From the Principal ~
Coffee with the Principal!

On Thursday, we had our 2nd Coffee with the Principal for the 2012/2013 school year. Ms. Theresa Stout, Director of Nutrition Services, joined us and discussed the “ins and outs” of the Vacaville breakfast and lunch programs. She also led a discussion about the new laws that regulate the servings that students must take as they come through our breakfast/lunch program. The parents discussed creating a Fruits and Vegetables Club styled after our Mileage Club rewards.

This is a typical Coffee with the Principal “meeting.” There is no agenda for these informal meetings and parents come with concerns, questions, and ideas. We never know what we will discuss, nor what kinds of ideas will come out of these meetings that benefit our Alamo Eagles. I hope that you get the opportunity to join us for these “Coffees” this year. Our next Coffee with the Principal will be November 1st.

Accelerated Reader

I’m sure that if your child has reached the 2nd grade that you have heard quite a bit about Accelerated Reader (AR). Accelerated Reader is used throughout the district to promote individual and interest-based reading. Students are computer-assessed at the beginning of the year to informally determine their reading level. They are then encouraged to check out books from the school library, classroom library, or even the public library that meet their level. Once they have read these books, they take a quiz and earn points for their successful quizzes. Teachers in each class promote and use AR in different manners, however, it is important to understand that AR is simply a tool that we use to get our students reading. While the quizzes are comprehension-based, teachers do not use AR to teach comprehension. Comprehension lessons are taught using our English-Language Arts curriculum which is Treasures.

Even though AR is not a direct-teaching tool, Alamo teachers still consider AR a priority in the classroom as it has proven effective in motivating students to read and think about what they are reading. This is one of those times where “practice makes perfect” is truly the case. In the classrooms, even as early as kindergarten, the students that read all day (in the car, while eating breakfast, before school, and basically every chance they get), perform better in reading assessments and assignments than students that don’t read as often.

Scrip is available in the office ~
Don’t forget to support our PTA by shopping for gift cards in the office. They are no extra cost to you and the school receives a percentage from the companies that participate.

Fall Festival ~
We are excited about our Fall Festival! It is coming to Alamo on October 19th this year and begins at 5 p.m. Don’t forget to sign up in your class to help with booths, donate items for baskets, or bring in items for the game prizes. This is a wonderful Alamo tradition and we look forward to seeing you there! Look for flyers from the Fall Festival committee.

School Hours ~
AM Kindergarten 8:25 – 11:45
PM Kindergarten 11:25 – 2:45 on M, T, Th, F
PM Kindergarten 10:00 – 1:20 on Wednesday
Grades 1 – 3 8:40 – 2:45 on M, T, Th, F
Grades 4 – 6 8:40 – 2:50 on M, T, Th, F
Grades 1 – 6 8:40 – 1:20 on Wednesday

Alamo Chorus ~
Alamo Chorus will begin in October. Every 4th through 6th grade student will have the opportunity to join Chorus. During the year Chorus will do performances at various events at Alamo and throughout the community. Students who wish to join will need to have a permission slip on file with Mr. Burton. Chorus packets are available in the front office or from Mr. Burton at chorus practice.

✩ Upcoming Dates to Remember ✩
★ October 19 ~ Fall Festival ~ 5:00 p.m.
★ October 23 ~ Picture Retake Day
★ October 25th ~ Coffee with the principal ~ 8:45 a.m.
★ October 31st ~ Costume parade ~ 9 a.m.