

Los Altos Brethren School Newsletter

April 2017

April Focus ... A believer will pray.

“Be anxious for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.” Philippians 4:6

Character Trait: Perseverance



Dear Parents,

We are seeing tremendous growth in our students as we are well into spring. What fertilizes the growth of your hopes and desires for your children? Which direction do you want your sapling to grow? Our children are impressionable, like wet cement. Social media, screen time, movies, and video games command the attention daily of our students. We would like to encourage you to take the hard road against society's pressure on how much time your child invests in these kind of endeavors. Take a look at Gary Chapman and Arlene Pellicane's article on Raising Socially Competent Kids. An excerpt is on the back of this newsletter with the url to continue reading the full article. You'll be glad you did.



Parent Support Group (PSG) Update _____

Next Meeting, Monday, May 1, 7:00-8:00pm. This is an important meeting. Open House details and year end activities will be discussed. Please plan to attend. Free Child care.

Scholarship Fund _____

We have school families that are able to attend our school because of generous donations from people that love and believe in our school. Our scholarship fund is in need of additional funding. If you feel led to make a general donation or scholarship a student, or know of someone who is, please contact Mrs. Martin by email at dmartin.labpreschool@gmail.com. Thank you.

OPEN HOUSE!

Friday, May 12th 5:30-8:30pm

BOYS TOP SECRET NIGHT

LOCATION: Los Altos Brethren DATE: April 29, 2017

TIME: 5:07 – 8:03pm RSVP: office@lagbc.org

ATTENTION AGENTS: Boys Kinder-6th & one parent or grandparent

If you accept this mission, RSVP with name & grade for correct team placement.

2017 A.C.S.I. Math Olympics Ribbon Winners

3rd Grade

3rd Place – Kara Ihrig, Computation

5th Place – Joshua Hulse, Reasoning

4th Grade

3rd Place – Grant Gradis, Reasoning

5th Grade

4th Place – Kam Barnes, Computation

5th Place – Andrew Justice, Computation

1st Place with Honors - Killian Murray, Reasoning

3rd Place – Andrew Bensavage, Reasoning

6th Grade

4th Place – Wesli Oeh, Computation

The following students also competed in the ACSI Math Olympics: Ryan Butler, Nathan Davis, Whitney Erickson, Jackson Gill, Keira McFarland, Julia Reiser, Nathan Reiser, and Noah VanderBeeck.
Congratulations to all!

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

4/14 **Good Friday, 12 noon dismissal - no day care**

4/17-21 **NO SCHOOL, Easter Vacation**

4/27 **ACSI Band Festival**

4/29 **Boys Great Adventure**

5/2 **Early Dismissal @ 1:50pm**

5/2-5 **6th Grade Camp**

5/3-5 **4th Grade Camp**

5/4-5 **3rd Grade Camp**

5/12 **Open House, 5:30-8:00pm**

5/17-19 **5th Grade Camp**

5/23 **Free Vision Screening, grades K-6**

5/26 **Music Chapel & Last Coffee House**

5/29 **No School, Memorial Day**

6/1 **Band & Choir Spring Concert, 6:30pm, chapel**

6/6 **Early Dismissal @ 1:50pm**

6/8 **Choir Showcase @ TBA**

6/13 **Park Day & 6th Grade Graduation**

6/14 **Last Day of School, grades K-5**

Raising Socially Competent Kids

By Gary Chapman and Arlene Pellicane

No doubt you have seen your kids with their eyes glued to a computer screen, television or mobile device. And you may have wondered how technology is affecting them. The moving pictures on television, in video games and in apps are extremely stimulating, and a child's brain is particularly sensitive. In fact, you might say that those brains are made of *plastic*. Brains can change and adapt to what they are exposed to, a concept known as neural plasticity. Brain connections can be strengthened by use or weakened through neglect — the "use it or lose it" principle, according to Dr. Jay Giedd from the National Institute of Mental Health.

With increased screen use, the neural connections used for listening and learning, concentration and conversation are often neglected. Furthermore, kids who heavily use technology become "wired" to use their gadgets to communicate instead of talking

communicate instead of talking face to face with people.

Social skills are not built on a phone or computer. They must be practiced in real life, beginning in the home, where loving parents model what healthy relationships look like. Yes, technology is here to stay, and you'll likely find positive ways to utilize screens and gadgets in your family. These are amazing days when families can keep connected over long distances with photos, videos and instant messages. But if you don't minimize and counter the influence of screens in your family's life, when your son finally meets those relatives face to face, he may not know how to simply sit and visit.

As you work to build a home where children are shaped by real relationships, focus on these five critical social skills:

Finish reading this article at

<http://www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting/building-relationships/life-skills/raising-socially-competent-kids>