

July 16, 2010

Dear ALCS Parent,

It seems like we were just graduating our kindergartners, 8<sup>th</sup> graders and seniors, but planning for the 2010-2011 school year is well under way. In the past two years we have had very positive feedback from parents and students regarding our Parent Update Emails. Most families are using their computers daily and have the ability to print documents at home. Therefore, we are planning to provide all of the forms and information referenced in this letter via our website so that families may conveniently print only the information they need. You will notice that in addition to this letter, very few other forms have been included in this envelope. This results in a significant savings on paper and postage expenses. All forms and documents referenced in this letter will be available on the school's home page of the website ([www.alcs.us](http://www.alcs.us)) under the heading "2010-2011 Downloadable Forms".

If your family does not have internet access or is unable to print the forms, you may contact the ALCS Main Office to have the forms you need sent by mail. Monthly, throughout the school year, we will mail home copies of Parent Updates from the past month so that those of you without internet access do not miss any important information or upcoming events.

**IMPORTANT IMPORTANT IMPORTANT IMPORTANT IMPORTANT IMPORTANT**

Please be sure to read all of the information provided in this communiqué. It will serve you well as you begin the 2010-2011 school year. If we can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to email us or give us a call at 221-1520.

**Enrollment**

As of last Friday, our official enrollment was at 209. Our best guess is that actual enrollment will be approximately 224. To balance the budget, enrollment needs to be in the 230-240 range as we start the school year. I am convinced there are many more young people in our area who would benefit from the educational and spiritual experience that God affords those at Abundant Life. You are our best resources in the Christian community. Next time you are socializing between church services or as you visit with friends, ask them if their children are excited for school to begin this fall. Share the good news about your experience at ALCS. If someone expresses interest in ALCS, please let them know it is not too late to enroll this summer.

The "Help Us Help You" program has been renewed for the coming year. ALCS has enrollment openings in most grades for the 2010-2011 school year. We understand that "word of mouth" is the best advertising, so we are offering this special incentive. You can earn a tuition credit of \$500 for each new family that enrolls based on your referral. See the Help Us Help You information on our website for complete information.

**Staff Changes**

There have been some changes with our current staff, some of which have already been shared by the Parent Updates and others which have developed since that time.

- ❖ Mrs. Berg – We are excited to have Mrs. Leann Berg returning in the fall. Though her previous experience at ALCS (12 years) was primarily in upper elementary, her early experience and passion is in pre-school and the young grades. She will be our Kindergarten teacher this fall.
- ❖ Mrs. Tiradani – Mrs. Karen Tiradani will be transitioning into the open 2<sup>nd</sup> grade elementary position and will be getting reacquainted with some of her previous kindergarten students. Having taught both 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grades at ALCS, she is familiar with where students are at coming into 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and knows where they need to be at as they enter 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.

- ❖ Mr. & Mrs. Schulz – Mr. & Mrs. Schulz and their son, Rocky, are leaving Wisconsin for sunny, warm North Carolina. Though sad to see their 18 years at ALCS come to an end, we cannot hold them back from obeying God and entering into what the Lord has for them as a family. We are so very grateful for their service to ALCS and wish them God's supreme best in these new plans that the Lord has unfolded for them. What a blessing you have been to us all, Rock and Lisa!
- ❖ Mr. Nelson – With the relocation of the Schulz family, Mr. Bruce Nelson will be transitioning to the 5<sup>th</sup> grade classroom. Mr. Nelson has worked closely with Mr. Schulz over the years on various projects and activities as well as with curriculum collaboration. This will make for a smooth transition for students and parents. We are fortunate to be able to retain a dedicated and professional male teacher of Mr. Nelson's caliber in our Elementary Department (K-5<sup>th</sup>).

### **Open Position**

There is still one position needing to be filled by God's provision:

- ❖ Marketing & Admissions Position – As we announced in the spring, one of the recommendations of the strategic planning committee was to hire a person with marketing experience and a love and passion for ALCS to help us create a customer-focused admissions department and develop a marketing plan focused on recruiting and retaining students, as well as assimilating new families. This is a part-time position and is still open at this time.

We truly have a committed and devoted team of educators and support staff. The team mentality is apparent. My hat goes off to all of our staff, for their commitment to the Lord and to our students and families. Please pray with me as I seek for God's provision in this last, important position.

### **Hot Lunch Prices for 2010-2011**

There will be no change in the prices for hot lunch this year. All lunch monies will continue to flow through each family's lunch account. We are not able to accommodate credit in the lunchroom so please be certain there are sufficient funds in your lunch account prior to the first day of school. A lunch menu for August is available on our website.

- Elementary Lunch - \$2.50                      Grades K – 5th
- MS & HS Lunch - \$3.00                      Grades 6<sup>th</sup> – 12th
- Milk - \$.45

### **School Day Time Change**

With our 6<sup>th</sup> graders moving from elementary to middle school, there is a small adjustment to the school day for 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. All middle and high school students (grades 6-12) begin at 8:05 a.m.; the school day ends at 3:20 p.m. The elementary daily schedule **WILL NOT CHANGE** for grades K4-5<sup>th</sup>.

