
The ACLC Communicator

Alameda Community Learning Center
Parent Asset Committee Publication

May 2006
Center Phone Number (510) 521-7543

❖ Calender ❖

May:

- 19 Physics Day at Great America
- 24 Spring Open House and New Families Night
- 26-29 Holidays
- 27 Ten Year Anniversary Celebration
- 31 CCEF meeting 6 pm / PAC mtg 7 pm

June:

- 7 Governing Board meeting, 7 p.m.
- 13-15 Learner Led Conferences
- 15 Last School Day & Graduation

❖ ❖ News ❖ ❖

Congratulations Seniors!

Our seniors represent the best and the brightest of their generation. Not only will they be attending some of the finest universities but they also had to turn down a number of other institutions who offered them admission.

	<i>Will attend...</i>	<i>Also offered admission to...</i>
Amanda Bennett	UC Santa Cruz	UC Irvine, Riverside, St. Mary's
Mariah Bunenko	UCLA	UC Santa Barbara, UC San Diego
James Clark	UC Santa Cruz	CSUs Pomona and Humboldt
Jenna Hans	CSU Sonoma	
Shane Harris	Diablo Valley College	
Chukwudi Hodge	Berklee School of Music	
Stephanie Kwong	Mills or UC Santa Cruz	St. Mary's College
Henry Leung	Stanford	UCs Berkeley, Santa Cruz and Davis
Tirzah Masten	UC Berkeley	UCs San Diego, Davis, Irvine, and Santa Cruz
Chelsea McKinley	CS Long Beach	UCs Berkeley, Santa Cruz, Santa Barbara, Irvine
Connor Murphy-Levesque	SF State	UC Riverside, Merced; CSUs Northridge, SF, SJ
Jason Ng	College of Alameda	
Cassie Pritchard	UC Santa Cruz	
Shannon Shelby	College of Alameda	
Mick Stein	College of Alameda	
Elaine VerDuin	UC Irvine	San Francisco State
Allie Wadford	College of Alameda	
Kyle Wilkinson	Diablo Valley College	
Megan Zerga	UC San Diego	UCs Davis, Irvine, S.Cruz; Sonoma St., Long Beach St.

Seniors in the News

The May/June issue of Alameda Magazine features so of our “Hot Shot High School Seniors” - Chukwudi Hodge (on the cover), Kyle Wilkinson, Chelsea McKinley and Cassie Pritchard.

ACLC is celebrating its 10-year Anniversary this year!

Where: ACLC

When: Saturday, May 27th from 1:00 to 5:00 pm

What: We will reunite with alumni, honorary founders, and community members and celebrate our 10th year of outstanding success. Events include Alumni reunions, African drumming and dance, Lego League demonstrations, roller coaster review, video presentations, receptions and discussions, fabulous appetizers, desserts and raffle prizes! Look for invitations to arrive on-line and in the mail. RSVP to CCEF_ACLC@yahoo.com or reply to the eVite.

Minimum donation: \$10 current learner, \$20 adults/alumni, \$30 per family

Development Director's Report

Looking back on the year, the major accomplishment was the 5-year renewal of our charter and MOU that provides us additional space next year. (An additional portable classroom and the full use of a science laboratory classroom will be in use for the 2006-07 school year.) We have balanced our budget for next year and have been able to keep our learning community small and will start next year with 215 learners and will not add learners unless we drop below 210. We have fulfilled the requirements of our renewal and have successfully become a Non-Profit Public Benefit Corporation. Recruitment was off the charts this year, with 159 Alameda learners applying for 37 know openings. Expansion proposals for next year have not been successful, but I will be reconvening the Strategic Planning Committee again in the early fall to discuss with the community about why expansion is in the best interest of the school and to determine what direction to go next. The demand is not going to go away and we need to consider our options.

The Creative Community Education Foundation (CCEF) and the Parent Asset Committee (PAC) have raised enough money this year to purchase 15 additional computers to support the program. These computers will be ordered and should be set up by the end of the school year. The retired computers that are still working will be moved to portable #4 to create a math lab to support the new math curriculum. Thanks to all of you who participated in this fundraising effort.

