
The Rare Bird

Audubon Charter School PTO
September 10, 2009

LIBRARY INFO; ANNUAL GIVING—IN ENGLISH AND FRENCH; PICK-UP & DROP-OFF COURTESY; “REPORTERS IN THE FIELD” NEEDED!; REMEMBER YOUR LUNCH MONEY!

LIBRARY INFORMATION—BROADWAY AND CARROLLTON CAMPUSES

Students at Audubon Charter, Carrollton Campus, are now allowed to check books out of the library during their weekly library class. Broadway Campus children will be permitted to check out books soon. The librarians, Kathy Cannata at Broadway, and Elaine Schlesinger at Broadway and Carrollton, want you to be aware of our check-out policies so that you can assist your child in the responsible use of library books.

Books can be checked out for a period of one week. Children will be expected to return the book during their regularly scheduled library class. Please assist your children in finding a special place at home where they can safely keep their library books and easily find them when it is time to return them to the library. Also, please encourage your child to treat the library book with care, and to report any damage to the book so that it can be repaired.

It is not our policy to charge late fees, but please encourage your child to return books on time. No student will be permitted to check out another book until the previously checked out book is returned. Additionally, if a library book is lost or damaged beyond repair, your child will be expected to pay the replacement cost of the book.

If you have any special questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Kathy Cannata at her email address, kcannata@auduboncharter.com, or Elaine Schlesinger at her email address, eschlesinger@auduboncharter.com

Broadway library schedule:

- Ms. Melanie—*Monday*
- Mme. Celine—*Tuesday*
- Ms. Janice—*Monday*
- Mme. Delphine—*Tuesday*
- Ms. Rona—*Monday*

- Ms. Robin—*Friday*
- Mme. Emmanuelle—*Monday*
- Ms. Betty—*Friday*
- Ms. Beth—*Friday*

Carrollton library schedule:

- Ms. Gina—*Wednesday*
- Ms. Chrissy—*Thursday*
- Ms. Jennifer—*Wednesday*
- Mme. Anne—*Thursday*
- Ms. Monique—*Wednesday*
- Mme. Suzanne—*Thursday*
- Monsieur Thierry—*Wednesday*
- Ms. Cheryl—*Thursday*

Students not scheduled for library are encouraged to stop by Friday afternoons.

~ Kathy Cannata and Elaine Schlesinger, librarians

IMPORTANT DATES

- *Thursday, September 10:* Carrollton Campus Open House, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- *Monday, September 14:* ArtsReach classes begin
- *Tuesday, September 15:* Broadway Campus Open House
- *Tuesday, September 15:* PTO General Meeting, 6 p.m., Broadway Campus cafeteria
- *Saturday, September 26:* FAME Board meeting, 10 a.m., Broadway Campus cafeteria
- *Monday, October 12-Wednesday, October 14:* Fall Break—No School
- *Wednesday, November 4:* Individual student photo retakes, Broadway and Carrollton Campuses

ANNUAL FUND 2009/2010

Each family will receive a letter and a phone call from a fellow parent next month requesting your support for our Parents Annual Fund. These gifts play a critical role in sustaining the enriching programs that are so important to each student's educational experience, and we hope you will respond positively. In the meantime, we would like to answer some frequently asked questions about annual giving and the vital role your family can play in ensuring Audubon's excellence.

What is the annual fund and why is it necessary?

ACS receives MFP (Minimum Foundation Program) funding from the State for each qualified student. Currently, the MFP is slightly under \$8,000 per child and is \$4,600 per student identified for the LA-4 class. These funds are supposed to cover all salaries and operational expenses. However, providing the more advanced academic programs offered through our dual Montessori and French curriculum requires additional funds beyond the basic state allocation per student. Therefore, we must look to our parents, alumni, grandparents, and friends to help cover the additional costs of our unique programs.

What will my annual fund gift be used for?

Each child benefits from your generosity. Annual fund gifts support academic programs, classroom technology, libraries, teacher and teaching assistant salaries, playground and bathroom maintenance, support services, and other operating needs. Your gift can truly make a difference in helping ACS to continue to meet high academic standards in a developmentally-appropriate environment that celebrates the individuality and diversity of our students. Every donation matters, and no gift is too small.

How much should I donate?

We hope that you will choose to make an annual fund gift. We value your participation at whatever level is comfortable for you and your family.

How much have others given?

Past gifts have ranged from \$35 to \$3000. Last year, the annual fund raised a total of \$31,320.

Does ACS ask foundations for support?

ACS does seek funding from foundations. However, most foundations want to see strong parental and trustee participation in the school before they will give.

Do other charter schools ask their parents for charitable contributions?

Yes, several other New Orleans charter schools ask their parents to donate.

Is my donation tax-deductible?

Yes.

My company offers a matching gift program. Is the school interested in this program?

Absolutely. Matching gifts are an easy way to double or triple your gift to the school. Please ask your employer for details on their matching gift programs.

How can I make my gift?

ACS welcomes cash, checks, or payment by Visa or MasterCard. The easiest way to make a gift is online at www.auduboncharter.com, and online giving will be available soon. Upon request, we can bill your credit card monthly in any increment you choose through May 31, 2010. A gift of appreciated securities can provide a significant tax benefit to your family.

For further information, please contact Sophia Griffies, ACS Development Specialist, at 504-324-7100 or Sophia_Griffies@auduboncharter.com.

