

March 27, 2008



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Dean Brown

Dear ACS Friends and Families,

I hope you had a wonderful spring break! The teachers, kids, and I have finally gotten back into the swing of school again. Monday was a little quieter than normal. I think we had some tired kids and staff but by Wednesday, we were business as usual!

On Thursday and Friday, Parent/Teacher Conferences got underway. Thank you to the PTO for the wonderful lunch. Our teachers really appreciate this and it was delicious! Remember that Friday will be an early dismissal day too! We'll see you at 12:40.

On Wednesday evening the SAC met for their monthly meeting. We discussed the Bond and Mill Levy that may be on the November 2008 ballot. Currently DCSD Board of Education is discussing their deficit issues and what they need from taxpayers. In the past, charter schools received \$251 per pupil where as neighborhood schools received \$678 per pupil.

The seven Charter Schools within Douglas County have been meeting to discuss strategies for including us in receiving equitable funds. On April 1st, the Charter School Task Force will be presenting to the Board of Education our requests. We feel if the Board is receptive, we will fully support this ballot issue. I will keep you informed of the progress and how you can support us!

I have been observing our wonderful teachers in action and you should be hearing about habitats, space, rainforests, and Japan to name a few things that are happening within our elementary classrooms. Our students and teachers love our Core Knowledge curriculum!

"I am easily satisfied with the very best." –Winston Churchill

Respectfully,

Yvette Brown
Academy Charter School Dean
brownny@academycharter.org



Important Dates

March 27-28 Parent/Teacher Conferences

April 1 Douglas County School District Board of Education Meeting

April 14 Governing Board Meeting

April 16 PTO Meeting

April 21-24 Book Fair

April 23 SAC Meeting

Dean Peters

Dear Families and Friends of ACS,

Welcome Back! I hope you all had a wonderful and relaxing Spring Break.

Here are some important dates and events to keep in mind for the next few weeks:

- PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES:** Parent-Teacher conferences will be held this Thursday, March 27th, from 1:40-8:00 and on Friday, March 28th from 1:40-4:00. Please note that middle school and specials' teachers will all be taking a dinner break from 5:00-6:00 on Thursday. The middle school teachers along with our specials' teachers will be available in the gym to visit with you. Parents can pick up their student's report card in lobby prior to going into the gym to visit with the middle school and specials' teachers. From the parent survey last fall, it was determined that parents enjoyed the "arena" conferencing we offered in the gym. For this spring session, we are not scheduling appointments for conferences. When you are meeting with teachers, please keep your visiting time to 20 minutes so that all parents can get to their student's teachers.
- Spring Survey:** The elementary computer lab will be available for parents to take the Spring Survey. Please stop by on your way to conferences or after you are finished. The survey will also be available on-line by accessing our website. Look for the picture of the monkey and it will take you to the survey. We would like to see all of our families participate in this survey as your feedback is important to us! I hope you all have a wonderful and relaxing Spring Break! As always, thank you for all you do to support ACS!
- Bully Assembly:** Our next Bully Assembly will be held on Friday, April 11th. Each grade level will be sharing their Community Service Project they worked on this year. We are very excited to see what types of projects students and teachers choose for this project!



I hope you all have a wonderful weekend and I look forward to seeing you at Parent-Teacher Conferences!

'Nothing was ever achieved without enthusiasm.' Ralph Waldo Emerson

Kendra Peters
 ACS Assistant Dean
petersk@academycharter.org

Academy of Art



There is still time to sign up. Deadline is April 1st. This exciting Enrichment activity will run from April 3rd through May 8th. Students will experience a wide variety of Art subjects. Academy of Art will run on Thursdays from April 3rd through May 8th from 4pm to 5pm in the **elementary science room**. For more information, please contact Julie Harkin: toddpaco@aol.com or Emily Ragan: cera-gan1@msn.com.

Governing Board News

School Advisory Council

The SAC had its monthly meeting last night. Thank you to the committee members and everyone who attended! We really feel the dialog between the parents and administration improves the academic environment at ACS. The SAC was updated on the plans to hire a Building Resource Teacher and a part-time counselor. We also heard about the reviews of various math curricula that are underway and we're excited to see the value all of this adds to ACS. To stay involved with the academics at ACS, watch for details on our next meeting, April 23rd.

