

February 21, 2008



## Dean Brown

Dear ACS Friends and Families,

After a nice, long weekend, I think our students and staff members are getting healthier again! We've had quite a number of sick people at ACS, so please remember to be vigilant with hand washing! I hope everyone was able to get some needed rest, relaxation, and have some fun!

Our staff and students are ramping up for CSAPs. The staff will have a CSAP Kickoff Rally on February 28<sup>th</sup> during the school day for our 3<sup>rd</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> grade students. We will test our kids during the week of March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Your child's classroom teachers will send home details about what to expect during this week. Please ensure your child gets to school on time, a good breakfast, and is well rested during this week! These things are important everyday and we hope you can help your children with them not only during these tests but on a daily basis.

As parents, you are your child's first and most important teacher! Below are a few pointers to focus on the importance of learning with your child.

- Talk positively about the importance of education.
- Let your child see how much you enjoy and value learning.
- It is OK if you do not have all the answers to your child's questions, but it is important to show that you know HOW to find the answers.
- Learning builds confidence; and a child who is confident is more open to new opportunities to learn!

As always, thank you for your support and positive outlook. My door is always open; please stop by if you have any concerns or suggestions.

*"If you find a path with no obstacles, it probably doesn't lead anywhere."* –Author Unknown

Respectfully,

Yvette Brown  
Academy Charter School Dean  
[brownny@academycharter.org](mailto:brownny@academycharter.org)

[CSAP Released Items](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/released_items.html)  
[http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/released\\_items.html](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/released_items.html)

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### Important Dates

- February 22 Middle School Valentine Dance
- February 27 Governing Board Meeting/Working Session 5-7
- February 28 CSAP Kick-off Rally Assembly
- February 28 New Enrolling Kindergartners Parent Meeting 6-7
- February 29 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade Science Fair

## Dean Peters

Dear Families and Friends of ACS,

I hope you had a wonderful long weekend! Here are some upcoming events as well as some reminders regarding ACS policies.

### CSAP Testing dates for middle school students:

- 6-8 CSAP testing dates will be on Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> from 8:30-11:30 and from 1:20-2:30 each of these days. Our 8<sup>th</sup> graders will also be testing on Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, at these same times for the science portion of the CSAP. We have tried our best to condense this testing time down to one week in order to provide a minimal disruption to our regular class time.
- Please remember to avoid scheduling appointments during the timeframes listed above and please have your students here on time as we will begin testing first thing each of these mornings. Please refer to Dean Brown's article on some test preparation tips that assist students for these standardized tests. We would greatly appreciate this!

### Morning Student Drop-Off and Afternoon Student Pick-Up:

Dean Brown and I appreciate your assistance in ensuring students are dropped off at the appropriate times as well as being picked up in a timely manner. We have been having increasing numbers of students who are dropped off prior to this time. Per the policy handbook, any student(s) who are dropped off before this time will be sent to Academy Kids and will be charged accordingly. The "drop-in" fee for the morning is \$7.50 per student. Carpool in the afternoon officially ends at 4:00 p.m. Students not picked up by this time will be sent to the cafeteria. If they are not received by their parents by 4:05 p.m., they will also be placed into Academy Kids and a "drop-in" fee of \$10.00 per student will be charged accordingly. This is specifically outlined on the Parent Contract which all parents signed at the beginning of the year. Our staff and office hours are from 8-4 and we need your assistance in being sure students are dropped off and picked up at the correct times. We appreciate your attention to this matter. We do understand that at times, unforeseen circumstances may prevent you from picking your student up on time. We ask that you call the office when these infrequent situations occur.

### Times to Visit with Teachers:

If you need to visit with your middle school teacher(s) regarding your student's progress in their class, please remember that carpool is not the time for this type of conversation. Our teachers need to be monitoring their classrooms to ensure students are going promptly to carpool when their numbers appear on the screen. Please call or email your student's teacher to arrange a time to meet with them to discuss your concerns or questions you may have.

Here are a few of the activities that are scheduled for February

- **CSAP Kick-off Rally:** On Thursday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, we will be having our CSAP Kick-off Rally in the ACS gym for students in grades 3-8. Our teachers are planning this event and it will be a great time of fun, laughter, drama, and song!
- **Middle School Dance:** The next Middle School Dance is scheduled for Friday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, in the ACS gym. There is more information regarding this later in the newsletter.
- **Virtue Assembly:** The next virtue assembly will be held on Friday, February 29<sup>th</sup>. The elementary assembly will be at 8:50 and the Middle School assembly will be held at 2:50 in the gym. Our month's virtue is "Love of Country."

