



Learning Academies Parent Post

Director's Corner

It's Groundhog Day!

Groundhog Day, February 2nd every year, is a popular tradition in the United States. It is the day that the famous groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil, comes out of his hole after a long winter nap to look for his shadow. According to legend, if Phil sees his shadow—if it is a sunny day—then there will be six more weeks of winter! If he does not see his shadow—if the morning is cloudy—then spring has arrived!

How often are Phil's predictions correct? 100% of the time! Today, Punxsutawney from Pennsylvania saw his shadow and so there are still six weeks until spring time!

February is also a good time to take stock of the annual goals we set at the start of 2009 last month. We all need to be self-disciplined in order to be successful in reaching our goals.

All of us, staff, parents and students, sometimes feel like not doing something we should. But, having self-discipline helps us face and meet all different kinds of challenges. Self-discipline helps a person consider the needs of others and the consequences of one's own actions.

Parents, you can foster self-discipline in your students ability to complete lessons and the homework you assign by helping them:

- Find a quiet place to study
- Establish a regular daily time for schoolwork & study
- Maintain a weekly routine
- Help students plan and review homework



Children watch examples better than they listen to preaching!

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Important Dates:

- Feb. 3+4 - CAHSEE Exam
- Feb. 10 - Parent Meet Up
- Feb. 11 - Field Trip to Bennett's Honey Farm
- Feb. 14— Valentine's Day
- Feb. 23 - 27 - Parent Teacher Meeting Week
- Feb. 25 - "The Right Way to Write" Parent Workshop
- March 3 - 4th and 7th Grade State Writing Test
- March 9 - 7th—12th grade field trip to the Museum of Tolerance

Wisekills Theme: Self- Discipline

"Self-discipline is an aspect of individual liberty and the chief factor of success in life" ~Maria Montessori

Check out these books to illustrate the concept of self-discipline with your student:

Chrysanthemum - Kevin Henkes

Flight: The Journey of Charles Lindberg - Bob Burleigh

Tuck Everlasting - Natalie Babbitt

A Gathering of Days: A New England Girl's Journal - Joan W. Blos

Nothing but the Truth - Avi

Little Women - Louisa May Alcott

Abuela's Weave - Omar Castaneda

Visit <http://www.wisekill.com> for free recourses on character education.

Learning Center Highlight: Rancho Vista K - 6

This month's featured highlight is the Rancho Vista site. We have three amazing, dedicated and hard-working instructors providing enrichment to the students in grades kindergarten through sixth.

The K-2 classes are led by Ms. Christina Ogle. Ms. Ogle reports that this month, the K-2 students will be naming coins and knowing how much they are worth. Students will use different coins to make the same value. For example, 25 cents = 1 quarter or 2 dimes and a nickel. Make sure to offer plenty of opportunities at home and out and about for your children to practice this skill using real coins. In science, the students will be learning about the property of water and what matter is. In Language Arts, students will continue to improve their reading comprehension skills and also work on special sounds. In social studies, the students are learning about the flag and about the value of the newspaper. Most local papers offer a kid's section with stories of interest and various activities designed

for kids. Check it out!

The 2-4 classes are led by Ms. Amanda Faucher. In February, her science classes will finish exploring life under the sea and begin learning about different ecosystems and why it is important to preserve them. Her students are also focusing on the fitness and health of their bodies. In math, they will be learning about money and multiplication. They will finish learning the cursive alphabet and will no longer be doing letter drills. Instead, her students will begin using their new cursive knowledge to write sentences all on their own! In social studies, the classes will continue mapping skills and learning the state capitals, but also putting some focus on great American men and women of the past and how they impacted our lives today. It should be a fun and productive month!

Our 4-6 teacher is Ms. Cynthia Rodriguez. This month, Ms. Rodriguez reports her classes will be working on a variety of different art projects for Valentine's Day. The students will be

able to explore their artistic ability as we work on painting and sculpting. They will also be learning about our presidents in honor of their birthdays that are being celebrated this month. In math, the students will continue to explore fractions and will also be working on decimals. Last, but not least, in Language Arts, the students will be working on their oral presentations to be presented to their classmates. The students have a busy month ahead, yet they are ready to get to work!

