

November 20, 2008



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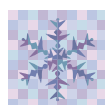
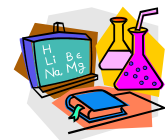
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Dear Families and Friends of ACS,

I'd like to thank all the people who helped to make the Middle School Information night on Tuesday such an enjoyable event. We appreciate all the families of 5th and 6th graders who came out to see why the ACS Middle School is such a special place for your up and coming middle school student. We also are very grateful and would like to thank all the local businesses who sponsored door prizes for this event!



As winter weather approaches, and the snow begins to fly, please be sure to check for any delayed starts by calling 303-387-SNOW(7669) to see if a delayed start has been announced. Remember, ACS is part of the Castle View Feeder area.

Our first Orchestra and Strings Recital will be held this Thursday, November 20th, from 6:30-7:30 in the ACS gym. Mrs. Dortch and Mr. Ross along with their students have been practicing and ready to entertain us all with their wonderful performance!



Although next week is a short one, only two days long, don't forget our ACS Virtue Assemblies will be held on Tuesday, November 25th, from 8:50-9:30 for grades K-5 and for Middle School Students from 2:55-3:25. Please join us as we honor those students who have demonstrated the virtue of Stewardship (being responsible for something entrusted to your care)

Please join us at some of the highlighted ACS events coming up in the very near future:

- Thursday, November 20th- Orchestra and Guitar Recital 6:30pm in the ACS Gym
- Friday, November 21st - Bully Assemblies-K-2 9:00-9:20; 3-5 9:40-10:00; MS 2:55-3:25
- Tuesday, November 25th-Virtue Assemblies, Dress Down Day
- Wednesday-Friday November 26-28- NO SCHOOL due to the Thanksgiving Holiday
- Friday, December 5th-Sixth Grade Only Movie Night from 5:30-7:30 in the ACS gym.
- Monday, December 15th-3-5 Winter Program
- Wednesday, December 17th-K-2 Winter Program
- Thursday, December 18th- Virtue Assemblies, Dress Down Day
- Friday, December 19th- NO SCHOOL-Teacher Work Day
- December 22-January 2nd- Winter Break-No School
- January 5th -First day of 3rd quarter
- Friday, January 9th-K-5 Testing Day; 6-8 regular school day

Important Dates

- Nov. 25 - Virtue Assemblies / Dress Down Day
- Nov. 26-28 Thanksgiving Break. School Closed
- Dec. 5 - Sixth Grade Movie
- Dec. 15 - 3-5 Winter Program 5:30
- Dec. 17 - K-2 Winter Program 5:30
- Dec. 18 - Virtue Assemblies/ Dress Down Day
- Dec. 19 - Jan. 2 No School
- Jan 9 - Testing Day

There is a Douglas County School Board position open representing the Castle Rock area. If you

are interested in applying for this position, please contact the Douglas County School District.

Due to the short week next week, there will not be an ACS newsletter. At this time we would like to wish you all a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday with your family and friends.

Kendra Peters
ACS Assistant Dean
petersk@academycharter.org

Governing Board News

Important Dates

- Governing Board Working Session - Wednesday, December 3, 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.
- Governing Board Working/Monthly Meeting - Monday, December 8, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Absent Next Week?

Please notify the office if your student is not going to be in attendance on Monday or Tuesday next week. I know many folks will be leaving town for the Thanksgiving Holiday and we would appreciate a phone call or email informing us of your student's absence. Typically, we spend a lot of time making calls to families regarding these absences.

Thanks for your assistance!
Anne Belfrage
Office Manager
belfragea@academycharter.org

Volunteer News

I still need volunteers to help with the Vision and Hearing Screening on December 10th and December 11th. The times on the 10th are 8:25-12:00 and 12:15-3:30. I need three more volunteers for Thursday, December 11th, in the morning only starting at 8:30. Please let me know if you can help with this important screening for our students.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you that volunteer so generously at our school. You add greatly to the success of your student's education and make ACS even better! Have a wonderful Thanksgiving with your family and friends.

Anne Belfrage
Volunteer Coordinator
belfragea@academycharter.org

Counseling Closet

Welcome to the Counseling Closet!

This month I have been gathering teacher and parent referrals to begin two new counseling programs for this school year! Beginning this month and throughout the rest of the year, I will be running a peer mentoring program and small group counseling support sessions to aid in student mental health and academic achievement.

