

January 22, 2009



Governing Board News

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SAC Update

The SAC is planning their February meeting and would like some input from parents. It has been suggested that SAC provide parents with an opportunity to get a more detailed review of the Saxon Math curriculum and to discuss with the staff how it is being used in the classroom. Do you have any questions on how math is being taught? On the homework coming home? Or the weekly assessments? If you have any interest in attending the February 3rd SAC meeting at 6:30 to discuss the math curriculum with some of our staff, please email Kristen Wenaas at kristen.wenaas@comcast.net to let us know if we should hold this type of meeting. Thanks for your input.

Additionally, ACS hosted a forum between charter School Advisory Councils (SACs) and the District Advisory Council (DAC) last night. Among other responsibilities, the DAC reviews each SAC for compliance and is making recommendations to the Douglas County School Board on upcoming budget cuts. We had a great turnout with administrators and SAC members from American Academy, DSC Montessori, Challenge to Excellence and North Star Academy. Quite a few DAC members attended as well as Emily Hansen from the Douglas County School Board and Annette Fante, the Superintendent of Learning Services with Douglas County. The evening served its purpose of educating each group on similarities and differences between neighborhood schools and charter schools and to open communication between charter schools and the DAC. Lots of ideas were shared between the various SAC members with the hope of increasing the value we add to our respective schools. Thanks to Dean Brown and Dean Peters as well as our Governing Board and SAC members for their participation and support during the meeting.

Fall parent survey results

As promised, we have results to share from our fall parent survey. We had 129 respondents out of 540 families, or roughly a 24% turnout. You can view the percentage of yes and no responses to survey questions by clicking on this [link](#). Specific survey comments are confidential, but the Governing Board and Deans use these comments to pinpoint those areas of concern which merit a closer look. The comments are discussed and if needed, a plan is made to address the issue or make a change.

A few observations from the survey follow. The majority of those polled thought carpool has been running smoothly. Many parents felt we need to get more information about the school out to new families, kindergarten and otherwise. The use of Infinite Campus has been touted by parents, but many expressed the desire for the information, especially homework pages, to be kept up-to-date. A number of elementary parents said that there is little to no time to meet with special teachers during parent/teacher conferences. Allowing Halloween celebrations was supported by a majority of parents, and some suggested those not interested could opt out of the celebrations. Increasing communication is a continual goal at ACS, and it was suggested that getting more teachers on board in this area would help too. The middle school and special newsletters are being

Important Dates

- Jan. 23 - Funky Brewster 7:30 -9:30 am
- Jan. 26 - Policy Committee Meeting 6:30-8:30
- Jan. 28 - Band Program 6-7
- Jan. 30 - Virtue Assemblies / Dress Down Day
- Feb. 3 - SAC Meeting 6:30
- Feb. 9 - Gov Board Meeting 6:00
- Feb. 10 - PTO Meeting 7:45 a.m.
- Feb. 18 - CSAP Begins for 3rd Grade
- Feb. 23 - Gov. Board Meeting working session 5:-00

read by more parents than in the past.

According to the survey, the top three comments for the question, “What do you like best about ACS?” were: 1) Small class sizes; 2) Dress code; and 3) Caring teachers and staff.

Under the question of “What would you change at ACS?” - these were the most given responses: 1) Too much homework; 2) More involvement from the parent community; and 3) Need to strengthen our middle school.

We really appreciate the feedback from those completing the survey, as your observations, praise, and even criticisms are so important to getting the pulse of our school. Thanks for your time! We hope to have even greater participation during our spring survey in March – this is your opportunity to have your voices be heard, parents.

Next GB meeting

The board will meet next on Monday, February 9th, at 6:00 p.m., and a working session is set at 5:00 p.m. that day. Another working session will be held on Monday, February 23, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

Academy Kids News

Welcome back to Winter

It is that time again, when roads are icy, traffic is horrible and kids want to have snowball fights. Keep an eye on the news channels on snowy days starting about 5:00 a.m. for any school delays; the delays will be for Douglas County Schools and this will include Academy Charter School as well as Academy kids.

In the event of a delayed start for Douglas County Schools, Academy kids will open at 7:30 a.m. If they close the schools, Academy Kids will be closed as well. So keep an eye out on snowy mornings for any delays or closings. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me anytime at 720-935-7044.



Calendars

January and February calendars are on line as well as in the office and next to the sign in /out sheets in AK. Please fill them out as soon as possible.

Important Upcoming Dates

- February 16th we will be closed for Presidents' day.
- February 27th Dress of choice day.
- February 27th Deadline for Spring Break commitment.
- March is fast approaching and we have a lot of activity to look forward to:
- March 13th is a full day for Academy Kids and this is a teacher work day.
- March 19th and 20th are parent/teacher conferences. We will be open half day on the 19th and full day on the 20th.
- March 23rd through March 27th is Spring break. We are considering the possibility of being open this week if we can get enough parents to commit to participation. If we do not have the commitment, we will be closed so PLEASE let me know no later than February 27th if you will be participating.

