

August 28, 2009



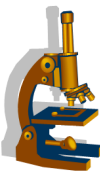
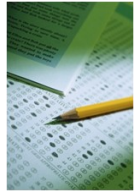
Dean Brown

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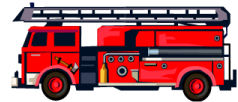
Dear Families and Friends of ACS,

Our students have been busy this week beginning their first round of MAPs assessment. The elementary students in grades 2-6 will be taking one test per week for three weeks. They will take a Reading, Language Usage, and Math assessment during their computer time. These assessments help us to ensure academic growth as well as how our students are doing! You will receive these results during Parent/Teacher Conferences.



There have been some questions about Science Lab for elementary students. We have decided to concentrate our efforts on 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> graders in science lab. This does not mean we have eliminated science from Kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Classroom teachers are responsible for providing these labs. They can still utilize the elementary science lab and can get help from Alice James too! Mrs. James' role has changed a bit this year as she not only helps teachers with science, she also is our Math Interventionist. She can help students who struggle in math as well as provide math enrichment activities!

3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade students will be bringing home a flyer about the Castle Rock Fire Department Poster Contest! Last year one of our students won this contest and their poster was placed on the side of a fire engine! We would love to continue this tradition with our wonderful ACS artists!!!



Our Classroom Volunteer Coordinators met this week. Please be on the lookout for information about how you can help volunteer at ACS!

As always, thank you for your continued support and have a wonderful weekend!

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

**Important Dates**

- Aug. 31 - GB Policy Committee Meeting 6:00
- Sept. 3 - 8th Grade Washington Trip Meeting 6:00
- Sept. 7 - Labor Day/No School
- Sept. 11 - PTO Movie Night 6:30
- Sept. 14 - Governing Board Meeting 6:00
- Sept. 23 - PTO/SAC Meeting 5:30
- Sept. 24 - Dress Down Day
- Sept. 25 - Teacher In-Service/No Students



Hello and welcome back to a brand new school year! We look forward to a great year at ACS. We hope to see you at one of our monthly meetings, or as a member of a sub-committee of the board. You can join one of these committees at any time all year. Please check the bulletin board in the lobby or the ACS website for committee chair contact information. We need and value your input!

The Governing Board held its first meeting of the year on August 10, 2009. The Deans reported on our CSAP numbers and we are pleased to see a dramatic improvement in our academic standings! This is very exciting. While we continue to focus on all academic areas, this year the focus will be on writing.

Clayton Watson gave an update on the agreement with ACS and the Town of Castle Rock. ACS has been working for years on a new joint venture with the town that would benefit both ACS and the residents of Castle Rock. We are currently scheduled to appear before the Town Council on October 6<sup>th</sup>. This is a very important meeting and we encourage as many ACS families to attend as possible in hopes of finalizing this new agreement. More details regarding the times and the meeting agenda are forthcoming. Please save

## PTO Corner

### Parent Support at Work

The 7th and 8th grade Middle School Spanish classes have begun using the Rosetta Stone purchased last year by the PTO.

*-Middle School Representative, Michelle Barrette*

### PTO Sponsored Community Movie Night

Friday, September 11th - Join us for a fun family night watching the movie **Bolt** and eating popcorn (\$2 a goodie bag). Kids will have the chance to win a prize. This is a great way to start the new year by meeting new faces for you and your kids. Please come and support your school. Please see attached flyer.

*-Allyson Ford, VP of Fundraising*

### Papa John's

Papa John's and Douglas County Educational Foundation support ACS by giving our school .50 back for every order you place. Our code: ACHART works at any Papa John's Pizza in Colorado, so share this code with friends, family and neighbors.

### Local Value Fundraising

LVF can always be accessed through the ACS website. Don't forget the new "universal Cards" are available any time you have a need

## Governing Board News

October 6<sup>th</sup> on your calendar. We appreciate your support.

Todd Warnke (governing board liaison to the School Advisory Council - SAC) presented a brief overview of the areas the SAC plans to focus on this year. A joint meeting between the Governing Board and the SAC is scheduled for Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 p.m. to discuss how to best measure the goals set forth by the committee.

The **next** Governing Board meeting will be held Monday evening, September 14<sup>th</sup>, in the ACS cafeteria from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. ACS parents and staff are always welcome and encouraged to attend these meetings. Remember, by attending you will earn volunteer hours, and keep up on what's happening at ACS. Hope to see you Monday night! Welcome back to school!