Peer mentoring will pair students of all ages with students in different grades to offer academic and emotional support. Peer mentoring programs are great in that they provide benefits to both the mentors and the mentees. Mentors often gain a special sense of pride and accomplishment in knowing they have helped another student. Likewise the mentees benefit from having an older peer to build a bond with, all while getting help with the academic areas they find challenging. It is my hope that this program will build positive relationships by fostering friendship, communication and academic skills for everyone involved.

The other piece to the new counseling program will be two new group counseling sessions that will run throughout the year. These groups will center around two different topics; the first will be a support group for children dealing with divorce. This group is intended to offer children support and tools for dealing with the hardships that come with divorce and the changing of family structures. The second group will be focused around friendship building skills. This group is intended for children that have trouble making friends and building social connections. Some examples would be students that are new to our school, students that are shy in nature or students that just aren't sure how to make lasting connections with their peers. Both groups will run in cycles of eight weeks throughout the year.

If you think your student would be a good fit for either of these programs or if you would like more information, please contact your teacher or myself for a permission form!

Angela Krautz

ACS Counselor

krautza@academycharter.org

This Month's Tip From the Counseling Closet: Helping the Perfectionist Student

The perfectionist student is...

1. Often a procrastinator - "Knowing" or fearing that you will not be able to complete an assignment or project to absolute perfection often leads a perfectionist to procrastinate. You wait until the last minute to begin so that, in the rush, you don't have time to deal with your perfectionist standards and you have an excuse if your work doesn't measure up to perfection.

PARENT HELP - Assist your child in setting up a schedule for doing homework or working on a project. Break a larger assignment down into small segments so that the perfectionist isn't intimidated by the scope of perfection that will be "required" of them.

2. Boggled down in the details - It might be that the handwriting isn't neat enough, that a grease spot got on the paper while writing it on the kitchen table, that the artwork doesn't look as good as hoped...there are so many small details that can deem an assignment as a disaster in the eyes of the perfectionist.

PARENT HELP - Be a role model for overlooking the small imperfections of life and accepting things as being good enough. If you are painting the wall and get a little on the trim, show your child that everything has a solution or that it really isn't that big a deal. Don't expect absolute perfection from your child - if they have a little spot on their shirt, let them wear it anyway without making an issue out of it. This teaches your child that it is acceptable to have things be good without always having to be perfect. Show your child that even adults and experts make mistakes or do things that are not 100% perfect, and that is ok! Some examples you can research together are Abraham Lincoln, Albert Einstein, and Thomas Edison. Often times we learn the most from our mistakes and not our accomplishments.

3. Overly or undeservingly self-critical and, at the same time, not accepting of constructive criticism - It can be difficult to try to help a perfectionist student do well on homework. Each failure or less-than-A work will cause the student to become a nervous wreck when it comes time to do a project or homework assignment. They assume that everyone thinks they are not reaching their potential and thus interpret your help as criticism.

PARENT HELP - Avoid offering too much direct criticism or helpful critiques as both are likely to be interpreted as negative criticism. Instead, show your student an article with tips for creating great science projects, check out a book at the library about homework strategies - look for information that is relevant but that comes from a third party in a very non-confrontational way. With gentle support and guidance, your perfectionist can excel in school and reach their full potential. Perfectionists can overcome these tendencies and learn to see that the minutiae of life are not as important as the big picture!

Article by SD Rios, an educator, parent and perfectionist.

PTO Corner

PTO MEETINGS

- December 9th @ 7:45am PTO Working Meeting
- January 13th @ 7:30pm PTO General Meeting (SAC Meeting starts at 6:30pm)

Presidents Message

I am honored to be serving ACS as President of your PTO. I look forward to a productive rest of the year and your board is even thinking ahead for the new school year, with exciting ideas and suggestions. I'm excited to be working with an amazing board who care deeply about our school and have a passion for its success.

Thank you to Greg Polashock for his work as PTO President. We appreciate the time he gave to this important board, which works hard to raise money for our school.

A special thanks to Bonnie Buckley, who stepped up as Interim President during the "changing of the guard." Thank you for making the transition a smooth one for everyone.

Thank you to the SAC and the PTO for your hard work on Math/Casino Night. You all did an amazing job making our school a fun and enjoyable evening of learning and entertainment.

