



Alpha Parents Support

P.O. Box 2175, McKinney, TX 75070
www.mckinneyalps.org

August 4, 2010

Dear Alpha Parents,

Welcome back to the rush of the start of a new school year! I hope you have had a great summer, full of adventure and experiences unique to summer. For my family, summer has been a change of pace from the school year, yet still crazy.

It is my hope that you will join ALPS again this year. We have many great events in the works and we look forward to your participation, support, and feedback. Please help us make ALPS relevant to you and allow us to support you as you support your children through their journey.

The 2009-2010 school year was a great year for the Alpha program. We watched our 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders step on the bus to Webb, and saw the excitement in their eyes on those afternoons as they explained what they learned in their Alpha classrooms. We listened to Dr. James R. DeLisle speak about "Parenting Gifted Kids: Tips for Raising Happy and Successful Children." We heard about "Parents as Productive Partners in Gifted Education" presented by Dr. Kimberly Tyler. We heard our Middle School and High School students speak about what it is to be in the Alpha program and what it means to them. And we finished out the year with our "Alpha Film Academy Red Carpet Night & The Power of 300 Science Expo" featuring the student film festival, science and math projects of Alpha 4th and 5th graders.

Hopefully, this school year will prove to be just as exciting. Please keep an eye on your in-box for information on upcoming events. We will host many of the same student programs as last year, building on those successes. And while we are still hammering out the details for our planned speakers, we are looking forward to hearing from Carla Crusting, founder of Brainworks and author of eleven books, Caroline Kottmeier, founder of HoagiesGifted.org, and Dr. Dale Stuart, an expert in social and emotional needs of gifted children.

It is your support that makes it possible to bring speakers such as these to our district. Thank you to those of you who have already joined or renewed your membership in ALPS. For those who have not already done so, we hope you will join in support of the gifted program in McKinney. To join or renew, please download a membership form on the membership page of our website (www.mckinneyalps.org) and mail it in along with your check.

We also invite you to attend any of our monthly Coffee Talks. Come visit with other parents, ask questions, and make a friend or two. Join us at La Madeline on September 10 for our first Coffee Talk of the new school year.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Tsega Abraha at volunteers@mckinneyalps.org. Be sure to watch for emails requesting specific assistance with events and in the classroom. We grow stronger and more able to serve our parents, students, and teachers when we leverage the talent and creativity of our membership. And that is you! Help us grow, help us support gifted education in MISD, help us nurture your children and families as we all navigate the challenges that lie ahead.

Sincerely,
Your ALPS Executive Board for 2010-2011

Patty Watson, President
Kate Boden, Vice President, Programs
Karen Scheidhauer, Vice President, Membership
Sylvia Blair, Vice President, Communications
Lisa Wechsler, Vice President, Scholarships
Gabriela Shambo, Vice President, Scholarships

Tsega Abraha, Vice President, Volunteers
Margo Lerner, Treasurer
Kristin Gaughan, Secretary
Jessica Hiestand, Legislative Affairs
Meredith Magruder, Parliamentarian