

February 19, 2009



Governing Board News

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Upcoming board meetings

The Governing Board will hold a working session tonight, Thursday, February 19, at 6:30 p.m. in the ACS cafeteria. The policy committee plans to make a presentation to the board concerning dress code revisions, and they will also give their recommendation regarding selected clothing vendors. The board will vote on these issues at the next working session slated for Monday, February 23rd, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the conference room. The remainder of that meeting will focus on the ACS budget for the 2009-2010 school year.

March's general meeting will take place Monday, March 9, at 6:00 p.m. in the cafeteria. With only four general board meetings remaining in the 2008-2009 school year, all parents are encouraged to attend at least one meeting as part of their volunteer commitment to the school. All board meetings are open to the public.

PTO Corner

Important Dates

- Feb. 20 - 5th Grade Science Fair
- Feb. 23 - Gov. Board Meeting working session 5:00 pm
- Feb. 25 - Kindergarten Orientation 6:00 pm
- Feb. 27 - Dress Down Day / Virtues Assemblies
- Mar. 2-5 - CSAP Testing
- Mar. 3 - SAC Meeting 6:30

- PTO Teacher Breakfast on Friday, February 27th. We are in need of food items... contact Kassie Smith at kassie-acsppto@comcast.net.
- We would like to thank everyone for participating in the BrainQuest and remind you that pledges are due February 27th. The kids did a great job using the Quiz Star computer program.

Spring Sports

Middle School Coaches Needed:

We need parents and/or staff members who are able to help coach our track and field team or our boys' volleyball team this spring. Practice begins the week of March 16 and we will work around your schedule. The seasons continue through the middle of May. If you are interested, please contact Lisa Arnell at arnell@academycharter.org.



Original Works

ORIGINAL WORKS IS BACK WITH A NEW PROGRAM AND IT'S JUST IN TIME FOR MOTHER'S DAY!



We have an exciting new program this spring designed to benefit our elementary school teachers! In the past all proceeds have gone to benefit the art department, but this time the proceeds are going directly to your child's elementary teacher! They will use the proceeds to purchase needed items for their classrooms.

The elementary teachers have our students creating some wonderful masterpieces! Original Works will take these works of art and turn them into beautiful full color products, such as magnets, mugs, journals, shirts and much more. Posters and samples will be on display next week. Information about the program and how to order these products will be sent home in your Elementary Student's Friday Folders on March 6th. Orders will be due on March 16th to ensure we receive them in time for Mother's Day.

This is a great opportunity to purchase one-of-a-kind gifts to help raise money for your elementary teacher. If you have any questions about this program, please do not hesitate to call Cindy Hazlehurst, Cami Lemon, or Kristen Sydney. Thank you for your support!

Volunteer News

We are so thankful for all of our volunteers here at Academy Charter School. I am sure there are lots of days that you could be doing a lot of other activities instead of coming in to the school and helping here. Just remember, you are reinforcing the importance of your student's education by spending time in the school. There are still a considerable number of folks that have not logged any volunteer hours this year---I can't believe it! Just a reminder, we only have a little over three months left for you to meet your commitment of 20 hours this year.

Cindy Hazlehurst needs two volunteers to help put artwork into packets that will be sent home with the students on Thursday, March 5th. If you are able to help with this project for Original Works, please contact Cindy at 303-688-9134.

We are rounding up snacks for CSAP test time for Middle School students. You should have received an email from your class coordinator regarding the items that are needed. Please help us to have the best possible test experience for these students.

Thanks again for being our "shining stars" at Academy Charter!☺

Anne Belfrage
belfragea@academycharter.org
Volunteer Coordinator



Wellness Corner – Secondhand Smoke

Secondhand smoke is a mixture of the smoke given off by the burning end of a cigarette, pipe or cigar and the smoke exhaled from the lungs of smokers. Secondhand smoke contains more than 250 chemicals known to be toxic or cancer causing, including formaldehyde, benzene, vinyl chloride, arsenic, ammonia, and hydrogen cyanide.

* Infants and young children are especially susceptible: their lungs are still developing and childhood exposure to secondhand smoke results in decreased lung function. Children who breathe secondhand smoke are more likely to suffer from cough, wheeze, phlegm and breathlessness.

* In children, exposure to secondhand smoke causes over 202,000 asthma episodes in children with asthma.

* The current Surgeon Generals Report states that there is no risk-free level of secondhand smoke exposure. Even brief exposures can be harmful to children.

* Infants and children suffer additional acute lower respiratory tract infections, such as pneumonia and bronchitis, due to secondhand smoke exposure.

