

April 17, 2008



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*Dean Brown*

Dear ACS Friends and Families,

It has been a whirlwind of a week with meetings, a music program, and snowy spring weather! Our 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders had their Spring Music Program on Tuesday and they did a great job! They played instruments, sang, and had some great dance movements. Thank you to all who attended and to Mr. Ross and the staff who put it all together!

Also on Tuesday, at the DCSD Board of Education meeting, charter school administrators had the opportunity to present their ideas and opinions regarding the Bond/Mil issue. I am attaching the presentation and documents for you to look over. These documents have some very interesting information. For example: Charter schools receive \$7091 per pupil whereas a neighborhood public school receives \$8508 per pupil! The DCSD Board of Education will be making a decision to include charters on the Bond/Mil issue at the May meeting. Please plan on attending that meeting because we do need support! As I receive more information, I will let you know the details.

PTO had their meeting on Wednesday evening during the snow storm! They are hosting an ACS Yard Sale this Saturday. If you are looking for gently used school uniforms, books, couches ,etc., please plan on coming by ACS Saturday morning! Donations will be accepted for this event on Friday evening at 6 p.m.

The ACS staff and I would like to remind you of our fund raiser for Brenda Knight on May 2. We will be having a spaghetti dinner, silent auction, inflatables, and a movie. If you have not turned in your RSVP, please let the office know because we are trying to determine our food needs. So far we have received fabulous support and donations from many ACS families and businesses. Thank you to Balanced Fitness, Tony's, Bouncin' at Omega, and Safeway to name just a few! I think this will be a fun event and a great community gathering. We hope that you can attend!

*"Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are endless."* –Mother Theresa

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

**Important Dates**

**April 19** Yard Sale at ACS 8am  
**April 21-24** Book Fair  
**April 23** Dress as your Favorite Character!  
**April 23** SAC Meeting 5:00-7:00  
**April 24** Dress of Choice Day  
**April 25** Elementary Testing Day  
**April 25** MS in session-dress of choice day!  
**May 2** 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation Fund Raiser-dress of choice

## Dean Peters

Dear Families and Friends of ACS,

We do have some events coming up in the next few weeks that you will want to keep in mind:

- **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Children's Hospital visit:** If your student is going on the visit to Children's Hospital this Friday, please be sure they have turned in their signed permission slip. It is double sided and needs to be signed on both sides. Also, we do need drivers to help transport this group of students. If you can assist, please let Liz know in the office. If you are accompanying the group, please note that you may not wear jeans into the hospital. This is a request of the hospital for the adults.
- **PTO Events:** Don't forget that we have two PTO events coming up soon! We will have our first "ACS Yard Sale" on Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, and a movie night for the whole family is being slated for Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please see the PTO corner for more details!
- **Book Fair Week:** Next week Mrs. Zoetewey will be having the spring Scholastic Book Fair. On Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, students may dress as their favorite fictional character.
- **Dress of Choice Days:** Thursday, April 24<sup>rd</sup>, is an all school dress of choice day. Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, is a regular school day for middle school students. It is also an additional dress of choice day for those students who have not had 3 or more dress code infractions since we returned from Spring Break. If your student has had 3 or more, they must wear their regular dress code clothing that day.
- **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation Fundraiser:** Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, will be an extra dress down day where students are encouraged to bring in a suggested donation of \$2.00. Proceeds from the donation will go to our 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation ceremony. We appreciate your support of the class of 2008 as your student will sometime become an 8<sup>th</sup> grader!

**\*Parents, please remember that our teachers post their homework by 4:00 p.m. every Monday. However, this information goes through our network administrator and is usually not visible until 4:30 p.m. that day.**

Thank you for your support of ACS! We appreciate your dedication to making ACS one of the best schools in the district.

Kendra Peters

ACS Assistant Dean

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

## Buy One Get One Book Fair



Next week is the Buy One Get One Book Fair, April 23-26. Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, is a book character dress up day and Thursday, April 24<sup>th</sup> is a dress down day. If students don't want to dress as a book character on Wednesday, they need to dress in regular school clothes.

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## *Governing Board News*

### **Board meeting highlights**

At the board's monthly session Monday evening, it was determined that the 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Washington, D.C. can be advertised at ACS and in the newsletter, but it should be clear that ACS is not a sponsor of this event.

A parent inquired about the status of the proposed Springboard afterschool enrichment program. It appears that Springboard has reduced their prices and could co-exist with Academy Kids, our current before and after-care program. Springboard would operate only after school, while Academy Kids would continue to provide before and after care.

### **Deans' Report**

A Douglas County School District Board meeting was held Tuesday evening. All seven Douglas County charter schools were represented, and all were united in their request to be included in a portion of election proceeds from future bond/mil levy elections. The basis for this request is that all Douglas County schools should share in the funds.

ACS will be piloting three different K-8 math curriculums in the near future – McGraw-Hill, Saxon, and Houghton Mifflin.

