

CITY ACADEMY

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 24, 2007



The end of the quarter is just around the corner. Any questions or concerns about your student's progress should be addressed before fall break. This weekend it should also be noted that students do not return to school until Wednesday, October 31, and that is an early release day for end of term reporting.

Auditions for Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde

We will be having auditions on Thursday, October 25th from 3:30-5:00 p.m. and Friday, October 26th from 2:30-4:00 p.m.

What students need for the audition:

1. A monologue that is at least 30 seconds to a minute in length. (Lines memorized and ready to perform from your favorite movie or play.)
2. An A Capella piece at least 30 seconds to a minute in length. (A lyrical piece of music without music accompaniment.)
3. To be dressed for movement. (Clothing that you could exercise and stretch with.)

All students of City Academy can audition for Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. The director, Bobby Cody, will also hold auditions for people without monologues and an A Capella piece. These auditions will be done in groups. There are plenty of roles in the production and he is looking for cast to fill them all.

Once the play has been cast, we will be rehearsing Thursdays and Fridays after school from November 1st to February 1st. There will be a few Saturday rehearsals that will be announced at a later date.

We are looking to fill many positions for our stage crew. Positions available are: costume designer, set construction, sound and lighting technician, advertiser and stage hands. If you know anyone who is interested in volunteering for this production, please have them contact Bobby at bobby@cityacademyslc.org.

An Invitation from Ballet West and The Academy of Performing Arts

Ballet West has invited City Academy to the dress rehearsal of *The Three Musketeers*. This performance

will be on October 31, 2007 from 6:30-9:30 p.m. and is open to ages 11 - 14.

If a student is interested in going to the show they should contact Bobby, the drama teacher, at

bobby@cityacademyslc.org by October 27th. We will also need chaperones for every 10 students who wish to attend. This is a great opportunity for students to see a great production as well as experience this process in theatre.

IMPORTANT DATES

OCT. 29-30

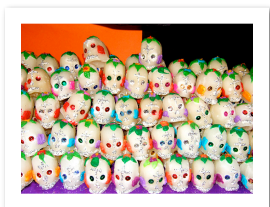
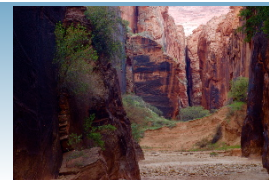
Fall Break-
No School

OCT. 31

End of First Term-
Early Release @
1:10

NOV. 2

School Dance- *Day
of the Dead* Theme
8-11 p.m.



“Dance of the Dead”

City Academy’s social committee will be hosting its first dance of the year on Friday, November 2, from 8:00-11:00 p.m. Our dances are a lot of fun and we encourage parent volunteers. If you can’t help with setting up food, collecting money, or chaperoning, we always appreciate donations of snacks and drinks for the students.

This dance will be named “Dance of the Dead” in coordination with the Urban Dragon’s *Dia de los Muertos* (*Day of the Dead*) celebrations that week. Students will be making sugar skulls, papier mâché skeletons, and many other spooky decorations. Costumes are encouraged at the dance. If you would like to help, please contact katie@cityacademyslc.org. Drop snack/drink donations off at the main office.

“Catch the Spirit”



*Connect *Learn *Support

Bring your student to the *Dance of the Dead* and then slip away to the "attic" for some food, festivity and information.

Where: City Academy, upstairs

When: November 2nd, 8-9:30 pm

What: An adult social and information night for family and supporters of City Academy, sponsored by the PTLT.

Bring: A snack or beverage.

*Image borrowed from evite.com

Smith's Earn and Learn Program

For those of you that have registered with the Smith's Earn & Learn Program, and listed City Academy as the school to donate to, you must re-enroll every year.

For those of you that have never enrolled and shop at Smith's, we encourage you to enroll. You can ask grandparents and close friends to enroll also. Every purchase you make and use your Fresh Values card accumulates cash for City Academy.

Smith's had made the process extremely easy to enroll and re-enroll. Simply go to www.smithsfoodanddrug.com and click on "Earn & Learn". Follow the instructions from there.

The code for City Academy is: **83014**

Thank you so much for your support.

City Academy Wish List

We have had an outpouring of generosity since we started publishing this wish list! Therefore, we'll keep updating and printing the list as donated items come in. Thanks again to all who have donated...your generosity is appreciated!

