

April 2, 2009



Dean Brown

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Dear ACS Families and Friends,



Welcome back from Spring Break! We hope you had a wonderful week off and enjoyed your time with your families. It's hard to believe that we only have eight more weeks of school left until summer!



Apparently over the break our kids have been reading and reading. Many sheets for our "Race to Read" program were turned in this week. Great job, students-keep up the great reading!

Another great accomplishment by our students is that they earned \$1,577.44 for **Pennies for Patients**. We were in the top ten schools in Colorado for earning the most money for this cause! The top classes at ACS earned a pizza party. Thank you Wendy Hollister, Christy Matlock, and the ACS Student Council! Thank you for supporting this wonderful charity.

Elementary parents and students don't forget that **April 10** is a **Testing Day**. The elementary teachers will send out schedules regarding the time your students should be at ACS for their testing appointment. Because we want our students to perform their best during this time, we are asking parents to wait in the cafeteria while their children are testing. In the past we have had some problems with noise and distractions in the hallways and we want to give our students the best environment and opportunity to test well. Thank you for helping us help your children! Middle school students will have school as normal!



**Important Dates**

- Apr. 3 - Renaissance Fair
- Apr. 7 - SAC Meeting 6:30
- Apr. 9 - Author Visit
- Apr. 10 - K-5 Testing Day / MS regular day
- Apr. 13 - Governing Board Meeting 6-8
- Apr. 15 - Bully Assemblies
- Apr. 15 - SAC Charter Forum Meeting 6:30
- Apr. 16 - PTO Meeting 5:30
- Apr. 17 - MS Dance
- Apr. 20 - No School
- Apr. 24 - Dress Down Day
- Apr. 28 - K-2 Spring Program
- Apr. 29 Drama Performance



[A Parent's Voice](#). Is a link to a webpage from Donnell Rosenberg, a charter parent. She is a strong supporter of charter schools and this website can keep you informed about the various issues that are affecting charter schools. This site is a wonderful resource if you have questions about how the government is supporting charter schools.

We still have two **Governing Board positions** open for next school year. If you are interested in joining this great team and making a difference in your child's school and life, please consider applying for a position. Remember, a charter school is governed by parents and needs your help to be successful!

**"Make no little plans; they have no magic to stir men's blood and probably themselves will not be realized. Make big plans; aim high in hope and work, remembering that a noble, logical diagram once recorded will not die, but long after we are gone be a living thing, asserting itself with ever-growing insistence."**

**-Daniel Hudson Burham**

With Warm Regards,  
Yvette Brown  
ACS Dean  
[brownny@academycharter.org](mailto:brownny@academycharter.org)

## *Governing Board News*

### **SAC News**

The SAC has a few roles that need to be filled for next school year. One parent position will be elected in April for a two year term beginning with the 2009-2010 school year. Additionally, the SAC has a few roles that are appointed, two year positions – a Community Member, a PTO designated parent and a Governing Board liaison. A Community Member is anyone who lives in Douglas County, is not retired and does not have any children at ACS. If you are a parent leaving ACS or know of anyone in our community willing to attend monthly meetings, please consider providing your input to the quality of education at ACS. The PTO appointed parent and Governing Board liaison are roles to facilitate communication between the various boards at ACS. Applications are available at the front office, on our website or through this link. Completed applications can be returned to the front office or to Kristen Wenaas by April 6th. For any questions related to the SAC or these positions, contact Kristen Wenaas, SAC Chair, at [kristen.wenaas@comcast.net](mailto:kristen.wenaas@comcast.net). The next SAC meeting will be next Tuesday, April 7th, from 6:30-7:30 in the school cafeteria.

### **Deadline for board applications extended**

Due to last week being Spring Break, the time limit to apply for a position on the Governing Board has been extended until Tuesday, April 14th. This will allow interested parents additional time to fill out their applications for board positions.

Outgoing Board President, Clayton Watson, is willing to complete the final two years of member Cynthia Heikes' term, pending board approval at the next general meeting on the 13th. Two positions on the board remain available. We highly encourage interested parents to apply – a well-rounded board is comprised of parents from diverse backgrounds, who have children of various ages at ACS. No previous board experience is necessary. If you have questions about the Governing Board, its duties, and where you might fit in, please contact any board member for more information or to get a first-hand account of what it is like to serve on the board. Contact numbers can be found on the ACS website, under the Governing Board link.

