



March 2009

Volume 2, Issue 7

Upcoming Events

- March 3rd : 4th and 7th grade State Writing Test
- March 9th: Field Trip to the Museum of Tolerance
- March 11th: Parent Workshop - "Fun Physical Fitness Ideas"
- March 24th: Field Trip to the Science Center
- March 27th : 5th, 7th, and 9th Physical Fitness Testing

Learning Academies Parent Post

The Antelope Valley Learning Academy and Summit View Administration Office is located at The Parent Teacher Center 1601 E. Palmdale Blvd. Suite C, Palmdale, CA 93550. Please call (661) 952-6028 for more information.

Director's Corner

Valerie J. Chase, Senior Director of Education



tions. Who could forget the famous *Green Eggs and Ham*? This is a favorite in March and perfect for another green holiday, St. Patrick's Day! Or, how about that pesky *Cat in the Hat*? Many of Dr. Seuss's stories were adapted to television specials, feature films and even Broadway plays!

Dr. Seuss was a likeable gentleman who created lasting relationships with his readers. His books were the key to literacy and inspiration for the love of reading for many young children around the world.

Let's strengthen our relationship with reading by committing to reading one hour every day! Our children will become



**March is
Women's History Month!**

better readers by watching and mimicking as we read the newspaper, a novel, a magazine or our own writing!

Learning Academy

Administration:

*Diana Lopez— Interim Principal
Maggie Ramos— Operations Mgr
Nathleen Albright, Erin Wade—
Learning Center Coordinators*

Inside this issue:

Learning Center Highlight - PTC	2
Student Submissions	3
Inside Story	2
Parent Workshops	4
Physical Fitness Testing	5
Women's History Month Activity	6

Monday, March 2nd, is the 105th anniversary of the birth of Theodore Seuss Geisel, better known to the world as Dr. Seuss. He was an American writer and cartoonist, most widely known for his children's books—over 60 in all!

Dr. Seuss filled his children's books with imaginative characters, rhymes and bright illustra-

Wise Skills Theme: Relationships

"Associate yourself with people of good quality; it is better to be alone than with bad company" ~ George Washington

Ideas for exploring this concept:

- Have young students draw a picture of what a good friend is. Discuss with them what makes a good friend and why choosing their friends

wisely is important.

- Present your student with the following prompt for journaling:
 - Why is the quality of the character of your friends important to

you?

- Do you think it is fair for people to judge you based on the types of people you keeps as friends? Why or why not?

*Editor in Chief: Michelle Berry
Mentor and Lead Teacher*



Learning Center Highlight - Parent Teacher Center

Pan, por favor!

Spanish Class
LC Instructor -
Cynthia Rodriguez

In Spanish we will be learning about clothing and accessories as we make our own clothing and label it in Spanish. We will also be learning about the different kinds of food that we eat. The students will be able to explore many famous Mexican dishes and we will even enjoy some Mexican bread after we learn all of the food words!

Then we will continue to learn about the home including the name of the rooms and furniture. The students will be able to make their own house and will label it with all of the new words they have learned!

We will continue to play fun games that help the students review what they have been taught along with new games to help them build their vocabulary in Spanish! Spanish meets on Fridays at the PTC. We have one session at 9:00 and the other at 10:30

Desayuno

Tengo ham-

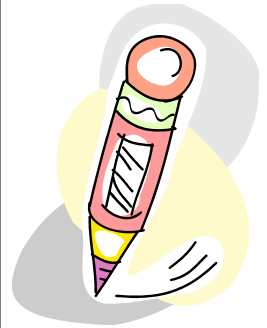
3rd - 6th grade Writing Class-

LC Instructor -
Michelle Berry

Persuasive, literary analysis, personal response, OH MY! In the world of writing, there are so many things you can encounter.

In the 3rd- 6th grade writing class, students are working hard to learn how to tackle each of these writing prompts in order to become a more proficient writer and to prepare for the upcoming state writing test on March 3rd. The class has made the long journey of learning how to generate ideas to write about, to what makes a thoughtful conclusion, to how to infuse their own style and voice into the essay. At the beginning of the class, many students would start their essays with "Today I am going to tell you about the day I had an elephant for a pet." NOT ANY MORE! Now, we see beginnings that POP! A student may use sound to capture the reader's attention by beginning with "Crash! Boom! Bang! I could hear my new pet elephant making his way up to my bedroom on the second floor of the house, knocking down all of my family pictures on his way."

The class meets on Tuesday afternoons from 1:00 – 2:30 at the Parent Teacher Center.



Congratulations to Ezra Schroeder, our Summit View Learning Center Instructor on his amazing finish at the Rock 'n Roll Arizona Marathon in Phoenix. His finishing time of 3 hours and 11 minutes qualified him for the Boston Marathon in April. Way to go!





Student Submissions to The Post

Give me balance so that I seldom stumble and fall
Give me the wisdom to understand that in order to walk you must crawl
Assure me so I don't have to wonder
Give me a sign as loud as thunder
Explain why the Earth so frequently stalks
Please lift me when in my journey I have lost the will to walk
Tell me, or show me why?
Sometimes I wish I could fall to the sky

Written by Samuel Alvergue
Summit View Senior



Hope Laubach
AVLA Kindergartener

Send your student's submission to mberry@avlearning.org

Haikus from Mrs. Howard's LC classes

Her religion is peace
Open arms to the world
Weight on her shoulders

A shining light bulb
Along with many bright ones
Shines like the sun

Burden existence
Aching heart beats with such a
Serene Persistence

Flipping in the air
Going full speed on her snowboard

Likes to relax
Speaks fluently without word
The eyes tell it all

Young seeking guidance
In the world not a piece
I belong to One





Parents Prepare for State Testing with “The Right Way to Write” Workshop

When it comes to the task of teaching writing, many parents can feel overwhelmed. To help parents learn strategies to work with their young writers, AVLA held a Parent Workshop on February 25th to combat these feelings head on.

