

ALA Parent Council

Legacy- November 2006



• Vickie Peterson-President • MaryAnne Davis-President Elect
• Michelle Reinhold-Secretary • April Sherrod-Treasurer Board of Trustee Liaison

Parent Council President's Message:

Dear Parents,

November has arrived rather quickly. This is a month set aside for all to remember the great abundance we have here in this country. It is almost as though we need a month set aside to ponder gratitude and one has been granted. We remember neighbors with our harvest, bringing vegetables and fruit we have picked from our gardens, or maybe we have canned jellies and jams to take over to a neighbor we have not seen for a while. When we feel gratitude for our blessings of abundance we have a tendency to want to share with many around us. Gratitude is defined as an emotion of the heart, excited by a favor or benefit received. According to Webster 1828 dictionary, gratitude is a virtue of the highest excellence, as it implies a feeling and generous heart, and a proper sense of duty. If we could just instill this virtue upon our children, what great blessings would flow to future generations. I would like to encourage each of us this month to think of ways we may teach this virtue to not only our children but to ourselves.

With gratitude in mind I would like to thank each and every parent for striving to have really good children and families. I would also like to thank you for all the service you give in their behalf. The parent council has been blessed by your service to ALA.

We have many fundraisers going on at this time, mainly to give parents a choice of an item that they may want to purchase to support the school. All of the money coming in will help the school in some way. With parent council fundraisers, we have a system of accountability. In the month of April, at our General Parent meeting we have a proposed budget presented to the parents for a vote. We have the coordinators of each of the schools, the PC Executive Board and parents suggest what we would like to see happen at the school. We open the meeting for discussion and opinions. Then all parents at the meeting vote for or against the proposals. The PC Executive Board keeps meticulous records of these meetings. With the PC fundraisers all money goes into one account, the proposals that parents voted on in April are supported first. If there is money left over after expenses, we take it back to the parents for more proposals. This way we may track donation and for what purpose they were use for. The tile project, raised funds for the library. We will label the books purchased from this project with parent council labels, so that you may see where your donations went. Accountability is so very important to the Parent Council. Hope this helps with understanding the Parent Council Fundraisers and the importance of parental input.

Sincerely,

Vickie Peterson
American Leadership Academy Parent Council President

Important Dates:

- Nov 2 General Parent Council Meeting
6:00 pm
- Nov 2 ALA Board of Trustee Public Meeting; 7:30 pm (this meeting may change due to the Choir Concert please check the website)
- Nov 2 Choir Concert; 7:00 pm
- Nov 21 Thanksgiving Play
- Nov 22 No School – Comp Day
- Nov 23- Thanksgiving Break
Nov 24

A complete list of school events and sporting events can be found on the school's website at:

www.americanleadership.net

Board of Trustees:

In the October meeting, the Cell Phone Policy was voted in favor of by unanimous vote. We hope to have this policy and others posted soon to the Board of Trustees section of the ALA Website.

Parent Council Positions:

Would you like to become more involved in the Parent Council? We are in need of a Secretary and Treasurer who will begin to train now to take over the duties of Secretary and Treasurer for the next school year.

We also need parents who are willing to serve as Parent Council Board Members and chair the Fundraising Committee and Work Projects Committees.

If you are interested, or have questions please email or call MaryAnne Davis at mdavis@americanleadership.net or 423-2575.

PARENT COUNCIL FUNDRAISER

*Strawberry and Raspberry
Syrup*

\$7.00 a bottle or a case of twelve for \$84.00.

This would make great neighbor gifts for Christmas!!

The November General Parent Council Meeting will be Thursday, November, 2006 at 6:00 pm in the High School.

All parents are encouraged to attend these meetings. Parents will have the opportunity to voice their comments, questions, and concerns.

NOVEMBER VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH: Robin Escotto

We appreciate all who nominated volunteer of the month candidates. We are happy to be honoring Robin Escotto this month. Robin is married to Billy Escotto and they have five children, three of which attend ALA. Kristina is 21 years old, Anthony is in fourth grade, Avery is in third grade, Aiden is in kindergarten, and Andrew will be four next month. Robin grew up in southern California and met her husband at church. He was her first boyfriend.

Last year Robin was extremely involved in the parent council. She was a member of the Parent Council Board and the Communication Committee Chair. She helped write and compile the ALA newsletter and calendar for the school. She also volunteered as Mrs. Clark's second grade head room parent.

This year she is putting together Mrs. West's weekly newsletter, is Mrs. Smith's head room parent for her son's kindergarten class, and has been key in helping set up the school uniform store. Robin has been great to help out everywhere and anywhere she is needed.

Scrap booking, painting, and keeping up with her children are her hobbies.

