



The Lion's Roar



Volume 20 Issue 3

Published Quarterly by Advantage Preparatory Schools, Inc. \$2.00

September 2011

Mandatory Workshop

ORIENTATION WORKSHOP SATURDAY 9/10

Tuesday, Sept. 6, begins the first week of school this year. Having completed this first week of school, APS families will be ready for our

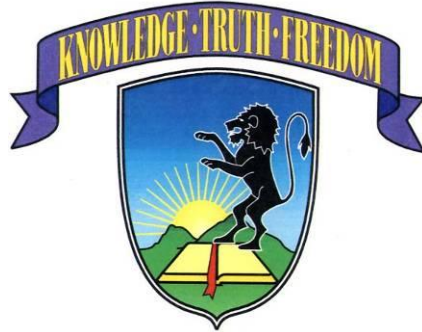
Mandatory Orientation Workshop Saturday, Sept 10 8:45 am

Orientation will take place in "A" building at Grace Baptist Church. We have a lot to accomplish at this Workshop. It is only open to APS Parents and the Class of 2012 who will help serve breakfast before going to have group photos taken.

What to Bring:

- **Questions**
- **Survival Guide**
- **APS Calendar** or any month-at-a-glance calendar.
- **Coupons, SASEs**, pen, paper Lion Moola and checkbook.
- **E-mail address**, work phone number, etc. to update the APS database.
- **Any outstanding paperwork** needed to complete enrollment (**and late fees**).
- **A BIG SMILE**
- **Food for Breakfast (those who signed up)**
- **Blank Grade Sheet for each student.**

There are a number of reasons to attend Orientation; the simplest is that it is **MANDATORY** for APS families.



You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free

Besides that, we expect to:

- HEAR** guest speakers.
- MEET** other families with children the same age as your own.
- DISCUSS** the APS Survival Guide, Resources and Special Events available to APS.
- REVIEW** Info needed to complete enrollment, make photo day appointments, etc.

We would especially encourage APS-Dads to attend Orientation. We have a very high percentage of supportive Dads, but MORE is BETTER. So Dads, come and find out all that is planned for the coming school year.

We are doing everything we can to shorten the meeting. APS Seniors and some parents will help provide and serve breakfast during the Orientation meeting.

ARE YOU BRINGING FOOD?

Please **COME EARLY** and deposit your food trays in the kitchen as instructed.

APS parents are needed to help in the kitchen with the Seniors. Parents are especially needed to be in the kitchen. Please contact the APS office and/or mail your coupon if you can help.

Continued on page 11

PRO-GAY Curriculum

GOV BROWN SIGNS NEW LAW

Since California Governor Jerry Brown signed SB 48 into law on July 14, 2011 the curriculum for **California public schools must include "the role and contributions of...lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Americans"** in California history and American history courses.

Already, those on the left are preparing to defend the law in courts, while those on the right are driving petitions to overturn the law by a ballot initiative.

Why go to all that trouble? (Why not just opt-out if you, as a parent, are opposed to exposing your kids to such things?)

Because the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, which has jurisdiction over California and a handful of other states, has already made clear that **there can be no opt-outs of anything in the curriculum,**

Continued on page 13

What We Are Roaring About

- 1 Orientation Workshop
- 2 Screamin Daily Deals
- 5 School Photo Day & PSAT
- 8 APS Choir
- 10 Senior Formal
- 12 eScrip
- 13 News From Planet Bizarro
- 15 APS Family News
- 16 Free Online Resource
- 18 Answer to 'Summer Fun'

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP SCREAMIN DAILY DEALS COLLEGE SCHOLARHIP



The Best of Your Community at 50% - 90% Off!

- Exclusive Daily Email Offers
- Save on Restaurants, Health & Beauty, Entertainment and More
- Every Purchase Helps Local Schools

Membership is FREE! Sign up now.

To sign up, just click this link

<http://www.screamincoupons.com/r/0S3J8KQZ12>

then follow the 6 easy steps:

1. Click the "Sign Up for Daily Deals" button
2. Enter your e-mail address
3. Choose your areas (SFV, SCF, Pasadena / Glendale / Burbank, etc)
4. Click the "Sign Me Up" button
5. Select APS for Rewards (Type full name)
6. Click the Finish button

In addition to **eScrip** and **BoxTops** we have a great way to help fund the APS College Scholarship: **"SCREAMIN DAILY DEALS"**

Once you sign up, you receive a daily e-mail alert offering a special coupon for an unbeatable deal for goods and services from a local business.

The deals offer **discounts of 50% - 90%**. If you see something you like you just click and order the coupon.

The merchant will accept the coupon like cash, BUT you get the item/service for the discounted amount which you paid for the coupon.

It's simple and fast. The best part is **Scream Daily Deals will donate 10% of their proceeds to APS.**

Please give it a try.

There is no sign up fee and no commitment to purchase anything.

You choose to get e-mails only from merchants in your desired areas.

Below, this family would get Daily Deal Alerts for merchants in San Fernando Valley and Santa Clarita Valley.

APS is designated to get the "Community Rewards" (contributions)

Daily Deal Alerts

Edit

San Fernando Valley
Santa Clarita Valley

Community Reward Beneficiary

Edit

School: Advantage Preparatory School

1. GET YOUR DAILY ALERT

Each day you will receive an email with an unbeatable deal from your favorite local businesses



Sign Up For Daily Alerts

2. BUY YOUR COUPON

On our secure site, purchase the daily deal. The next business day you will receive your coupon.



3. TELL YOUR FRIENDS

Share the deal with your friends using Facebook, Twitter and Email. Why? Because everybody wants a deal, and you can get \$10!



Refer Friends, Get \$10

4. HELP THE COMMUNITY

We give 5% to 10% of our proceeds back to local schools and non-profits, because we are part of your community.



Continued on page 3

SCHOOL REWARDS FAQ

Continued from page 2

What is Screaming Daily Deals School Rewards and how does it work?

