordinary experience that will impress them for their whole life. In the future, the school will consider similar time-off requests for senior trips that have a definite educational emphasis. Parents and students should consult the school and begin to consider possible destinations, educational focus, and fund raising needs early in order to plan for a similarly rewarding trip.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE PROGRAM

Based on directions from the AWS Board, planning and work has commenced on Acacia Wood School's first summer English as a second language (ESL) program for foreign students. A brochure has been prepared and is being distributed in Taiwan. Enrollment will be limited to 100 high school students, ages 15 to 18. Early indications and pre-registration confirm predictions that the quota of 100 students will easily be met. The ESL classes will begin on Monday, July 7, 2003, and conclude on Saturday, August 2. A proposed schedule includes morning English instruction, afternoon activities introducing the students to American culture and daily living, and evening classes with a spiritual content similar to the summer truth school. On several weekends, planning is in place for sightseeing trips and/or churching trips to nearby churches in southern California.

AWS families will be called upon to assist the school in carrying out its ESL program. Some areas where assistance is needed: student housing, transportation, ESL instruction, conversational English instruction, teacher's assistants, hobby/craft (woodworking, needlepoint, cooking, etc.) instruction, office assistants, tour/activity guides or escorts. If you can help the school with its ESL program as a volunteer, as a qualified ESL instructor, or in one of the areas listed above, please contact the school office or write an email to ESL@awschool.org.

SCHOOL POLICY REMINDERS

Signing In/Out For security reasons the AWS campus is a closed facility, meaning that all visitors, including parents must sign in and out at the school office. Special note: if you are picking up your child early from school for any reason, please sign your child out. Merely a phone call notification is not an acceptable procedure to have your child dismissed from school early. As a minimum, a parent or designated guardian must come into the office and sign out the student when he or she is being taken from the school campus early.

After-school Student Pick Up Parents are requested to do their best to pick up their students promptly at dismissal times. Be especially diligent to pick up your child at **1:10 pm on minimum days**. Please note that students are not allowed to remain on the school grounds to play basketball or linger on the campus without permission. There is no supervision for your child after school dismissal unless special arrangements have been made with the school.

Absence Notification A parent should always notify the school when their child will be absent. The notification can be a phone call or via e-mail, but it should be made before 9:00 a.m. on the day the absence takes place. The absence will be deemed an unexcused when the notice is received after the required time. Homework cannot be made up when an absence is unexcused. Long-term projects that are due on a day when a student is absent must still be submitted on the due date.

Excessive Tardiness/Absences If a student is tardy five or more times to a class in one semester, the student's grade will be lowered half a letter grade. For nine or more tardies, a student's grade will be lowered one full letter grade. If a student is absent eight or more times in a semester, the student's grade will be lowered one full letter grade. For extended illnesses, parents may appeal by submitting a letter to the school to contest the grade adjustment. The school administration will review the letter and make a decision whether or not to repeal the grade change on a case-by-case basis. See *Parent Student Handbook*, p. 9 for details related to absences and tardiness.

EVENT CALENDAR

- Jan 31 PE resumes, 3:10 pm dismissal
- Feb 3 Musical, science fair, awards assembly, 7 pm
- Feb 9 Casual dress day for qualifying students
- Feb 17 President's Day holiday, no school
- Feb 18 Begin Pre-registration for 2003-04
- Feb 18 First day of Spirit Week, Feb 18-21
- Feb 20 Progress reports mailed