Thank you Robin.

**Volunteer of the Month:**

The Parent Council would like to announce the creation of a "Volunteer of the Month" and a "Volunteer of the Year" program. Each month a parent volunteer will be announced and spotlighted in the PC Newsletter, on the website, and at the General Parent Council Meeting.

Any parent, teacher, staff member, director, or committee chair may nominate a parent volunteer. Please e-mail a candidate name to Maryanne Davis, the PC President Elect, at mdavis@americanleadership.net

ALA Family Volunteer Hours

During the October General PC Meeting, the new Family Volunteer Hour Logs Were discussed. Please send your August, September, and October Family Volunteer Logs to Michelle Reinhold, PC Secretary, at mreinhold@americanleadership.net. Family Volunteer Hour Logs can also be return to the front desk of the schools, can be given to a member of the PC Board, or can be turned in the evening of the General Parent Council Meeting.

Family Volunteer Hour Logs can be found under the Parent Council tab of the school's website, then click Volunteering. The form can be download and saved in your personal word-processing program.

Michelle Reinhold
ALA PC Secretary

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS:

We here at ALA Elementary are very busy with many activities. On Monday, October 23, we had the Bernstein Bears come to our school and they helped us kick off our Book Fair that runs from October 23-26. A good time was had by all.

On November 2 is our Thanksgiving Concert please come and join us in the Middle School Auditorium at 7:00 pm. It is sure to be a great evening.

The 4th Grade Medieval Feast is almost upon us. The Castle cooks are busy preparing the victuals for the feede and invitations were made today and given to parents. The parents and Fourth Grade Students of the Shire of ALA are invited. Please only parents and Fourth Graders. There will be jousting events, chivalry shows, authentic foods and merriment on November 8, from 6 to 7:30 in the ALA Court, Elementary Castle. Any parent who would like to help with the activities or the clean-up or with food is urged to contact Serena Benish at 794-2968. A Queen's acknowledgement would be granted for the volunteering!

To honor of our Veterans, we are having a special assembly for them on November 10 from 1:30 pm to 1:50 pm (K-5) in the Middle School Auditorium.

There will be a slide show. Come and show your support for these wonderful veterans. They have done so much to protect our freedoms that we enjoy.

We are going to take you back to the First Thanksgiving. Please come and enjoy experiences that the Pilgrims had on this special day from the their journals at our Thanksgiving Play on November 21. It promises to be a very enjoyable time. More information to come.

Thanks to all of the parents who have volunteered with the past and upcoming events and committees especially those who are willing to chair these committees!!! We cannot function without you. At the Elementary, we are in need of one creative individual who is willing to chair our Publicity Committee. This person will have a great committee to work with and can do most of the work from home making posters and flyers for upcoming events. It will be a great way to get your 40 volunteer hours and tons of fun!! If you are willing to chair please contact me at jpowell@americanleadership.net. Thanks again.

JoEll Powell
Elementary Coordinator

Junior High/ High School

Dear Parents,

I would like to address two items that have come to my attention in the last month. I hope that by doing this it will inform you as parents so that you can make good decisions that are in your family's best interest.

First, we as a Parents Council are working on expanding our database in order to keep you as parents informed about what is happening at the school and the needs we have for volunteering. We are not able to use the info that you provided the school when you registered your children. The school needs to keep that info private in order to keep the children safe. Because we want to keep the children safe, we need to ask you to provide us with that info. You can fill in the info just below Vicki Peterson's opening letter on the Parent Council page. This would help us send you blitzes of upcoming events.

Second, I would like to address school dances. In our family our rule has been no school date dances until 16. When I heard that Homecoming dance tickets were couples and stag I needed more information. This is what I found out. The ticket sales cover the cost of the DJ, decorations and food. The decision was made to include all of the high school students 9-12. If the dance is for couples only then there is not enough money to cover the costs. One of the reasons our family chose to come to ALA is the size. The dances will reflect that as well. I am going to give you the following info not to persuade you to change your family's rules but to inform you of the quality and difference of the dances here at ALA. With date dances the "date" happens before the couples get to the dance. The atmosphere at the dance is a wholesome one: lights, music, dancing and small numbers. Our goal is to have plenty of chaperones, mainly parents, to keep a good check on the dance. The dances at ALA remind me of the church dances I attended when I was a teen. I hope this will help you in the discussions you have with your teens about the dances and will cut down on the contention that has been arising. Note: Prom will be a date only dance.

I enjoy each little fire that comes out that I need to put out, because I am able to call on you to help with the activities and in doing so I get to know the parents of these great students here at ALA. Thank you for all that you do to make this school great.

Debbie Crockett
Jr. High/Sr. High School Coordinator