



SLICES NEWSLETTER

January 8, 2021



CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

- Jan. 8:** *That's today!* Deadline for submitting donated Auction Items.
- Jan. 11 - 5:00 pm:** Next Steps - Lifeline Learning (see enclosed flyer)
- Jan. 12 - 6:00 pm:** Auction Committee Meeting. Meeting link [HERE](#).
- Jan. 12 - 7:00 pm:** Parent Connections Meeting. Meeting link [HERE](#).
- Jan. 18:** No School - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Jan. 19 - 6:00 pm:** Auction Committee Meeting. Meeting link [HERE](#).
- Jan. 25 - 5:00 pm:** Next Steps - Lifeline Learning (see enclosed flyer)
- Jan. 26 - 6:00 pm:** Auction Committee Meeting. Meeting link [HERE](#).
- Jan. 29:** End of Fall Semester and Quarter 2
- Feb. 1 - Feb. 9:** Volunteers needed for the Auction. Sign up [HERE](#).
- Feb. 1 - Feb. 5:** Online Masquerade Auction. More info [HERE](#).
- Feb. 4:** **CANCELLED** Parent Council Meeting (next one will be held on March 4 at 4 pm via Zoom)
- Feb. 6 - 6:00 pm:** Masquerade Auction - Live Online Stream. More info [HERE](#). ([volunteers needed](#))
- Feb. 8:** Next Steps - Steps to Independence (see enclosed flyer)
- Feb. 15 - Feb. 19:** President's Day & Mid-Winter Break - *No School*

You can check out our whole school calendar any time [HERE](#)

A 2021 WELCOME TO APL FAMILIES FROM KELLY MEYER

I want to wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year during this first week back to school. 2020 was a surreal year, and while there are still significant challenges ahead of us with the pandemic in 2021, we at APL are feeling motivated and energized by the light at the end of the tunnel. This week we met with our full staff to review new updates to our COVID-19 addendum in the staff and family handbooks. With vaccines on the horizon and new guidance from Governor Inslee (from 12/17/20), we are adapting our plans to respond to numbers of cases and incrementally returning students to the school building. This will not be a fast process, as there is significant reorganizing to do in the classrooms and we want to be thoughtful and conscientious, keeping everyone's health and safety as our highest priority. Individual communications to families are being sent by email and letter. I know you are all anxious for as much clarity as possible and I am happy to answer questions along the way. Above all, I ask for your patience and understanding as we navigate the second half of this school year.

-Kelly Meyer, Executive Director

CONGRATULATIONS TO STAFF!



Over Winter Break and the first week of January, several members had their "CBT" licenses become active! (That stands for Certified Behavior Technician and is a meaningful accomplishment). Kudos go to Shreyas, Maddy, Julia, Alexis, Serin, and Jennifer R!

THANK YOU!



Thank you everyone for promoting our Open House! Thank you for inviting friends, neighbors, coworkers and associates. They came and we had a wonderful turnout. We had over 50 families in attendance. There were families interested in every grade level. For some it was their first introduction to APL and for others it was a time to ask specific questions. We had teachers from lower, middle and high schools, clinic staff and leadership in breakout rooms to lead discussions and ask questions. It was informative and enjoyable. Thank you to everyone for inviting your community to this important event. You helped make it a success.

2021 MASQUERADE AUCTION



Planning for the 2021 Auction is underway. *Masquerade* will be an all online affair this year. An online silent auction will run from February 1 - 5, 2021. The live event will be broadcast on Saturday, February 6. **And we need your help to make it successful!**

Auction Deadlines!

Today is the Procurement deadline for all auction items. That means we need to know what you will be donating. Please send in your procurement forms ASAP.

A reminder that in the Auction section on the [Family Information](#) page, there is an updated list of items being requested and those that have been pledged.

Got a great idea but haven't quite got it all wrapped up in a bow? That's OK. Let us know what you are working on and we will hold a spot for your item.

