

## **2.0 Volunteering at Almond**

The following is a list of the volunteer opportunities available for parents at Almond School, along with the names and emails of the contact person(s) for each program.

### **2.1 Walkabout (Gaye Heck at [gnheck@yahoo.com](mailto:gnheck@yahoo.com))**

The Walkabout is an annual Almond PTA Fundraiser that is a favorite of kids and parents alike! This is an all day event held on Saturday, October 10.

Throughout the day, food, fun and prizes are awarded to students based upon the number of laps completed. The Walkabout requires numerous volunteers to help. Volunteers help with set up, registration, food sales, lap prizes, punching lap cards, first aid, clean up, etc. Each shift is approximately an hour and a half. Middle school and high school students are welcome to help with lap prizes and food sales.

Each parent or legal guardian is given the opportunity to volunteer for this fun event as they go through the Back-To-School process. If you have a middle or high school student you'd like to enroll, you are provided that choice at the completion of Step 7 of the BTS process, or you can volunteer them at a later time by clicking the Walkabout volunteer link on the Almond website.

### **2.2 Other Volunteering**

- **Art Docents** (Nan Bajka at 650-947-1195)

The Los Altos Art Docents are a group of trained volunteers, who teach art with an aim to stimulate, at an early age, a child's awareness of art and to help her or him understand its processes through appreciation and participation.

- **Auction** (Liz Parker at [lizzep@comcast.net](mailto:lizzep@comcast.net))

One volunteer/representative is needed per grade level to be on the auction committee. Volunteers will help with gathering donations, decorations, set up, check out procedures, public relations, etc.

- **Baking** (Jennifer Granath at [granathj@sbcglobal.net](mailto:granathj@sbcglobal.net))

Prepare baked goods for several activities (e.g. Walkabout, Halloween Carnival, etc.) throughout the year.

- **Beautification** (Deborah Pasturel at [deborahpasturel@yahoo.com](mailto:deborahpasturel@yahoo.com))

Volunteers help maintain the school's landscaping and the planter boxes outside of the classrooms. There are 2-3 Beautification Days during the school year, typically on Saturday mornings.

- **Book Fairs** (Cindy Davis at [cindy.davis99@gmail.com](mailto:cindy.davis99@gmail.com))

There will be two book fairs at Almond this year, one in the fall and one in the spring. Numerous volunteers are needed to help set up, clean up, and staff the events. Volunteer shifts are typically 90 minutes, and the shift times are spread throughout the day.

- **BookWave** (Steve Andrews at [sandrews@vmware.com](mailto:sandrews@vmware.com))  
Help children become young authors. Volunteers help promote the BookWave to students, review completed BookWave packets, and help with the BookWave celebration when the completed books are distributed.
- **Chorus** (Jane Bohrer at [jane.bohrer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jane.bohrer@sbcglobal.net))  
Volunteers help check-in and supervise students on occasional Wednesday mornings, help organize and order Chorus T-shirts, and assist with concerts.
- **Halloween Carnival** (Nancy Webb at [nancykaywebb@comcast.net](mailto:nancykaywebb@comcast.net))  
The Halloween Carnival is a fun tradition for Almond families. This year's Carnival will be held on Friday, October 30. There will be lots of games and activities in keeping with the Halloween theme. Volunteers help with set up, games, food sales, prizes, etc.
- **Helping Hands** (Laura Teksler at [lteksler@me.com](mailto:lteksler@me.com))  
Volunteers assist first graders with lunch and playground activities during recess. Helping Hands helps make the transition from kindergarten to the big playground a little easier. Volunteers help students with their lunch containers, encourage recycling, pass out playground equipment, and help reinforce safety rules. Helping Hands is from 11:45am – 12:45pm, Monday through Friday. Volunteer as often as you prefer.

Please note that parents may not bring younger siblings along when volunteering for Helping Hands. However, we are happy to put you in touch with other parents with younger siblings to set up a childcare swap.

