

Alcott in Action **2019-2020** (last updated Sept 2019)

The success of Alcott College Prep is due in large part to our fabulous parent community. Parents don't just drop their kids at the school door – they get involved. Alcott parents have taken the lead in fundraising, school event planning, coaching athletics, leading clubs & afterschool activities, and improving the school facilities.

We encourage all parents to step up and become an active participant in our community. Your input and involvement will greatly enhance your child's educational experience. We offer a wide variety of opportunities for participation at the school to accommodate your skills, availability and interests. See the list of volunteer opportunities below to find a position that suits you & contact the chairperson listed to get involved today!

Leadership Boards:

Alcott College Prep has two leadership boards – Local School Council (LSC) and Friends of Alcott (FOA).

Local School Council (LSC) - The Local School Council is the management team of Alcott. The LSC selects the school's principal, renews the principal's contract, approves the Continuous Improvement Plan (CIWP), approves expenditures proposed by the principal, consults with the principal on textbook and curriculum content, advises the principal on disciplinary policies, evaluates the allocation of teaching resources and approves fundraising activities at the school. The Board consists of 12 elected members -- 6 parents, 2 teachers, 2 community members, 1 non-teaching staff member and the Principal.

The Alcott Local School Council generally meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 8am in the school cafeteria. All parents, prospective parents and teachers are invited and encouraged to attend. See school website for a complete list of meeting times.

Contact: *Nate Galer – LSC President – alcottlsc.ngaler@gmail.com*

Friends of Alcott (FOA) - Friends of Alcott is a non-profit organization whose primary mission is to raise the funds necessary to supplement the school's operating budget. In addition to fundraisers, FOA hosts community building events to give families, teachers & administrators a chance to interact socially and get to know each other better.

FOA meetings are generally held at 8am on the second Tuesday of each month in the school cafeteria. All parents are invited and encouraged to attend. Visit www.friendsofalcott.com for more information about FOA.

Contact: *Keli Wildermuth – FOA President – jkwildermuth@yahoo.com*

Major Fundraisers:

FOA has two major fundraising initiatives during the school year: the Pledge Drive in the fall and the Spring Benefit/Auction in the winter. Funds raised from these events go toward maintaining staffing in our classrooms; providing technology, instructional materials & curriculum enhancements; subsidizing our enrichment and fine art programs; and improving Alcott's interior & exterior facilities. Volunteers are needed throughout the year to assist in the planning and implementation of these events.

Pledge Drive – The pledge drive is our single largest fundraising event and runs 10/5-10/11. Information about the pledge drive will be coming soon via mail, email, flyers in kids' folders & on our website, so stay tuned. Volunteers are needed to assist with mailing at the beginning of the campaign and to help with event tasks on Trivia Night, which is the culmination of the campaign.

Contact: *Katie Tkach – katietchach@gmail.com
Sarah Galer – sarah.galer@gmail.com
Rheaana Guess – townerguess@gmail.com*

Spring Benefit/Auction – The annual spring benefit/auction is held on 3/21. Parents, teachers and administrators gather at a local bar/nightclub for a fun evening of socializing, dancing and bidding for auction items. In addition, an on-line auction takes place 3/11-20. Volunteers are needed to solicit auction item donations from businesses, put together auction packages, set up & clean up at the party, assist with raffle ticket sales, staff check-in table, and help with other day of event tasks.

Contact: *Dara Gremmels – darahamilton@gmail.com
Patty Kopitas – pattykopitas@gmail.com
Lyndsay Palkon – lyndsay.palkon@gmail.com*

On-Going Fundraising Programs:

FOA also has on-going fundraising events throughout the year. Money raised from these events and programs goes toward FOA fundraising initiatives.

Dine with Alcott – is a once a month program in which local restaurants donate a portion of sales for the day to Alcott. Stay tuned to the Alcott Newsletter for dates and restaurant listings or check the school website calendar.

Contact: *Leah Albritton – leahalbritton@gmail.com*

Box Tops for Education – Check your pantry & look for the little pink Box Tops for Education symbol. Once you start looking, you'll see these little pink coupons everywhere! Clip them off & turn into the collection box at the school's main entry. Each Box Top coupon is worth 10¢ for your school – they add up quickly! Visit www.boxtops4education.com for even more ways to earn money for Alcott.

Contact: *Bethany Biesenthal – bethanybiesenthal@gmail.com*

8th Grade Class Trip Fundraisers – FOA helps provide scholarships for students in need for the 8th grade class trip to Boston. Fundraisers include Sweetest Day & Valentine’s Day Candy Sales (held in October & February) and Graduation Reserved Seating Auction & Lottery (held in January).

Contact: Ms. Michau – ksmith76@cps.edu

School Supply Kits – No need to shop for back to school supplies in a crowded store. Purchase your supply kit box thru FOA & the box, customized to specifically meet supply requests of Alcott teachers, will be delivered to your child’s desk on the first day of school. Sales take place May-July. Alcott will receive \$10 back for every box sold.