In addition to these three outstanding instructors, we have two awesome tutors on site every day. Mariana Ruedas and Mikey Ramos provide invaluable assistance to our students in math and reading. A great big thank you goes out to the two of them for their amazing service to our students!

As always, without the upbeat and patient assistance of our fabulous front desk personnel, none of the learning center activities would even be possible! Thanks so much to Kim and Veronica for all their help! Thank you!

Free Field Trip Opportunity! Museum of Tolerance Field Trip

Join us at the Museum of Tolerance on Monday, March 9th at 11:30 for an educational experience your student will never forget! Students will learn about the prejudice that plagues our past and witness some of the abuses that are still occurring today. Due to the sensitive subject matter, this field trip is restricted to 7th-12th grade students. Please contact your supervising teacher TODAY to sign up!



**Sign up today by contacting
your Supervising teacher!**

Congratulations to our Summit View Semester 1 Graduates!

Julia Kuykendall—Future English Teacher

I feel really happy that I was able to reach my goal of graduating from high school early. Although I had to work harder this semester than I would have if I had graduated in June, it wasn't too difficult because I had accumulated some extra credits by attending college classes simultaneously with my high school classes. As a bonus, those credits will be applied toward my degree when I start there as a full-time student this spring. I'm very excited!

Language Arts has always

been my favorite subject; I hope to be an English teacher after college. Math has always been my most difficult subject, but I did manage to get through Algebra 2 successfully, thanks to the help of one of my favorite teachers, Mr. Schell. I also want to thank Karen Walters, the teacher who contributed to my success throughout most of my high school years, and Karen Aguirre for her assistance this last semester. Both of these ladies did so much to help me, along with the excellent staff of

Summit View. Most of all I want to thank my mom. Without her love and encouragement I wouldn't be who I am today. I really feel like I'm on my way and I'm looking forward to the journey.



Alisha Hains—Off to college!



Although I am definitely happy to have graduated, I have also realized how I enjoyed school sometimes. Now that school is over, I seem to miss it. Going to Summit View has allowed me the freedom of working around my schedule. I have been able to work and still focus on my homework.

Summit View has been so wonderful at keeping me on track. My teachers, Mrs. Stewart and Mrs. Hains, have both pushed me to do my best. They both knew that I could do it and never let me slack off.

I want to thank the school and my teachers for helping me accomplish this huge goal! I know they will be there for me as I become an adult and begin college.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR SEMESTER 1 GRADUATES!



Pleased Parents Praise Tremendous Test-Taking Tips

"I liked the break-out sessions." "Very helpful . . ." "The Test Ready booklets." These were some of the comments we received from the parents who attended our Test Taking Workshop on Wednesday, January 21st at the Parent-Teacher Center. Ten parents were in attendance, and received a lot of information for preparing their student(s) for testing from Amanda Guthrie, Linda



Parents listen to the test-taking tips presented at the workshop.

Laubach and Linda Foster.

With all of the information available, there were lots of hand-outs for the attendees. They received test taking tips for their students as well as themselves. One tip that most parents appreciated was the website: www.TestTakingTips.com where parents could access lots of test taking help.

Everyone also received copies of Test Ready practice tests in their student's grade level that they will administer at home to prepare their child for the testing experience.

One of the favorite activities of this workshop was the break-out sessions. Parents met with a teacher/ administrator in grade-level groups to discuss their particular concerns about testing for their student.

Several 'mock testing' days have been scheduled in most areas to help students get used to testing in groups. For more information, call your Supervising Teacher or the Parent-Teacher Center (952-6028).

The next test on the calendar is the CA Exit Exam for high school students on February 3rd & 4th. Your teacher will let you know if your student needs to take that exam. You can go to <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/hs> for CAHSEE test prep materials.

Then, on March 3rd, the 4th & 7th graders will take the STAR Writing Test. Parents can look at sample writing questions and the state grading rubric at:



Linda Laubach gives parents tips on preparing their younger students for the testing experience.

