Karen’s & Chris’s Corner – Notes

Halloween

Halloween is approaching quickly! At Ann Arbor Open, it is a tradition that children whose families observe Halloween may wear costumes to school. Please observe these guidelines if you choose to send your child with a costume on October 31st.

All costumes (parent, staff, and student) should be

- **Rated G** - nothing too scary, gory, creepy, or sexy - we have kindergartners!
- **Weaponless** - not even flimsy plastic ones. Just leave the light sabers, bows & arrows, and other weapons - real or fantasy - at home.
- **Absent of face masks** or other face covering that obscures identity. We need to be able to see student faces. Face paint or make up is okay.
- **Culturally sensitive.** Dressing up with hair, hairstyles, clothing or makeup that depicts another's culture should be avoided. It is also good to avoid any costumes that mock body types, socioeconomic status, or religion.

Here are some examples of costumes that could be considered insensitive: [https://bit.ly/2mW4tJF](https://bit.ly/2mW4tJF)

At home, please remind students that some families do not observe Halloween at school or at home for a variety of reasons. Bringing or wearing a costume is voluntary.

Remind students that some families do not observe Halloween at school or at home for a variety of reasons. Bringing or wearing a costume is voluntary. In keeping with school tradition, there will be a voluntary parade around the neighborhood at 2pm. Anessa Nelson (Project Lead the Way) will provide an alternate activity for any student not electing to participate in the parade. Please inform your child’s teacher if you do not wish for your child to participate for any reason.
STAY SAFE

See the flyer included for some safety tips for Halloween. Here is a link to that flyer and to more resources from Safe Kids World Wide: https://www.safekids.org/halloween?utm_campaign=Halloween&utm_source=email-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Top-Tips---October-18-Halloween

A Healthy Halloween at Home
Halloween is coming up! This is an exciting holiday for children because they get to dress up and perhaps collect candy. If you celebrate Halloween, you know this holiday focuses on collecting and eating foods high in sugar, fat and calories BUT low in nutrients. Some suggestions:

- If you give out candy, don’t buy it too far ahead of time since your family might end up snacking on it or even eating it all!
- If your children go trick-or-treating, store any left over candy for another day in an airtight container or freeze it.
- Avoid setting out large amounts of candy, as this might result in your child (or you!) eating more than you want.

IMPORTANT DATES:
10/23: Early Release, 12:52pm dismissal
10/24: Parent/Teacher Conferences, 4-7pm
10/31: Halloween Parade, 2pm
11/5: No School/Election Day
11/6: Dress Fancy Day
11/8: Picture Retakes
11/12: Finance/Fundraising Mtg, 7pm
11/21: AAOC Meeting, 7pm
11/22: Silent Auction, 6-8pm
11/27-11/29: Thanksgiving Break

Shop the Ann Arbor PTO Thrift Shop and Support our School!

Donations are up so the store is full. Stop by and find your deal. The Shop is located at 2280 S. Industrial Hwy., Ann Arbor.

The Ann Arbor PTO Thrift Shop is a nonprofit 501c3 organization supporting the Ann Arbor Public Schools and its students’ enrichment. Profits from sales are distributed to participating AAPS PTOs, PTSOs, and 501c3s which sponsor clubs, organizations, teams, and enrichment activities in their schools. http://www.a2ptothriftshop.org
Personal Toys at School

Please talk with your child about leaving personal toys at home. These toys can cause a host of problems including:

- Conflicts over trading, borrowing, or stealing
- Loss of instructional time due to searching for toys or pieces of toys
- Equity issues - expensive toys may mean that some kids are excluded from play
- Crying due to lost or broken toys

This is really true for most personal items from kindergarten all the way through high school. A good question for reflection when considering bringing a personal item is “Is it needed for academic instruction?” If the answer is “no”, then that item is likely best left at home. With the exception of toys that are facsimiles of weapons, there is not a ban on any particular type of toy at the building level, but some classrooms may have issued ‘bans’ on particular toys from home if they are causing recurring conflicts in the classroom.

Bus Tracker

The Ann Arbor Public Schools is excited to share news with those students and parents that utilize district-provided bus service. Our school bus partner, Durham School Services has provided an application, Bus Tracker, that allows parents and guardians to view the location of their child(ren)’s bus in real time with relationship to their assigned bus stop. This application is available through a web browser or the app stores. Bus Tracker enables parents and guardians to view multiple stops on an assigned route, including the scheduled arrival time for each stop. The service is free of charge to parents/guardians and provided at no additional cost to the school districts serviced by Durham School Services. Use of the application is voluntary.