I as always, appreciate your support of ACS, its staff and students. This is a wonderful community of dedicated individuals and I am honored to be a member!

Kendra Peters

ACS Assistant Dean

[petersk@academycharter.org](mailto:petersk@academycharter.org)

## PTO

### Schedule Items

February 29 – Teacher Breakfast – See Social for details

March 12 – PTO General Mtg. – 6PM – ACS Cafeteria

March 27-28 – Teacher Lunch – See Social for details

April 3 – May 8 – Academy of Art – See Enrichment for details

April 16 – PTO General Mtg. – 6PM – ACS Cafeteria – ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS – See **Special Announcements** below

Other items – Sometime in April – Spring Yard Sale and Spring Family Movie Night



### Special Announcements

Join the 2008-2009 PTO Board! The PTO Board is now accepting nominations for all Board positions, which are open for nomination and election each year. Elections for next year's Board will be held at our April 16<sup>th</sup> General Meeting. Please email Kassie Smith at [Kassie-ACSPTO@comcast.net](mailto:Kassie-ACSPTO@comcast.net) to inquire about a position or to learn more about what the PTO does. To learn more about the overall functions of the ACS PTO Board, we encourage you to attend the PTO's March General Meeting.

### Fundraising

Coming in April – **Spring Yard Sale**, and **Spring Family Movie Night**. More details to come.

**Direct Donations** – The PTO Board wishes to encourage your participation in Direct Donations. Based upon survey responses from last year, Direct Donations were projected to be a major success for our ACS community. Actual Donations are currently well under projections and the PTO is currently over budget as a consequence. Please contact Brandi Essegian at [BEssegian@aol.com](mailto:BEssegian@aol.com) to find out how to complete your donation.

### Enrichment

**Academy of Art** – This exciting Enrichment activity will run from April 3<sup>rd</sup> through May 8<sup>th</sup>. Students will experience a wide variety of Art subjects.

**Golf** - We are considering the possibility of a Golf Enrichment to take place around mid-April through May, and should have the details soon.

For more information on these programs, please contact Julie Harkin: [toddpaco@aol.com](mailto:toddpaco@aol.com) or Emily Ragan: [ceragan1@msn.com](mailto:ceragan1@msn.com).

### Social

The next teacher breakfast will be February 29<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, there will be a teacher lunch on March 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> during Parent/Teacher Conferences. We appreciate all who volunteer to help. Look for sign up sheets on the PTO board or contact Allyson- [allyson4d@hotmail.com](mailto:allyson4d@hotmail.com) or Gina- [momofboyzzz@comcast.net](mailto:momofboyzzz@comcast.net)

## Governing Board News

### Upcoming board meetings

The board will meet for a working session on Wednesday, February 27, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the conference room. Our next regular general meeting is Monday, March 10, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the cafeteria. Meetings are open to all parents and staff members.

### School Advisory Council

As mentioned in Dean Brown's newsletter update last week, the School Advisory Council will start looking into grants for the school over the next few weeks. We're hoping some possible grants will raise monies and help support programs at ACS. If you're interested in helping or have any grant information, please contact Kristen Wenaas at [kristen.wenaas@comast.net](mailto:kristen.wenaas@comast.net). Also, our next meeting is planned for March 26<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-7:00 in the school library. We'll be talking about curriculum updates, including plans for a new math curriculum. Babysitting and snacks will be provided. We hope to see you there!

## ButterBraids

The 8th Grade students will be selling Butter Braids from February 22nd through March 7th. All orders need to be turned in by March 7th and orders will be delivered on March 11th. Orders can be placed through the front office or you can call Jennifer Justus at 303-663-1564 to place an order.

Thanks for your support!

Jennifer Justus

303-663-1564

## Graduation Committee

The Deans will be starting to work on the 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation ceremony. Please let me know if you would like to volunteer to be on the Graduation Committee to help plan this exciting event. The first meeting will be Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, from 3:00-3:30. They would like to have 8-10 volunteers to help with this ACS event. Please contact Anne Belfrage, [belfragea@academycharter.org](mailto:belfragea@academycharter.org), if you would like to volunteer.



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We're on the web!

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