Still need a quick idea? We would like more Techy items (VR, a Switch, laptop) and more exercise equipment and classes both indoor and out (hand weights, snowshoes, or online exercises classes).

January Auction Committee Meetings

As we count down to our big event, please join us for our Auction Committee meetings weekly on Tuesdays:

Jan. 12, Jan. 19, & Jan. 26

6:00 pm via Zoom

Meeting Link [HERE](#).

Volunteer Opportunities during and after the Auction

There are still chances to help! We need lots of delivery drivers from Feb. 1 through Feb. 6. ... as well as people to deliver auction prizes to winners after the event. Drivers will deliver gift bags to the porches of our auction guests or pick up and deliver desserts to Dessert Dash winners or deliver items after the auction to the winner. There is something for everyone's schedule with several different dates and times available. You can sign up for multiple jobs too.

We will also need volunteers to help from home to monitor comments and forward emails to the auction team during the evening of Feb. 6. And we need people to write and mail thank you cards starting right after the event.

Sign up [HERE](#) for your chance to help!

2021 MASQUERADE AUCTION



Auction Auction! Dessert Dash needs your donations!

Still need to give to the auction? We have a great opportunity for you. Buy a dessert or two at your favorite bakery and you will be credited with a donation for its cost. We will have a volunteer pick it up from the bakery and deliver it to the auction winner to enjoy during the live auction. Support a local small business and APL at the same time!

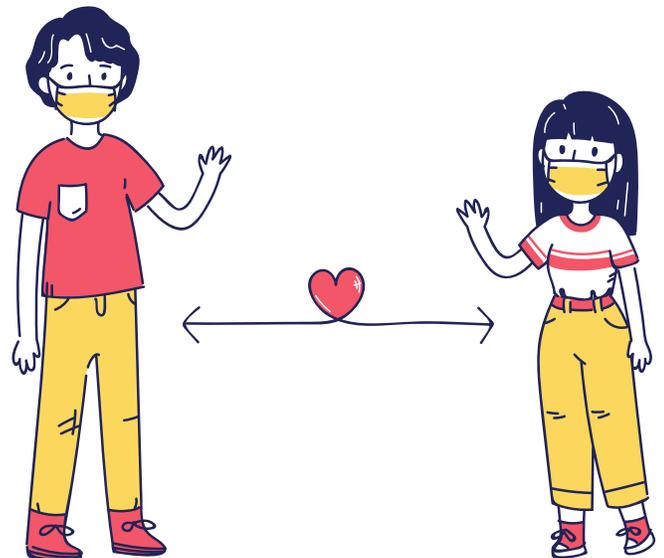
Here's how:

1. Order and pay for a cake or dozen cupcakes or another dessert at your local bakery.
2. **By January 15**, send a description of the dessert, the name, and contact information of the bakery and a photo (if possible) to development@aplschool.org (the bakery may have a description or check the website).
3. Reserve it for pick up on either Friday, February 5 or Saturday, February 6 under the name APL.

That's it! We'll take care of the rest. Easy as 1, 2, 3. Please send us the description, bakery information, and photo by **January 15**.

Sign Up Now - and Don't Forget to Reserve your Gift Bag

You can get ready to bid on items during the online event any time. Registration for the auction is free - and you can also make an optional donation for a pre-event gift bag for \$50 or \$100, depending on the style you choose. Check out your options [HERE](#).



UPCOMING ONLINE PROGRAMMING

Parent Connections This Tuesday

You are invited to attend the Parent Connections meeting on Tuesday, January 12 at 7:00 pm (immediately after the the Auction Committee meeting). We will be hosting members of the UW Education department from the Reading Development Project (RDP). Led by Dr. Roxanne Hudson and Dr. Carly Roberts, the RDP team aims to understand how reading skills develop in students with various intellectual and developmental disabilities. For more information on the Reading Development Project, visit the website HERE.

The presentation on Tuesday, January 12 will discuss literacy development at home and ways to engage and motivate students around reading. This presentation will be valuable for families with students of all ages, and we hope some of our K-5 families will participate in this study. The team is excited to spend some time doing Q&A and identifying other topics around literacy and reading development for future talks at APL.