Front Desk-Sara

Feminine supplies, basic school supplies, Battery Charger

After-School Program-Cindy

Button-maker (that makes 1 or 1.5" buttons), markers, gel pens, magnet sheets with sticky backing, gift-wrapping supplies, school glue, glue sticks, hot glue guns and glue sticks, scissors, CD player, beads, fabric paint

Foods-Shea

Mixing bowls, blender, pots & skillets with lids, dish soap

Grease Bus-Shea

Mechanical help with the grease bus, several 5-gal. buckets with lids and handles to hold liquid for biodiesel production

Computer lab-Bruce

see Bruce for specifics

Green School Committee

Potting soil, seeds, empty spray bottles

PE-Scott

Frisbees, jump ropes, Real bowling pins (many bowling alleys sell used ones for 50 cents to \$1), equipment bags, footballs, soccer balls, basketballs, fitness equipment

General

4-wheeler (ATV) for snow removal

Music-Deanna

Guitar tuners, guitar strings (nylon and steel)

Student Store-Jodie and Shea

Rolling cart

Art-Wade

Art books, paints, brushes, charcoal, pencils, drawing paper, easels, erasers



BRINGING VALUABLES TO SCHOOL



Students generally report a lost or missing item to Sara. Most frequently reported are cell phones and iPods, each expensive electronic devices. While these items are usually found and returned within a day, it is very troublesome for parents to replace permanently lost or stolen electronics.

When sending your student to school with these devices, please consider how easy it is to drop or misplace small electronics, and how quickly they might be stolen if left unattended. City Academy cannot be responsible for lost or stolen items, though we do follow up on any accusations of theft. Because these items are not to be used during class time, City Academy recommends that students store valuables in their lockers during the school day! Please use your best judgment when allowing your student to carry expensive accessories.

PROGRESS REPORTS – A NEW LOOK

Posted on the new parent list serve CAPS_NET was a concern about our new progress reporting system. Since many of you have not yet subscribed to that list serve I am including my response to that post for you in our parent newsletter.

First of all, let me assure you that there is no “new quantified grading system” this year. We are still using our more qualitative and informative system of reporting demonstrated competency levels as Initial, Reaching, Solid, and Expanded or I, R, S, and E.

What is new this year is that we have moved from using our own internal data base for managing student progress reports to the Utah state Student Information System (SIS) for managing student reports. In the long term this state system will provide more accessible information for parents, students, and teachers/ advisors. We are currently working closely with the state office to adjust the parameters of the state’s SIS structure so that we can better report through their system all the information you want to receive.

One of the necessary evils for us in working with SIS is that we are required to enter numbers rather than letters to report demonstrated competency. We developed a system for coding our levels of demonstrated competency so that we could enter them into SIS. You may recall from last year that our progress reports also included a “thermometer” where a student’s level of demonstrated competency was additionally marked within a range for each level of competency. The coding system we developed to correlate numbers with all that qualitative information is as follows (and is in the handbook on p. 20): Expanded is coded 20. Solid is coded with 18-19. Reaching is coded with 16-17. Initial is coded with 14-15. We use the code 13 to represent student work and effort, but demonstrated competency that does not yet reach the Initial level. A lack of work demonstrating competency is coded as 0.

Unfortunately once these numbers are in the state system, the system averages the numbers and spits out a percentage. This is another necessary evil of SIS that we have not been able to rectify. Mathematically, there is no meaning for averaged code numbers, and we really don’t mean for them to have any meaning. At school we never talk about or refer to these percentages in any way. However, we also know that parents and students will see these numbers so in the handbook we have listed what this will look like. Again, please remember that the percentages are manufactured by SIS after we enter code numbers for our qualitative information. They come after the fact and are really completely irrelevant. I hope that

eventually you can learn to ignore them as we do at school. Colleges will never see these percentages because they will not come out on a transcript, only the E, S, R, or I will.

Something else new this year is a student's Academic Citizenship report. As always, City Academy teachers are working very hard to ensure that opportunities for "big learning" are occurring in each class every day so that important concepts and skills are built consistently from current understandings over time. We place high value on class time for teachers to work with students, and for students to work with and learn from each other. We also know that students' classroom learning is enhanced by individual work students do outside of class time, i.e. homework. The best chances for academic progress and excellence occur when students maintain regular class attendance, come to each class prepared with their homework, and fully participate in all learning opportunities being offered. Each one of those components of learning is very important and we wanted to develop a way to report to students and parents the degree to which they are happening. This Academic Citizenship report also allows us a more structured way of determining which students need to have support during the last period on Fridays.

If a student's academic citizenship for a class is assessed as "unsatisfactory" that would indicate that they are not keeping up with the work of the class and therefore are not able to earn credit in that class. We intend that teachers, advisors, parents and students will be proactive and work together to ensure that a student never reaches this situation. Also, as always, our assessment structures are flexible in terms of working with individual students. Teachers may always allow a student a bit of additional time to demonstrate enough competency to earn credit if the teacher feels this is warranted. More information about this is on pp. 22-23 of the handbook.

I wanted to also comment about your concern that your student's work seems harder this year. I hope that the work does seem harder each year, and from quarter to quarter during a year. We are looking for students to always continue to make progress and demonstrate higher levels of competency than they previously did. Also, as students mature we are asking for more and more demonstrated independence in their learning. It is our goal to build life long learners with a love for learning and the abilities to pursue their own learning. As always, teachers are here to support students in their learning endeavors. Please encourage your student to ask for help as needed. Also, please feel free to communicate with individual teachers as needed so that you can best support your student's learning.

I hope this helps. If I can further clarify anything please let me know.
Sonia