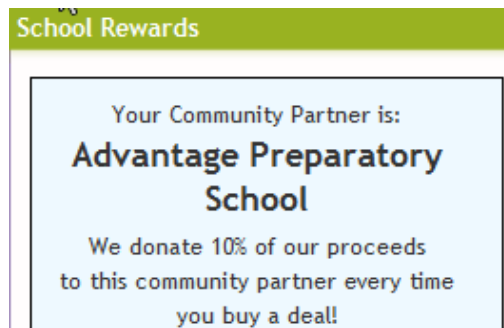
School Rewards is really simple! You make a purchase through Screaming Daily Deals (soon to be SpreeBird). They donate 10% of THEIR net proceeds to the School Rewards program. APS is registered for School Rewards. No middleman, no red tape, no forms to fill out.

To sign up, just click this link <http://www.screamingcoupons.com/r/0S3J8KQZ12> then follow the 6 easy steps:

1. Click the "Sign Up for Daily Deals" button
2. Enter your e-mail address
3. Choose your areas (SFV, SCF, Pasadena / Glendale / Burbank, etc)
4. Click the "Sign Me Up" button
5. Select APS for Rewards (Type full name)
6. Click the Finish button

Can my school proactively get involved in School Rewards?

YES! Just sign up and make a purchase to give back to APS. The best way to be proactive is to get other people to sign up and select APS for School Rewards. Once you have selected APS for School Rewards you are helping. It's that easy. Just sit back, relax and tell people to sign up through the School Rewards Program.



If you have already signed up for Screamin Daily Deals and you want to select APS, just go to the "My Account" section, find "Community Rewards", click the EDIT button and select Advantage Preparatory Schools. If you have trouble finding our school name, just e-mail Sreamn Daily Deals at: schoolrewards@screamingcoupons.com

What percentage of my purchase is donated to the School?

As long as you have selected a school to sponsor, every single purchase you make gives 10% back, don't worry you aren't paying for it, they take it from their proceeds.

What is a qualified purchase?

Anyone that has signed up for the School Rewards Program and has associated themselves with a school, like APS, and then purchases a coupon is making a qualified school rewards purchase.

Am I personally paying for the School Rewards?

You don't pay a cent. When you make a purchase, they take 10% of their proceeds and give it to the schools.

When and how does the school get their money?

At the end of every quarter they get out their check book and write checks for the schools. And no joke, they love doing it. They send a business check, made out to APS, straight to APS for us to use for our scholarship program.

Can I sign up with more than one school?

No, because each e-mail address is its own unique account. You cannot split the way the School Rewards give back.

Continued on page 4

Continued from page 3

Examples of a great *Screamin Daily Deals*:

\$15 Manicure with Gel Soak-Off Nail Polish at Dahbe' Makeup Parlour & Skin Care Studio (\$30 Value)

Dahbe' Makeup Parlour & Skin Care Studio
23550 Lyons Ave, #115
Newhall, CA 91321
(661) 253-0279

Here's The Deal

Value	Discount	Savings
\$30.00	50%	\$15.00

Price: **\$15.00**

See Today's Deal!



To sign up for Screamin Daily Deals, just click this link

<http://www.screamingcoupons.com/r/0S3J8KQZI2>

Spoon Me - Valencia

\$4.00 Buy!

VALUE	DISCOUNT	YOU SAVE
\$8.00	50%	\$4.00

Buy it for a Friend!

501 Bought
15 hrs, 12 mins, 28 secs

Share 25 Tweet 3

Send 5



School Photo Day:



SCV Monday 09/12, Grace Baptist Church 22833 Copper Hill, Saugus

ONE DAY ONLY – Per Request of Photographer

CUM & Yearbook photos, ID Cards, Christmas gifts for grandma, etc.

Appointments will be made at Orientation.

Please come prepared to sign-up for your location / date / time.

See below for map.

PSAT

Grace Baptist Church; “D” Building Room 221

Wednesday Oct 12 8:30 am thru 1:30 pm

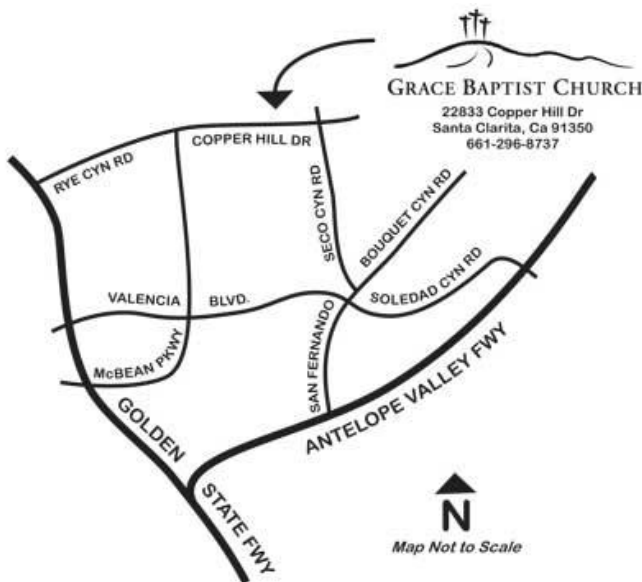
Coupons were due in June.

Please note testing time.

EVERYONE must plan on staying the entire time, regardless of college classes or other schedule conflicts.