### **Ninth Annual Challenger Golf Classic**

We were blessed with a beautiful day for the golf outing which was held at the Bishops Bay Country Club on June 28, 2010. This event raised more than \$15,000 to benefit the ALCS Athletic Department. Those funds will be used specifically to enhance the ALCS Athletic Program. Special thanks go to:

- Title Sponsors: Robert & Carol Rau
- Golf Cart Fleet Co-Sponsor: Zimbrick European of Madison
- Dinner Co-Sponsors: Virginia Malmquist & Universal Gives
- All of our sponsors.

## **Fall Athletics**

We are happy to announce that the Challenger football season will continue in the form of 8-man football! This upcoming season will be a bridge toward the starting of an 8 man football league in the state of Wisconsin next year in which ALCS plans to be at the fore front. We have plans in place and are moving forward with the 5th annual Challenger mini-camp. The dates for the mini-camp will be July 26 - 29. Please see the Challenger Football Mini-camp Brochure on our website for registration information regarding this great event.

ALCS will be hosting Swat Volleyball on August 3-5. Registration information is available on our website. There will be three camps available:

- Camp 1- students entering 3-5th grade
- Camp 2- students entering 6-8th grade
- Camp 3- students entering 9-12th grade

For complete fall athletics news and updates including coaching needs, sports fees and practice information, please see the 2010-2011 Fall Athletic Update on our website.

WIAA Athletic Physical Cards and Alternate Year Cards for high school students are available on our website. Please be sure to schedule student physicals well in advance as these cards must be on file in the Athletic Office prior to your student's participation in any sport.

## **Physical Education Uniforms**

All students in grades 5-12 are required to have a PE uniform purchased through ALCS. We will have a small inventory of uniforms available for purchase beginning August 16. You may purchase a uniform at the Main Office or during any of our orientation times. Uniform prices are as follows:

- Shorts - \$11.00
- Shirt - \$7.00
- Set (shirt & shorts) - \$18.00

## **Parent Participation Program**

We boast that the parents at ALCS are some of the most involved parents of any school around. We welcome partnering with you in the training of your children. Please visit our website to locate our Parent Participation Program (PPP) sign-up sheets for you to fill out, indicating your particular areas of interest. Please take the time to fill them out and return them to the Main Office by August 13<sup>th</sup>. There are activities starting up the first weeks of school that could benefit from your involvement.

## **High School Advance**

Each year the high school students and staff attend an Advance in the fall. This gathering offers a wonderful opportunity for recreation, service, spiritual growth and Christian fellowship. The Chapel times are traditionally a highlight of the year for many students. We are committed to working with any extenuating family circumstance so that every high school student may attend.

This year we will return to Lake Waubesa Bible Camp for an overnight stay on August 30-31. The cost of the trip is \$30 per student (late fee price is \$35). This fee includes three meals at camp: dinner on Monday and breakfast & lunch on Tuesday. All students should bring a cold lunch for the first day. The permission slip for this trip is available on our website, please complete the permission slip and return it with the \$30 fee by August 25th.

## **SCRIP**

Scrip is a term that means “substitute money”. When you purchase scrip, you’re purchasing negotiable gift certificates and prepaid cards that are used just like cash. You can use scrip to purchase everyday expenses like food, clothing, and other essentials, and with every purchase, you earn revenue in your scrip account.

The Great Lakes Scrip Center acts on behalf of churches, schools and other non-profit organizations to purchase large amounts of scrip from grocery stores, department stores, and other retailers. Because the scrip is purchased with cash up front, the participating retailers offer a substantial discount. ALCS buys the scrip from Great Lakes Scrip Center at a discount, and re-sells the certificates to families for full face value. The discount, from 1½ % to 25% percent is revenue that you can use for your family’s school expenses (ie. tuition, sports fees, lunch, etc.).

You will be able to draw on your account profits 4 times during the school year. During the months of June, September, December and March, you may complete a Scrip Family Account Disbursement Form available on our website or from the Business Office. All disbursement checks will be processed in months mentioned above. Your account balance will be calculated at the end of the month prior the checks being processed.

## **Standardized Dress for 2010-11**

Dress code guidelines for 2010-2011 will be available on the website by July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please be certain to review these guidelines prior to doing your school shopping. We are happy to present these changes as they are the direct result from the last year’s student and parent surveys. A team of students and parents worked with our Strategic Planning Team to submit recommendations to the Administration for consideration. One of the goals was to simplify our standards, so for the most part all boys (K4-12) have the same standard, and likewise for the girls. Please be careful to read each section of the 2010-11 Standardized Dress Code so that your child(ren) is(are) in full compliance this year.

