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The mission of Alanton Elementary School, in cooperation with family and community, is to provide a safe, clean, nurturing, and positive learning environment with high academic expectations to help prepare all children to be responsible citizens.

Alanton Astro Newsletter

Volume 7, Issue 2

October 2009

Dear Alanton Families,

It seems as if we have been in school for months instead of days. The children have adjusted quickly to teachers, schedules, routines, and classmates. Seeing their smiles and listening to their stories make being the principal a joy. How can I call it work??

Changes are continuing, especially with technology. We are grateful for the PTA's financial support in our efforts to equip every classroom with a document camera. Overhead projectors will soon be passé, and the document cameras extend learning opportunities with colorful, brighter, and larger images. Thank you for helping!

Because we are making every effort to reduce our "carbon footprint", this will be the last paper copy of our parent newsletter. I will send them by AlertNow and MySchoolMail, so please make sure your e-mail address is updated on the form going home today. If you have not registered for MySchoolMail, the registration link is on the left side of our Alanton website immediately under *Library*. (Since AlertNow e-mail will be an experiment, MySchoolMail is a great back-up.) In addition, the newsletter will continue to be posted on our website. Finally, if you do not have an e-mail address or computer access, please contact me at 648-2000 so we can still give your child a paper copy of the newsletter.

The parent homework survey will be posted on our school website until Wednesday, October 7. So far we have 123 responses. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey if you haven't already done so. I'll post the results in the next newsletter. Teachers will use your input as they examine homework practices.

This is just a gentle reminder that parents must sign in students who arrive after 8:30 a.m.; students cannot be dropped off at the curb if Mrs. Resinger is not there. In addition, all changes in transportation must be in writing. Our primary responsibility is keeping students safe, and these two standard procedures help us do that. Thanks so much for your cooperation!

Parents and teachers working together can accomplish miracles. I have seen that already this year. Thank you for trusting us and for communicating both the accolades and the opportunities to improve what we do.

Have an outstanding October!
Jeanne Crocker

~MRS. PHILLIPS, LIBRARY~

TUMBLE BOOK LIBRARY

Would you like to have access from home to a readalong collection of books? You do--- just by clicking on the TumbleBooks link on the school webpage. This link takes you directly to a collection of thousands of animated talking books which teach students the joy of reading. The books can be used for enrichment for independent readers or for support for students requiring skill building. Included on the website are the readalongs (arranged by grade level), games, comprehension quizzes and an easy to use book report format. SO, start tumbling today!

AR --- SADDLE UP AND READ



We are starting our 9th year of the Accelerated Reader program here at Alanton. AR is a computerized reading incentive program for students at all levels. The program increases reading achievement, improves vocabulary and comprehension skills, improves standardized test taking skills and helps instill a lifelong love of reading. Students choose from a collection of more than 3000 test titles. After reading the book, the student takes a short multiple choice quiz on the computer to test comprehension. Points are awarded for passing test scores. This year students are working toward a goal of becoming a Buckaroo Reader. Books can be found in the school library and also at the public library, bookstores and even in your home. A list of the book titles can be accessed through a link from the library page on the school website.

~MARTHA CHRISTENSEN, GIFTED RESOURCE~

Parents who would like to refer their students for gifted testing may do so between now and November. **Our second testing date of this school year will be Tuesday, November 17.** To receive a Parent Information Form, you may call me at 648-2000, ext. 52242 or you may send a note to your child's teacher. This form contains a checklist of indicators as well as space to write anecdotal information about your child. The Identification and Placement Committee would like as much information as you are willing to provide, in order to help them make the best possible decision regarding the need for gifted services. You are welcome to type your comments and attach them to the form if that makes it easier for you to communicate the great things you know about your child!

After introductory lessons in all of the cluster classrooms, I can say without reservation that this will be a very good year, as long as the cluster teachers and I stay on our toes ☺! Our students are knowledgeable, inquisitive, and full of personality. We'll ALL be working hard to challenge each other. I will send home periodically letters and reminders that will let you know what is going on in Alanton's Resource-Cluster Program, but if you have questions or concerns, please feel free to call me at the number and extension listed above. Don't forget that my room, #29, houses a small gifted parent resource library and you are welcome to check out books in a particular area of interest.

~ Mrs. Martha Christensen, Gifted Resource Teacher~

2009-2010 Dates to Remember for Parents

GIFTED TESTING

First Quarter – October 13, 2009

Second Quarter – November 17, 2009

First Grade SCREENING – January 12, 2010

Applicants to ODC/KLMS – February 16, 2010

First Grade TESTING – April 15, 2010

Second Grade HOLDS – May 18, 2010

Fourth Quarter Testing (specified students only) – May 18, 2010

(Completed referrals for each of these dates will be due to Mrs. Christensen at least ten days prior to testing date)

WORKSHOPS

(for parents of identified gifted students)

November 25, 2009 ~ Worthy Horizons: Planning for Gifted Learner Growth

8:30 a.m. ~ 9:30 a.m.

April 21, 2010 ~ Building Social Competencies for Achievement

8:30 a.m. ~ 9:30 a.m.

FIRST GRADE PARENT MEETING

January 5, 2010 ~ Gifted Referral and Identification Process

8:15 a.m. ~ 9:00 a.m.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

Visual Arts Program – February 1, 2010

Dance Program – February 1, 2010

ODC & KLMS (Grades 2-7) – February 1, 2010

Middle Years Program @ Plaza MS – February 1, 2010

ALL First Grade referrals (cluster & ODC) – March 1, 2010

~MARCIA PUCKETT, MUSIC SPECIALIST~

Attention fourth grade parents: Please make sure that your child has a plastic soprano recorder to practice at home. Recorders are a kind of flute that will help your child learn how to read music. They can be found at most music stores as well as Walmart, K-mart, Target, Borders and sometimes the Dollar Tree. I will be sending music home for them to play shortly. Thank you!

National School Lunch Week

October 12 - 16, 2009



National School Lunch Facts

The National School Lunch Program is a federally assisted meal program operating in over 101,000 public and non-profit private schools and residential child care institutions. It provides nutritionally balanced, low-cost or free lunches to more than 30.5 million children each school day in 2007.

The National School Lunch Act in 1946 created the modern school lunch program. By 1970, 22 million children were participating, and by 1980 the figure was nearly 27 million. In 1990, over 24 million children ate school lunch every day. In Fiscal Year 2007, more than 30.5 million children each day got their lunch through the National School Lunch Program. Since the modern program began, more than 214 billion lunches have been served.

National School Lunch Week was started in 1962 by President John F. Kennedy—16 years after President Harry Truman signed the National School Lunch Act into law. “The well nourished school child is a better student.” Truman said. “He is healthier and more alert. He is developing good food habits that will benefit him for the rest of his life. In short, he is a better asset for his country in every way.”

This year our schools will be celebrating student’s love of sports not only as participants but also as observers during National School Lunch Week (NSLW). The Milk Processor Education Program is a proud supporter of NSLW 2009. The event this year is partnering with the National Basketball Association and features Cater, Howard, Nash, Paul, and Taurasi as honorary “Head Coaches”. The goal of this week is to promote the link between nutrition and achievement in sports. Nutrients are important in helping the athlete to achieve a high-level of performance. Students will be taught how eating



healthy meals instead of “empty” calories will help them accomplish their goals in sports and in school.



Virginia Beach City Public Schools
Food Services served **6,430,559** school lunches to students last school year.

Food Service Mission
To provide students quality, nutritious meals at affordable prices