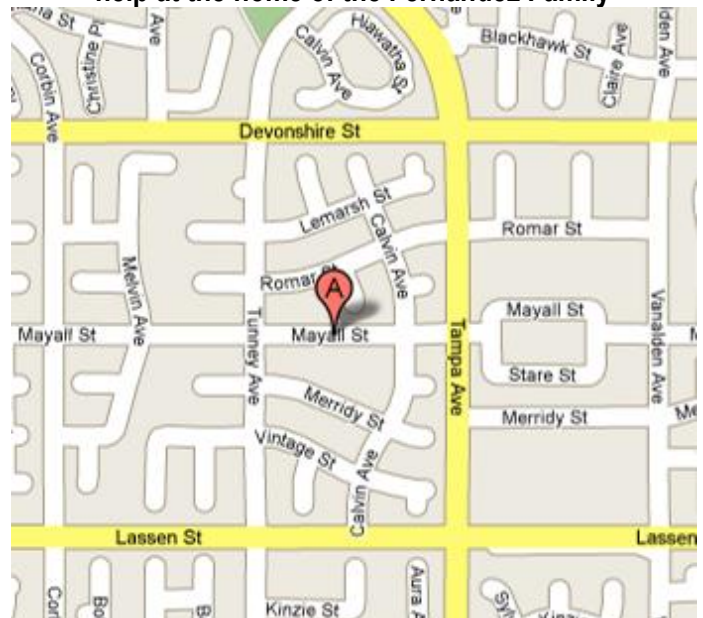
In the past, some have assumed that attending a college course, a job, or having some other commitment permitted them to arrive late or leave early. **This assumption is incorrect.**

If you have any other time commitments during the above timeframe you must decide to **postpone your other commitments** or cancel the test. **No one may arrive late or leave early.** When testing is complete, **everyone will be expected to help clean the room**, no exceptions. Many hands will make the job go quickly. When the room is clean and the tables & chairs have been put away, all may leave.



Exit Interstate 5 at Valencia Blvd. Head east to Mc Bean Parkway. Turn left on Mc Bean (at the Shell Gas Station) and follow it for approximately 4 miles. Turn right at Copper Hill Rd. The church is located 1/2 mile from this point, just over the hill on the left side of the road.

Fernandez Home
SFV November, January and April Workshops will be held at the home of the Fernandez Family



Orientation

Orientation

Orientation

**IT IS TIME FOR SCHOOL!
AND FOR THE
MANDATORY ORIENTATION WORKSHOP**

Date: Sat. 09/10/2011 **Time:** 8:45 AM **Location:** Grace Baptist Church; "A" building

We are looking forward to seeing you at the Orientation Workshop. Please, let us encourage both parents to attend, especially Dads. However, **children may not attend.** (APS Seniors are asked to come and help)

Special Note to DADs: We would strongly encourage DADs to join their wife at Orientation. In so doing you will better understand the upcoming school year and be better equipped to help your wife and children.

Please come early. Orientation will begin with a **Complimentary, Continental Breakfast at 8:45 a.m.** The business part of Orientation will also begin at **8:45 a.m.**

There are a number of reasons to attend Orientation; the simplest is that it is mandatory for APS families.

1ST QUARTER BEGINS Tues. 09/06/2011; ENDS Fri. 11/11/2011

By the time Orientation is held, you should have completed the first week of school.

YOUR FIRST WEEK'S LESSON PLANS will have been reviewed and will be in your APS mailbox.

We ask that, for the remainder of the year, you mail your lesson plans and attendance sheet to a pre-selected **Happy Helper** who will review them and offer suggestions. The name and address of your **Happy Helper** will be provided at Orientation. Your **Happy Helper** must have enough time to review your plans and attendance sheet and return them to your APS mailbox at each Workshop.

Please mail your completed Lesson Plans and attendance sheet **no later than 2 weeks prior to the end of each academic quarter.** As with all deadlines, the \$10 per week, per form, late fee applies.

What to bring to Orientation:

- Questions.**
- Calendar.**
- A Big Smile.**
- Your Survival Guide.**
- Camera for Yearbook Pictures.**
- Paper and pen for notes.**
- E-mail address, work phone, etc.**
- Coupons and Self Addressed Stamped Envelopes.**
- Any outstanding paperwork needed to complete enrollment (and your late fee).**

Only coupons addressed to "APS" can be deposited in the "Coupons" mailbox at Orientation. If the coupons for an event are being collected by an individual, please mail your coupon, SASE, etc. directly to that individual.

Coupons are available on the APS Website

What **NOT** to bring into the Orientation room:

- Children** (Sorry – this will be a **WORKshop.**)

ATTENTION FRIENDLY FAMILIES:

If you are a designated **Friendly Family**, please call your new family and invite them to sit with you at Orientation.

PHOTO DAY

ORIENTATION COUPON

ORIENTATION COUPON



We are looking for 100% of our students to have their photos taken at School Photo Day

SCV

Monday 09/12, Grace Baptist Church

SFV

No SFV Photo Day will be scheduled this year due to illness of our photographer



Orientation Facility Services: ORIENTATION - USA - BREAKFAST:

"Many hands make light work."

Next to Promotion, Orientation is our BIGGEST event.

As with all APS events, parents are invited to help make this important Workshop enjoyable and helpful. Please start the new school year right by offering YOUR HELP!

ALL FAMILIES SHOULD CHECK AT LEAST ONE OF THE FOLLOWING

I will be happy to:

- I can help any way you need.
I can help set-up tables and chairs Fri. p.m. (especially Seniors)
I can be a kitchen helper at 8:00 a.m. and after 12 p.m.
I can help clean up tables and chairs Sat. after 12 p.m.
I can bring paper goods.
I can bring food, drinks and/or ice.

Parent's Name Total number to help

Phone: E-Mail: @

Seniors are requested to help

Mail Coupon, SASE to: Tracy Nicks 10135 Odessa Ave North Hills CA 91343

ALL FAMILIES SHOULD CHECK AT LEAST ONE OF THE ABOVE "I will be happy to" AREAS TO HELP

Share the Work, Pulling together, we can make Orientation a success.

Please send in this coupon if you have not already done so.



APS CHOIR

APS CHOIR

APS CHOIR

APS School Choir & Ensemble

Taught by Steve Lively, recording artist, soloist and 'Lifted Up' choir director, this course is designed to give everyone a chance to sing! **The APS School Choir and Ensemble** is the perfect opportunity to try something new & different in a safe and non-threatening learning environment.



APS students in grades 8 - 12 will join 'Lifted Up' the high school / college choir from *The Bridge Bible Fellowship* (TBBF) in Reseda. APS Class sessions and choir **practices are on Monday evenings**. The Choir & Ensemble will lead in worship occasionally at morning church services, deliver an incredible Christmas outreach program, and go on tour in the spring (Memorial Day weekend). They may also perform at APS Graduation and other APS events.