Spring parent survey begins today

You can take your parent survey today or tomorrow at ACS! If you do not have access to a computer and/or would prefer to fill the survey out at school, just visit the elementary computer lab this Thursday or Friday afternoon during parent-teacher conference times to participate. For those wishing to complete the survey at home on their own computers, watch for it to be emailed to you next week. This is your opportunity to voice your opinion and give input about Academy Charter School –all parents are urged to participate!



Board seeking two new members

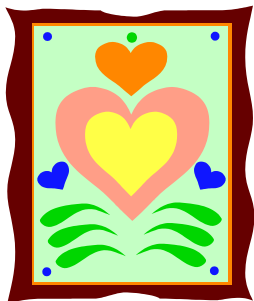
We are looking for two dedicated and interested parents to fill the two three-year positions opening up on the board, beginning with the 2008-2009 school year. Applications are available now from the front office and are due back mid-April. Elections are set for late April. For more information about the Governing Board, contact any board member.

Next meeting

Our next general meeting has been set for April 14, 2008 at 6 to 8 p.m. in the cafeteria. A working session will be held prior to this meeting at 5:00 p.m. in the conference room. All meetings are open to the public – parents and staff members are invited to attend. Only a few board meetings remain this school year, so make plans now to be there and fulfill your volunteer requirement.

Original Art Works

We'd like to thank all our artists for the wonderful artwork they created! **Orders are due on Friday, April 4th.** Please complete the order form, enclose cash or checks made payable to ACS, your child's artwork and bring it to the front office by Friday, April 4th. Original Works will ship our products mid April and we will have them in plenty of time for Mother's Day.



Elementary School Parents - Packets containing your child's artwork, an Original Works brochure and order form were sent home in Friday Folders right before Spring Break. If you are missing your packets, please contact your child's teacher.

Middle School Parents - Packets containing your child's artwork, an Original Works brochure and order form were given to your child's homeroom teacher and sent home on Thursday, March 13th. Please check with your student to ensure they brought it home.

PTO

Schedule Items

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

April 19 – Spring Yard Sale – See Fundraising for Details

May 2 – Spring Family Movie Night – See Fundraising for Details

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 years Board will be held at our April 16th General Meeting. Please email Kassie Smith at 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.

To this point, the following have stepped forward for nomination:

President – Greg Polashock

VP Fundraising – Ed Guns

VP Enrichment – Emily Ragan and Brandi Essegian (co-VPs)

VP Social – Kassie Smith

VP Communication – Allyson Ford

Secretary – Susan Gadaken

Treasurer – Bryan Schaffer and Bonnie Buckley (co-Treasurers)

School Advisory Council – The PTO needs a volunteer to serve a one-year term on the SAC. This individual would act as a liaison between the SAC and the PTO. This particular position is mandated by state requirement. To learn more, or if you would be interested in serving on this council on behalf of the PTO, please contact Kassie Smith at Kassie-ACSPTO@comcast.net.

Fundraising

GOT VOLUNTEER HOURS? No need to scramble to complete your volunteer hours! The PTO is hosting two events where volunteers are desperately needed! The first is an ACS multi-family yard sale; the second is our Spring Family Movie Night. These will be held in mid-April and beginning of May, respectively. Please contact Brandi at BEssegian@aol.com if you would like to help. The type of work we need may be done from home and on the weekends (evening and morning hours available).

Spring Yard Sale – April 19th - It's Time for Spring Cleaning! Spring is springing and it's time to rid yourself of the clutter around the house! The PTO is looking for donations for this multi-family yard sale, which can be dropped off after 6PM, Friday the 18th, in the ACS Cafeteria or Saturday morning, the 19th. All proceeds will go directly to the ACS PTO! The PTO is in need of a few good women (and men) to help out that Friday evening and on Saturday in the morning. Check the PTO Bulletin Board on the wall between the entrances to the Cafeteria and Gym to sign up to help. For more information, please contact Brandi Essegian at BEssegian@aol.com. Thank you for your support!!



Spring Family Movie Night – Friday, May 2nd. More details to come.



Enrichment

Academy of Art – This exciting Enrichment activity will run from April 3rd through May 8th. Students will experience a wide variety of Art subjects. Academy of Art will run on Thursdays from April 3rd through May 8th in the **elementary science room**. For more information, please contact Julie Harkin: toddpaco@aol.com or Emily Ragan: ceragan1@msn.com.

Social

The teacher luncheons are ongoing currently March 27-28th during Parent/Teacher Conferences. Thank you to all who are helping make this a success!



Academy Charter School

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We're on the web!

Academycharter.org