* Of children 3 to 11 years of age, almost 60 percent, or 22 million, are exposed to secondhand smoke. Almost 25 percent live with at least one smoker, compared to 7 percent of nonsmoking adults.

* Secondhand smoke exposure causes buildup of fluid in the middle ear, resulting in 790,000 visits to health care providers. Middle ear infections are the most common cause of childhood operations and of childhood hearing loss.

* A California EPA study 430 sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) deaths are annually associated with secondhand smoke exposure.

* Babies whose mothers smoke while pregnant or who are exposed to secondhand smoke after birth have weaker lungs than other babies, which increases the risk of many other health problems.

* Babies are 20 percent more likely to be born low-birth weight if their mother was exposed to secondhand smoke during the pregnancy.

For more information on smoking, please review the Trends in Tobacco Use report and Lung Disease Data in the Data and Statistics section of our website at www.lungusa.org, or call the American Lung Association at 1-800-LUNG-USA (1-800-586-4872).

Be Healthy!

Stacey Barlow, RN
School Nurse Consultant

ACS 8th Grade Washington DC Fundraiser!



Enjoy a SHORT STACK for a TALL CAUSE !! You're Invited to an Applebee's Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser to support the ACS 8th Grade Washington, DC trip. Our 8th grade students will be serving breakfast on Saturday, March 14th, from 7am-10am at the Applebee's at 390 Allen Street (across from Home Depot) in Castle Rock. The price is \$6 and you must buy tickets ahead of time from one of the 8th grade students. The meal includes pancakes, sausage and a drink (coffee, tea, orange juice or soda) This event is open only to ACS families and friends and the majority of the proceeds go back to the students. Watch our 8th graders in action at Applebee's, get a great breakfast, and help a good cause!

Counseling Closet

Greetings from the Counseling Closet!

This week I am working hard on my big spring project for the school year and I need your help! With assistance from our wonderful staff and PTO/SAC committees, I will be hosting a career fair for our middle school students. With colleges becoming more rigorous and selective in what they look for in high school applicants, it is imperative that our middle school students are prepared to select high school courses that will lend to their success later on down the road. Whether our students will venture off to college or join the ever changing workforce, it is important that we give them the tools they need to make good decisions for their futures! I have been working with our middle school students this year on personality and interest profilers so they can get the feel for what types of careers fit their unique personalities best. I have compiled a list of the fields that came up most often for our students and would like your help in finding members of our own community that can fill these roles!

I am looking for personable and informative individuals from our community to set up booths with materials for our students to look at in the following career fields:

Architect/Engineer
 Artist/Photographer/Jeweler
 CEO
 Chef
 City Administrator
 Computer Animator
 Counselor
 Dance Choreographer
 Disc Jockey/Music Producer
 Fashion designer
 Fire Fighter/Paramedic
 Game Designer
 Hair Dresser/Make up Artist
 Horse Trainer/Ranching
 Interior Designer
 Landscape Architect/Design
 Massage Therapist
 Mechanic
 Military
 Pilot
 Police Officer
 Pro Sports/Sports Manager
 Public Relations/Advertising
 Radiologist/Health Care
 Retail Manager
 Sports Writer/News Anchor
 Stock Trader/Broker
 Theater/Director/Casting
 Vet/Vet Technician



If you know of someone that would be a good presenter in their field for our career fair, please let me know! I am also open to finding people who have really interesting careers that are not on the list above, we welcome the unknown! If you have any questions, suggestions or people in mind, please contact me at krautza@academycharter.org

Thanks for all your help; I think this will be a great success!

Angela Krautz
 ACS School Counselor
krautza@academycharter.org

5th Grade Science Fair



I just wanted to remind you that students should be working to complete the final stages of their Science Fair projects. If students are having any difficulty with their projects, please contact me for help. The Science Fair will be here at school in the cafeteria on Friday, February 20th, starting around 2:00. Parents are welcome to attend and see all of the hard work and learn about the projects.

I am in need of a few parents to help transport projects from my room to the cafeteria for the fair, set up projects and take down projects afterwards. If you would be able to help or would like more information, please contact me.

I look forward to seeing all of their hard work!

Alice James
Elementary Science Teacher
Academy Charter School
jamesa@academycharter.org

Spelling Bee News

On February 18th Douglas County held their Spelling Bee for 2009. Our school winner, **Mia Dortch**, was there to compete. She came in 5th place in the Douglas County Spelling Bee and will now move on to the Colorado State Spelling Bee! Congratulations, Mia, on such an accomplishment and good luck at the state spelling bee!



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We're on the web!

Academycharter.org