In addition to choir practice, APS students will meet exclusively with Mr. Lively on Monday afternoons (at TBBF) for 1.5 hours to practice special pieces chosen just for our group. This group may perform at festivals and APS events.

APS students **DO NOT have to audition** for the choir or ensemble. Individual evaluations will be made to determine parts the students will learn. Mr. Lively will also include 1 hour (per semester) of individual voice coaching. (This alone is a great value!) Grades will be awarded based on participation, effort and growth, not talent!

Course Fee: \$150 per semester (\$25 discount for full yearly payment of \$275 with registration)

Materials Fee: \$ 25 per semester (Payable first day of class)
(Additional fees will apply to tour and special choir events)

Course Min: 8 students (Course will not be held if minimum is not met)

Mondays: 3:30 – 5:00 pm; APS Ensemble rehearsal
5:30 – 7:00 pm; full rehearsal with "Lifted Up"

Deadline: **Monday August 22, 2011 - You already missed it, so HURRY**

This course is open to all **APS Students in grades 8-12** and will earn 5 units for the year.

----- COUPON ----- COUPON----- COUPON----- COUPON----- COUPON-----

APS Choir & Ensemble

Attending Parent Name _____ Total # to Enroll _____

Phone # _____

E-Mail: _____ @ _____ . _____

Student 1 Name _____ Grade Level _____

Student 2 Name _____ Grade Level _____

Student 3 Name _____ Grade Level _____

I have enclosed the following:

_____ \$150; 1st semester Class Fee. **Make check payable to Steve Lively. OR**

_____ \$275; Full payment of yearly Class Fee. **Make check payable to Steve Lively**

Deadline: You already missed it, so HURRY

Mail payment SASE and coupon by deadline to:

Tracy Nicks 10135 Odessa Ave. North Hills, CA 91343

\$119 for a One-Night Stay at a Big Bear Lake Hotel, Plus a \$50 Restaurant.com Gift Card (up to \$458 Value)



To sign up for Screamin Daily Deals, just click this link

<http://www.screamingcoupons.com/r/0S3J8KQZ12>

then follow the 6 easy steps:

1. Click the "Sign Up for Daily Deals" button
2. Enter your e-mail address
3. Choose your areas (SFV, SCF, Pasadena / Glendale / Burbank, etc)
4. Click the "Sign Me Up" button
5. Select APS for Rewards (Type full name)
6. Click the Finish button

PaintballTickets.com

\$30.00 **Buy!**

VALUE	DISCOUNT	YOU SAVE
\$210.00	86%	\$180.00

Buy it for a Friend!

4 Bought
1 day, 11 hrs, 25 mins

Share 2 Tweet 0

Send 2



APS Senior Formal ~ Fantasea Yacht Club

Date: Thursday, April 26, 2012

Time: 6:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.

Dinner and dancing on the yacht. Photos at Fernandez Home approx 2:00 pm

Where: Fantasea Yachts & Yacht Club 4215 Admiralty Way, Marina Del Rey

Who: APS Seniors (Class of 2012) & guests (10th grade or above)

APS Juniors (Class of 2013) & guests (10th grade or above)

APS Alumni and guests.

All APS Parents may attend.

Seniors and Juniors must be accompanied by at least one parent or comply with the APS Parental Consent Policy**.

** The standard APS Parental Consent Policy is in effect. Students whose parent(s) do not attend the Sr. Formal must arrange with an attending APS Parent willing to be their temporary guardian and sign the APS Parental Consent form. Temporary guardians will provide transportation.

** Non-APS guests must sign the APS Standards of Behavior and Dress. The APS Standards of Behavior and Dress applies to Alumni.

Cost: \$100.00 per person

All students, parents, alumni and guests must pay.

Price will increase to \$120.00 per person for those who register after Dec 31

Deposit: A deposit of \$40.00 per person must be received **no later than Orientation**.

If a minimum of attendees is not reached by this date, **the event will be canceled**.

Payments: Two additional payments of \$30.00 per person will be required in Oct and Jan. As with all APS events, there are **No Refunds!**

Transportation: Optional one-way limousine transportation is available.

Please return the coupon for specific information on cost.

The limousine fee is due in March. Limousine riders must

pre-arrange return transportation for themselves and guest. It is assumed that **APS Students and guests will travel home with Parents**. APS Students with Parental Consent forms must **travel with their temporary guardian**.

Students may not drive themselves to/from the Yacht Club unless driving with their parents.

**Mail coupon
from the Sept
2011 Coupons
on the APS
Website**



Continued from page 1

REGARDING FORMS:

ALL ENROLLMENT RELATED FORMS SHOULD HAVE BEEN TURNED IN TO APS BY July 31.

Forms that are turned in after a deadline are subject to a **late fee of \$10 per week, per form.**

Why would APS charge late fees?

One of the biggest work-makers for APS is paperwork that is late or poorly done.

Every time something is due, APS office workers (mostly Cindee Grant) must check who is on time and who is late or incomplete.

She must then make a list of the late families and contact them.

Then, she must re-check late incoming paperwork, make another contact list, re-contact those who are still late, etc. The solution: **A late fee.**

If you can believe it, Cindee and APS-Mom Kaye Gibson have **processed over 2000 forms this summer.**

- 1) Grades were entered into CUMS, which require comparing courses, units and grades listed on the grade sheets against the courses and units listed on the Educational Expectations filed last year.
- 2) Lesson Plans and Educational Expectations for this year were reviewed and new CUMS created listing the courses written on your Educational Expectations forms for this year.
- 3) Other forms, like immunization / health forms, required by the State of California, were checked and rechecked.

Some families understand what is needed and turn in forms without any issues. Other families either seem to not understand or they fail to read their Survival Guide when filling out their forms. So then Cindee has to contact them to set things in order. One of the reasons our transcripts are so well accepted by universities and other schools is the care and attention to details that Cindee provides.