We look forward to sharing in this experience with you! Please use the link below to join us on Tuesday, January 12.

<https://zoom.us/j/91444899023>

Register Now for two Online Series: Steps to Independence and Lifelong Learning

We are excited to announce APL is partnering with Seattle Children's Autism Center to implement the Next Steps Curriculum in a school setting for the first time! Next Steps is a 3-part class series for APL families only, designed to provide information and support *for parents and caregivers* of a child 15 to 21 years old and transitioning to adulthood. APL is opening this class up to ALL families interested in learning about the transition process, non-dependent on your child's age. These classes will be facilitated by Alicia Nathan, APL's Director of Counseling and Transition.

Please see the attached flyer for detailed class information.

Through March 2021, APL will begin a monthly rotation of each series. Each series will be comprised of 3-weeks of classes to cover the full curriculum and will be held via Zoom on Mondays, 5:00-6:30 pm.

Rotation 2: **Lifelong Learning** 1/11, 1/25

Rotation 3: **Steps to Independence** 2/2, 2/8, 2/22

Rotation 4: **Lifelong Learning** 3/1, 3/8, 3/15

Middle School Affinity Groups

We are excited to announce the launch of Affinity Groups for Middle School students, which are being facilitated by APL staff members. These will be held on Wednesdays at 12:25 pm. Check out the topic areas below. If one of your middle school students would be interested, email info@aplschool.org for more information.

- Jack's Minecraft Group
- David's Board Games Group
- Toby's Anime/Manga Group
- Kwame's Crafting/Making Group
- Steve's Cooking Group
- Jesse's Makeup Artistry Group

ALL-FAMILY UPDATES AND RESOURCES

Tools and Resources for Families & Caregivers During the COVID-19 Public Health Crisis

Seattle Children's has compiled an excellent list of tools and resources to help you and your loved ones manage stress and anxiety and stay safe during this public health crisis.

Check out the list of resources [HERE](#).

All School Directory

We sent out an update on Thursday, December 17 and we have enclosed another copy of that version. If you have any corrections or questions, please email us at info@aplschool.org.

A STATEMENT AGAINST HATRED FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear APL community,

I join with you in our collective sadness and horror over the events that transpired at our Capitol on January 6 in Washington, D.C. This has been a year of repeated traumas for many in our school community. I'll be honest and say that my "cup" of trauma was already pretty full; processing the horrifying visuals of rioters storming the capitol building, and piecing together the inflammatory language of our president with the timeline of events yesterday evening, truly was traumatic. The stark contrast between the way these rioters were treated and the way protesters in the wake of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor's murders were treated is striking and inspires rage in my belly.

APL rejects the ideologies of white supremacy, anti-Semitism, and discrimination that were on display yesterday. We stand as allies working within and without our classroom spaces to educate, support, and lift others up through change in ourselves and our communities.

Our first amendment rights as citizens of the United States are fundamental to being American, however they do not condone or protect acts of violence, or turning a peaceful assemblage into a mob. For government leaders and those in positions of legal and social power, it is critically important for them to use measured rhetoric and monitor the way their words and ideas reverberate among our citizens. That these rioters were attempting to disrupt the Electoral College certification by Congress, a ceremonial piece of our democratic structure, is unacceptable and cannot be tolerated.

Finally, I grieve with the families of those who lost their lives in the insurrection, and for what their deaths will mean for our country's history when we look back on that day. It is a day that will not be forgotten; our democracy is under the microscope around the world, and it is clear there is much work and healing to be done.

Our congressional leaders' decision to reconvene the people's work in the Capitol chambers speaks to the hope I still have for our country. There is good, there is hope, there is bravery and strength. January 6 saw the election of Georgia's first senator of color and the state's first Jewish senator. We have made such progress as a nation, and while we fight forces of hatred and division together, we must press on into the wind with linked arms, as a citizenry united.

Kelly Meyer
Executive Director