For more information, to sign-up and create your secure login, or to use the application on your smartphone or web browser, please go to:

www.durhamschoolservices.com/durhambustracker
https://m.durhambustracker.com/secure/login

If you have any questions regarding the Bus Tracker application, please contact Tim VanDongen at (734) 994-2330 ext 54118. For technical support, please contact bustracker@a2schools.org
Fall A2Virtual+ Parent-Teacher Conferences for students in ONLINE classes
On October 29, 2019, there will be Parent-Teacher Conferences from 4 pm – 7 pm in the Skyline Cafeteria (a sign-up link will come in the Oct. 18 A2Virtual+ SchoolMessenger). This is a Tuesday and Proctoring will also be held, as normal, in the Skyline Media Center. There will be no proctoring on Nov. 5, due to elections. Please go out and vote. A2Virtual+ does not send a representative to the building-based conferences.

SCHOOL DIRECTORY by Region!
Parent Volunteer, Jennifer Oldham and her husband have taken on the task or organizing the school directory by region. The purpose (hopefully) is to facilitate communication and social cohesion among families for possible play dates, carpooling, walk/bike pooling, child care sharing on weather days, and more! Below are some notes regarding the process:

- Karen Davis has the lists of kids in each neighborhood for the directory "Region: kid names (grade levels)". It is four pages and allows folks to find families in their neighborhoods and then go back to the main directory for contact info.
- Email lists are up and running, all the invites are out. They are Central, SE, SW (and west together), NE, and NW. SE has seen a lot of introductions and plans to meet up. Erica McLeod and I are putting our heads together for NE. The other lists could use coordinators who have some energy for connecting people.
- Regions roughly follow the map included in this packet from the A2 Observer. (Observer link: https://annarborobserver.com/cg/t1300.html#.Xa4F25NKhAY)
- This is a pilot project in its first year...any and all feedback is much appreciated!
- Contact Jennifer Oldham jennifer.caron@gmail.com if:
  - You are near a boundary and would like to be on more than one email list.
  - A mistake and you are not in the correct region.
  - You chose not to be in the directory
  - You came to the school more recently, or for any reason you weren’t included, and you would like to be added.
Talking to Kids About Race

In an effort to continue our conversation on equity, race, and inclusion at Ann Arbor Open, the AAOCC is hosting a 4-part workshop series on the topic of talking to kids about race. The workshops will each be conducted by Nuola Akinde, a local educator and activist. They will be stand-alone so that you are welcome to join in at any time. Please join us for part 1 of the series, which will focus on the importance of social identity. It will be held on Tuesday, October 29th at 7 pm in the auditorium. All members of our school community are welcome: parents, caregivers, students, and staff.

- Get organized and stop losing items to the lost and found with stick-on, iron-on, stamp, and bag-tag labels, 20% of your purchase will go to the AAOCC.
- Order at: https://www.mabelslables.com/c/?type=fundraiser&b=1640
- No deadline, order anytime.
- For more info contact Elaine Oberlin-Nesbit: oberlin_nesbit@yahoo.com

Mabel’s Labels

ANN ARBOR OPEN SCHOOL FAMILIES:

We Need You!

TO PURCHASE SCRIP and RAISE MONEY FOR OUR SCHOOL!

Last year we raised $8800 to enhance classrooms, specials and field trips at Ann Arbor Open. Let’s set a goal to raise even more this year!

You can contact us by email at aaooccscrip@gmail.com, via text at 734-717-8475 or on Facebook (search for “Ann Arbor Open Scrip”).
AAO Friends and Families

Save the Date

Silent Auction
A Journey of Light
Through Space and Time

Friday, November 22nd
6:00-8:00 pm
@ Ann Arbor Open School

https://sites.google.com/view/aaoor-silent-auction-2019
Dear AAO families, thank you for sending in your fieldtrip and enrichment donations! I am humbled by the generosity of our community!
So far, 178 families have returned their forms and we have collected over $41,000 for our kids.
The AAOCC will disburse to the classrooms (including money for the yearbooks) over $80,000 this year, so we still have work to do. For your convenience you can find the Fieldtrip & Enrichment Contribution Form on the Wed Packet. For questions contact: Michela Arnaboldi aaofieldtrips@gmail.com
2019-2020 Field Trip and Yearbook Contributions
Ann Arbor Open Coordinating Council
Our school’s PTSO

You can pay by credit card, online from the AAOCC website: http://www.aaopencc.org/field-trip-and-enrichment-contributions

Please return the form, found on the back of this page, and contributions to school as soon as possible. If you cannot contribute this year, we still need your form to gauge supplementary fundraising needs.