### Policy Committee Meeting August 31<sup>st</sup>

The Policy Committee will host its first meeting of the year on Monday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, at 6 p.m. in the ACS cafeteria. Dress code enforcement and Policy Committee goals for the year will be the main topics of discussion. (Previous location was the Philip S. Miller library but was moved to the ACS cafeteria due to seating constraints.)

for a gift or just for your own use. ACS always earns 50% back.

*-Misty O'Leary, PTO President*

### Enrichment Classes

The September cooking class is now full. There will be new enrichment classes for Abrakadoodle and Mad Science in October. Look for registration after Labor Day.

*-Meredith Jacobs*

### Donations

Direct Donations through 8/21 - \$780 and Corporate Donations through 8/21 - \$500.

*-Bonnie Buckley, PTO Treasurer*

**Local Value**  
Fundraising.com.



The learning environment of any school is influenced by a student's attire. The purpose of ACS's dress code is to reinforce an academic atmosphere, minimize peer pressure, and create

consistency with resemblance and suitability to improve the appearance of the student body. The Policy Committee met last fall to explore better ways to ensure our students were achieving this objective. As a result, the committee elected NOT to mandate families purchase uniform clothing from a single vendor, included additional clarification guidelines, and wrote a new stricter violations policy which was approved by the Governing Board. **The new dress code policy goes into effect September 1, 2009.** Please take the time to read the updated policy and ensure you understand the guidelines. This policy will be consistently enforced in all classrooms. The guidelines are available on the Academy Charter School website under the Parent/Student section.

There have been some misunderstandings and miscommunications regarding several dress code items. Please read the following for clarification.

#### Shirt & Blouse Buttons:

- Buttons on Polo shirts, Oxford shirts, and Blouses may be white, clear or match the color of the shirt.
- Ornamental or decorative shaped buttons are not permitted.

#### Shoes & Shoe Laces:

- Shoes may be black, brown, white, navy solid or close to solid colors in athletic or leather style.
- Shoe laces must match the color of the shoe describe above or may be white.

#### Pants:

- Buttons on pants must match the color of pant and may be dark in color or faux wood. NO metal, white or decorative buttons permitted.
- Khaki pants for middle school must be medium to dark khaki. Khaki pants that are light khaki, cement, stone, or any other light colored khaki are not permitted.

***If you are not sure if an item is approved, please check the samples on display in the school or ask the front office. It is your responsibility to ensure you are following the guidelines. Color swatches are also available at the front office for color verification.***

## Dress Code Changes

**A grace period will be given from August 12th through August 31st. During the grace period a warning will be given for all dress code violations. Starting September 1st, the violations policy stated below will be enforced.**

**Dress Code Violations:** We greatly appreciate your effort to ensure your children dress appropriately, as this system can only work with complete support by parents/guardians and consistent enforcement by ACS Faculty, Staff and Administration. We will hold students/parents accountable to the dress code guidelines for ACS by:

**1st Violation:** Written notification/Email notification of dress code violation will be sent home with student to be signed by parents/guardians and returned by the following school day. Any student not adhering to the dress code will also be sent to the office to call a parent/guardian for an immediate change of clothing or receive a change of clothing from the ACS clothing closet before being allowed to return to the classroom. If the parent/guardian refuses to bring a change of clothing to school, the student will receive an in-school suspension. Pursuant to school policy, during the in-school suspension the student will receive zero credit for school work the day of the suspension.

**2nd Violation:** The student will be sent to the office to call a parent/guardian for an immediate change of clothing or receive a change of clothing from the ACS clothing closet before being allowed to return to the classroom. If the parent/guardian refuses to bring a change of clothing to school, the student will receive an in-school suspension. Pursuant to school policy, during the in-school suspension the student will receive zero credit for school work the day of the suspension. **The student will also lose their dress down day privilege for the next ACS Dress of Choice Day.**

**3rd Violation:** The student will be sent to the office to call a parent/guardian for an immediate change of clothing or receive a change of clothing from the ACS clothing closet before being allowed to return to the classroom. If the parent/guardian refuses to bring a change of clothing to school, the student will receive an in-school suspension. Pursuant to school policy, during the in-school suspension the student will receive zero credit for school work the day of the suspension. **Also, the student will lose all dress down day privileges and Dress of Choice Days for the remainder of the school year.**

**4th Violation/Subsequent Violation(s):** The student will receive an in-school suspension. Pursuant to school policy, during the in-school suspension the student will receive zero credit for school work the day of the suspension. The student will also lose their dress down day privileges and Dress of Choice Days for the remainder of the school year. Further consequences will be at the discretion of the Deans.



## *H1N1 or Swine Flu FAQ's*

### **How is “Swine Flu” being diagnosed?**

Swine Flu (H1N1) is currently being diagnosed with the Influenza test for Influenza A. If the test is positive, the patient is said to have a “presumed” case of H1N1.

