



All City Elementary PTA Newsletter

Week 2
August 29, 2011

Our Mission: "To create a community of learners: children, teachers, and parents working cooperatively to maximize individual growth and success in a changing world."

Deadline: Friday, noon
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At a glance Calendar Events

- Aug 29th—Sept 2nd
Week 2
~Parent Trainers in Classrooms (K-2)
- Friday, Sept 2nd
Swimming
- Monday, Sept 5th
No School
- Tuesday, Sept 6th
Parent Training Night
6:00 pm
- Tuesday, Sept 13th
Picture Day

**Complete
School Year
Calendar is
available at
www.allcitypta.org**

From the PTA President:

Yogi..Bear are you???

As the struggle between mind vs. nature was about to ensue, we prepared to face the challenge head on. It was to be a battle of epic proportion. The likes that would bring even the strongest man to his knees. We conquered the jumping pillow by a single bound, or at least with several bounces. Our heroes then gathered aboard the wagon, our trusty steed if you will, that would take us to the arena. First up was the easy maze, ha! This was a piece of cake, we entered in, went in circles and came back out where we went in, success! (At least we found our way out so that counts) One down, one to go, maps Mrs. Pierson, "we don't need no stinking maps!", I laughed at the notion, so we entered confident in our steps and heads held high...45 minutes and a phone call, a few tweets, posts to Facebook, MySpace, your-space, our-space and outer-space for help later, we were escorted out to the exit of the maze; sweaty, hot and defeated and in the words of 5th grader Taylor McCoy it was an epic fail! I'm totally down with that. Nature may have dampened our spirits a little, but All City rose up and represented our community well! I want to thank all who were involved in making this a fun day. The kids were awesome sports and great buddies to their fellow students.

Scott Stearns
PTA President

**Don't Forget
your
"Me Bag"
for Family
this week**

First Lego League
Parent info meeting
Wednesday, August 31
Library at 6:30 pm

See page 3
of the newsletter
for more information



Parent Training Info:

It's ACE Parent Training time once again!! This year, we will follow a format that we have not utilized for three years. The evening will go from 6 to 8 pm, unless you only have one child at ACE that is not in Kindergarten. If this is true (only one child beyond K)—you will attend one classroom session, and then can pick up your PTA Handbook information, and your evening is done by 7:40!! The schedule then will include 4, 15 minute breakout sessions in different rooms. The topics will include items that continue to be of interest to families at ACE, whether you are a new family, or have put a number children through All City. All parents will go to all 4 of these sessions, divided by last name, and will include 5 minutes of passing time between classes.

The last 45 minutes will give parents a chance to receive some specific information about the classroom(s) that they will be participating in this year. Two, 15 minute sessions will be offered, with a five minute passing time. If you only have one child at ACE, you only need to attend the first classroom session. If your family is represented in more than two classrooms, you will have to divide adult family members between the rooms to participate in all rooms of interest.

One exception is for Kindergarten families. If your oldest child at ACE is in Kindergarten, we want you to attend both classroom sessions in the Kindergarten classroom. If you have other children at ACE, and one in Kindergarten, we want to encourage you to attend the older classroom(s) first, and then come to the Kindergarten session at 7:40.

One change this year is that this training, which has always been considered mandatory, will be treated as such, in that each family is required to send at least one adult member. If you cannot come, it will be counted as one of your missed-commitments for this year, and the follow-up guidelines explained in the handbook will be followed. Each classroom will have a sign in, and will track family attendance in the classroom sessions. This is an important time in our school, as we focus all our adult attention on our activities that will benefit and enrich the education and life of all our children at All City.

A few reminders about Tuesday's ACE Parent Training, September 6

Required of all families who will perform classroom commitment time, this year, one adult family member must attend, all performing classroom commitment are welcome. This night is for adults ONLY (parents, grandparents, etc). Please provide other activities for ACE students or younger siblings. If one parent or other commitment-serving adult cannot attend for each family on September 6, it will be counted as one missed commitment for this year. Sessions include 4 mandatory break-out sessions, and two classroom information presentations.

Families with oldest ACE student in Kindergarten, please attend both classroom sessions in the Kindergarten room. If you have other students at ACE and a Kindergartener, please attend the other session first, then the second session in Kindergarten.

If you have questions about the classroom information, please discuss it with the teacher, if you have questions about the other session's information, please ask the teacher presenting or Mr. D.

Where do I go at 6:00?

Last name begins with:

A-C

4th grade classroom

D-J

5th grade classroom

K-M

3rd grade classroom

N-Y

Library

Sessions will rotate in a clockwise direction

Schedule we will follow:

Parent Training Schedule

6:00-6:15 Session 1

6:20-6:35 Session 2

6:40-6:55 Session 3

7:00-7:15 Session 4

7:20-7:35 Classroom

Presentation #1

7:40-7:55 Classroom

Presentation #2

7:40 or 7:55 Pick up your Handbook Revisions in the Gym as you leave.

One additional Training Piece of Information—

Grades 3 through 5 in class training is now completed. Grade K-2 will be going on, yet, this week. If a person is going to be doing classroom commitment, and doesn't get trained in one of these sessions, be sure of two things:

1—If you plan to regularly use more than 3 people for your commitment expectation, you must apply and be approved by ACE PTA, please contact one of the PTA members, your classroom teacher, or Mr. D.

2—For someone to be considered "classroom trained" and able to do the commitment, they must spend an entire session (all am or pm session) with you, to be trained, in the classroom they will serve in.



FIRST® LEGO® League (FLL) In South Dakota



What we do: FLL is the place where smarts are celebrated. Kids ages 9-14 form teams of 3-10 with at least 1 adult coach. They engineer and program an autonomous robot, invent a solution to a real-world scientific problem, and share their knowledge to positively impact their community - and then come together with other FLL teams to compete and celebrate what they've learned in an event with as much excitement and cheering as an NCAA basketball tournament. It's sport for the mind, and it's great for the kids.

When we do it: The official FLL season begins Sept 2 when the national organization releases the details about the robot missions and project that the teams will need to complete. Each year FLL has a real-world science theme that teams explore - this year is Food Factor, where teams will be looking into keeping our food supply safe from contamination. Teams work from Sept - Feb on their missions, project, and practicing good teamwork; they then compete with other teams from around the state in our Championship Event on Feb 25, 2012 at Augustana College in Sioux Falls.

How we do it: Each Sioux Falls middle school has an FLL coordinator, and, depending on space, elementary students from the feeder schools may be welcome on a middle school team. The coordinators, along with the South Dakota Robotics Association, the non-profit that helps run FLL in South Dakota, will be doing parent nights at each middle school, as well as some elementary schools, Aug 23-25. Come to a parent night to get more information about FLL, see a robot in action, meet your coordinator, and have your questions answered. Anyone can start a team however - all you need is 3-10 kids and one adult coach (parents, teachers, mentors). Several SF elementary schools also have their own teams - check with your principal for information on elementary teams. SDRR also does free classes for FLL teams in robot programming, as well as team mentoring sessions for the team on the competition aspects. Their website also has all the season information about FLL and other robotics opportunities, and information on how to start a team.

Who to know: FLL Partner for South Dakota: Dr Daniel Swets (Augustana College)

FLL School Coordinators: Axtell Park- Adam Tjaden
 Edison - Kayla Mehlhoff
 Memorial - Todd Steever
 Patrick Henry - Shirley Mauss
 Whittier - Mike Barth

FLL in SD training and website- the South Dakota Robotics Association
<http://www.SouthDakotaRobotics.com>