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sr/resources.asp>

Our next Parent Workshop will focus on this test. Titled, "The Write Way to Write", it will be held 9:30 am on Wednesday, February 25th at the Parent-Teacher Center. Our writing specialist, Michelle Berry, will be the presenter - giving you lots of great tips to prepare your child for the test. Even if your child is not slated to take the test, coming to this workshop will help you sharpen your skills as a teacher of writing for your student. Contact the Parent-Teacher Center (952-6028) to reserve a space in this workshop.

Join us for the Next Parent Workshop! "The Write Way to Right"



Please join us on February 25th at the Parent Teacher Center to learn all about the upcoming State Writing Test for 4th and 7th graders. We will be reviewing the proper format for a five-paragraph essay, what the evaluators are looking for, and reviewing released writing prompts from the past. Call the PTC today (661-952-6028) or contact your supervising teacher to sign up today! Spaces are limited!

Who: Focusing on the parents of 4th and 7th graders preparing to take the State Writing Exam but all AVLA and SV parents are invited to attend!

When: Feb. 25th 9:30—11:30

Where: The PTC—1601 E. Palm-dale Blvd. Suite C

Call to sign up today! 661-952-6028

Looking for something FUN and EDUCATIONAL? Check out Legoland Home School Days!

Discounted admission rates for self-guided instructional tours are available for home study families! Home School Days take place every Monday from January 5th—March 30th. A Hopper Ticket allows you to experience Legoland and the Sea Life Aquarium and are available for \$21. You must sign up two weeks in advanced to receive the special rate.

Please visit <http://www.legoland.com/groups/education/homeschool.htm> for more information or to sign up TODAY!



Parent Meet Up Join us for a free starbucks coffee and a steamer for the kids!



Join us!

Date: February 10th

Time: 9:30—11:30

**Location: Starbucks lo-
cated near Ave. P and
10th St. West between
Popeye's and Wendy's
on Lowes Drive**

The Parent Meet Up group is still looking for a few new parents to join our group. Come and join us for a free cup of coffee and a little down time.

This is an excellent opportunity to gather tricks and tips from other home study parents while building friendships and a larger support network!

Your kids are welcome to join you! We will have crayons and coloring pages to help keep them entertained while you mingle.

Famous African American Women

Use the Encyclopedia Britannica's Guide to Black History at <http://www.britannica.com/blackhistory> to help you identify each person located below. Draw a line from the woman's name to her accomplishment.

1. Gwendolyn Brooks	A. First African-American woman to serve in a president's cabinet.
2. Johnnetta Cole	B. Sang "Downhearted Blues"
3. Bessie Coleman	C. First African-American poet to win a Pulitzer Prize
4. Prudence Crandall	D. Known as the "Queen of Gospel," she performed at President Kennedy's inauguration.
5. Lorraine Hansberry	E. First president of the National Association of Colored Women
6. Roberta Harris	f. Famous as the author of <i>The Color Purple</i>
7. Mahalia Jackson	g. Became the first woman president of Spelman College
8. Bessie Smith	h. She opened a school to educate "young ladies of color"
9. Mary Terrell	i. First African American stunt pilot to stage a public flight
10. Alice Walker	J. Her play, <i>Raisin in the Sun</i> , was the first drama by an African American woman to be staged on Broadway.

Black History Month: Why February?

Check out these amazing Black History moments—all which occurred in the month of February!

February 1, 1865 the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, which abolished slavery, was adopted.

February 4, 1913 - Rosa Parks was born.

February 11, 1990 - Nelson Mandela is released from a South African prison after being detained for 27 years as a political prisoner.

February 12, 1909 - NAACP is founded.

February 14, 1817 - Frederick

Douglas was born.

February 18, 1688 - First public protest against slavery. Protest consisted of a group of Germantown Quakers.

February 24, 1864 - Rebecca Lee became the first black woman to earn an M.D. Degree.

February 25, 1970 - First black senator sworn into office.

February 26, 1869 - 15th Amendment guaranteeing the right to vote was sent to the states to be ratified.

