

Learning Academies Parent Post

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Welcome to the 2008-09 School Year!

We have so much to offer all our students and parents this new school year! From our staff, to our learning centers, to our instructional delivery procedures, the Antelope Valley Learning Academy and Summit View Learning Academy are growing big and strong!

We have added exceptional staff in all departments. Amanda Guthrie, original AVLA teacher, is on assignment as Acting Director for AVLA and adds valued experience to the leadership team. You will see new faces on both our supervising and learning center teaching staff. This year, supervising teachers are organized in to Area Teams based on geographic regions. All teams are led by a Mentor Teacher who encourages professional collaboration and community building with you! The mentor teachers reach out to our three Lead Teachers: Kim Fielding- Parent Support and Events, Linda Laubach-Teacher Training and Support and Linda Foster-Testing. Our Leadership Team meets regularly to plan and prepare for school programs and events to support you and your students!

The number of learning center class offerings has expanded to include K-12 sessions at our new sites in both Santa Clarita and Hesperia. We continue to offer art and music /guitar enrichment classes and will provide an opportunity for our high school students to sign up for CAHSEE test preparation classes again this year.

You may have noticed a new form in the tub when you picked up your student's textbooks! The Curriculum Request Form (CRF) represents an investment in a new online inventory system and a commitment to improved services. All administrative teams have worked diligently to help integrate systems for more efficient delivery of textbooks and curriculum.

Signs of our strengthening community are everywhere and we are honored that you have chosen to join our schools! We look forward every day to partnering with you for the success of all students!

Valerie J. Chase, Senior Director of Education

Upcoming September Events

- ◆ Sept. 2 First Day of Learning Center Class
- ◆ Sept. 10 Parent Workshop "I'm the teacher! Now what do I do?" held at Parent Teacher Center
- ◆ Sept. 10-11 Aquarium of the Pacific Home school Days
- ◆ Sept. 16 AV Learning Academy Back to School Night at Rancho Vista Learning Center
- ◆ Sept. 17 Summit View Back to School Night at Summit View
- ◆ Sept. 12, 19, 26, and Oct. 3 CAHSEE Workshops at Summit View
- ◆ Sept. 22-26 Parent Teacher Meeting Week

Coming in October...

CAHSEE testing
Field Trip to Lombardi Ranch

NOTABLE HOMESCHOOLER



Rosa Parks
United States civil
rights activist,
homeschooled until
age 11.

Information found on:
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homeschooling>

Image Courtesy of
www.digitaldivide.net/blog/mkeany



Parent Workshop - "I'm the Teacher! Now What Do I Do?"

Join us at the Parent Teacher Center in Palmdale for our first Parent Workshop entitled "I'm the teacher! Now what do I do?" If you are a first time or veteran home schooling parent, this will be a great opportunity to network with other parents and discover new ideas for getting/staying organized, overcoming roadblocks, and tips and

tricks for delivering instruction as you begin a new school year.

The Parent teacher Center is located at 1601 East Palmdale Blvd., Ste C, in the Woodland Business Park, (661) 952-6028.

For further information contact Nathleen Albright at nalbright@avlearning.org.

Field Trips

Aquarium of the Pacific

Long Beach's, Aquarium of the Pacific is holding its annual home school days, Sept. 10th -11th. These days are designed to accommodate the needs and budgets of home schoolers. Between 9 am and 12 noon, Aquarium staff will be on hand at learning stations to answer questions and guide students in ocean related activities. The cost is \$6 per person, if you arrive between 9 am and 12 noon. Reservations are required. To reserve tickets, call the Aquarium at (562)951-1630. For more information visit the Aquarium's website:

www.aquariumofpacific.org

Lombardi Ranch

We will be taking a field trip to Lombardi Ranch in October. Look for more details at the Learning Centers and in the October edition of the Parent Post.



Back to School Night

Mark your calendars and join us at Back to School Night. Take this opportunity to tour the Learning Center facilities, find out what your children will be learning this year, and become acquainted with our new learning center teachers.

- AVLA's Rancho Vista Back to School Night will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 16 between 6 and 8 PM.

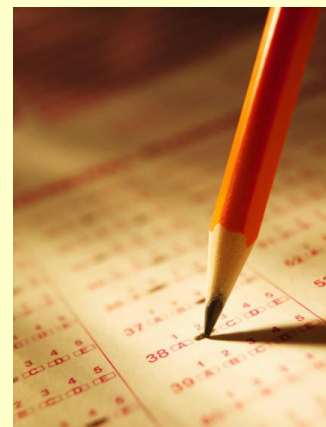
- Summit View High School will host its Back to School night on Wednesday, Sept. 17 between 6-8 PM.

We hope to see you there!

TESTING DATES

As you plan your school year, remember these State testing dates. Be to save these dates and write them on your calendars!

