

Backpack Thursday

General Information

Noteworthy News for Feb. 2

Dinners To Go Program, ACCESS Night Out and More

NEW THIS WEEK

Culinary Consultants Launches Dinners to Go for ACCESS Families

Please see the attached letter from Chef Paul Novicky of Culinary Consultants for the new Dinners to Go program available to ACCESS families every Wednesday. The program starts Wednesday, Feb. 8, with orders due each **Monday by 5 p.m.**

ACCESS Night Out Young Adult Group: Sign Up for Spring by Feb. 15

The ACCESS Night Out Young Adult group is heading to Firefly Studio to paint pottery **Tuesday, Feb. 21**, 6-8:30 p.m. Cost is \$35 to cover event expenses and dinner. Signups for all ANO Young Adult spring events are due to Katelyn Cartwright at katelyn@accessgroupinc.org by **Wednesday, Feb. 15** at 5 p.m.

Tax Receipts

If you need a preschool tuition or aftercare expense receipt for tax purposes, please contact Tina Funderburg, controller, at tina@accessgroupinc.org or by leaving a message for her at the front desk. Please send your requests by **Friday, Feb. 17**.

Free Tickets to Piccadilly Circus

ACCESS has been given more than 20 tickets to the Picadilly Circus, **Saturday, Feb. 18**, 1:30, 4:30 and 7:30 p.m., and **Sunday, Feb 19**, 1, 3 and 6 p.m. at Barton Coliseum. These tickets will be given away on a first come, first served basis at the front desk. More information on the circus can be found at TheFunCircus.com.

Thank You to Lunch and Recess Volunteers

Thank you to Deema Abochale, Lesley Andrews, Ann Langston and Vicki Wallace for working with Candace Chappell to volunteer at school lunch and recess times. We appreciate your help!

ACCESS APA/Booster Club Valentine's Day Fundraiser

Help support the Booster Club by ordering Valentine's Day card for your child, their friends and staff members at ACCESS. Order form is attached. Each Valentine is \$1 and will be delivered to the person of your choice on Valentine's Day by the ACCESS Cheerleaders. There are six designs from which to choose (or make it simple and have Booster Club pick the design). Cards will be printed on colored cardstock and will have treats attached to them. Surprise someone this Valentine's Day! This fundraiser is hosted by the L2 class. Please contact Tammye Hall at tammyehall@att.net or 227-6932 if you have any questions. Orders are due turned in by **Thursday, Feb. 9**, 8 a.m., either to the front office or to your child's teacher. Late orders can be accepted through Monday morning, Feb.13. Designs will be selected for orders turned in after Feb. 9. Please make checks out to ACCESS APA.

REMINDERS

Swim Team Signup Deadline TOMORROW

Students in L2, I1, I2, U1 and U2 who turned 8 by Jan. 1, 2012 are eligible to sign up for the ACCESS swim team. For those who missed the Jan. 17 information session on ACCESS athletic programs, please visit AccessGroupInc.org and click on the Parents/Backpack Thursday tab to **download a flyer** detailing each program. The flyer includes signup deadlines, practice days and times, important dates and more. Parents of students in the L2, I1, I2, U1 and U2 classrooms should've received a swim signup form. They are due to the office **tomorrow, Feb. 3**. For safety reasons, swim team signups involve both signup **and** tryouts, which are **Wednesday, Feb. 8**. More information is included on the signup form. We will have uniform information and order forms next week. Each athlete receives a team T-shirt paid for by the Booster Club; shorts for track team members, swimsuits for swim team members and skirts for cheerleaders are costs paid by families. There will be an optional sweatsuit order opportunity for interested families.

The Taxman Cometh

The following information does not apply to all ACCESS families but is worth sharing: If your child has a medical diagnosis which requires special education or tutoring, the expenses for that education may be tax deductible. Whether or not you can take this deduction depends on your tax situation: Taxpayers are only allowed a medical deduction for the expenses incurred if they exceed 7.5 percent of adjusted gross income. Visit <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p502.pdf> to review guidelines. Click the "What Medical Expenses are Includible" link, then scroll down to the Special Education section. The two following links are forms you may be eligible to file for credits and/or deductions based on your child's medical diagnosis. Please direct any questions about these possible savings to your tax advisor. http://www.dfa.arkansas.gov/offices/incomeTax/individual/Documents/AR1000RC5_2010.pdf
http://www.dfa.arkansas.gov/offices/incomeTax/individual/Documents/AR1000DC_2010.pdf

ACCESS Gardens and Ceramics Valentine's Day Sale: MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Pick up beautiful potted cyclamen and miniature roses for your beloved at the ACCESS Gardens and Ceramics Valentine's Day Sale, **Monday-Tuesday, Feb. 13-14**, 7:30 a.m.-12 p.m. at ACCESS. Varieties available include miniature Nor'East Roses in Absolutely™ (light pink), Black Jade™ (dark red), Caliente™ (medium red) and Red Scentsation™ (extra fragrant, medium red), as well as cyclamen. Pots are \$25 each. Also available – and new to the ceramics line! – are hand-molded ceramic heart pendants and heart ornaments, \$10 each. Stop by Feb. 13 for the best selection! Proceeds benefit ACCESS programs and services.

Starry Starry Night Tickets On Sale

Starry Starry Night, ACCESS' biggest fundraiser of the year, returns **March 8** at The Peabody Little Rock. Co-chaired by ACCESS parents John and Vicky Starling, Starry Starry Night raises funds for ACCESS programs and services through ticket and table purchases, a silent auction and one of the most entertaining live auctions in town! Tickets are \$150 each and are on sale now, as are tables of 10 (\$1,500 each). Ticket and table sales are limited to available seating; please contact Callie Gutierrez, development officer, at 501-217-8600 or callie@accessgroupinc.org to make your reservation. Hurry! Tables and tickets are selling fast! Be sure to check out February Soiree cover girl Vicky Starling and read all about the event at the following link: <http://www.pageturnpro.com/Arkansas-Business-Group/35609-Soiree-February-2012/index.html#18>.

Pre-Spring Cleaning? Donate Your Items to ACCESS

Candace Chappell, Academy coordinator, is organizing a **Saturday, March 31 (please note corrected date)** rummage sale here at ACCESS to benefit the June 2012 Discovery Student Adventures trip to Yellowstone National Park. If you're cleaning out closets, attics and basements in anticipation of spring, please consider donating your unwanted items to this cause. Want to get rid of the items immediately? Contact ACCESS parent Sabra Worley at 501-472-0811, and she will arrange to pick up your items at ACCESS and store them until the sale. Candace is taking a group of ACCESS students and students from the community on this trip. For more information, visit her webpage at DiscoveryStudentAdventures.com/AccessYellowstone.

ACCESS Schools: Spots Still Available

We have a few openings remaining in select classrooms. Please spread the word and have interested parents contact Beth Rice, admissions coordinator, at 501-217-8600 or beth@accessgroupinc.org. Available spots include: Lower School 2 (1), Upper School 1 (3) and Upper School 2 (1).