



CALENDAR:

October 14 th	End of Term 1 (report cards out)
October 17 th -21	Fall Break
October 24 th	Beginning of Term 2
October 28 th	Ms. Buell's classes: "Show What You Know" Program AM Class: 8:30 am sharp PM Class: 12:00 sharp Ms. Saguilan's class: "Show What You Know" Program Full Day Class: 8:30 am sharp
November 4 th	Parent Teacher Conferences (Sign-Up Genius coming shortly)
November 10 th	Veteran's Day Assembly (Draper 1 Campus for grades 1-6)
November 22 nd	Pilgrim's Play
November 23-25	Thanksgiving Break
November 30 th	Picture Make-up Day

OCTOBER BUILDER'S THEME:

"Integrity is doing the right thing even when no one is watching" C.S. Lewis. Integrity means to try and do the right thing in all circumstances without needing any recognition. Our students are working hard at displaying this critical characteristic.

READING UNIVERSITY:

This week we hosted our first Reading University (RU) store. The students were excited to participate and proud of their accomplishment! Thank you to our wonderful parents for completing your student's RU log and for our awesome volunteers that helped make this such a fun activity! Our kindergarteners are always excited to share fun details of books they have read from the night before! As you read with your child, please continue to record these books on your student's RU log.

REPORT CARDS:

Your student's report card was sent home today with their learning plan. As this is your first kinder report card from APA, we want to give you a little information. The purpose of report cards at American Prep in kindergarten is to communicate with parents regarding the academic progress and work habits development of their student. You will note there are letter grades on the report cards. This is unusual for kindergarten - meaning at most schools, report cards in kindergarten will use "grades" such as "satisfactory" or "needs to improve". We feel those labels are subjective measures (at best) and not very helpful to parents. We feel it is best for parents to have solid information about their student's progress, so we use letter grades on all our report cards.

If your child receives an "A" or a "B" in a subject, you can be confident that we have been able to gather sufficient data through observations of student performance that indicate the student is "at mastery" in the level they have been placed in. If your child received a "C" or lower in a subject, it means either they are not yet at mastery at their level, or that we are unable to determine mastery. Sometimes we are unable to definitively say if a student is "at mastery" at this young age because students have limited ways to demonstrate that mastery. Sometimes we need more time to observe and work with a student before we can determine mastery.

Also, you are probably aware that we place students at their achievement level for reading and math. So, the grade your child received reflects their level of mastery at THAT level, not at "grade" level. You will also note a grade in work and study habits and citizenship. These are important measures of a student's progress as well.

Our view on grades in kindergarten is that they are primarily for communicating with parents regarding a student's progress. Kinder report cards are not something that parents should react to emotionally - with frustration, anger, worry, etc. If there were something to be worried about, we would have contacted parents directly and held a meeting with you. Report cards can be used as a positive, motivating tool when they reflect good progress. If they don't yet reflect that, the report card should be viewed neutrally with regard to emotion. It is inappropriate for parents to use kindergarten grades to punish children.

We schedule parent-teacher conferences after report cards have been issued so you will have an opportunity to discuss any questions you may have with your child's teacher. Using a positive attitude with your child's first report card will imprint their view of school!

PM CARPOOL:

We are always looking for ways to improve our carpool procedure. In order to limit tardies and help our PM students into class before 12:00, we have opened our PM drop off time to 11:40 – 11:55. If you are dropping your student off after 11:55 you will need to park and bring them into the center. The PM classroom door closes promptly at 12:00. Thank you for helping us set our kindergarteners up for success.



HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS:

With Halloween approaching, we wanted to remind our parents of our holiday celebration procedures. We typically do not celebrate holidays, although we do acknowledge some of them (see below). We do not have class holiday parties, but instead we have fun culminating activities that go along with our units of study in history and science. Students often dress up, have food, and play games at these activities.

Birthday Celebrations—Teachers will most likely mention a student’s birthday during the school day of their birthday and have a special way of acknowledging that student. Parents may bring non-food items for class members. This is not something that needs to be done, but if parents choose to that is acceptable.

Invitations to parties outside of school

Birthday parties and other parties held during the year are an exciting event for the child hosting the party and those who are invited. It can be a very disappointing time for a child who has not been invited to the same party. Out of respect and consideration for the feelings of all students, please do not distribute invitations to birthday parties or any other personal parties at school—before, during, or after—unless an entire class is invited. If only a portion of the students in a class is invited, please use other ways—outside of school—to contact those students and parents. We appreciate your consideration of others and appreciate the modeling of respectful behavior.

Halloween—It is important to remember that we don’t celebrate or acknowledge Halloween.

Thanksgiving Day—We talk about being grateful (in word and deed) the whole month of November.

Religious Holidays (Christmas, Kwanza, Hanukkah, Ramadan, Easter)—We will talk about these holidays as part of the curriculum and to help students understand what others in our school are doing and experiencing. We may sing songs from any of these or other similar holidays in our choir classes as part of the curriculum.

PICTURE DAY

For our picture day our kindergarten students were sharply dressed and hair styled just right!! If your student was absent or you wish to have them retake their pictures, our make-up picture day will be November 30th.

To order your students pictures go to www.bellphoto.com under American Preparatory Academy-ELC - Webcode (APAELCfall2022).

SHOW WHAT YOU KNOW PROGRAM:

After the fall break, we get right back to business working on our Show What You Know!

Ms. Buell’s AM class:	Friday, Oct 28 th	8:30 am
Ms. Buell’s PM class:	Friday, Oct 28 th	12:00 pm
Ms. Saguilan’s Full Day class:	Friday, Oct 28 th	8:30 am

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCE: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4th

For your convenience, a Sign-up Genius link is being created by your teacher with times and dates of our mandatory Parent Teacher Conferences. The conferences will be held Thursday evening, November 3rd and Friday, November 4th. Our teachers are looking forward to meeting with each of our wonderful parents!

KINDERGARTEN CORNER:

Student: “Will you take a picture of me with my hair utensils?”

Teacher: “Do you mean hair tinsel?”

Student: “Oh yeah! Hair tinsel.”

Carlene Dastrup
Director - Early Learning Center
American Preparatory Academy
cdastrup@apamail.org



AMERICAN PREPARATORY
ACADEMY