



A Guide to Awty School Traditions

The APPA has produced this guide to aide your understanding of Awty School traditions.

APPA: The Awty Parents and Personnel Association. This is a voluntary organization made up of parents and staff at Awty whose purpose is to support the School through its social, educational and fund raising events.

Art a la Carte: an Art program for the Lower School set up by volunteer parents.

Auction: This is part of the Gala. Items are donated by companies or individuals and sold to the highest bidder at the gala. Different grades might be asked to put together an auction item; art projects, baskets from the grade etc. The money made through the auction is a large part of the money that is raised at the gala.

Auction Items: These items are donated by individuals, companies, retail stores etc., to Awty. These Items are auctioned off either by a silent or live auction at the Awty Gala. A great part of the gala revenue is from these auction items.

Booster Club: The Booster Club is made up of individuals and businesses that support the athletic programs at Awty International School.

Cheerleaders: Cheerleading in the U.S. is considered a sport. It is a combination of dance and gymnastics and demands great strength and coordination. They attend an intensive summer camp like other sports . and practice many hours a week. They cheer at various sporting events and are responsible for encouraging school spirit to all students. Tryouts are generally held in the spring for the following school year.

Fiesta de Mayo: This is a festival held by the Spanish Department, celebrating Spanish customs and traditions. This festival is held in May for Lower School.

French Festival: This is a day celebrating French customs and traditions held by the French department. This day is March 21st.

Freshman: 9th grade student.

Gala: Is an annual event, which consists of a formal dinner, dance and auction. This event is organized by the Development office with the help of volunteer parents from the school. The money that is made goes toward the Annual Fund at Awty.

Junior: 11th grade student.

Labor Day: This is the first Monday in September and is traditionally 'the worker's day off'.

Homecoming: One game during the soccer season is chosen as the "Homecoming Game" where the players and cheerleaders are recognized. It is a time where the whole school is asked to participate in *Awty School Spirit*. Homecoming consists of various events and customs, including the following:

- **Homecoming Court:** The High School votes on their favorite Freshman, Sophomore, Junior and Senior Girls. Two girls are usually chosen. Out of the Senior girls, one of the girls will be voted on to be queen. During the game they will be escorted onto the field during halftime. At this time the queen will be announced and she will reign as Queen for Homecoming. That evening there is usually a Homecoming Dance for the High School students.
- **Mums:** Contrary to what many people thought "mum" does not mean mother. A "MUM" is a traditional flower (chrysanthemum) worn on homecoming that will have ribbons in the school colors.

This is also an expression of school spirit and is an American tradition associated with Homecoming.

- **Pep Rally:** This event is to encourage school spirit for Homecoming. The entire student body is gathered in the Gym and the event is usually hosted by the cheerleaders. They will lead various cheers and get everyone to show their *Awty Spirit*.

Martin Luther King Day: This day is a school holiday celebrating Martin Luther King and all of the advances he made for all African American people. It is held on the 3rd Monday in January.

Memorial Day: It is the last Monday in May and is an American holiday to honor people who died in the wars.

Prom: A formal dance organized by the senior parents for the seniors, juniors and their guests.

Room Parents: there are usually 2 per class who liaise with the teacher and their School Division Vice-President. They co-ordinate with other willing class parent volunteers to assist on field trips, school parties, welcome new families into the class and communicate any information to parents.

Sadie Hawkins Dance: a dance where the girls invite the boys

Sock Hop: a fifties style dance where the girls wear poodle skirts and the boys dress in jeans & t-shirts.

Senior: 12th grade student.

Sophomore: 10th grade student.

Teacher Appreciation: an opportunity for parents and students to thank the teachers and staff

Thanksgiving: Thanksgiving is the 4th Thursday in November and it is an American holiday celebrating the first feast of the pilgrims and the Native Americans. Awty is usually out of school during that week. (See School Calendar)

Valentines: Valentines day is February 14th and it is customary to bring a Valentine card, candy or anything else for friends and teachers. This is not a school holiday, it is just a special day that is celebrated.

Volunteers: It is common throughout most private and public schools in the U.S., that parents volunteer in many facets of school life. These parents are needed to help with special events, sporting events, library duty, cafeteria duty and any other areas in which numerous people are needed.

Yearbook: The yearbook is produced by a committee made up of both teachers and students and is available at the end of the school year. It contains individual photographs of all students, sports photographs and articles written by the students.