



American Prep-West Valley 1 Campus Newsletter September 6, 2022

Website @ <https://westvalley1.americanprep.org/>

Upcoming Calendar Events

*Newly added to this newsletter calendar

Friday, September 9	3:30-5:30pm. “Lights On” family event. <i>Read the details below!</i>
Friday, September 9	Special “Lights On” Spirit Wear Friday
Friday, September 9	No Sistema
Thursday, Sept 15	Constitution Day Commemoration. <i>This will be live-streamed!</i>
Thursday, Sept 22	5 th Grade “Friendship” Ambassador Event 12:25-2:50 <i>Volunteer!</i>
Thursday, Sept 29	6 th Grade “Friendship” Ambassador Event 12:25-2:50 <i>Volunteer!</i>
October 3-7	College Week
Friday, Oct 7	Spirit Wear Friday!
Friday, Oct 7	12:15/12:35 Early Dismissal- Grading Day
Friday, Oct 7	No Sistema
Tuesday, Oct 11	RU (Reading University) Store
Wednesday, Oct 12	School Photo Day: 1 st -3 rd Grades
Wednesday, Oct 12	12:15/12:35 Early Dismissal – Professional Development
Thursday, Oct 13	School Photo Day: K, 4 th -6 th Grades
Thursday, Oct 13	1 st -3 rd Grade Field Trips
Friday, Oct 14	4 th -6 th Grade Field Trips
Friday, Oct 14	End of Term 1
October 17-21	Fall Break-No School

September Builder Theme: I Am a Builder When I Build With Enthusiasm

There is something magical that happens when we are around people that are enthusiastic. We start to feel enthusiastic as well! Enthusiasm is contagious—in the very best way possible. When we work at being enthusiastic (and I say work at it intentionally—because it might not feel natural for us at first, but we can all “fake it ‘til we make it”) our loads feel lighter, the hard things we need to do feel possible and we find we are bringing joy to ourselves and the people around us. Builders know the power of enthusiasm!

“Lights On” Family Event- Celebrating 20 Years of APA Friendships!

What is “Lights On”? THIS Friday, September 9, 3:30-5:30 is the day of our not-to-be-missed “Lights On” family event. This free event, sponsored by our Afterschool Program, is full of fun and food, great info from community partners, signups for Friday Clubs, and the fabulous opportunity to meet other APA families. We hope you will come ready to take the



Friendship Challenge—look people in the eye, smile and say “hi”. We hope everyone will come away from the day having had some fun with a new APA friend!

Parking. Students need to be with a parent to join in the fun—so come a little early to park and bring them in. The majority of the parking lot will be open for you, and we will begin parking cars diagonally along the curb once carpool is through. If you end up parking out on the side streets, please be sure that you are not blocking the driveways or mailboxes of our neighbors.

Signing in for the event. Check in will start at 3:30 pm—at the double gates down by the Trax end of the parking lot. We are required by our grants to have people “sign in”. You will do this easily with a QR code and your phone—using your family/carpool number—so be sure to take a picture of your carpool tag so you have that number handy.

What to bring. The fun will be outside on our playground and field, so come prepared with sunscreen, hats and waterbottles for your family. This will be a special “spirit wear” day for all.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP? We are looking for:

Outdoor lawn games & activities that could be shared for the event.

Pop-up canopies that could be borrowed for the day.

If you have something we can use or have a great idea, please email our FSO leaders: Celeste Lopez (aguilane-grax3@hotmail.com) and Angie Van Leeuwen (angievan130@gmail.com)

School Lunch—Time to Order for September! (Week 2 of 2)

If you haven't already, please order your lunches for September.

Go to <https://apalunch.h1.hotlunchonline.net/> to place your order.

Click here for [Detailed ordering instructions](#)

Just a reminder that all school meals (paid, free and reduced) must be pre-ordered. Our sack lunches are prepared off-site and we only receive enough meals for those who have placed an order. If you have not done so already, we ask all families to complete a free /reduced lunch application even if you aren't going to participate in the program. This helps us as we apply for grants and to receive our Title 1 funding. <https://www.americanprep.org/school-lunch-program/eligibility/>

Free Adult English Classes

Would you like to learn English or improve your English speaking? Join in the free adult English classes being offered. Classes at our West Valley 1 campus are Tuesdays @ 2:40-3:25 pm and Thursdays @ 1:25-2:25 pm. There are also classes being held at the West Valley 2 campus. Mondays and Fridays @ 2:25-3:10 pm and Wednesdays @ 1:20-2:10. You are welcome to attend classes at either campus—or at both!