Special thanks to:

Kaye Gibson, Sharron Minchella and (former APS-Mom) Amy Good

who joined Cindee in reviewing Lesson Plans, Educational Expectations, Health records etc, entering database information like grades and CUMS, typing e-mails and letters, etc. All this was done so that everything will be in order by Orientation.

Obviously, this all takes a great deal of time and effort. The July 31 deadline gives APS only five weeks to complete the job. **Just answering the e-mail could take five weeks!**

So, the answer to the question: "**Why would APS charge late fees?**" is obvious, don't you think?

How can you help?

The **BIG #1 thing you can do to help** reduce the workload is turn in all your forms **complete and on time**. Please don't send APS forms via e-mail – it might be easier for you, but it is not easier for us. If we accepted forms via e-mail all we would do all day is open e-mails and print forms.

When sending in **coupons**, make sure they **ARRIVE BEFORE the posted deadline**. We suggest you **mail your coupons on the first day they are published**. You cannot be too early. Why wait?

The **BIG #2 thing you can do to help is, if you are late**, please include the standard late fee of **\$10 per form, per week**. (Do the math – if one form is late one week, include \$10. If two forms are late one week, include \$20, etc. – this incremental late fee is our way of encouraging everyone to be ON TIME. We don't want the fees we want the forms. But if you are late, pay the fees.)

Some families act as if the fees just don't apply to them, or so it seems, because they don't send in their fees when they turn in late forms. This then creates MORE office work because someone has to check, call them, then make a list and recheck it as the fees comes in.

The **BIG #3 thing you can do to help** is to **READ YOUR SURVIVAL GUIDE** before sending an e-mail with a question. New families can also ask their Friendly Families. ☺☺☺

eScrip

LION MOOLA

Special Events R US

As we begin another school year, it is time to remind the APS Family about our programs to help you **earn school funds for yourself** and for the **APS College Scholarship**:

Earn FREE MONEY for the APS Scholarship with the **Vons, Pavilions** and **Safeway eScrip** program. Once enrolled, up to 4% of your qualifying purchases are credited to APS every time you shop with your **VonsClub Card**, your **Pavilions ValuePlus Card** and/or your **Safeway Club Card**.

APS families **shop as they normally would**, using eScrip-registered **grocery loyalty cards** or **credit / ATM / debit cards**. Merchants automatically make contributions based on your normal spending. All you have to do is **register on their website**. We even pay your registration fee.

In addition to **grocery loyalty cards** families can register their credit cards, debit card and ATM cards. There are also services available on the eScrip website's "Market Place" where **downloading music** or purchases from **Amazon.com** will be credited to APS. You just have to access those websites through the eScrip website's "Market Place".

YOU can directly benefit from eScrip.

APS will return 1/2 of eScrip contributions to participating families in the form of LION MOOLA, which can be spent on APS tuition and APS Special Events.

Will you help?

WE NEED YOU TO **REGISTER / RENEW NOW**.

Just visit their website: www.escrip.com

Many APS families use eScrip, but a number are not even signed-up. Please take a moment to visit their website and **update your account**, or **register for the first time**.

You can help provide funding for this year's college scholarship and help **reduce your own APS-related expenses at the same time**.

In a heartbeat it will be April and you'll get your Lion Moola. Then, it will be June and one of our seniors will be handed a college scholarship. How cool is that!

Just visit their website:
www.escrip.com

VONS SHOPPERS

Von's contributions are tracked from the time families renew.

[Click here](#)



Have you ever wondered how all the very cool APS special events happen?

The answer is also a motto:

**'If You Want It
To Happen
Make It Happen'**

Every APS Special Event has an APS-Mom or Dad behind it.

There are many APS folks who sponsor events, but many others have never done so. YES – this means YOU.

This year we are asking **EVERY APS family** to sponsor one Special Event. If you have never had coupons come to your home then this request is especially for you.

Some may think they are too busy or they lack the skills to make an event happen, but the truth is EVERYONE is busy and really, the only **ability** you need is **availability**. We have made special events very easy. We even have a Special Events template in the FORMS section of the APS website for you to follow. Just click: www.aps4me.com

You can plan something simple like a 6th grade boys Lego day, or a 3rd grade girls tea party – or something for the whole family like a trip to the observatory.

Just put your idea on paper (the template) and then e-mail it to our new APS Master Calendar Lady, Jenni Gilbert:

gilbertsco@gmail.com

**APS Has The Best People
in Town**

News from the planet Bizarro

Continued from page 1

even if parents might find it offensive or contrary to their own educational ideals for their children.

Some parents will like this form of education. Other parents will object to it.

At ParentalRights.Org our view is simply this:

Parents, not government, should be able to make these decisions.

As it is, whatever curriculum California ultimately decides to keep, there will be public school parents who dislike it and who still have no rights under the Ninth Circuit to even opt their children out.

In 2005, the Ninth Circuit declared in *Fields v. Palmdale* that “[p]arents...have no constitutional right...to prevent public schools from providing its students with whatever information it wishes to provide, sexual or otherwise, when and as the school determines that it is appropriate to do so.”

“In sum,” they wrote, “we affirm that the Meyer-Pierce [fundamental parental] right does not extend beyond the threshold of the school door.”

And it's not just California and neighboring states, either. In 2007, the U.S. District Court for Massachusetts decided the same thing in *Parker v. Hurley*: **parents have no right to opt their children out of a public school course.** Nor are we aware of any decision to the contrary in any Circuit or District in the country since 2000.

So get ready for more legislation and more petitions as parents go back and forth over what all public school children must learn. When parents lack the basic right to simply pull their child out of a single class they dislike, there is no lesser recourse available than to change the entire curriculum for all.

The proposed Parental Rights Amendment to the Constitution can correct this by reversing *Palmdale* and *Parker* and re-establishing parental rights for fit parents regardless of their child's location. Until then, parents will just have to duke it out in the legislature – because what their children learn in public school is entirely a matter of state law, and not of parental discretion.