### **Homeschool Report**

According to director Elizabeth Lawson, the projected enrollment and re-enrollment numbers for next year's homeschool program are already higher than this year's figures. Ninety percent of homeschool families are returning.

### **Committee Reports**

**Operations and Policy** – no report at this time

### **Strategic Planning**

This committee met on April 7 and one of the main topics of discussion was ACS enrollment. Even with the opening of the new middle school in Founders, our enrollment numbers still look very good in all three middle school grades. Teacher retention also remains steady for next year.

### **Communications**

The spring parent survey ended last Friday with 136 families responding. Results will soon be analyzed and routed to the appropriate parties, and a summary of those results will be communicated to the ACS community. Many thanks to all parents who took the time to fill out the survey!

Governing Board election - there were two applicants for the two open board positions. Information about these applicants will be emailed to your home and an election will be held next week. ACS parents will be asked to vote online.

### **School Advisory Council**

If you've ever thought about attending a SAC meeting, now is a great opportunity to see what it's all about! Our next SAC meeting will be next Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 5:00-7:00 in the school library where we'll be discussing our goals for the committee for the '08/'09 school year as well as for next year's School Improvement Plan. Snacks and babysitting will be available. We hope to see you there!

### **May meeting of the board**

Mark your calendars! The board's next monthly meeting is on May 12, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the cafeteria. A working session is set for 5:00 p.m. that day in the conference room. These meetings are very informative and always open to the public. You are running out of opportunities to attend a board meeting, so don't delay. Attend in May!

## PTO Corner



### Schedule Items

- April 19 – Spring Yard Sale – See Fundraising for Details
- April 25 – Teacher Breakfast – See Social for Details
- May 2 – Spring Family Movie Night Benefit – See Fundraising for Details
- May 21 – PTO Working Meeting – year-end wrap-up of old business

### Special Announcements

The PTO wishes to congratulate those who have been elected to serve on the 2008-2009 PTO Board! The new Board will be as follows and will assume their new roles effective in June.

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

**School Advisory Council** – The PTO wishes to thank Emily Ragan for volunteering to serve as liaison to the SAC Committee for the 2008-2009 school year.

### Fundraising

**ACS Math Curriculum** – The PTO has committed to providing funding for a new Math Curriculum for the school. Funding for this needs to come from Direct Donations and last year's Parent Survey indicated strong support for Direct Donations as a preferred method of fundraising. So far, the actual donations received has been far below the funding needs in order to purchase the Math Curriculum.

The Math Curriculum is greatly needed, as the current curriculum is eight years old and is very disjointed both in cohesiveness for optimal learning and retention, as well as from grade to grade. The school will be focusing strongly on the improvement of the Math Curriculum in the next school year, not only for the benefit of students, but also as a tool to aid the school in improving students' performance on CSAP exams.

Please contact Brandi Essegian at [BEssegian@aol.com](mailto:BEssegian@aol.com) to find out how you can contribute your much needed **Direct Donation** for the benefit of our children and the school.

**Spring Yard Sale – April 19<sup>th</sup>** - Donations for this multi-family yard sale can be dropped off after 6PM, Friday the 18<sup>th</sup>, in the ACS Cafeteria or Saturday morning, the 19<sup>th</sup>. 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. For more information, please contact Brandi Essegian at [BEssegian@aol.com](mailto:BEssegian@aol.com). Thank you for your support!!

**IMPORTANT! - Spring Family Movie Night – Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>**. The PTO had originally planned to conduct this event. Due to the sad circumstances involving the Knight Family, this event has been changed into a benefit evening with proceeds going to the Knight family. The event is now being coordinated by the school's Social Committee (not to be confused with the PTO Social Committee) and the PTO will be supporting this event in other ways. Mrs. Knight has been such a valuable contributor to the ACS family that the PTO strongly encourages you to attend this event. It sounds like it will be a lot of fun. Flyers went out in the last Friday Folder. Please complete and return your flyer by this Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. For more information, please contact Heather Fortelka at [fortelkah@academycharter.org](mailto:fortelkah@academycharter.org).

### Social

The next teacher breakfast will be Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. 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). There will be one more teacher breakfast in May. The date will be announced as soon as it becomes available.

Thank you,

Allyson Ford & Gina Ordunez

## 8th Grade Car Wash

The 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students that are participating in the Washington, D. C. trip will be having a Car Wash on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>. The students will be washing cars from 11:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. in the Wal-Mart parking lot. Come on out and have these students make your car sparkle!



## Knight Family Benefit



Please remember to RSVP by Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup> for the Knight Family Benefit. We are having a spaghetti dinner, carnival activities and a movie night. We need to have an accurate number before we move ahead with some of the plans. Brenda Knight recently lost her husband to cancer. She has been loving and supporting our students, staff and parents here at ACS for many years. We now have an opportunity to support her! We are looking forward to a night of fun and entertainment with all proceeds going to the Knight Family. PLEASE REMEMBER TO SEND IN YOUR RSVP BY TOMORROW! Thanks!



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We're on the web!

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