Field Trips
From kindergarteners going to the Ann Arbor Farmers Market to 7th and 8th graders touring Chicago, field trips and enrichment programs are an integral part of Ann Arbor Open’s curriculum at every grade level. Kids, teachers, and parents all look forward to these memorable experiences that distinguish our students’ Open education.
Each year, the Ann Arbor Open Coordinating Council (AAOCC) -- our school’s parent-teacher-student organization -- helps fund these programs. To this end, we ask each family to make a contribution in accordance with the requested amounts listed in the table on the back of this page. We ask that each family contribute what they can afford. If your family is able to give more than the requested amount, please consider doing so, as it will benefit other Ann Arbor Open families.
Because Ann Arbor Open seeks to promote a fair and inclusive environment, every child will have the opportunity to participate in every outing their class takes regardless of their family’s contribution.

Yearbooks
The field trip contribution includes the cost of yearbooks. Traditionally, the cost per yearbook is about $7 each. Please consider donating extra if you are able to do so. All children will receive one yearbook at the end of the year regardless of their family’s contribution.

If you have questions, please contact Michela Arnaboldi, Contributions Coordinator at aaofieldtrips@gmail.com.

Requested Field Trip Contributions by Grade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Level</th>
<th>Requested Field Trip Contribution Per Student</th>
<th>Actual Average Annual Field Trip/Enrichment Cost Per Student</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K - 2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>$75</td>
<td>$148</td>
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<tr>
<td>3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; - 6&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>$110*</td>
<td>$207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; - 8&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>$400**</td>
<td>$544</td>
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</tbody>
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* An extra $15 is requested for 6<sup>th</sup> graders to cover costs related to Ann Arbor Zoo field trip.
** An extra $200 is requested for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders to cover costs related to Chicago field trip.

Form on reverse ➔
Starting in 3rd grade, classes have overnight field trips/camps that require extra funding. This 7th/8th grade amount combines the $75 contribution needed for local field trips and activities with the funds needed for the end-of-year trip to Chicago or Camp Wolverine. Expect to hear more about the end-of-year trip as the year progresses.

Payment options are available for all and especially 7th/8th parents given the large cost of the end-of-year trip. If you are a parent interested in payment options, please contact Michela Arnaboldi at aaofieldtrips@gmail.com.

(AAOCC is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Please check with your tax accountant if your contribution is tax-deductible. Tax ID#38-3336334)

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2019-2020 Field Trip and Enrichment Contribution Form

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Parent/Guardian Name(s):</th>
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<tr>
<td>Student Name</td>
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</table>

Total Field Trip Contributions for my Child/Children $ 
Additional Contributions/Donations for Field Trip/Enrichment Fund $ 
Additional Yearbook Contributions/Donations ($7 each) $ 
I cannot contribute in full this year, but I can donate $25 to the fund $ 
Total $ 

Checks should be made payable to AAOCC and enclosed with this form in a sealed envelope. Please off drop forms and contributions in the box located near the school office or mail them to: AAOCC Field Trip and Enrichment Contributions, Ann Arbor Open, 920 Miller Ave, Ann Arbor, MI 48103.

Please return this form even if you cannot contribute this year.

Please make your contribution as soon as possible to help us plan our spending throughout the school year. For tax purposes, all contributions received prior to December 20th will be deposited prior to the end of the calendar year.
Dear Ann Arbor Open Families,

As part of the Ann Arbor Public School’s commitment to student safety, every school in the district is instituting a new visitor management check-in system at the main entrance greeter desk or in the front office.

To help us keep track of who is in our schools during the school day we ask that you present your identification, either a driver’s license or identification card, when you visit the school. If you don’t have an identification card the Office Professional or Community Assistant at the high schools will assist you. Once you have presented your identification the first time you will be in the system and will no longer need to present your ID for future visits. This is true for visits to other AAPS schools as well.

The system creates a visitor badge for you to wear while you are visiting the school. Please remember to check out at the office or desk where the badge was issued upon completion of your visit.