## **Student Supply Lists**

Student supply lists will be posted on the website by July 30<sup>th</sup>. There have been some significant changes to some of the classroom supply lists since last year so please be sure to download and print this list prior to shopping for your child’s supplies.

## **Homeroom/Classroom Assignments**

Class lists and homeroom assignments will be made available on our website the first week in August. It is our expectation that middle school students will pick-up their class preliminary schedules during our Middle School Orientation on August 17<sup>th</sup>. Preliminary schedules for high school students will be mailed home around that same timeframe as well.

## **Student Emergency Forms**

All students are required to have a Student Emergency Form on file in the ALCS Main Office. *It is imperative to have this form on file by the first day of school.* Student Emergency Forms are available on the website and should be completed and returned to the ALCS Main Office prior to school starting. Parents should inform the school immediately of any changes to the information on the Student Emergency Form during the course of the school year.

## **Immunization Forms**

All students are required to have an up-to-date immunization record on file in the ALCS Main Office. This information will be part of the child's individual health record, which is maintained by the school. Parents are not required to have their child immunized, but in that case an immunization waiver is required. You will find immunization guidelines and forms available on our website. Students re-enrolling from last year, only need to complete a new form if there have been changes over the past year. K4 and Kindergarten students must complete an immunization form and submit it to the Main Office prior to the start of the school year. If your child's physician has recently provided you with a print out of their current immunization record, a copy of this may be submitted in lieu of completing the immunization form.

## **ACT Test Dates for 2010-2011**

The ACT<sup>®</sup> test is accepted by all four-year colleges and universities in the United States. See [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) for more information. The ALCS High School Code is 501-142. You will need this to register to take the ACT.

<b><u>Test Date</u></b>	<b><u>Registration Deadline</u></b>
September 11, 2010	August 6, 2010
October 23, 2010	September 17, 2010
December 11, 2010	November 5, 2010
February 12, 2011	January 7, 2010
April 9, 2011	March 4, 2011
June 11, 2011	May 6, 2011

## **School Calendar**

We have made many updates to our school calendar for 2010-2011. The most recent School Calendar has a revision date of July 14, 2010. The 2010-2011 Calendar is available on our website. Please take time to print the most recent version so that you do not miss any key dates.

## **Change of Information Forms**

If your family has moved recently (since submitting your student's application this spring) or has made any changes to phone or contact information, please be sure to complete the Change of Information Form and submit it to our Main Office so that we have your current information on file. This form is available on our website.

## **Free & Reduced Lunch Applications**

ALCS participates in the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program. Families within the established income guidelines will be eligible for free or reduced student lunches. Children in households getting FoodShare or W-2 cash benefits and most foster children can get free meals regardless of family income. Free and reduced lunch application forms are available on our website. Applications may be submitted at any time throughout the school year.

## **Carpool/Zipcode List**

The Carpool/Zipcode List is available on our website and is a directory of names and addresses for the families that indicated via their student's application that they wished to be contacted by other families interested in forming carpools during the school year. This directory is sorted by zipcode so that you should be able to easily identify other families living nearby.

## **Middle School Orientation**

ALCS has adopted three objectives for students transitioning into middle school:

1. **Confident** – students have a basic understanding of what to expect the first days of middle school.
2. **Connected** – students feel comfortable and know where to go/who to talk to when they have questions or needs.
3. **Challenged** – students are motivated to learn and interact in the middle school environment.

With these objectives in mind, ALCS will be hosting a Middle School Student Orientation (students in grades 6-8) on August 17, 2010 from 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM. I encourage you to mark your calendars now so that your child may plan to attend this important event. You will receive a mailing closer to that time outlining our agenda

## **Orientation Nights**

**New Family Orientation** is for families who are new to Abundant Life Christian School for the 2010-2011 school year:

- Held at the Abundant Life Library (LMC)
- Thursday, August 19<sup>th</sup> 6:00 PM
- Only parents need to attend

**All Family Orientation** is for all new and returning families for the 2010-2011 school year:

- Held at the Lake City Church Sanctuary
- Monday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> 6:00 PM
- All parents and students should attend.

## **Market Day – YES or NO**

In order to have Market Day available through ALCS this year we need an ALCS parent to volunteer to be the chair person, coordinating the promotion and delivery days (once a month). This need needs to be satisfied by the end of July. If no one steps up to head up this program by July 30<sup>th</sup>, we will have to suspend our Market Day program for the 2010-11 school year.

## **SOS – Save Our Subscriptions**

Get ready for the Magazine Fundraiser starting the first week back to school! Please think of ALCS when those early renewal notices start to arrive in the mail! By waiting to renew through our school, your service can still be uninterrupted. Our magazine campaign will begin on August 25<sup>th</sup>. A substantial portion of the subscription price stays at our school to fund many needed items and activities throughout the year. If we can count on your support again this year, we are sure to have a successful fundraiser! You might want to start reminding your relatives, friends, and business associates that you would appreciate their ordering selections from our school through the upcoming sale. (This way, the school won't lose the profit to the publishers.)