### **What are the symptoms of H1N1?**

Symptoms for H1N1 flu are similar to seasonal flu and include: fever greater than 100 F, sore throat, cough, stuffy nose, chills, headache and body aches, fatigue, and possibly vomiting and diarrhea. Vomiting and diarrhea are somewhat unique to H1N1.

### **Has Douglas County School District had any reported cases of H1N1?**

We have had some reported cases of “presumed” H1N1. As the school year proceeds, we anticipate seeing more cases.

### **Will there be a letter sent home for every case of H1N1 in every school?**

As there will probably be many cases seen among school children and we will not send individual letters. Parents/guardians should be aware that as this flu season approaches that we would see more and more cases. Their student will be exposed at the grocery store, movie theatre and other places where people gather. The good news is that the virus at this point, remains mild compared to seasonal flu and that the duration seems to be quite short in most cases.

### **Who is monitoring the flu cases in Douglas County School District?**

Monitoring is being done by Health Services in conjunction with the Communication Department. We will be doing official surveillance at the direction of Tri-County Health department and at this time, we are doing our own surveillance through out district nurses. Health Services is in regular communication with Tri-County Health Department, your local health department, and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, as well as the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Your School Nurse Consultant will confirm all reports of any cases of reported H1N1, by communicating with the parent/guardian to ensure that an influenza test has occurred. Your School Nurse Consultant follows the process set down by Tri-County Health and the State Health Department, for reportable communicable disease.

### **What is the school district doing to ensure my child is safe at school?**

School District personnel are given the latest information through the communication system that is in place. We are following the guidelines that come down from CDC concerning prevention. The school nurses are educating the students as well as possible with posters and other means of communication on the following points:

- Cover your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or
- sneeze. Alcohol based hand cleaners are also effective and rec-

ommended.

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Avoid contact with sick people.
- Stay home if you are sick to avoid spread to others.

### **What can I as a parent/guardian do to help control the spread of H1N1?**

Monitor your student for flu symptoms and have your student remain at home if any symptoms appear until a determination can be made as to the severity of your student’s illness. Do not send your student to school or other activities, programs or school events. This will help limit the spread of disease. Your student will be sent home if they come to school with any symptoms consistent with the flu. Make arrangements ahead of time for day care in the event you cannot miss work while your child is ill. Schools cannot keep sick children in the health room at school due to the exposure to other children and school staff.

If you or your children get sick with flu like symptoms, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that you **stay home** from work or school for 24 hours after the fever has resolved, without the use of fever reducing medication. If the fever is resolved but you are still 8/24/09 jac symptomatic in other ways, and do not feel well, stay home until you are well. Call your family physician and **limit contact** with others to keep from infecting them.

### **Should Family members of sick person stay home from work or school?**

Not unless the family members have symptoms. Parents/guardians should monitor siblings carefully for symptoms and keep them home if they show any symptoms.

### **What kind of cleaning will be done in the schools?**

DCSD cleaning staff will continue to clean our school buildings and classrooms per the DCSD protocols. Our goal is to keep the students of the Douglas County School District healthy and safe.

### **Will there be school closures?**

The recommendation from the health department is that schools should not close unless the school cannot operate because of a shortage of staff due to illness. If there is a change in that philosophy, we will revisit this issue.

### **Is the vaccine going to be available soon?**

It is projected that a vaccine will be available at the end of October or the first part of November. We will be holding regional clinics in Douglas County to provide vaccine to school children and others who are on the list as first to receive the vaccine, but you may also be able to get that vaccine from your family health care provider.

### **How will I know when the vaccine is available?**

Information about the vaccine clinics and updated flu information will be placed on the DCSD website when new information becomes available. Who will be the first to receive available vaccine?

The first round of vaccine will go to the following:

- Children and young adults 6 months to 24 years
- Adults 25-64 years with chronic disease
- Pregnant females
- Caregivers of very small children
- Health care professionals
- Emergency responders who have medical duties

**Parents with additional questions regarding H1N1 flu can call the Colorado Help Line at 1-877-462-2911. Questions are being answered in both English and Spanish.**

Additional information regarding H1N1 flu can also be found at the following websites:

Tri-County Health <http://www.tchd.org>

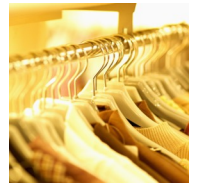
The Colorado Department of Health <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us>

Centers for Disease Control [http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/swineflu\\_you/html](http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/swineflu_you/html)

If you have any questions, please reference the CDC, your personal health care provider or your School Nurse Consultant.