### **Parent survey underway**

The Spring 2009 parent survey began this week and parents have until Monday, April 13th, at 12:00 midnight to fill it out. Completing a survey is one of the easiest ways parents can provide information about the school and give their opinions about ACS. You will also earn one hour of volunteer time for filling it out – even if it only takes you 20 minutes! All parents are urged to participate in this analysis of our school.

**Next board meeting** - Monday, April 13, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. in the cafeteria. A working session is set for Wednesday, April 29, 2009 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Meetings are always open to the public.

## *Volunteer News*

Only two more months for our wonderful volunteers to shine! The following families have logged in at least 20 volunteer hours: **Anderson, Attardo, Bale, Benzel, Bolling, Brown (Steve and Jennifer), Chrest, DeBenedictis, Farmer, Fortelka, Gould, Harbick, Heikes, Hughhey, Justus, Kilaru, Lee (Brandon and Amy), Marsh, McHarg, Montgomery, Moore, Nicholaides, Ordunez, Orr, O'Shea, Parks, Porras, Principato, Saviers, Schilffarth, Sidney, Spooner, Stafford, Thiessen, Tokarski, Trost, Twitty, VanSicklin, Walker (Brett and Lecia)**. Thank you for meeting and exceeding your contracted hours! The following families have donated more than 50 hours of volunteer time: **Allen, Damrow, McNeill, Myers, Osgood, Smith (Gary and Erin), Vercauteren and Von Feldt**. These families are really "shining" in that they have logged over 100 hours this year: **Arnell, Eakin, Gillespie, Hardison, Hodgkins, Mitchell, and O'Leary**. Thank you for being so generous with your time!

I am sorry to report that 51 families have not logged any hours so far. I would really encourage you to take care of this commitment in the next two months. We need every one to be a "shining star" for ACS!

We will be appreciating all of our volunteers the week of April 20<sup>th</sup>!

Anne Belfrage  
Volunteer Coordinator  
[belfragea@academycharter.org](mailto:belfragea@academycharter.org)

## PTO Corner

### PTO EXECUTIVE BOARD

IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT ACS HAS A COMPLETE PTO EXECUTIVE BOARD, AS OUR DECLARATIONS FILED WITH THE STATE CLEARLY OUTLINES THAT CONTROL OF ANY MONEY RAISED BY THE PTO WILL REVERT BACK TO THE DISTRICT'S CONTROL, IN THE EVENT A COMPLETE PTO EXECUTIVE BOARD IS NOT ESTABLISHED.

To date, we have two interested parents running for PTO Board positions (Meredith Jacobs and Amy Lee), in addition to incumbents

Misty O'Leary, running for President  
Bonnie Buckley, running for Treasurer  
Allyson Ford, running for VP of Communications

Open positions with no candidate: Secretary, VP of Fundraising, VP of Social, VP of Enrichment

If you are interested in holding a position on the PTO Executive Board, please contact Misty O'Leary at [jimandmisty@comcast.net](mailto:jimandmisty@comcast.net) or 303-688-6631. If you have any questions or just want to discuss what would be required, please contact Misty.

### FINAL PTO GENERAL MEETING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

The next PTO General Meeting is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 16th. Papa John's Pizza and the Douglas County Educational Foundation will donate free pizza.

- \*Voting of Revised By-Laws
- \*Voting of New Executive Board Members
- \*Voting on allocation of remaining funds to Dean's request
- \*Presentation by Papa John's and Local Value Fundraising

### BOX TOPS

Deadline Submission for April's Box Top Fundraiser will be Monday, April 27th  
Watch for more information coming from Local Value Fundraising. Local Value will make a presentation at the April 16th PTO General meeting and will offer ACS an amazing discount at the end of April for all purchases made from ACS parents.

More information coming soon!

**"PTO will be selling donuts for a dollar on Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, from 8:00 to noon, so please remember to bring your dollars",**  
The last two PTO Teachers Breakfasts will be April 24 and May 15.

If anyone would like to help, please contact Kassie Smith at [Kassie-acsppto@comcast.net](mailto:Kassie-acsppto@comcast.net)

**This is a great opportunity to get in your volunteer hours before the end of the year**

## Carpool Weather Reminder



Now that Spring is here, we want to remind you that carpool will not run as usual and Assistants will not be outside when we have the following conditions: thunder, lightning, or other extreme weather conditions. A blue and white flag will be flown on the flagpole to indicate this closure.

When this situation occurs, parents will need to park and come in to the building to pick up your students. Students will not be dismissed without a parent escort. Thanks for your cooperation!



## Race to Read

Race to Read® is Underway! Here's an Update...