Sincerely,
Michael Ramey
Director of Communications & Research
HSLDA

Educators at nearly four dozen Atlanta elementary and middle schools **cheated on standardized tests by either helping students or changing the answers once exams were handed in**, according to the results of a yearlong state investigation released Tuesday, July 13, 2011.

The report said that **178 teachers and principals cheated**, though only **82 educators actually confessed** to misconduct dating as far back as 2001 and affecting thousands of school children, according to a synopsis handed out by Gov. Nathan Deal's office. More than half of the district's 100 schools were examined, and 44 of those had cheating, the synopsis said.



The investigators also found a "culture of fear, intimidation and retaliation" in the school district over the cheating allegations, which lead to educators lying about the cheating or destroying documents to cover it up, according to the synopsis.

School officials had **"warnings" as early as 2005** that there was cheating on standardized tests, but **those signals "were ignored,"** according to the synopsis.

Deal would not give out any further details or release the voluminous report because he said it contains "very specific information" about educators. The results of the investigation are being forwarded to prosecutors, and many of the cases could lead to criminal charges, he said.

The state investigation was launched last year by then-Gov. Sonny Perdue following what he called "woefully inadequate" internal investigations at the Atlanta and Dougherty County school districts.

Those were spurred on by a state audit earlier in the year that showed **high numbers of erasures on standardized tests at 74 schools across the state.**

Continued on page 15

News from the planet Bizarro

A former "**Teacher of the Year**" in Mount Dora, Fla. has been **suspended and could lose his job** after he voiced his **objection to gay marriage** on his **personal Facebook page**.

Read that right – not a school-related page, his PERSONAL Facebook page.

Jerry Buell, a veteran American history teacher at Mount Dora High School, was removed from his teaching duties as school officials investigate allegations that what he posted was biased against homosexuals.

"We took the allegations seriously," said Chris Patton, a communication officer with Lake County Schools. "All teachers are bound by a code of special ethics (and) this is a code ethics violation investigation."

Patton said the school system received a complaint about something Buell had written last July when New York legalized same sex unions. On Wednesday Aug 17, he was suspended.

Patton said Buell has taught in the school system for 22 years and has a spotless record. Last year, he was selected as the high school's "Teacher of the Year."

But now his job is on the line because of his personal comments.

Buell told Fox News Radio that he was stunned by the accusations.

"It was my own personal comment on my own personal time on my own personal computer in my own personal house, exercising what I believed as a social studies teacher to be my First Amendment rights," he said.

Buell provided a copy of the two Facebook messages that he said landed him in trouble.

The first was posted on July 25 at 5:43 p.m. as he was eating dinner and watching the evening news.

"I'm watching the news, eating dinner when the story about New York okaying same-sex unions came on and I almost threw up," he wrote. *"And now they showed two guys kissing after their announcement. If they want to call it a union, go ahead. But don't insult a man and woman's marriage by throwing it in the same cesspool of whatever. God will not be mocked. When did this sin become acceptable?"*

Three minutes later, Buell posted another

comment: *"By the way, if one doesn't like the most recently posted opinion based on biblical principles and God's laws, then go ahead and unfriend me. I'll miss you like I miss my kidney stone from 1994. And I will never accept it because God will never accept it. Romans chapter one."*

According to the school system, what Buell wrote on his private account was disturbing.

Buell's attorney accused the school system of violating his First Amendment rights.

"The school district is being anti-straight, anti-First Amendment and anti-personal liberty," said Horatio Mihet, an attorney with the Liberty Counsel. "The idea that public servants have to whole-heartedly endorse homosexual marriage is repugnant to the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution," Mihet told Fox News Radio.

"All he did was speak out on an issue of national importance and because his comments did not fit a particular mold, he is now being investigated and could possibly lose his job. What have we come to?"

Buell said he does not know the individual who filed the complaint, but the past week has caused his family "heartache."

"To try and say you could lose your job over speaking about something in the venue that I did in the manner that I did is not just a knee-jerk reaction," he said. "It's a violent reaction to one person making a complaint."

Patton said Buell will not be allowed back in the classroom "until we do all the interviews and do a thorough job of looking at everything – past or previous writings."

To accomplish that, he said people have been sending the school system screenshots of Buell's Facebook page.

"Just because you think it's private, other people are viewing it," Patton said, noting that the teacher's Facebook page also **contained numerous Bible passages.**

Mihet said he was livid.

"These are not fringe ideas that Mr. Buell espoused on his personal Facebook page," he told Fox News Radio. "They are mainstream textbook opposition to homosexual unions – and now he's been deemed unfit to teach children because he opposes gay marriage? My goodness."

Buell believes the school system is trying to send a message to Christian teachers.

"There is an intimidation factor if you are a Christian or if you make a statement against it (gay marriage) you are a bigot, a homophobe, you're a creep, you're intolerant," he said.

Continued on page 15

News from the planet Bizarro

Continued from page 14

"We should have the right to express our opinions and talk about things."

But some legal experts believe that school teachers could be held to a different standard when it comes to using social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter.

Miami attorney Justin Leto said, "If he is 'friends' with his students on Facebook, then I think he should not be surprised by the school's actions."

Leto said teachers should have the right to make statements about their own personal beliefs without fear of retribution from their employer. "This assumes that the comments are not **hateful, racist or malicious**," he said.

Brad Jacob, a law professor at Regent University, said. "The first question you have to ask, did this context communicate that the teacher was speaking on behalf of the government?"

"School teachers **generally have free speech rights**, and the government may not censor private speech of public school teachers," he said.

However, if Buell had communicated his opinion on gay marriage in the classroom, Jacob said the teacher would have been on shaky legal ground. "If he communicated those views in the classroom, I think **the state could have grounds to punish or fire him**," he said.

Reaction in Central Florida has been mixed.

Brett Winters, a former Mount Dora student, told the Orlando Sentinel he was disappointed about Buell's comments. "This type of hateful language is dangerous not only to gay students, but also to anti-gay students," Winters told the newspaper.