I am continuing to try and find additional funding to support our Electronic Media Program that will have UC approved courses in Visual Communications, Electronic Music, and Digital Video that will fulfill the “Visual and Performing Arts Requirement” for the University of California.

By Paul Bentz

Lead Facilitator Update

The end of the year is in sight! The next several weeks will be busy (and exciting) as we look forward to June 15th. Here are some events and dates to keep in mind:

- Open House and New Parent/Learner Night, May 24th at 7 p.m.
- The ACLC 10th Year Anniversary on May 27th
- Senior Trip to Disneyland Grad Night June 8-10
- Graduation on June 15th

The Lead Facilitator and Counselor are beginning to lay out the course schedule for next year. We will be piloting a computer-aided new math program called Carnegie Math for the pre-algebra and algebra learners and offering an elective “wheel” for the younger learners which includes semester long seminars in Explorations (music and dance) and Robotics in 6th grade, Creative Writing and Visual Communications in 7th grade, and Electronic Music and Digital Video Studio in 8th grade.

There’s a lot of fun, hands-on learning taking place at the Center right now with the annual Great America Rollercoaster Competition, the annual physics Boat Race, the annual Bridge Building competition, and the Lego Robotics project. Come by to check out some of the projects that make learning at the ACLC an experience like no other!

On a less academic note, best of luck to the Dark Meat Ultimate Frisbee team as they travel to Colorado on May 18th to compete in the national finals!

Thanks to all of the families who helped encourage our learners to come to school well-rested and do their best on the recent STAR testing. These tests are very important for our school and it is imperative that a high percentage of learners take the test. We appreciate your support and cooperation.

Have questions or concerns? Please feel free to contact me at 521-7543 ext. 113.

By Lora Lewis

Congratulate Youth Radio Winners: Ashley Mapp, Tyler Boyd-Meredith, Kumi Hodge!!

Youth Radio finally announced the three winners of the Youth Radio contest. Please congratulate these three learners: Ashley Mapp, who wrote about facing prejudice for being short; Tyler Boyd-Meredith, who wrote about discrimination faced by Muslims in France; and Kumi Hodge who wrote about how academic success negatively impacts African-American students’ popularity. Youth Radio has invited Ashley and Kumi to come to the KPFA studio to record their one-minute radio pieces.

Congratulations to all the sophomores and juniors who competed in the contest!

ACLC Governing Board Report
May 2006

The ACLC Governing Board approved the budget for the 2006-07 school year. No other action was taken.

Program Evaluation Committee Report

The learners of the Program Evaluation Committee are finishing up their analysis of the Respect Survey that they created earlier this year. Next, our committee will turn its attention to creating evaluation tools for stipend work at the Center and we will continue to work on ways to prepare for next year's WASC visit. We meet in the Center the second Wednesday of each month from 4:30 to 5:30. All are welcome.

ACLC Mission Statement

The Alameda Community Learning Center is an educational model that empowers all youth to take ownership of their educational experience, to celebrate their diverse community, and to actively participate as members in a democratic society.

SARC Parent Notification

The Alameda Community Learning Center School Accountability Report Card is now available in the school office and online.

Parents are invited to obtain a copy of their school's accountability report card in the school office, or online at the district's Web site, www.alameda.k12.ca.us . (Click on "About Our District/School Accountability")

Your School Accountability Report Card (SARC) is one of the best sources of information you have about your child's school. It documents how successful your school has been in meeting educational goals; highlights programs and resources for your child; offers important facts about student enrollment, demographics, discipline, class size, facilities, instruction, and teacher qualifications; and provides a helpful overview of your school's unique climate for learning.

Please take advantage of this important document to help you evaluate your child's education. If you have questions about information found in the SARC, you may contact Lora Lewis at 521-7543 ext. 113.

❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ **Facilitator Class Messages** ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖

MATH and SCIENCES

by Paul Bentz, Maffi Gueye , Patricia Williamson, Carlton Grizzle & Michael DeSousa

Science 6: We have been very busy working on Lego League! Learners are currently engaged in building their Lego robots and programming them to complete various tasks. They have learned to use light sensors, touch sensors, rotations sensors and robotic arms with their Lego robots as well. Some are even using probes to complete their mission.