CAMPAGNE ANNUELLE DE COLLECTE DE FONDS—ANNÉE SCOLAIRE 2009/2010

Le mois prochain commencera la campagne annuelle de collecte de fonds. Chaque famille recevra une lettre ainsi qu'un appel téléphonique d'un parent volontaire et ce afin de solliciter votre soutien financier au cours de cette année scolaire. Ces dons jouent un rôle essentiel dans le maintien des deux programmes mais aussi dans le maintien des programmes d'enrichissement (art, danse, théâtre, gifted,...) qui sont si importants pour une scolarité épanouissante et enrichissante. Nous espérons très sincèrement que vous répondrez positivement à cet appel.

Dans un premier temps, nous souhaitons apporter des réponses aux questions que vous vous posez régulièrement sur ces campagnes annuelles et sur le rôle crucial que vous pouvez jouer afin de faire en sorte qu'Audubon Charter School demeure une école d'excellence.

Pourquoi une campagne annuelle de collecte de fonds? Est-ce réellement nécessaire?

ACS reçoit ce que l'on appelle *MFP funding*, une allocation donnée par l'état pour chaque élève. A l'heure actuelle, cela correspond approximativement à 8000 dollars par élève à partir de la Grande Section et à 4600 dollars pour chaque élève affilié au programme LA4. Cet argent est utilisé pour payer les salaires et couvrir les frais de fonctionnement. Toutefois, proposer deux programmes aussi exigeants que le programme Montessori et le programme français nécessite des fonds supplémentaires. C'est pour cela que nous faisons appel aux actuels et anciens parents d'élèves mais aussi au cercle élargi des amis d'Audubon (grands-parents, oncles,...) afin de couvrir les dépenses nécessaires à l'épanouissement pédagogique de ces deux programmes.

Comment sera utilisé l'argent que j'aurai donné?

Tous les élèves bénéficient de votre générosité. Nous utilisons ces fonds pour l'achat de matériel pédagogique, technologique, pour augmenter le nombre d'ouvrages proposés à la bibliothèque, rémunérer les enseignants et les assistants, maintenir en état les lieux communs (sanitaires, cours de récréation), mais aussi pour soutenir les dépenses de fonctionnement.

Votre don peut véritablement faire une différence et faire en sorte qu'ACS demeure un environnement

adapté à la diversité et à la spécificité de chaque enfant.

Comme vous pouvez le constater, chaque don compte.

Combien dois-je donner?

Nous espérons que vous déciderez de participer à cette campagne et que votre générosité sera à la hauteur de vos moyens.

Combien les autres familles donnent?

Les dons sont compris entre 35 dollars et 3000 dollars. Au cours de la campagne 2008/2009, 31 320 dollars ont été récoltés.

Est-ce que ACS fait des demandes d'aide à des institutions?

ACS cherche et sollicite des institutions privées et publiques. Cependant, la plupart d'entre elles souhaitent s'assurer de la participation et de l'implication financière des parents avant de s'engager.

Est-ce que les autres Charter School font de la même façon des appels aux dons?

Oui, plusieurs autres Charter School sur La Nouvelle Orléans organisent de la même façon des campagnes annuelles de dons.

Ma donation est-elle déductible des impôts?

Oui.

Ma société propose un programme de jumelage des dons. L'école est-elle intéressée par ce programme?

Absolument. Ces programmes font appel aux fonds de l'entreprise pour accroître vos dons à des organismes à but non lucratif. Vous pouvez ainsi faire doubler ou tripler votre don à l'école. N'hésitez pas à demander à votre employeur des informations concernant ces programmes.

Comment faire un don?

ACS accepte l'argent liquide, les chèques mais aussi les paiements par carte de crédit VISA ou MasterCard.

Très prochainement, vous pourrez effectuer vos dons en ligne à www.auduboncharter.com. Aussi, sur demande de votre part, nous pouvons, chaque mois, débiter votre compte bancaire de la somme que vous aurez choisie et ce, jusqu'au mois de mai 2010.

Si vous avez des questions, n'hésitez pas à contacter Sophia Griffies, Directrice du Développement à Audubon Charter School (504.324.7100 ou Sophia_Griffies@auduboncharter.com).

PICK-UP & DROP-OFF COURTESY

We'd like to ask our parents to be good neighbors and avoid blocking driveways in and around our campuses, especially the Broadway campus. Several neighbors have reported being trapped in their driveways on Pine St. in the morning as parents bring their little ones to school. To the late parent, it's only a few minutes, but to neighbors trying to get out and get to work, it can be a monumental nightmare. Thanks for your help!

NEEDED—RARE BIRD “REPORTERS IN THE FIELD”

Do you attend school games, performances, or other school activities? The Rare Bird editors want to hear all about it—become a “reporter in the field”! It's easy to submit. Just e-mail your article to rarebirdnewsletter@yahoo.com by 12 noon Monday and we will do the rest. This offer applies to all of our Rarebirds—students, parents, faculty, staff, and friends.

REMEMBER YOUR LUNCH MONEY!

Please remember that lunch policies have changed this year and no child will be able to “charge” more than one day's lunch. Parents, consider paying in advance, by the week or month. [If you have children at separate campuses, you will have to write separate checks.] For more information, feel free to contact our cafeteria managers who are available between 7:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.: Ms. Patricia Collins, Broadway Campus, 504-358-8426; and Ms. Tyra Holmes, Carrollton Campus, 504-359-8418.

AND DON'T FORGET AUDUBON GEAR!

Audubon Gear will be sold at the Broadway and Carrollton open houses and the PTO meeting on the 15th. Saints and traditional Rarebird shirts (\$6-16) and car magnets (\$5) will be available!