Six parents of 3rd, 4th, and 7th grade students participated in the workshop lead by Michelle Berry, a supervising teacher with AVLA.

The group reviewed the steps to the writing process and tips and tricks to help students spice up their writing.

The main focus was on what to expect on the upcoming State Writing Test on March 3rd. The parents had the opportunity to review previously tested prompts for both 4th and 7th grade, and developed an “attack plan” to teach their students how to approach the essay.

Our next parent workshop will focus on the upcoming Physical Fitness Test for all 5th, 7th, and 9th grade students. Please join our Learning Center Coordinator, Nathleen Albright and our Testing Coordinator, Linda Foster for a look at what your

For more information on the 4th and 7th grade writing test, please visit the following website:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sr/documents/cst47teacher.pdf>

student can expect on this test. They will also be sharing some creative and exciting easy to meet the required weekly P.E. minutes. Call the Parent Teacher Center (661-952-6028) or contact your supervising teacher to sign up today!

Join us for the Next Parent Workshop! “Fun Physical Fitness Ideas”



Please join us on March 11th at the Parent Teacher Center to learn all about the upcoming Physical Fitness Test for 5th, 7th and 9th graders. Attending parents will be able to watch a video that shows the exercises the students will be asked to perform the day of the test and receive handouts on the test requirements. Parents will also receive helpful list of activities they can do with their student to fulfill the required P.E. minutes.

Call the PTC (661-952-6028) or contact your supervising teacher to sign up today! Spaces are limited!

Who: Focusing on the parents of 5th, 7th, and 9th graders preparing to take the Physical Fitness Exam but all AVLA and SV parents are invited to attend!

When: March 11th 9:30—11:30

Where: The PTC—1601 E. Palmdale Blvd. Suite C

Call to sign up today!

661-952-6028



Attention 5th, 7th and 9th Grade Parents! Mark Your Calendars for the Upcoming Physical Fitness Test

The Physical Fitness Test will be on March 27th and April 3rd for ALL 5th, 7th and 9th grade students. Any 10th grade students who did not tested at their previous school or who did not pass in 9th grade must also attend. Students will have 2 chances to pass the test. If you pass at the testing workshop on March 27th, you will not need to return on April 3rd. We will be testing at Forrest E. Hull, MD Park on 30th Street West, located on the east side of the street between Ave. M and L-8, from 10 a.m. to Noon. The school will also be hosting school wide park days for ALL AVLA and Summit View families, so bring a blanket and picnic lunch!



Please note: Parents/guardians **MUST** attend this event with their student since it is a public location. Students may **NOT** be dropped off at the park without parental supervision.

Parent Meet Up!



On Tuesday, February 10th parents and students gathered at Starbucks to enjoy a cup of coffee and the company of fellow AVLA and SV homeschooling families. What a great turn out we had! About 30 families attended this event; our largest turn out yet! Connections were made between families to set up play dates, study sessions, and activities. The children enjoyed the company of their peers while coloring and sipping on steamers. All spent the time relaxing from the bustle of their busy schedules and enjoying the company of others. What a great opportunity for families to build friendships and a larger support network! A big thank you goes out to all who attended!!

Watch for information on the next Parent Meet Up!

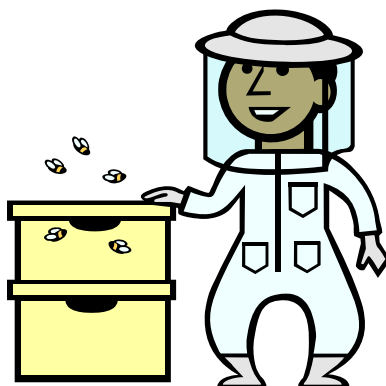


Honey Farm Field Trip in February

On February 11th, AVLA was able to go on a field trip to Bennett's Honey Farm in Fillmore. We were given two tours, the first for the older students and the second for the younger students. I was in the first tour and was amazed how much work goes into having one sweet taste of honey. Our guide, Susie, talked to the kids about the life of a bee, the difference between a drone (worker) bee and the queen bee, what a beekeeper's job is, and how honey tastes different depending on where the bees are pollinating. Tasting those different types of honey was my favorite part! Yumm! We then were able to take a walk into the back to see how the honey is extracted from the hive and observe the packaging process. We all had a great time!

Just a little trivia: Did you know that honey never goes bad? It will crystallize, but all you need to do is heat it up and it will turn back into its liquid consistency in which we all enjoy!

Submitted by: Rachelle Morlan



March is Women's History Month

History Making Coin

Susan B. Anthony worked hard to gain the right to vote for women in this country. She was honored for this by being the first woman to appear on a coin, the Susan B. Anthony Dollar. Look at the front and back of this coin shown below. Research and discuss things Susan B. Anthony has in common with other Americans whose faces appear on money with your family.



Design your own coin!

Now do some research of your own. What famous woman from history do you think deserves her own coin? Write a paragraph explaining your choice and design the front and back of the new coin. Submit the project to your supervising teacher. Selected coins will be showcased in the April Parent Post.