Contact: Patty Kopitas – pattykopitas@gmail.com

Community Building Events (led by FOA):

FOA also hosts community building events to provide an opportunity for parents, families, teachers and administrators to all get to know each other better. These include both family events and parent-only socials.

Boo Hoo Breakfast- is held on the first day of school (9/3) and is an opportunity for parents to socialize and learn about opportunities to get involved at Alcott. Bagels & coffee will be provided and the event will be held on the playground (or in the cafeteria in case of inclement weather).

Contact: Heidi Tischer – heidi_j_mason@yahoo.com & Keli Wildermuth – jkwildermuth@yahoo.com

Parent Social- held on 9/11 immediately following Curriculum Night. Provides an opportunity for parents to socialize after meeting teachers. Parent Social will be held at Parson’s Chicken & Fish restaurant (2435 N. Halsted).

Contact: Lyndsay.palkon@gmail.com

Fall Fest – takes place on 10/5 at Alcott. The block party event for families includes food, games, arts & crafts, and DJ music & dancing. Volunteers are needed to assist with promotions and sponsorship solicitation prior to the event. Volunteers are also needed day of event for set up, clean up, check in, to oversee activity booths, and a variety of other operational tasks.

Contact: Heidi Tischer – heidi_j_mason@yahoo.com & Joyce Reitzner – jreitzner12@gmail.com

Barnes & Noble Book Fair – takes place 12/14 at Barnes & Noble (Clybourn/Webster), where Alcott teachers participate in story time and sing-alongs with children. We will also have a performance by the Alcott Choir. A percentage of proceeds for the day go to Alcott. Parents can also purchase books for classrooms from teacher wish list baskets.

Contact: Jennifer Rule – rule.jennifer@gmail.com

Bingo Night – is a fun night open to all Alcott students and families. Bingo night takes place on 2/21 in the school cafeteria. Bingo is free for all & winners will receive prizes. Pizza, snacks & drinks will be available for purchase. Volunteers are needed to assist with day of event operations.

Contact: Katie Tkach – katietchach@gmail.com & Faiza Khan – faizakhan51@gmail.com

Talent Show- will take place on 3/12 in the auditorium. Auditions for the talent show will take place 2-3 weeks prior to the show & are open to all students in grades PK-8. Acts include singing, dancing, playing musical instruments, magic shows and a variety of other options. Volunteers are needed to assist with promotion and day of event operations.

Contact: Keli Wildermuth – jkwildermuth@yahoo.com

Fine Arts Night- enjoy a celebration of the arts - including craft tables, live music & dance performances. Event will take place on 5/28 on the Alcott playground. Volunteers are needed to set up, clean up & assist with craft tables.

Contact: Ms. Swenson – ijswenson@cps.edu

Father/Daughter Dance- will be held on 2/7 in the auditorium/gym and is open to all Alcott female students and their dads (or guardian of their choice). The event will feature DJ music & dancing, games, drinks & snacks. Volunteers are needed to assist with day of event operations.

Contact: Adrienne Miller – adrienne_daiuto@hotmail.com

Mother/Son Dance- will be held on 5/8 in the auditorium/gym and is open to all Alcott male students and their moms (or guardian of their choice). The event will feature DJ music & dancing, games, drinks & snacks. Volunteers are needed to assist with day of event operations.

Contact: Sarah Galer – sarah.galer@gmail.com & Tracey Buckley – tracpratt@gmail.com

Mentoring Program- the Family Mentor Program was developed to help introduce new parents and students to Alcott & make them as comfortable and knowledgeable as possible as they transition to a new school. New families will be assigned a mentor family (who will have a child in the same grade as your child) to serve as a resource for general questions & arrange individual & class playdates to introduce your child to classmates.

Contact: Dana Burdinski – dmhuber@yahoo.com

Room Parent Program- Alcott Room Parents play an important part in helping the school and classrooms run smoothly. Sign up for a year of fun and activity as you help organize holiday parties, communicate important classroom information to other parents & support our teachers.

Contact: Bethany Biesenthal & Joyce Reitzner – alcottroomparents@gmail.com

School Facility/Grounds Improvement and Beautification:

Parent volunteers work tirelessly to enhance both the interior & exterior of Alcott College Prep.

Beautification- several parents have focused their efforts on improving the look & function of the school. Projects include painting, renovations to bathrooms, storage areas & the outdoor grounds. Volunteers are always needed to help out with these ongoing and important projects.

Contact: Keli Wildermuth – jkwildermuth@yahoo.com

Flower Gardens- the beautiful flower gardens adorning the front of Alcott College Prep are planted & maintained by parent volunteers. Assistance is needed year-round.

Contact: Mary Varga – jmvarga@aol.com

Organic Edible Garden- help children learn the connection between the food they eat and their health and behavior. Volunteers are needed year-round to assist with maintenance of the garden.

Contact: Ms. Craig – kcraig@cps.edu

Miscellaneous:

Gym Uniforms & Spirit Wear- coordinates design and sales of spirit wear & gym uniforms for students to wear.

