

Fencing

PAPAs fencing program is sponsoring a tournament between all three fencing classes. This will be an all-day event on Friday, May 31. Parents and anyone interested in fencing is invited to attend. The fencing club will have refreshments for sale, and there will be trophies for the top fencers, presented at 2:00 p.m.

Christopher Koller
Fencing Instructor



Charter School Conference

Last week on a two day leave for professional development, staff and faculty members of PAPA attended the New Mexico State Charter School Conference. Located at the down town conference center, the program included workshops on the myriad issues that confront all charters as they start up and get going. By sharing different strategies, the presenters validated and supported all of us in the challenge of creating a school. We all start with high

ideals which quickly run into the very real issues of running a school and educating kids.

One of the most helpful sessions was held by faculty from Amy Biehl High School who has developed an education teaming strategy that effectively and quickly addresses the needs of individual students on a weekly basis. Teachers carry four classes instead of six and this gives them the time to help students with their academic progress, special need, and concerns. It looks like a promising strategy. and seems to be working well for ABHS.

Another interesting session focused on the Inquiry Model of teaching and learning in which students identified an "essential question" of high interest and then they set about developing, exploring, researching, and creating a finished product that demonstrated their learning. It was very exciting to see the student presenters show their enthusiasm for the depth of learning and personal growth gained from these projects. Controversial and difficult questions are allowed as long as they are serious questions that genuinely interest the

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PAPA CALENDAR

Friday, May 17

6:00 p.m.
Multi-Media Night

Friday, May 24th

6:00 and 8:00 p.m.
Macbeth

Monday, May 27

Memorial Day
NO SCHOOL

Tuesday May 28

9:30 to 1:00
6th Grade visiting the Rio Grande Nature Center

Tuesday, May 28

4:30 p.m.
Governing Council Meeting

Thursday, May 30

9:00 to 3:00
7th grade hiking at El Malpais National Park

Friday, May 31

All Day ~ Awards 2 p.m.
Fencing Tournament

Friday, May 31

6:00 p.m.
Music Night

Saturday, June 1

5:00 p.m.
8th Grade Graduation
Correction to invitation:
RSVP by May 27

Thursday, June 6

4:30 p.m.
Special Governing Council Meeting

Friday, June 7

Student's last day of school
See attached letter

Sunday, June 9

9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Offsite Governing Council Meeting ~ Location to be ann.

Thursday, June 13

4:30 p.m.
Governing Council Meeting

Thursday, June 27

4:30 p.m.
Governing Council Meeting



New Principal Search

The search for PAPA's new principal is well under way. Applications have been received and screened and the governing council has appointed a hiring team comprising council members, faculty and parents. The hiring team is co-ordinated by Larry Adkins (Desert Ridge Middle School Principal and PAPA parent) and Mandy Ruden (Governing Council Member and PAPA parent).

PAPA plans to host walk-throughs of the school and formal interviews for the top applicants during the next two weeks. The governing council has reserved slots on both the walk-through and the interview sub-committees for interested parents – to be determined by a lottery drawing if there are a number of volunteers. A rough estimation of the time commitment is 5 – 10 hours spread over a number of days. Walk-throughs will be scheduled during the school day and formal interviews in the evening.

If you would like to participate in this process, please call Mandy Ruden at 899 3056 or email edofnm@nmia.com.

Ropes Course

The 9th grade had a very successful outing to UNM on Thursday, May 8. They participated in a low ropes course offered by Natural High, located on Johnson field. There were fun group challenges and team building exercises that brought our 9th graders closer together. The UNM staff members said that our group was among the more positive and cohesive groups that they have ever worked with. Thanks go to Ms. Sivinsky, Ms. Alfaro, and Mr. Koller for participating in the event along with the students themselves, who also deserve



a lot of credit for their upbeat participation. Recognition is due also to Ms. Benavidez for arranging this day, which could be extended to all grades in the future to everyone's benefit. Let's think about retreats and other special events that could dramatically bring our students, faculty and staff together in a positive manner!

Friends of PAPA Address

Anyone wishing to contact Friends of PAPA Inc. may write to them at the following address:

Friends of PAPA
P.O. Box 66706
Albuquerque, NM 87193



**Yearbooks . . .
will be distributed
Friday, May 17!**

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student. Last year one of the students did his project on the issue of cannibalism. He reported that he learned a lot but added truthfully that he had some difficulty in finding any experienced mentor. The "Inquiry Learning" model also seemed to meet head-on students' and teachers' desires for meaningful deep learning that resulted in greater maturity and understanding for the students.

Overall there were as many as 30 different workshops. PAPA faculty and staff found much of interest and help from the other schools that are all part of the search for effective education.

Becky Narva