## Lost and Found Overflowing

We have an amazing number of items in our Lost and Found! Please remind your students to check the Lost and Found for clothing and other items they may be missing. Parents are also welcome to come in and check the Lost and Found in the Cafeteria for your student's clothing.



Dear Parents and Guardians:

Novel H1N1 influenza, previously known as “swine flu,” is a virus that was first detected in people in the United States in April 2009. The symptoms of novel H1N1 influenza are similar to the symptoms of seasonal influenza and include fever, cough, and/or sore throat. The majority of novel H1N1 influenza cases so far have occurred in people between 5 and 24 years old, and several cases have occurred in our school settings.

Influenza spreads easily. If you suspect your child is ill and/or shows any signs of influenza noted above, **keep your child home**. If your child is diagnosed with influenza they must be out for at least 24 hours after their fever is gone without fever-reducing medications. A fever is defined as 100°F or 37.8°C. Due to the fact that pre-school children are in a higher risk group, the school exclusion for them is 7 days. If we are able to keep sick children and employees at home, we can greatly reduce the spread of influenza.

It is also important to teach your children how to reduce their risk of getting influenza and protect others from infection.

- **Clean hands** frequently. Washing with hot and soapy water for 20 sec-

onds is ideal.

- **Use hand sanitizer** if hand washing facilities are unavailable. Gels, rubs, and hand wipes all work well, as long as they contain at least 60% alcohol.
- **Cover coughs and sneezes** with tissues or by coughing into the inside of the elbow. Cough or sneeze into your sleeve—not your hands!
- **Contact your healthcare provider** for information about the H1N1 influenza vaccine and the seasonal influenza vaccine that will be available this fall and winter.
- **Look for additional information** from the school on where your children can be vaccinated against H1N1.
- **Get your children vaccinated** with both seasonal influenza vaccine and the H1N1 influenza vaccine as soon as it becomes available.

If we all practice the above recommendations, we can limit the spread of both seasonal influenza and H1N1 influenza in schools.

**Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our children and our schools healthy.**



## DCSD BOE Approves Resignation

The Douglas County School District (DCSD) Board of Education met on August 24th at 7:30 p.m. for an emergency executive session to discuss and approve the resignation of DCSD Superintendent Jim Christensen.

The Board thanked Dr. Christensen for his hard work and leadership during his six-year term as Superintendent. "Jim has led the District with vision during a time of tremendous growth and change," said Board President Kristine Turner. "We wish him well on his next endeavor and are confident he will continue to be a force in public education." The Board accepted Christensen's letter of resignation effective October 1, 2009.

In addition, the Board chose Dr. Steve Herzog, current Chief Operating Officer, as the sole candidate for the interim Superintendent position. Dr. Herzog has 30 years of experience in education, as both a teacher and an administrator. He has worked in DCSD for 15 years in a variety of roles affording him a strong working knowledge of DCSD. In addition to serving as Chief Operating Officer for the District, Herzog has served as Director of Human Resources, Elementary Principal for two K-6 elementary schools, Planning Principal and Assistant to Director of Elementary Programs in DCSD.

The Board is creating a subcommittee to begin planning the search for the most qualified candidate to fill the Superintendent position in order to best serve Douglas County School District students.

*The elected Board of Education members are responsible for setting the over-arching Vision for the School District. The Board-approved Vision for the Future lays the foundation for what the School District is expected to accomplish. The Board's Vision states 'Graduates from Douglas County School District are responsible citizens who contribute to our society.' DCSD is the third largest district in Colorado serving more than 56,000 students.*

### DCSD Board of Education Candidate Forum

Hosted by and for the Douglas County

Charter School Parent Community

Moderated by Theresa Marchetta, Anchor

Channel 7 News

#### Important Information

The 2009 election is an all-mail ballot. If you are a registered voter in Douglas County, you will receive a ballot in mid-October. If you are not registered to vote, the last day to do so is October 5. All ballots must be *received*, not postmarked, by November 3.

This is a county wide election where we will be electing four directors from four geographical areas. You can choose one candidate in each area, therefore placing four votes on your ballot.

District B John Carson (incumbent)

Sue Catterall

District D Dan Gerken

Kevin Leung

District E Doug Benevento

Kristine Turner (incumbent)

District G Emily Hansen (incumbent)

Meghann Silverthorn

**Date: Thursday September 17**

**Time: 7:00 PM**

Platte River Academy Gym

4085 Lark Sparrow

Highlands Ranch, 80126

This fall, registered voters in Douglas County will be voting for school district Board of Education members. This forum is a wonderful opportunity to meet the candidates prior to casting your votes.

Join us and be prepared with questions you would like to ask the candidates!

**For more information, please contact Donnell Rosenberg at 720-935-7741**