Please be watching your PTO Newsletters and PTO Corner's to make sure you don't miss important date changes regarding meetings and exciting fundraisers the board will be planning for the rest of the year. And, don't forget to check out the PTO bulletin board for meeting dates, agendas, and other PTO information.

Our next PTO Working Meeting will be held in the ACS Conference room at 7:45 a.m. on Tuesday, December 9th

Thank you.

Misty O'Leary

FUNDRAISING

Be watching the PTO Newsletters for upcoming events in the new year!

Social

Next teacher breakfast will be held Friday, November 21st

List of dates for the upcoming year for teacher breakfast:

November 21st

December 19th

January 30th

February 27th

March 19th and 20th luncheon/dinner

April 24th

May 15th

...and Don't Forget!..

BOX TOP FUNDRAISER

Congratulations to Jeremy Brown who is the October box top winner. Jeremy won a free movie day with Dean Brown.

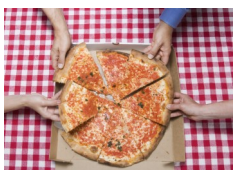
Thank you to Brooke Bolen, Brett Akin, Martina Bale, Grace Stafford, Olivia Stafford, Lucas Tokarski, Abigail Justus, Trevor Ellis, Nicole Buckley, Wyatt Gensler, Miles Warnke, Taylor Hanson, McKinley Dirks, Andrew, Emalee Poellot and Travis Attardo for contributing to the October Box Top Fundraiser.

The Classroom Winner for November will be announced soon and the winning class will enjoy a free pizza party, graciously donated by The Cline Family and Little Caesar's Pizza. Thank you to the teachers and students for helping with this month's classroom competition.

In December, we will go back to an individual winner so keep cutting, and don't forget to place your box tops in the box top box in the lobby for the December competition! Please place your box tops in an envelope or baggie with your name and grade.

Thank you for your help!

8th Grade Fundraisers



Nicolo's Chicago Style Pizza at 848 Ridge Road and Burger King at 880 Kinner St. are donating 5% of total sales that are designated as being for the 8th Grade Washington, D.C. trip! If you eat at either Nicolo's or Burger King (coupons excluded) any time between now and the end of the school year, we will receive a monthly donation for our kids. Please turn in your register receipts to Lori Burgos in the front office and we will get them to the appropriate person.

The 8th graders are selling Barn Candles and Butter Braids to raise money for their trip. If you are interested, contact any 8th grade student. The candle orders will be due by November 21st and will be in before Christmas! The Butter Braid orders will be due by December 3rd.



STUCCO News

Dear ACS parents,

The ACS Student Council has planned an **ACS 6th Grade only** Movie Night on Friday, December 5th. It will start at 5:30 with a Pizza Party and the movie will start about 5:45 and go until 7:30 PM. We need to have **at least 3 Dads and 3 Moms** to circulate and help us monitor bathrooms, and the gymnasium during the movie and intermissions. STUCO Officers will be handling the concessions for this night.

The Students can purchase Pizza and pop for dinner and socializing. Chips, candy and pop will be available half way through the movie.

“Dress-down” day attire, sleeping bags, pillows or field chairs will be allowed for movie watching.

We will be showing one PG rated movie, which we have yet to select with the 6th grade Student Body. When that is chosen, we will announce that to all parents again via email and posters in the hallways. Students will need to bring their school ID for admittance.

- There is not a cost for the movie, only food concessions.
- Only Middle School 6th Graders, currently enrolled at ACS and who have attended School on that day, may attend this event.
- We also expect students to follow all Soaring Eagle Behavior expectations and show respect and responsibility as they normally would.

Thank you for considering participating and it is a fun way to fulfill your volunteer hours.

If you can join us that evening, please email, call or write to the staff sponsors below as soon as possible:

Christy Matlock matlockc@academycharter.org 303-660-4881 EXT. 221

Wendy Hollister hollisterw@academycharter.org 303-660-4881 EXT. 252

Burger King Benefit Night

Thanks to all of you that came to the Burger King benefit night on November 17th. The 8th graders had fun waiting on the guests while earning money for their Washington trips! We appreciate your support!



Academy Charter School

1551 Prairie Hawk Dr.
Castle Rock, Co 80109

Phone: 303-660-4881
Fax: 303-660-6385

We're on the web!

Academycharter.org