The visitor management system also checks your identification against the national sex offender data base.

The benefits of a visitor management system for our schools includes:

- Up-to-date information about who is in our schools, where they are and the time they entered, especially important during any type of emergency drill or actual emergency situation.
- Creates customized visitor badges with photos to easily identify visitors, contractors, volunteers, parents.
- Provides instant and accurate screening off the national sex offender registry and custom alerts for custody restrictions, banned visitors, etc.

While the district must comply with the Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA), the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) and the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA), due diligence was conducted to ensure visitor’s Personal Identifiable Information (PPI) is secure.

Note that the cost for the selected system comes as part of the Michigan State Police School Security grant that AAPS received, the second largest grant award in the state.

We are pleased to provide another layer of security for our students and staff during the school day.

Thank you,

Karen Siegel
Halloween Safety Tips

Everyone loves a good scare on Halloween, but not when it comes to child safety. There are several easy and effective behaviors that parents can share with kids to help reduce their risk of injury.

Walk Safely

• Cross the street at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks.

• Look left, right and left again when crossing and keep looking as you cross.

• Put electronic devices down and keep heads up and walk, don’t run, across the street.

• Teach children to make eye contact with drivers before crossing in front of them.

• Always walk on sidewalks or paths. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible. Children should walk on direct routes with the fewest street crossings.

• Watch for cars that are turning or backing up. Teach children to never dart out into the street or cross between parked cars.

Trick or Treat With an Adult

• Children under the age of 12 should not be alone at night without adult supervision. If kids are mature enough to be out without supervision, remind them to stick to familiar areas that are well lit and trick-or-treat in groups.

Drive Extra Safely on Halloween

• Slow down and be especially alert in residential neighborhoods. Children are excited on Halloween and may move in unpredictable ways.

• Take extra time to look for kids at intersections, on medians and on curbs.

• Enter and exit driveways and alleys slowly and carefully.

• Eliminate any distractions inside your car so you can concentrate on the road and your surroundings.

• Drive slowly, anticipate heavy pedestrian traffic and turn your headlights on earlier in the day to spot children from greater distances.

• Popular trick-or-treating hours are 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. so be especially alert for kids during those hours.

Keep Costumes Both Creative and Safe

• Decorate costumes and bags with reflective tape or stickers and, if possible, choose light colors.

• Choose face paint and makeup whenever possible instead of masks, which can obstruct a child’s vision.

• Have kids carry glow sticks or flashlights to help them see and be seen by drivers.

• When selecting a costume, make sure it is the right size to prevent trips and falls.

On average, children are more than twice as likely to be hit by a car and killed on Halloween than on any other day of the year.

For more information visit safekids.org. © 2015 Safe Kids Worldwide®
2019 Support Groups for Trans Youth and Parents of Trans Individuals

Ann Arbor
4th Tuesday of each month • 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Journey of Faith Christian Church
1900 Manchester Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Parent Support Group –
Facilitators: Carolyn Herrmann & Angi Olson
carolynherrmann@yahoo.com • 734-223-2859
 angi_olson@yahoo.com • 734-646-1788

Trans Youth Support Group -
Facilitator: Joy Cavanaugh, LPC
joylauralle@gmail.com • 313-303-7322

Gender Expansive Children’s Play Group (ages 5-11)
Contact: Lindsey Spitz at lindsey.r.spitz@gmail.com
Play based group activities and homework time for kids.
There is no fee to attend the groups.

Questions about Stand with Trans? Contact Roz Keith.
248-739-9254 or roz@standwithtrans.org

Facebook standwithtrans • www.standwithtrans.org
Shop Happenings August-November 2019!

- Are you ready for school? Shop our Labor Day 50% Off Everything Sale!
- Hey Students! Do you need Service Hours? Volunteering at our shop is a fun way to earn them!
- Do pumpkins and ghosts get you excited? Check out our Halloween costumes and decorating items!
- Interested in raising unlimited funds for your group or school? Participate in our Veteran’s Day Raffle! You get 100% of ticket sales!

Don’t forget to visit our Showcase, where you’ll find unique and collectible treasures every day! (Located next to our Donations Door)

SHOP HOURS: MON-FRI 10-7 / SAT 9-6 / SUN 11-5
DONATION HOURS: MON, THU, FRI 10-6 / CLOSED TUES & WED / SAT 10-5, SUN 12-4

Call 734-996-9155 to schedule a FREE Furniture Pickup