- **Hot Lunch** (Cindy Labuda at [cindylabuda@yahoo.com](mailto:cindylabuda@yahoo.com))  
The Almond PTA offers hot lunch to students in grades 1-6 on Monday through Friday. Volunteers help serve hot lunch to students. Hot Lunch is from 11:45 AM until 12:40 PM, Monday through Friday. Volunteer as many times per month as you would like.
- **Junior Olympics** (Karen Townsend at [kf\\_townsend@yahoo.com](mailto:kf_townsend@yahoo.com) and Michelle Le at [michelle@le4fun.com](mailto:michelle@le4fun.com))  
The Junior Olympics is a district-wide track and field event held in April for all 4th through 6th graders. Volunteers help train our Almond athletes during PE (2

times per week in March and April) and work shifts (Standing Long Jump, Food Booth, Almond School Tent, general set-up, and clean-up) on the day of the event.

- **Los Altos Educational Foundation (LAEF) Phone-a-thon**

(Kim Gavenman at [kgavenman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kgavenman@sbcglobal.net))

The Los Altos Educational Foundation (LAEF) is an organization that actively supports the Los Altos School District through major monetary contributions. Volunteers help make reminder phone calls during its annual phone-a-thon in mid-October.

- **Photographer** (Christine Ling at [cjyling@comcast.net](mailto:cjyling@comcast.net))

Help in your grade or classroom to get a good variety of pictures for the photo boards and yearbook. Volunteers are needed at each grade level to photograph class events as well as grade level events; flexible schedule based on your availability.

- **Project Cornerstone ABC (Asset Building Champions)** (Barbara Carroll at [bcarroll184@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bcarroll184@sbcglobal.net) or Heather Quigley at [mhq@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mhq@sbcglobal.net))

This portion of the Project Cornerstone program involves a monthly book reading to students in all grades. The books provide students with tools and skills to protect themselves from harm, as well as providing a forum for them to talk about their feelings regarding peer abuse. The purpose of this program is to provide children with critical elements to help them navigate their way through elementary, middle, and high school, as well as every day of their life.

Each month volunteers attend a short meeting at school to learn about the books and the group activities. Volunteers spend 30 minutes each month in their assigned classroom to read the book and conduct group activities with the students. A short discussion relating to the book and life experiences is held at the end of the session.

- **Recycling Club** (Diana Fontana at [dianafontana@att.net](mailto:dianafontana@att.net))

Volunteers can help the recycling club in several ways. Organize the Earth Day Celebration, where organizations and professionals practicing green and self-sustainable living provide information from booths. Compose Green Smarts Questions, questions posed to the student body related to the environment. Compose "Green is the Word" articles for the *Thursday Word*. Act as Co-Facilitator for the recycle club (meets once a month) and organize recycle projects, composting, and fun environmentally related projects for the kids.

- **Room Parents** (Denise Geschke at [dgeschke@comcast.net](mailto:dgeschke@comcast.net))

Help organize volunteers for classroom activities and facilitate teacher-parent communication.

- **Running Club** (Linda Folkman at [srfljf@yahoo.com](mailto:srfljf@yahoo.com))  
Volunteers set up the field for Running Club and help keep track of the number of laps the students run. Running Club shifts are from 11:55 AM until 1:00 PM on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Volunteer as often as you prefer.
- **Science Fair** (Priya Dharan at [priya.dharan@gmail.com](mailto:priya.dharan@gmail.com))  
The Science Fair committee works with teachers to plan this fun and informative event, which is mandatory for 6th graders, in the spring. Volunteers help organize the science fair or help evaluate the individual entries.
- **Staff Appreciation** (Sheri Blaisdell at [sheriblaisdell@aol.com](mailto:sheriblaisdell@aol.com))  
The Staff Appreciation Committee honors Almond's teachers and staff by treating them to monthly appreciation activities and by hosting a spring luncheon for all teachers and staff. Volunteers help with the monthly activities and the Teacher Appreciation luncheon.
- **Talent Show**  
The Talent Show is a stage production in which Almond students perform a variety of acts for the Almond community. The Talent Show takes place in the spring. Volunteers help organize the Talent Show, oversee rehearsals, provide photo/video support and assist the day of the show.
- **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Events**  
Be a part of the 6th grade committee and help plan the events for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade graduating class.