Race to Read officially started March 23<sup>rd</sup>. It will continue for 4 more weeks, until May 1<sup>st</sup>. Several students have already turned in Sheet 1 and are working on Sheet 2. Please remember these few things:

1. Fill out the sheets in order. In the upper left-hand corner of each sheet will be a box with the sheet number. The sheet after number 4 will have a place to write in the lap (for each lap completed after lap 4).
2. Have your child turn in his/her sheet as he/she finishes it. They can bring their sheet to Mrs. Bigbey, or turn it in to their teacher to receive their prizes. It is easier to keep track of where they are when they complete one sheet at a time.
3. Check your email. Earlier this week, a pdf. file was sent home that has the coloring sheets and information sheets attached. Feel free to print these off from home as you need them.
4. Check out the bulletin board near the library/music room in the main hall to see what lap students are on, how many sheets from each class have been completed, and progress of the school. There are also extra sheets if you need them. The hallways will also display all of the cars that have been colored.
5. The top reader from each grade will receive a Race to Read® T-shirt and the top classes will receive a free Dress of Choice Day.

If your child did not read, please do not sign the sheet. This program operates on the honor system.

Enjoy reading and remember to use the prizes! If you have any questions or comments, please email Mrs. Bigbey at [bigbey@academycharter.org](mailto:bigbey@academycharter.org). We hope your students enjoy this program!

## No School Lunch Program on Testing Day

On Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, there will be no lunch provided for Middle School students on that day. Students will need to bring their own lunches for that day.

Thank you for providing a lunch for your student on this day.

## Dress Code Information Available

We have French Toast and Dennis catalogs available in the school office and in the literature rack in the lobby. Please feel free to pick up these catalogs at your convenience.

## Washington, D.C. trip meeting April 16<sup>th</sup>

Reminder for students and parents going on the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Washington, D.C. trip – our group's next meeting has been set for Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the school's **gymnasium**. Please note the change in location. Along with the next trip payment (which is due for each attendee), we hope to go over the projected itinerary for the trip and discuss student behavior/expectations. Since we are getting much closer to the actual departure date, we urge all parents and students to attend this meeting. Contact Cynthia at [cdfheikes@msn.com](mailto:cdfheikes@msn.com) if you have any questions.



## *Pennies- For -Patients*

### Fundraiser Results by Grade Level

Kindergarten

Runyan---\$34.25

Johnson---\$60.19

Sanders---\$16.09

First Grade

Cambria---\$17.67

Fortelka---\$47.57

Zimmerman---\$144.28

Second Grade

Frederiksen ---\$25.02

Martinelli---\$27.71

Villari---\$46.68

Third Grade

Lillie---\$31.93

Solomon---\$27.27

Pearson---\$167.92

Fourth Grade

Delimont---\$32.81

Larkins---\$233.49

Vier---\$102.73

Fifth Grade

Bigbey---\$136.16

Gauer---\$157.01

Kelly---\$44.18

Sixth Grade

Hotzfield---\$16.00

Lindburg---\$20.8

Spangler---\$37.43

Seventh Grade

Gallagher---\$53.46

Huskins---\$21.07

Matlock---\$2.63

Eighth Grade

Hughes---\$15.82

Gudmundson---\$95.66

Solita---\$13.08

**Total for Academy Charter School:**

**\$1,577.33**

**\*Bronze Pennant Awards:**

Ms. Zimmerman, Mrs. Pearson, Mrs. Vier  
Mrs. Bigbey, and Mrs. Gauer

**\*Silver Pennant Award:** Ms. Larkins

**\*\*Thank you to all who participated in  
a great way to show the virtues of  
compassion, generosity and mercy!**

The ACS Student Council and its grateful sponsors.

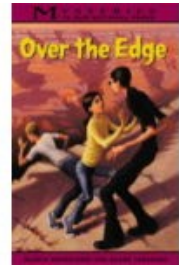
## Author Visit

We are pleased to announce that Alane Ferguson, an award winning mystery writer, is coming to visit Academy Charter School on April 9th.

AUTHOR SCHEDULE FOR APRIL 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009

FYI: All sessions will meet in the gym.

- 10:00-10:50 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grades
- 11:00-11:30 Book Signing
- 11:30-12:30 Author/Staff Luncheon in Library
- 1:00-2:00 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grades
- 2:00-3:00 6<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> Writing Workshop for select students.
- 3:00-3:30 Book Signing



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We're on the web!

[Academycharter.org](http://Academycharter.org)