Contact: Amanda Weiner – aweiner510@gmail.com & Mary Waco – marypurves@mindspring.com

Sponsorship Committee- reaches out to find corporate sponsors for programs and initiatives.

Contact: Lyndsay Palkon – lyndsay.palkon@gmail.com

Uniform Swap- maintains uniform swap shelves & coordinates swap tables at school events.

Contact: Dana Burdenski – dmhuber@yahoo.com

Website Administration- oversees the Alcott College Prep website.

Contact: Vince L'Erario – Vincent.lerario@gmail.com & Adrienne Miller - adrienne_daiuto@hotmail.com

Website Calendar- puts school-wide event dates on online school calendar & FOA website.

Contact: Patty Kopitas – pattykopitas@gmail.com & Ms. Bodine – nkallen1@cps.edu

Clubs & After-School Activities:

Alcott offers a wide range of parent and teacher led after school clubs and activities. Sign up generally takes place at the beginning of the school year.

Band- Alcott is partnering with Quinlan & Fabish Music Company to offer a yearlong band program. Practices will be twice a week. Students may rent instruments or bring their own.

Contact: TBD

Battle of the Books- CPS sponsored competition for students in grades 4-8. The program takes place in early spring.

Contact: TBD

Choir- is open to students in 4-8th grade. Tryouts will be held in the fall & practices will be twice a week thru out the school year. The choir will perform at holiday assembly & other school events.

Contact: Mr. Loiselle – lloiselle@cps.edu

Daisies, Brownies & Girl Scouts- Friendship, fun, and age-appropriate activities begin at the Girl Scout/Brownie meeting as girls learn to work together, earn awards & explore their community and wider world.

Contact: 8th Grade

7th Grade - Cadette Scouts

6th Grade – Cadette Scouts

5th Grade – Juniors

4th Grade

3rd Grade – Brownies

2nd Grade – Brownies

1st Grade – Daisies

K – Daisies

No Troop

Kara Fingard – karafingard@yahoo.com

Dana Burdenski – dmhuber@yahoo.com

Linda Nitzsche – lindanitz15@gmail.com

Vicky Camarena – vickycamarena@hotmail.com

Sarah Benham – benhamtwins09@yahoo.com

Amy Weber – aweber67@yahoo.com

Patty Kopitas – pattykopitas@gmail.com

No Troop

Hilarie Longnecker – hilamarie@gmail.com

Robyn Spalding – robynspalding@hotmail.com

TBD

Sara Martin – saraconte44@yahoo.com

Girls on the Run- is a transformational physical activity based positive youth development program for girls in 3rd-8th grade. It teaches life skills through dynamic, interactive lessons and running games. The program culminates with the girls being physically and emotionally prepared to complete a 5k running event. The goal of the program is to unleash confidence through accomplishment while establishing a lifetime appreciation of health and fitness.

Contact: Ms. Pinter – aepinter@cps.edu

Spring Musical- Alcott students perform a junior version of some of our best Broadway musicals. Auditions for 5-8th grade students will be held in Dec and the show will take place 4/30-5/2.

Contact: Jennifer Rule – rule.jennifer@gmail.com & Mr. Loiseau – lloiseau@cps.edu

Sports:

Alcott offers a wide variety of sports teams for male & female students in grades 4-8.

- **Athletic Director** Coach Lukic nlukic@cps.edu
- **Fall Sports**
 - **Cross Country Boys & Girls 5-8th Grade** Keli Wildermuth jkwildermuth@yahoo.com
 - **Flag Football 5/6th** Sean Walsh sean02626@att.net
 - **Flag Football 7/8th** Drew Rosenkrantz drew.rosenkrantz@gmail.com
 - **Volleyball Girls 5/6th Grade** TBD TBD
 - **Volleyball Girls 7/8th Grade** Ander Foor anderfoor@hotmail.com
Janet Foor janetfoor33@gmail.com
- **Winter Sports**
 - **Basketball Girls 4th Grade** TBD TBD
 - **Basketball Boys 4th Grade** Scott Rosenberg srosenberg@stratsales.com
 - **Basketball Girls 5th Grade** Dan Kravitz dan@chiprop.com
 - **Basketball Boys 5th Grade** Ander Foor anderfoor@hotmail.com
 - **Basketball Girls 6th Grade** Tony Madonia tonymadonia@atproperties.com
 - **Basketball Boys 6th Grade** Jack & Keli Wildermuth jkwildermuth@yahoo.com
 - **Basketball Girls 7/8th Grade** Ruchi Gupta ruchig@gmail.com
 - **Basketball Boys 7th Grade** Drew Rosenkrantz drew.rosenkrantz@gmail.com
 - **Basketball Boys 8th Grade** Jovon Milam jovon06@hotmail.com
- **Spring Sports**
 - **Soccer Girls 5/6th Grade** TBD TBD
 - **Soccer Girls 7/8th Grade** TBD TBD
 - **Flag Football 3/4th** TBD TBD
 - **Track & Field (Boys & Girls 5-8th)** TBD TBD