Friendship Challenge (Week 2 of 4)

Making friends is a skill that we want our children to learn! Through the month of September, we will be working on the steps to meet and greet others: 1. Look eye to eye, 2. Smile, and 3. Say “Hi”. As this skill is being tried out and practiced—students will earn a friendship button. We encourage them to wear their button each school day through September—earning extra dots or points for each day they do.

ALMA Grading Program – Get Your Account Activated on Tuesday

On Tuesday, September 6, ALMA will be emailing instructions on activating your ALMA accounts. **IF YOU ALREADY HAVE YOUR ACCOUNT SET UP, YOU MAY DISREGARD THIS EMAIL.** If you have not set up your account, please follow the instructions to do so. **Your user name is your first name.last name** (Like tom.cruise or britney.spears for example.)

Through the ALMA grading program, you are able to regularly check your student’s grades. If you need help with the program, please email Mrs. Ferlo (mferlo@apamail.org) or Mr. Beard (bbeard@apamail.org) in the academic office.

Employment Opportunities @ APA-West Valley 1

Thank you to those who have answered the call! We still have positions to fill—and if you have been thinking about this, it might be YOUR time! Our best employees so very often come from our American Prep community!

- **Classroom instructors/aides**—if you want a rewarding job where you KNOW you are making a difference in the world, this is for you. Assisting in the classroom, working with our amazing teachers and students, being trained on our reading and math programs, having the same vacation schedule as your student, medical benefits...this might be the job you’ve been waiting for!
- **Substitutes**—we are always so grateful to have trained substitutes! Work as many or as few days as fits your schedule.
- **6th Grade & Sistema Band Teacher**
- **Part-time Lunchroom Worker**—4 to 5 hours a day during school hours @ the West Valley 1 campus. Hoping to find someone fluent in both English and Spanish.

Details and applications can be found on the website under careers—but if you are interested in any of these positions, please come talk to one of the admin team. We would be happy to encourage you!

Professional Qualifications (Week 2 of 2)

Our parent surveys consistently express confidence and overwhelming satisfaction with our teachers at American Prep. In accordance with state regulation, all APA teachers are licensed through one of three licensing paths: Professional, Associates and LEA specific. Parents are welcome at any time to request information regarding the professional qualifications of the student's classroom teachers including: 1) whether the teacher has met State qualification and



licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction or whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived; 2) the baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree; and 3) whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

District Parent and Family Engagement Policy (Week 2 of 2)

American Prep recognizes that parent and family engagement is key to student achievement. We provide many opportunities for parents and family members to participate in, and stay informed of, their student's academic achievement. American Preparatory Academy trains staff annually during pre-service and teacher academy on how to communicate, build meaningful connections, and otherwise involve parents/families and the school. These topics are reinforced during professional development opportunities throughout the year as needed. Additional details regarding Parent and Family Engagement are available in the annual Parent-Student Handbooks (PSHB) which are distributed annually, posted on the school websites, and available in Spanish at our West Valley campuses. For the full District Parent and Family Engagement Policy, please refer to this link on the Policy page of the americanprep.org website.

School Parent and Family Engagement Policies (Week 2 of 2)

School Parent Involvement Policies vary slightly by campus and are located within the Parent-Student Handbooks <https://www.americanprep.org/parent-student-handbooks/>. These Handbooks are distributed annually to parents and are now accessible on the APA website under the Parent Library drop-down tab. West Valley Parent-Student Handbooks will be available in Spanish.

Mandated Assessments and Opt-Outs (Week 2 of 2)

American Preparatory recognizes that Standardized Testing is an essential tool for measuring student learning and teacher success. The data obtained from these assessments may be utilized by teachers and administrators to review student academic progress, plan instruction, and share with students and parents. Summative assessments allow for data to be used in public reporting about school quality. Parents may opt-out of most state standardized tests by submitting a Parental Exclusion form to the Academic Director.

Reporting Your Volunteer Hours and Donations (Every Week!)

Thank you for your volunteer hours and donations! This link for reporting your hours will be included with each newsletter for handy access. If you have volunteer hours from the summer, please be sure to report those too!

[Report hours & donations here:](#)

<https://forms.gle/o3cxYrpbHmoxWYFXA>