Related to Lego league learners are completing a project where they will choose one ocean or sea activity or resource and trace its impact on our oceans' health, biodiversity, and productivity. Each of these activities is related to one of the Lego challenges they will face. They will learn what the experts and other groups are doing in the area they are researching, and identify a challenge they are facing.

You will have an opportunity to see the Lego League the morning (9am to 11:30am—Portable 4) of Wednesday May 24th. Learner's poster boards on the Lego League will be on display during the Lego League and Open House. Also there will be a demonstration of Lego League at the 10-year anniversary.

Come to one or all of the above events! You won't want to miss the fun!! (from Patricia)

Math 6: We have just finished Chapter 9 that explores circumference and area of circles to develop the respective formulas. We also developed the formulas for the volumes and surface areas of prisms and cylinders. Our last unit will be focusing on probability where learners will be developing their own fair game. We should have fun trying each other's games out!

I have been talking with the 6th grade learners about their math placement for next year. Many of the 6th graders will be taking pre-algebra next year. This is the traditional 7th grade course and follows the 7th grade California Math Standards. A few learners, however, may take Algebra next year. A matrix is used to determine math placement. Included in the matrix is the learner's grade in the class, the learner's Alameda Arithmetic Test (AAT) score, the learner's score on the Algebra Readiness Test, as well as their California Standards Test score. If you would like more information on this matrix please contact Patricia.

It has been a lot of fun working with the 6th graders this year in both math and science. They are a delightful group of young people, very genuine, bright and truly nice people! (from Patricia)

Pre-Algebra: We just finished learning about the characteristics of right triangles and about the Pythagorean Theorem. Currently we are working hard on linear equations, especially

slopes and rates of change. Learners have been graphing lines as well as comparing and interpreting graphs. Standardize testing will be administered the week of May 8th. I will administer the Algebra Readiness Test the following week.

I have been talking with the pre-algebra learners about their math placement for next year. A matrix is used to determine math placement. Included in the matrix is the learner's grade in the class, the learner's Alameda Arithmetic Test (AAT) score, the learner's score on the Algebra Readiness Test, as well as their California Standards Test score. Each of these is given a score of 1 to 5. To progress to Algebra next year learners need to get an average score of 3.7 or higher if in seventh grade, and 3.5 or higher if in 8th grade. We will work to place your learner in the appropriate math placement for next year. Ask your learner to see a copy of this matrix. If you would like more information on this matrix please contact Patricia.

I am very proud of how hard the Pre-algebra learners have worked this year to master the Pre-algebra concepts. They have shown tremendous growth! (from Patricia)

Chemistry meets three times a week for a one-hour lecture demonstration session or micro scale laboratory experience. Learners have finished learning the basics about atoms, chemical bonding, energy, the periodic table, gas laws, nuclear chemistry, patterns of change (acids and bases), and chemical equilibrium, solutions, and stoichiometry (mathematics of equations). We have completed a major review prior to their taking the California standards test in chemistry in early May. During their laboratory time we recently tested for the chemical properties of acids and bases, did experiments to develop an activity series, and did an acid-base titration to determine the concentration of an unknown acid. They have a creative expression project on a chemical topic of their choice due in late May. During the last month we will be learning about electrochemistry. (from Paul)

HUMANITIES

by Lynn Kameny, Jacob Powell, Lora Lewis & Syl Gibson

Sixth Grade Language Arts: The class created beautiful maps of Ulysses' physical and psychological journey and also presented some amazing Independent Book Projects. This is truly a creative, inspired group! Our time recently has been spent preparing for the STAR test, but we'll soon be starting our next project, which will be centered on learner-authored short stories. (from Lora)

6th Grade Social Science: We had a very successful Egyptian Museum project. We are in China now. We will be studying Greece next. (from Jacob)

Humanities 7-8: Well, the end of the school year is here. Over the year we've had three big writing assignments, and now the learners are beginning work on the fourth. Each learner is writing a persuasive speech on an environmental or social issue of his/her choice. The rough draft of the speech is due on Thursday and they will begin presenting their speeches next week. We will also be writing/reading poetry and reading a play based on the life of Anne Frank in the next few weeks.

