



A Little HOOT

Parents Club Newsletter
Austin Creek Elementary School

April 2010

www.austincreek.org

President's Corner

Hello Austin Creek Families:

It's hard to believe that the end of the school year is almost upon us. We've had a very challenging year, and I am happy to say that you have all stepped up to the plate to support your children. Thank you!

Looking forward to the new academic year, it's time to fill our committee, board, and executive board positions. Is there a position that interests you? Do you have some great new ideas? Come and join us! It's a great and rewarding experience.

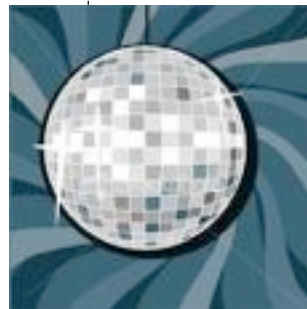
When my first child started kindergarten, I had a hard time meeting the other parents. I worked during the day, and my husband performed "drop-off/pick-up" duties. I knew the names of the parents, but I didn't know the faces. As a result of my involvement in the parents club, I'm able to match the names to faces and have fostered many new friendships. I also feel connected to my children's education, even though I am unable to participate in most daily school activities.

If you would like to join the board or nominate someone for an executive board position, please contact me at lynne@austincreek.org. If you would like to chair a committee, please contact Yvonne Stillman at Yvonne@austincreek.org.

We all hope to see you at the May meeting. We'll be wrapping up the current year and discussing the budget and goals for the next year.

Best Regards,

Lynne Trainor
ACPC President



RVEF Gala & Auction

April 24th, 6-11 pm at the Flamingo Hotel

Join the fun at the Rincon Valley Education Foundation's annual gala and auction ~ RVEF's biggest fundraiser of the year. This popular event raises funds to ensure that our children get the best possible education.

Tickets are \$45 for an individual, \$80 for a couple, \$150 for a party of four, and \$350 for a VIP table for 10. Enjoy hearty appetizers, wine, cocktails, games, live and silent auctions and much more.

Ready to start bidding? Go to rvef.org today and bid for your favorite items online.

- Megan Sherman



The Sock Hop is Back...

Disco Style

Friday, April 30, 6:30-8:00

Break out your tie-die shirts and bell-bottoms...

We need some volunteers to help with chaperones and refreshments. Contact Shelby Moeller at shelby_moeller@yahoo.com

Student Empowerment

It is time to take a stand. As many of you may have seen, another tragic loss of a teenage girl over Spring break. The root of the problem.....she couldn't endure the constant bullying she faced every day. It breaks my heart to know a child would take such drastic measures to escape the way kids treat others. NOW is the time we need to instill positive and empowering messages to our children at home and school.

I would first like to make sure you are all aware of the steps Austin Creek took (at a district level) to ensure our children are feeling support.



The results of the school wide survey showed comments regarding anti-bully programs, more supervision during recess, and needing to be stricter with children continually causing problems. The steps the school noted implementing is:

- Increased yard duty supervisor/student ratio at lunch recess 3 times/week. Field is open when dry.
- Increased counseling time by 2 days/week to focus on kindness & caring (no name calling or bullying) through classroom discussions, and to provide resistance skills to students with parents' requests/permission.
- Conducted staff discussions reiterating "zero tolerance" for student disruptions.

Now at the Austin Creek Parents Club level, in reviewing the ACPC survey, we had a lot of the same concerns come up. With this in mind, I wanted to reiterate what I put in the first newsletter this year. As parents we need to be their advocates. Any bully incidents should be reported to the teacher AND Dr. Leaf immediately. It is vital to help our children with these essential life tools to be strong, feel supported/support others, and build their confidence. Be sure to ask your child(ren) if they remember the N.E.D. assembly (Never give up/Encourage others/Do your best.) Ask them if they notice any unwanted behaviors occurring.

If you are interested in being a part of the Student Empowerment committee next school year, please contact Raylene Leavitt, ACPC Vice President, at Raylene@sonic.net OR attend our meeting April 26, 7pm in the home of Raylene Leavitt.

Let's get a committee started so we are ready for the next school year.

We are all in this together.

Sonoma County Robotics Challenge 2010

On May 1, at Elsie Allen High School, Austin Creek will participate in the Sonoma County Robotics Challenge (SCRC). We have 6 teams registered (5th and 6th graders). Everybody is welcome to attend this free robotics competition. It runs from 8:00am - 2:00pm. Please visit www.scoe.org/robotics for more information. Events include: Drag Racing, Free Form, Kick the Can, Sumo, and Woots and Snarks. It will be fun to watch!



Upcoming Events

April 13&16: Science Days for 5th grade
April 19-22: STAR Testing
April 24: RVEF Gala
April 26: Student Empowerment Meeting
April 30: Disco Sock Hop
May 3: Spring Concert at Santa Rosa Bible Church
May 6: Colonial Day for 5th grade
May 7: ACPC Meeting
Teacher Appreciation
May 13: Open House
May 17&18: Talent Show Try-Outs
May 19: Talent Show Rehearsal
May 21: Talent Show Performance
May 24: Field Day
May 28: 6th grade promotion
Last Day of School

Teacher Appreciation

Please volunteer to help us show our appreciation to our wonderful staff and teachers. Teacher Appreciation Day is May 7th. Contact Leticia Sotelo at lsotelo1@sbcglobal.net to help.

Kindergartener this Fall?

Contact Samantha Donohue at donohue@sbcglobal.net. She will put you on our list for playdates this summer!

We Need Your Help!

Mark your calendars. We need volunteers for field day! Field day is Monday, May 24 from 9:00-11:30. We need volunteers for the following:

- Set-Up: 8 volunteers
- Lower Grades: 16 volunteers
- Upper Grades: 16 volunteers
- Runners: 4 volunteers
- Watermelon Crew: 8 volunteers
- Clean-Up: As many as possible!

This is a really fun event; the students have a great time! Please contact Shannon Baker at 303-5902 or bakertsc@pacbell.net

ACPC Executive Committee, Board of Directors and Members

The Austin Creek Parents Club is comprised of the Executive Committee, Board of Directors and Members.

Executive Committee

President, Lynne Trainor | 1st Vice President, Raylene Leavitt | 2nd Vice President, Yvonne Stillman | Treasurer, Larry Kidneigh | Secretary, Anita Markoff

Board of Directors

Liz Araujo | Ann Hudson | Megan Sherman | Nika Bowen | Cathy Jorin | Helena Shin | Cathy deRecat | Nicole Lentz | Leticia Sotelo | Rhonda Glenn | Shelby Moeller | Stephanie Thibault | Karen Grotte | Shawna Nielsen | Josh Weil | Kim Herculson | Ann Pride | Jennifer Wong | Leigh Hoyt | Stephanie Shelton

Members

You! Come to our next ACPC meeting on May 7. We've got delicious treats and Starbucks coffee. Join us!