Michael Slaymaker, president of the Orlando Youth Alliance, told the newspaper that gay students might feel uncomfortable in Buell's class.

"I would hope a teacher would be there to help them and not hurt them," he told the Orlando Sentinel.

Meanwhile, hundreds of people have joined at least two Facebook groups calling for the school system to reinstate the popular teacher. "He's developed a reputation as being one of the most caring teachers in the school," Mihet said.

Buell said the most disappointing part of the investigation is that he may not be in his classroom on Monday – the first day of the school year.

"This is the place where you will receive the most respect out of any place you'll be all day. I love my kids. I take my job very seriously."

□□□

Source Fox News - Read more:

<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2011/08/19/florida-teacher-suspended-for-anti-gay-marriage-post-on-personal-facebook/#ixzz1VUhfnSgJ>

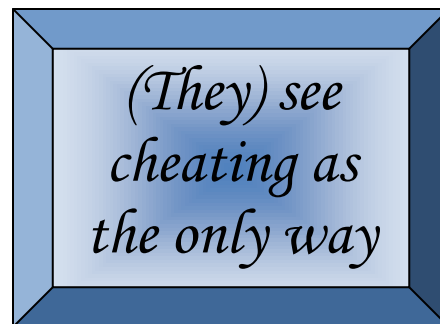
Continued from page 13

The audit looked at the 2009 Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests, which are used to measure whether the state meets federal benchmarks.

Dougherty County was later dropped from the investigation because a Deal spokeswoman said the governor was satisfied with the district's investigation.

A number of other urban school districts and states have been caught up in cheating scandals in the last several years, including Baltimore and Houston, and Texas, Michigan and Florida.

Problems have mounted, some experts say, as teachers and school administrators — particularly those in low-income districts — bow to the pressure of the federal *No Child Left Behind* requirements and **see cheating as the only way to avoid sanctions.**



Under the law, failing schools must offer extra tutoring, allow parents to transfer their children to higher performing schools and fire teachers and administrators who don't pass muster.

Earlier, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, citing officials, reported that investigators had concluded that former **Superintendent Beverly Hall either knew or should have known about the cheating.** Deal declined to answer questions about Hall and what the report says about the superintendent, who **retired last week.**

Hall's attorney, Richard Deane, told The Associated Press that investigators have not shared the report with him. Hall was unavailable for comment.

For parents like Shawna Hayes-Tavares, who has three children in Atlanta schools, the results of the state investigation are disheartening. She said her son attended one of the suspect schools, and his test scores dropped dramatically when he transferred to another school, suggesting his earlier scores had been inflated.

"We are appalled," Hayes-Tavares said about the state report. "It's criminal."

□□□

Source: AP

APS FAMILY NEWS

APS-Mom Heidi Monroe e-mailed us the following exciting information about a

GREAT FREE ONLINE RESOURCE – *Thanks Heidi*

Hi Richard,

This is Heidi Monroe and I just wanted to let you know about a great online resource for learning and practicing **math as well as other subjects**.

It is www.khanacademy.org

Click here to see an [INTRODUCTION](#)

They have **more than 2400 teaching videos** which are absolutely **free to use**.

They range from simple addition to a complete course in calculus. They also have high school level courses in biology, physics, and chemistry.

I read about the Khan Academy in latest issue of World Magazine.

The Khan Academy was started by Sal Khan. He is a math geek who graduate from MIT and Harvard.

While he was working as a hedge fund analyst, he was asked to tutor his 6th grade cousin in math. Being in another state, he decided to use his computer and tutor her via *YouTube*. Not only did it help his cousin in math, but he started receiving letters from others who had seen him on *YouTube* and thanking him for making math understandable.

He began developing a vision for changing education and **providing the world with a free virtual classroom**. He quit his job and started devoting himself to the project.

He started a non-profit organization which is supported by individuals as well as the Gates Foundation. He also won Google's '*Project 10 to the 100*' of ideas to change the world.

Many of his staff are fellow MIT friends who come from engineering, math, and computer software backgrounds. He is not a Christian and teaches evolution in his biology videos, but it seems his only agenda is to present concepts in an easy to understand 12 minute video clips where he speaks and writes on a black screen as he works out math problems.

He has even worked through every problem in the College Board "Official SAT Study Guide". He suggests taking the test and then watching the videos on problems that were done incorrectly. You could then retake the test.

He has also done some lectures on the Singapore Math Curriculum. His website has several videos of him explaining his vision for education.

News from the planet Bizarro

At the "Egalia" preschool, **staff avoids using words like "him" or "her" and addresses the 33 kids who attend as "friends" rather than girls and boys.**

From the color, type and placement of toys to the choice of books, **every detail has been carefully planned to make sure the children don't fall into 'gender stereotypes'.**

"Society expects girls to be girlie, nice and pretty and boys to be manly, rough and outgoing," says Jenny Johnsson, a 31-year-old teacher. "Egalia gives them a fantastic opportunity to be whoever they want to be."

The taxpayer-funded preschool which opened last year in the liberal Södermalm district of Stockholm for kids aged 1 to 6 is among the most radical examples of Sweden's efforts to engineer equality between the sexes from childhood onward.

Breaking down gender roles is a core mission in the national curriculum for preschools, underpinned by the theory that even in highly egalitarian-minded Sweden, society gives boys an unfair edge.

To even things out, many preschools have hired "gender pedagogues" to help staff identify language and behavior that risk reinforcing stereotypes.

Some parents worry things have gone too far. **An obsession with obliterating gender roles, they say, could make the children confused and ill-prepared to face the world outside kindergarten.**

"Different gender roles aren't problematic as long as they are equally valued," says Tanja Bergkvist, a 37-year-old blogger and a leading voice against what she calls "**gender madness**" in Sweden.

Those bent on shattering gender roles "say there's a hierarchy where everything that boys do is given higher value, but I wonder who decides that it has higher value," she says. "Why is there higher value in playing with cars?"