In history we have been learning about the industrial revolution and will move on to the abolition and suffrage movements. We will end the year with an investigation of the Civil War.
(from Syl)

Humanities 9: Note: We spent a few class meetings discussing the practice STAR test available on-line. If you are interested, follow this link:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sr/css05rtq.asp>

We are currently finishing off *Catcher in the Rye*. Learners created amazingly complex thematic graphics projects that were well thought out and showed quite a depth of understanding of the novel. Next, we will be using these projects to write our final analytical essay of the year. Then, with Holden behind us, we will turn our attention, in the short time remaining, to poetry. Hopefully, we will unearth everyone's creative muse and end the year with in-class poetry readings.

As always, the class calendar is available on schoolnotes.com. Please encourage your learner to make up any missing assignments! Missing work earns a maximum grade of 80% if it is late by one week or less, and a maximum grade of 60% if it is over a week late. Late grades always equal more points than a zero, so do your best to encourage your son/daughter to make up missing work!! (from Lynn)

Honors English 10: As the school year winds to an end we will read one more novel, *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien. Then the learners will write an essay that surveys the whole year of war-themed books and answers the question, "How do values and priorities change in a time of war?"

(from Syl)

English 10/11: Note: We spent a few class meetings discussing the practice STAR test available on-line. If you are interested, follow this link:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sr/css05rtq.asp>

We are currently reading and studying the Shakespeare play, *Othello*, and learners are working in teams to explore a specific Act in depth. Following our Act presentations and play discussions, learners will be writing a final essay reflecting on one of the major themes in the play and its relationship to their lives. Then, with Shakespeare behind us, we will turn our attention, in the short time remaining, to poetry. Hopefully, we will unearth everyone's creative muse and end the year with in-class poetry readings.

As always, the class calendar is available on schoolnotes.com. Please encourage your learner to make up any missing assignments! Missing work earns a maximum grade of 80% if it is late by one week or less, and a maximum grade of 60% if it is over a week late. Late grades always equal more points than a zero, so do your best to encourage your son/daughter to make up missing work!! (from Lynn)

U. S. History: the Classes will be learning about the Cold War and the beginning of the Vietnam conflict. The 1920's-1930's project presentations and papers were a complete success thank you to all the Learners who did their best in completing the assignment.

(from Jacob)

English 11/12 HP: Our study of *Frankenstein* produced some fascinating discussion. The learners are now working on a research paper exploring the impact of Mary Shelley's monster on popular culture (from Lora)

English 12 - Senior Seminar: After dealing with the heady issues of *The Handmaid's Tale*, we have turned to some lighter fare with Aristophanes' bawdy comedy, *Lysistrata*. We'll turn serious again very soon, however as we begin our study of *Hamlet* and wallow in some youthful angst! (from Lora)

OTHER CLASSES and CENTER ACTIVITIES

Art Room Notes: The annual exhibit of learners work is now on display at Spellbinding Tales throughout the month of May. It is a wonderfully diverse show, and this year features work from the Digital Design class. Check it out! Hours are 11-8 Tues through Sat and 12-6 Sundays, closed Mondays. The backyard beautification project is underway with the art classes working vigorously on creating murals and mosaics. The mosaics will be for the eating area tables and benches. Everything expects to be completed by the end of the school year. I have enjoyed being part of ACLC as the art facilitator for the soon to be past three years. I hope that the final projects here will have enjoyment for the community. I wish a wonderful summer for all and wish everyone the very best. (from Joan)

Digital Design: As I'm sure you've heard, Digital Design has been approved by the UC system. Learners in 06-07 will be able to count the course towards UC entrance requirements and their grades will be a part of their academic GPA. Next year, the class will be called Visual Communications but will have the same content. Currently, learners are finishing up a 5-part drawing assignment that includes a landscape, still life, abstract, figure and character drawing. We are moving on to our final portfolio assignment. Learners will be creating and assembling a body of work and an artist's statement for presentation. Learner work was displayed at a show and reception at Spellbinding Tales, on May 5th, and will be on display again at our Open House on May 24th. - (from Carrie)

Creative Writing: The writers have been busy working on adapting screenplays from another medium. We've had a wide range of projects, including an adaptation of "The Tell Tale Heart" and a screen-to-stage adaptation of *The Nightmare Before Christmas*. We'll wrap up the year with a return to short fiction. (from Lora)

Peer Counseling: Learners continue to lead seminars on assigned psycho-educational topics and build their capacity to effectively facilitate a group process. They are incorporating both content and process into their presentations. (from Jackie)

Counseling Corner

From Jackie James

jjames@alameda.k12.ca.us

Attention Juniors

Schedule college visits: Juniors should begin to visit colleges that may be of interest in preparation for narrowing the choices for application next year. If appropriate, apply for an interview and/or an overnight stay.