Thank You

Sara Sanchez

720-289-6265 AK Cell/ 720-935-7044 Cell

sanchezs@academycharter.org

Volunteer News

Volunteers

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Eager to help in every way,
Valuable for the role you play,
Exceptional in responding to needs,
Ready with all the right words and deeds,
You're dependable as you do your part,
Day in and day out with a giving heart.
Always there to show you care,
You've won our praise as a great **Volunteer!**

We have added up our volunteer hours and we have many new families that have reached the 20 hour mark:

Bodiford, Bolen, Cal, Cisneros, Connolly (Sara & Michael), Desai, Desormeaux, Dunn, Eddy (Kim & Richard), Essegian, Harkin, Helzer, Herbert, Kaylor, Keeling, Kullander, Lancaster, Martinez, Mestas, Moster, Myers (Michele & Dan), Nims, Parker, Pearson, Rolle, Romero, Schauerhamer, Scholz, Smith (Tyler & Tonya Ball), Stucky, Tschudy, Unruh, and Wamboldt

The following families have 50 or more hours logged:

Arnell, Carpenter, Colander, Eakin, Ellis, Grue, Landrey, O'Leary, Ragan, Scheibe, Smith (Kassie & Scott) and Wenaas.

The following families have logged over 100 hours:

DeGarmo, Knight, and Murphy.

Congratulations to all of our faithful volunteers! We appreciate all of the hard work these hours represent. We will have the appropriate "star" up on our bulletin board to recognize this achievement.

As I look at the number of families that have no hours logged, I am wondering if you have done some volunteering, but neglected to log your hours on your volunteer card. If this is the situation, please email me your hours or stop by and log your hours personally as soon as possible. For those who truly have not become involved, it is time to get going! The year is half over and you made a commitment to volunteer 20 hours as a minimum here at Academy Charter. Remember, your volunteer involvement here at the school really helps to show your student how important their education is to you as a parent.

Thanks again for being one of our "shining stars!"

Anne Belfrage
belfragea@academycharter.org
 Volunteer Coordinator

Picture Valentines Available



Your students brought home an order form for the picture valentines that they can order through Skow Photography. This is a fundraiser for our school and a fun way to do valentines for your students. The deadline to order these valentines is **January 28th**. The valentines will be delivered the first week of February. Additional order forms are available in the school office. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Anne Belfrage, belfragea@academycharter.org.

PTO Corner

President's Report

- The PTO Board met Tuesday, January 13th after the SAC meeting. Please see "draft" of the minutes on the PTO bulletin board (within the next week) for further details.
- PTO Working Meeting will be February 10th @ 7:45 a.m.
- PTO General Meeting will be April 14th @ 7:30 p.m., following the SAC Meeting. Babysitting will be available and paid for by ACS-PTO.
- Direct Donations Drive: January 20th-23rd from 7:45a.m.-8:45 a.m. and 3:15-4:15p.m.
- January 23rd-Support ACS by purchasing a cup of coffee from The Funky Brewster from 7:30a.m.-9:30a.m.

The PTO is working with the Deans and Governing Board to focus the balance of the school year's PTO earnings on the most pressing technology needs of the school. In this difficult economy, the ACS-PTO wants to ensure that we support our school in its most important needs, to prevent our students and staff from suffering during this down time.

In an effort to support ACS's streamlining direction, the PTO will initiate a new communication strategy by emailing broadcasts of pertinent information instead of inundating you with more newsletters to struggle through, starting in February. Please remember, the PTO bulletin board and ACS website are other important avenues for information. Please let us know how you like our new method of communication!

Fundraising

Our next fundraiser will be the Brain Quest. We have done this before as a school and got great feedback from it.

Brain Quest will be the week of **February 9th - February 13th** and the teachers will determine the day and time that week, as well as the test material. Pledge Sheets will be sent out via class newsletter on **January 29th** and due back to teachers on **February 6th**. Test scores and Pledge sheets will go back to the student for collection of pledges on **February 17th** and the due date for pledge money will be **February 27th**.

Social

Teachers' breakfast January 30th--The food needs to be at school by 7:45 a.m. Please email me at Kassie-acspto@comcast.net if you can contribute to the breakfast. I also need someone to help breakdown the breakfast at about 8:30 a.m.

Thanks

Kassie



Special Messages

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

**BOX TOP FUNDRAISER**

The deadline for turning in box tops for January's competition is Friday the 23rd. Don't forget to shop online at www.boxtops4education.com. Barnes and Noble also gives back to our school if purchasing through the Box Top website.

Last Call for Kindergarten Siblings!

Please check the list in the school lobby of our 2009/10 incoming kindergarten students. Hopefully your student is on the list and in the class that you requested. I want to make sure that I have every sibling on the list before I start enrolling from the lottery list. Thanks for your assistance with this.

Anne Belfrage
belfragea@academycharter.org
Registrar/Office Manager

Breakfast goodies fundraiser for D.C. group

The 8th grade students going on the Washington, D.C. trip will be selling breakfast items tomorrow morning during the PTO direct donation drive at ACS. Treat yourself to fresh-baked cinnamon rolls, muffins, banana bread, and other morning treats and help these students raise money for their trip at the same time! Remember – it's tomorrow, Friday, January 23rd from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.



Academy Charter School

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We're on the web!

Academycharter.org