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We make kids smile!

August 2015

# Gator News

## Monthly Contest



ENTER to  
WIN!

## Announcing the August Patient Contest

### Andy's Summer Party!

Count the **Leis** in the Alligator Dental waiting areas to help Andy know how many friends he can invite!



Enter to win a \$30 Gift Card to



## Awesome Advice

FROM DR. AL~

## SILVER TEETH



Dr. Al Burns

So, what is the deal with silver teeth?

We live in a world where vanity is celebrated more than ever. Should the thought of silver on your child's tooth stress you out?

For over 100 years fillings in teeth were made from a silver mixture of metal and mercury called Amalgam. Times have changed and rapidly the use of Amalgam is going away and being replaced with equally strong and durable white fillings that lack the potentially toxic effects of Mercury.

However, crowns are a different story.

The gold standard for crowns on children's teeth are Silver Stainless Steel Crowns, which are completely safe. They are very durable, quick to put on a tooth, and work very well. They just aren't white. White crowns do exist but have limitations. Most of those limitations don't apply to front teeth so Alligator Dental uses all white porcelain crowns on front teeth - and they are beautiful.

Back teeth are different.

There are 3 reasons most parents choose not to do white crowns on back teeth:

- 1 - **Tooth Damage:** White crowns on back teeth take twice as much tooth removal to fit. Often this leads to cutting into the nerve of the tooth and the need for unnecessary root canal just to get a white crown on. This creates a longer healing time and less long-term success of the tooth.
- 2 - **Time:** it takes 3-4 times as long to put on a white crown on a back tooth and often children do not have that kind of patience to get a tooth fixed. Especially when there are several teeth to fix. This requires the child to have additional anesthesia of some kind to make it through the appointment.
- 3 - **Cost:** Most insurance companies will not cover the cost of a white crown on a child's back tooth, not to mention the anesthesia. They are much more expensive and can cost 2x's as much as a silver crown.



In the end our philosophy is that **silver back teeth** are still the best way to go. I would have no hesitation putting one on one of my own children's teeth. In fact there are lots of great kids running around with silver back teeth - and they have great parents!



## Gators in Action:

### Belles at the Ball!



Alligator Dental was the proud sponsor of the Daddy Daughter Dance in San Marcos and the Cinderella Ball in Seguin. It was fun to see so many of our sweet patients having a magical night with their dads!



## Recipe: Sausage Stuffed Mushrooms

-Compliments of Britney from Alligator Dental in San Marcos

### Ingredients:

- 24 large whole fresh mushrooms
- 1lb sweet Italian sausage
- ½ cup grated Parmesan, plus extra for topping
- 8 oz. cream cheese, softened
- ¼ cup breadcrumbs
- ½ tsp. kosher salt
- ¼ tsp. freshly cracked black pepper



### Directions:

1. Preheat oven 350 degrees; Grease baking sheet
2. Clean mushroom caps. Break off stems. Use tip of spoon to hollow out center of mushrooms.
3. Brown sausage over medium heat. Drain on paper towel, cool.
4. Stir in Parmesan, breadcrumbs, salt, pepper and softened cream cheese.
5. Fill each muffin cap. Top with additional Parmesan.
6. Arrange on baking tray. Bake 20 min. until piping hot and liquid starts to form under the caps.

### Meet Alyssa Segura



- Receptionist at Alligator Dental in San Marcos!

### Position at Alligator Dental and what you really do:

I greet all our fabulous patients and help them get started with their appointment.

### Family Info:

I have a younger sister and three younger brothers. My sister has a 3-year-old daughter. My niece is my world!

### Favorite Place to Eat in San Marcos:

A good Steakhouse!

### Favorite Store to shop at:

Ulta

### Favorite Place to Visit:

Florida, especially Destin

### Favorite Kid Movie:

Disney movies! Tarzan and Lion King are my favorites lately.

### Something Unique about me:

I love strawberries but hate strawberry flavored food.