Colleges That Change Lives:

CTCL schools are a group of 40 distinctive colleges and universities that should not be overlooked and are worth serious consideration. Each of these schools is unique in its own right but they also share two essential elements: a familial sense of communal enterprise that gets students heavily involved in cooperative rather than competitive learning, and a faculty of scholars devoted to helping young people develop their powers, mentors who often become their valued friends."

A CTCL event highlighting these colleges and universities is scheduled for **Tuesday, August 8, 2006** at the Walnut Creek Marriott, 8:00 – 9:00 P.M. For more information go to www.ctlc.org

PROGRAM PLANNING FOR NEXT YEAR

Learners should have submitted their course requests for next year. If your son/daughter has not submitted a form, please have them see me immediately.

PERALTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE FALL SEMESTER (Aug. 23 – Dec. 22)

Learners may sign up for Fall classes now. The Fall schedule is posted online at www.peralta.edu and forms are available in the counseling center. Plan now for these classes!

Summer Opportunities

AUSD SUMMER SCHOOL

The Middle School Summer School continues to focus its limited resources on academic intervention targeting learners who score at below grade-level proficiency in English/Language Arts and math. These students should have recently received information from the district office regarding summer school and the process to apply.

High School Summer School has changed to a four week session instead of six-weeks as has been customary. It will have limited offerings primarily focusing on making-up English and Math courses not passed by learners during the regular school year. Applications will be available after spring break.

Summer School Locations and Dates:

Level	Location	Date
Middle	Chipman Middle School	June 22 – July 21, 2006
High	Encinal High School	June 22 - July 21, 2006

PERALTA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Summer Session: June 19 – July 28

The Peralta College SUMMER SESSION information/schedule is now online at www.peralta.edu . Learners will need a concurrent enrollment form signed by me and their parent. The concurrent enrollment forms are available in the counseling center. Please note that learners who are planning to take English or Math courses at the college must first take an assessment test and place into the course desired.

UC SUMMER SESSIONS OPEN TO HIGH SCHOOL LEARNERS

Motivated high school learners can attend summer session. Each campus welcomes non-UC students in a wide range of courses. Find more information at <http://www.ucop.edu/pathways/ucnotes/april06/summer.html>

UNIVERSITY OF THE PACIFIC SUMMER SCHOLARS 2006

Applications Accepted through June 2

A five-week residential program designed for college-bound juniors and seniors. Take college classes, earn up to eight units of college credit, and participate in social activities and outings guided by trained academic and residential advisors.

Early Bird Tuition: May 3. More information: 209-946-2424 or cpce@pacific.edu

BERKELEY REP SCHOOL OF THEATER PRETEEN & TEEN CLASSES

A variety of classes are offered to 6th-12th graders including musical theater, stage combat, acting Shakespeare, private singing and a teen performance lab. More information:

www.berkeleyrep.org

HARVARD SECONDARY SCHOOL PROGRAM

Applications Accepted December through June 11

Designed for 10th -12th graders can choose Harvard classes, participate in summer drama productions, the writing center and math center as well as many recreational and social activities. For information: www.ssp.harvard.edu or come to the counseling center.

JUNIOR STATESMAN SUMMER SCHOOL

Application Deadline: June 30

Calling all outstanding freshmen, sophomores and juniors who have a passionate interest in politics, current events and state politics- Apply for programs at UC Davis (August 7 -10) or USC (July 30 – August 2). More information is available at www.jsa.org/summer .

School Phone#'s & E.mails

ACLCLC Phone: (510) 521-7543 – Answered at the Center & Facilitator phonemail

Absence notification method: contact Juanita Williams at phone: 510-521-7543 ext. 100 or 0 or at Email: jwilliams@alameda.k12.ca.us On Wednesday nights while the Center is open, please call 521-7543 x104, which will not default to phonemail ... it will be answered.

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