- CAHSEE (California High School Exit Exam) is coming up on October 7th and 8th for our 11th and 12th grade students. Signups have already begun and your Supervising Teacher will be sending you more information on location and time soon.
 - **We have workshops on September 12th, 19th, 26th and October 3rd at Summit View to help you prepare for the CAHSEE. Call Trudy to sign up for CAHSEE workshops at (661) 952-5521 or the Summit
- View Office at (661) 952-5520.
 - STAR Writing Test for 4th and 7th grade students on March 3, 2009.
 - STAR Testing for 2nd - 11th grade students the week of May 4-8, 2009.
 - Physical Fitness workshops for 5th, 7th, 9th and 10th grade students will be held on March 27 and April 3 to help you pass the mile run and train for the other tests in abdominal crunches and pushups. So start working on those exercises now to get in shape for the Physical Fitness Testing to come in April.



LEARNING CENTER CLASSES

Learning Center classes are scheduled to begin on Tuesday, September 2nd at four different locations: Rancho Vista, Suites A and C, the Parent-Teacher Center, Summit View, and the Boys and Girls Club in Santa Clarita.

We have a record number of enrollments in our schools this year and the learning centers are a big reason why. We offer many opportunities for your children to take a variety of enrichment classes and we have an excellent staff of learning center teachers ready, willing and able to provide that

enrichment to your children. Our teachers are rarin' to go and we are looking forward to an exciting year of learning with your children! Nathleen Albright and Erin Wade are the Learning Center Coordinators, and together, with our Senior Director of Education, Valerie Chase, and Acting Director, Amanda Guthrie, have worked hard to get schedules and staff in place so we can be ready to go on September 2nd. Your patience in this process has been most appreciated and we thank you.

We are off to great start!

STUDENT POEM

The Hummingbird
By Leanne Chavis, 10th grader

*Out in the garden,
The hummingbird flits,
Getting his morning snack.*

*Iridescent in shade,
Wings moving so fast,
Until on the window he smacks.*





Author Profile: Lois Lowry

Lois Lowry has been writing children's books for over 20 years. She is well known and well loved for her Anastasia series and the Willoughby's. She has also been honored as a two-time Newberry Medal winner for her symbolic novel, *The Giver*, and her story of the Holocaust based on true events, *Number the Stars*.

Ms. Lowry spent much of her early life moving in consequence of her father's military career. The family lived in New York, Pennsylvania, Oahu during the attack on Pearl Harbor and in Japan after WW II

ended. The stories in many of Ms. Lowry's books are inspired by events that occurred in her own life and in the lives of those close to her. A theme that runs throughout her books is the importance of being connected to the community and caring for each other. You can find Ms. Lowry's books at any library or bookstore and more information about her at her website www.loislowry.com.



Funny Story...Have you had a day like this?

Submitted by Supervising Teacher Linda Laubach

I REALLY WAS IN A HORRIBLE MOOD TUESDAY. YOU KNOW HOW YOU WAKE UP AND YOU JUST FEEL...BLAH! WELL, THAT WAS ME.

MY COFFEE MACHINE BROKE!!! DAUGHTER #1(9) DECIDED TO POST A SIGN ON HER DOOR SAYING "NO BROTHERS OR SISTERS ALLOWED!" SON #2(7) TOOK THIS AS A PERSONAL ATTACK, AND REFUSED TO TAKE OFF HIS DRESS-UP ARMOR AND WEAPONRY WHILE HE DID SCHOOL WORK! HE SAID HE NEEDED TO DEFEND HIMSELF... MEANWHILE, DAUGHTER #2(5) HID BEHIND OUR COUCH AND CUT OFF A HUGE CHUNK OF HER HAIR FROM THE BACK OF HER HEAD, CLAIMING SHE "WAS FED UP WITH EVERYONE!" PLUS I HAD 3 MEETINGS...TODAY...WHILE THIS WAS ALL GOING ON...

ANYWAY, MY LAST MEETING WAS AT 3PM, AND IT WAS WITH A NEW STUDENT. HE IS GOING INTO 2ND GRADE AND HE IS ADORABLE. I ASKED IF HE PREFERS TO BE CALLED BY HIS FULL NAME OR THE SHORTENED VERSION. HE RESPONDED AND THEN ASKED "WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO BE CALLED BY?"

I WAS SURPRISED, BUT I SAID, "OH' YOU CAN CALL ME MRS. LAUBACH OR MRS. L OR MISS LINDA, YOU CAN CALL ME WHATEVER YOU WANT."

HE SMILED AND SAID, "I'M GOING TO CALL YOU "BEAUTIFUL!"

I WAS SO SHOCKED! HIS MOM WAS EMBARRASSED A LITTLE AND LAUGHINGLY SAID "HE'S NEVER DONE THAT BEFORE." I WAS THINKING HE WAS THE SMARTEST, MOST GIFTED, MOST INGENIOUS CHILD I'D EVER MET!!!

NO, JUST KIDDING...I WASN'T THINKING THAT, BUT I SURE DID FEEL 100% BETTER ABOUT MYSELF AND MY DAY.

WHEN MY HUSBAND GOT HOME, I TOLD HIM WHAT HAPPENED...AND INFORMED HIM THAT I WILL BE GOING BY THE NAME "BEAUTIFUL" FROM NOW ON!!

LOOKING FOR A NEW HAIR STYLE FOR MY DAUGHTER,

LINDA LAUBACH