

December 18, 2008

Academy Charter School



Your PTO Board

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Calendar

- January 13th PTO General Meeting @7:30pm
- January 20-23 Direct Donation Drive

Please click [here](#) for important information about boxtops for ACS



President's Report

The Parent-Teacher Organization ("PTO") Board is looking ahead to 2009 and we are excited about the fundraising ideas we have planned. As you know, we have had to make some adjustments to previous plans, but we still anticipate an exciting and productive rest of the school year.

If you were unable to attend one of the Winter Programs this week, you missed out on an update of what the PTO has been doing so far this year and you missed a short presentation showing how your contributions are directly affecting our students. Many thanks to Tina Villari for putting the slide presentation together and a great big thanks to all of you who have helped support ACS through your PTO Direct Donation contributions or participation in a PTO fundraiser this year.

Your direct donations have brought in approximately \$15,000, and traditional fundraising along with the Math/Casino night brought in approximately \$15,000. With the \$30k, the ACS-PTO has purchased the following items which are already being utilized by the staff and students which were voted on in the September budget meeting:

- *Rosetta Stone - Middle School Spanish
- *New library system for easier access
- *Guitars and racks for Music
- *Handwriting curriculum for Elementary
- *LCD laptops for 3rd & 4th grade
- *Each teacher has been given \$200 to their classroom budget, including specials
- *The PTO has contributed toward the teacher's Holiday Party
- *The PTO has contributed toward extra library books
- *Triumph Intervention Program for our Reading Specialists
- *Additional AR books/guides

The PTO Board met on Tuesday, December 9th, for their monthly Working Meeting and voted to proceed with a Direct Donations Drive in January, with The Funky Brewster selling coffee on January 23rd. In February, the PTO will sponsor a BrainQuest fundraiser and we are grateful to the teachers who have offered to assist us with this idea. In May, we are planning a cultural event centered around Cinco de Mayo, so be watching for more information coming soon. The board is excited about the rest of the year and we are already making plans for next year. Don't forget, there is still time to make your direct donation contribution for 2008!

As a result of the ACS survey, the PTO Board also decided to increase our communication techniques to ensure parents are fully aware of what we are doing and what we have planned. One such effort is the slide presentation shown during the Winter Programs showing parents exactly how our children are utilizing the items your contributions purchased so far this year. Our bulletin board is updated periodically and we are working to attach more informational links to the ACS website and ACS newsletters to ensure parents are getting the information they need in a timely fashion.

In an effort to answer a few questions from the ACS survey regarding the PTO, let us briefly summarize some of the points we felt should be made clear. First of all, if you are new to our school, it is important that you understand that although we are a public school, since we are a charter school, we own our building and are governed by a parent run Governing Board. Although we get the same amount of money per student from the district as other schools, we must pay our building mortgage and teacher/staff salaries from our own budget. We must maintain our building, pay for technology and any other expense to run our school. So, it is imperative that the PTO work hard to raise money for our school, to help absorb expenses for the school's needs above and beyond what our school's budget may allow. The PTO board works hard to ensure we are aware from the Governing Board and the Deans what the most pressing needs of the school are and how the PTO can help ACS in the purchase of said items. It is important to note however, that most all schools whether public, private or charter schools, have a PTO or PTA set up to help raise money for their school.

Unlike the school itself and the Governing Board, the PTO can and does raise money for our school. There is nothing in our PTO By-Laws that dictates how we are allowed to raise money, which is why we proposed Direct Donations in an effort to offer an alternative to those parents who were tired of traditional fundraising a few years ago. It is also important to note, 100% of Direct Donations goes directly into our school, where traditional fundraisers must be split with the respective vendor. The current survey suggests that the majority of parents prefer a combination fundraising effort with direct donations and 1-2 traditional fundraisers a year. The PTO will continue this tradition as long as the parents are happy.

A committee has been established to review the current PTO By-Laws and to make necessary revisions and edits. It is the PTO Board's goal to strengthen our By-Laws, prepare a Manual for all PTO Board members and a handbook for parents and staff. It is our objective to ensure that future boards have a foundation already established from which to build upon, and to make sure no detail of the PTO's responsibilities are overlooked. It is also the PTO's desire with the handbook to make parents aware of what the PTO is for, how we raise money, and how parents can help the PTO achieve the goals for ACS. Once these By-Laws are in the final revision stage, they will be posted on the bulletin board and the website for your review.

Thank you again for your support of ACS through PTO fundraisers and direct donations.

On behalf of the ACS-PTO, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year!

Social

Next Teacher Breakfast will be held January 30th. Thanks to all who participated in the December Breakfast.

Box Tops

Congratulations to Gabe Martinez! He is the December Box Top Winner! Gabe won a \$10 gift certificate to Barnes & Noble.



Thank you to the following students who participated in the Box Top Fundraiser for December: Katelin Johnson, Logan Glover, Garrett Smith, Holland Eddy, Ben Rolle, Jonathan Heese, Tanner Meyn, Jenna Wardlaw, Sydney Schauerhamer, Casey Marsh, Brittney Fuller and Hayden Mitchell.

Fundraising

"Don't miss The Funky Brewster! Coffee and non-coffee drinks to benefit ACS-PTO on January 23rd from 7:30 - 9:30. We will be doing a Direct Donation Drive January 20th - 23rd at drop-off and pick-up. Grab your coffee while you make your donation on the 23rd! Cash, checks and credit cards accepted for direct donations."



DIRECT DONATION SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM-ACS PTO

Name _____

E-Mail _____ Phone _____

Children attending ACS _____

Select your sponsorship level:

\$ _____ Friend of ACS \$200+ Bronze \$300+ Silver

\$400+Gold \$500+ Platinum

Will your employer match your donation? Yes

How will you be paying?

- Check Enclosed Credit Card – **You can pay in full or charge monthly at the front office.**
- Please charge my credit card in full, no monthly payment. (At the front office)

Start Billing September 2007 – End January 2008

- \$40/mo for 5 mos=\$200 \$60/mo for 5 mos=\$300
- \$80/mo for 5 mos=\$400 \$100/mo for 5 mos=\$500

May we thank you publicly? Yes No, please list me as an anonymous donor

Special Message

The long awaited ACS Hoodies are now available!

ACS hoodies are now available from S&S Sports in Navy, Red and Dark Green. The cost is \$23, not including tax. S&S supports our school by returning a portion of the proceeds. Please stop by and get your ACS hoodie.

Please note that the ACS Dress Code (available on our website) states:

"Hoodies may contain the student's initials, first and/or last name only." S&S will be happy to personalize your hoodie for an additional fee. Any hoodies containing personalization other than the student's initials, first name or last name will be treated as a coat and will need to be removed once inside the building.



S&S's New Location:

136 S. Wilcox St. (Near the Philip S. Miller Library and the UPS Store)
(303) 317-6671

New Store Hours:

Monday-Friday: 10am-6:30pm
Saturday: 9am-5pm
Sunday: 1pm-5pm



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We're on the web!

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