At Egalia — the title connotes "equality" — **boys and girls play together with a toy kitchen, waving plastic utensils and pretending to cook.** One boy hides inside the toy stove, his head popping out through a hole.

Lego bricks and other building blocks are intentionally placed next to the kitchen, to make sure the children draw no mental barriers between cooking and construction.

Director Lotta Rajalin notes that Egalia places a special emphasis **on fostering an environment tolerant of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people.** From a bookcase she pulls out a story about two male giraffes who are sad to be childless — until they come across an abandoned crocodile egg.

Nearly all the children's books deal with homosexual couples, single parents or adopted children. There are no "Snow White," "Cinderella" or other classic fairy tales seen as cementing stereotypes.

Rajalin, 52, says the staff also try to help the children discover new ideas when they play.

"A concrete example could be when they're playing 'house' and the role of the mom already is taken and they start to squabble," she says. "Then we suggest two moms or three moms and so on."

Rajalin says that there's a long waiting list for admission to Egalia, and that only one couple has pulled a child out of the school.

Jukka Korpi, 44, says he and his wife chose Egalia "to give our children all the possibilities based on who they are and not on their gender."

Sweden has promoted women's rights for decades, and more recently was a pioneer among European countries in allowing gay and lesbian couples to legalize their partnerships and adopt children.

Gender studies permeate academic life in Sweden; Example: the state-funded Swedish Science Council had granted \$80,000 for a postdoctoral fellowship aimed at analyzing "the trumpet as a symbol of gender."

Jay Belsky, a child psychologist at the University of California, Davis, said he's not aware of any other school like Egalia, and he questioned whether it was the right way to go.

"The kind of things that boys like to do — run around and turn sticks into swords — will soon be disapproved of," he said. "So gender neutrality at its worst is emasculating maleness."

Egalia is unusual even for Sweden. Staff try to shed masculine and feminine references from their speech, including the pronouns him or her — "han" or "hon" in Swedish. Instead, they've have adopted the genderless "hen," a word that doesn't exist in Swedish but is used in some feminist and gay circles.

"We use the word "Hen" for example when a doctor, police, electrician or plumber or such is coming to the kindergarten," Rajalin says. "We don't know if it's a he or a she so we just say 'Hen is coming around 2 p.m.' Then the children can imagine both a man or a woman. This widens their view."

Egalia doesn't deny the biological differences between boys and girls — the dolls the children play with are anatomically correct.

What matters is that children understand that their biological differences "don't mean boys and girls have different interests and abilities," Rajalin says. "This is about democracy. About human equality."

APS FAMILY NEWS

16	3	2	13
5	10	11	8
9	6	7	12
4	15	14	1

Answer to *SUMMER FUN:*

From the last issue of
The Lion's Roar

Look at the two squares of numbers.

Using only your ability to observe and deduce, what makes these squares remarkable?

The smaller square has rows of 4 numbers each. (Vertical, Horizontal and Diagonal – right and left)
The larger square has rows of 8 numbers each (Vertical, Horizontal and Diagonal – right and left)

Do you see it yet?

When added together, the numbers in each row, vertical, horizontal and diagonal, all add up to the same number; 34 for the smaller square, 260 for the larger square. 870 for the square below.

52	61	4	13	20	29	36	45
14	3	62	51	46	35	30	19
53	60	5	12	21	28	37	44
11	6	59	54	43	38	27	22
55	58	7	10	23	26	39	42
9	8	57	56	41	40	25	24
50	63	2	15	18	31	34	47
16	1	64	49	48	33	32	17

1	120	121	48	85	72	73	60	97	24	25	144
142	27	22	99	58	75	70	87	46	123	118	3
11	110	131	38	95	62	83	50	107	14	35	134
136	33	16	105	52	81	64	93	40	129	112	9
8	113	128	41	92	65	80	53	104	17	32	137
138	31	18	103	54	79	66	91	42	127	114	7
5	116	125	44	89	68	77	56	101	20	29	140
139	30	19	102	55	78	67	90	43	126	115	6
12	109	132	37	96	61	84	49	108	13	36	133
135	34	15	106	51	82	63	94	39	130	111	10
2	119	122	47	86	71	74	59	98	23	26	143
141	28	21	100	57	76	69	88	45	124	117	4

Not really amazed yet, OK, YOU try to make a square where the numbers in each row all add up to the same number. Start with an order of '3' (a square of 3 rows and 3 columns. Good Luck

RENEW e-Scrip Now, Please

Please go to the eScrip website www.escrip.com



and click the **YES check mark button** to renew your grocery store contributions.

If you have not yet become an eScrip helper, please register on their website for APS.

Our school name and Group ID are below.

The APS college scholarship is funded when you shop at **no extra cost to you.**

Half of your e-Scrip contributions go to fund the APS College Scholarship. The other half of your e-Scrip contributions is returned to **YOU** in the form of **Lion Moola.** What a deal!



Vons/Pavilions Renewal:

Advantage Preparatory Schools, Inc.
eScrip Group ID – 3508681



APS supporters need to renew their commitment.

APS supporters should renew now to continue earning.

Go to www.escrip.com to renew online.



Parents, you are cordially invited to our Orientation: Sept 10, 2011

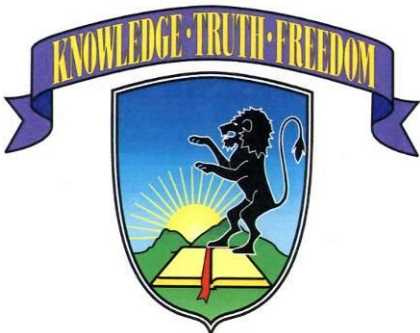


GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH
22833 Copper Hill Dr
Santa Clarita, Ca 91350
661-296-8737

**8:45 a.m.
Saturday
Sept 10
Grace Baptist
Church**

Orientation

Advantage Preparatory Schools, Inc
PO Box 802274
Santa Clarita, CA 91380



*Grow in the grace and knowledge
of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of
eternity. Amen. 2 Pet 3:18*