

November 13, 2009



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Dean Brown

Dear Families and Friends of ACS,



We have had a busy, wonderful week!
Governing Board Meeting Highlights:

- Snow Days-we have 5 built into our calendar. We have used 3 of those days. If we go over the 5 days, we will extend the school year further into May and possibly take some Teacher In-service/Work Days away.
- ACS Saturday Work Day-went very well. Thank you to all the parents who volunteered their Saturday to help paint and clean our school!
- Home School Support Location-we have a new contract with New Hope Church. We need help moving to our new location on November 24 from 9:00-1:00. Please contact me if you are able to help with this move.
- On December 3rd we will have a State of the School Finance Meeting. At this meeting we will explain what our financial situation will be for next school year. On the agenda will be class size. Please mark your calendars if you would like to participate in this discussion. We will meet in the gym!

Veteran's Day

On November 11, 2009, we celebrated Veteran's Day as a school. National Army Sergeant Scot Snyder helped us celebrate with a Flag Ceremony and the pledge in the morning. Five of our Boy Scouts participated in this event also. Thank you to Sergeant Snyder, Austin Hazlehurst, Paul Tracy, Shea and Riley Turner, and Trevor Ellis for making this a wonderful start to our Veteran's Day. Retired Lieutenant Colonel Michael Connolly also talked to our students about his service in the Air Force. The students got to share his memories and view his pictures of jets, helmets, and medals. This was a wonderful day to honor our Veterans and the kids just loved it! I hope we can continue this new tradition each year!



Brown Bagging with the Dean

I ate with the selected students from K-8th grade who signed up to eat lunch with me on November 4th. The students came with some wonderful ideas about how to make our school better. Many students strongly suggested different fundraising events. We are trying to promote a fundraiser to raise money for diabetes in the spring as a result of the students' suggestions and interest in this area. I enjoyed hearing the students' ideas and am truly going to try to implement some of them. Some of the ideas did give me a chuckle such as "Bring your Pet to School" (the Kindergartners will train everyone's pets). I can't imagine having 500 pets at our school on one day! Other suggestions included improving our lunches, classroom pets, improvements on the playground, and a school therapy dog. I am going to continue to have monthly lunches with the students as this was not only fun but truly eye opening!

Thanksgiving Luncheon
Don't forget that we will be having our Thanksgiving Luncheon next Thursday!



Important Dates

- Nov. 19 - PTO/SAC Meeting 5pm
- Nov. 20 - Dress of Choice Day
- Nov. 24 - Dress of Choice Day
- Nov. 25-27 - Thanksgiving
- Dec. 2 - SAC Meeting
- Dec. 3 - School Finance Update Meeting
- Dec. 4 - Elem Testing Day/Regular for MS
- Dec. 8 - K-2 Winter Program
- Dec. 10 - Band/Orchestra and Choir Concert

Please let us know if you will be attending so we can make sure we have enough food on that day. This is a great day to eat lunch with your children. We hope you can join us!

As always, thank you for your support of ACS and allowing us the opportunity to teach your children. Have a wonderful weekend!

Warmly,
Yvette Brown
ACS Dean
brownny@academycharter.org

Governing Board News

IMPORTANT! Save the Date - December 3rd!

The Governing Board requests your presence at the State of School meeting to be held on the evening of December 3rd at 7p.m. in the gymnasium. Please plan on attending this Town Hall style meeting to discuss current ACS finances and the recently announced state wide education cuts and their impact on our school.



1st Annual Fall Clean Up Day a HUGE Success!

Thank you to the following families for making our school shine:

Bayman, Brown, Curran, Eddy, Krieger, Loveland, Parks, and Simmons

A special thank you also goes to Mrs. Parks for her superb organization and for making our jobs of cleaning the school easy and fun. We accomplished so much.

More clean up days will be scheduled as needed.



ACS Fall Survey Results

Thank you to ALL the families that participated in the survey. We had the highest participation rate in ACS history at 75%! I know the students and staff will enjoy their extra dress down day on November 24th.

The administration, Governing Board, PTO, and Student Advisory Council gained invaluable insight about your perspectives on what's working well and what needs to be improved. Each group will be working to improve in all areas. Some survey highlights are listed below.

93.2% gave ACS an A/B rating!

Things You Are Most Proud of At ACS:

- Focus on Academics
- Community/Family Environment
- Dedication of Our Teachers and Staff

What Can We Do Better?

- Continue Focus on Academics especially in Reading, Writing, & Science
- Improve Communications
- Improve New Family Orientation
- Improve School Lunches

A complete summary of all survey questions is available on the ACS website underneath the Governing Board Tab. The next Parent Survey will be given in the spring after parent/teacher conferences.



Next Governing Board Meeting

Monday, December 14th, 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.



ACS Wants To Know!



Congratulations to the Girls Volleyball Teams!



The Girls A Team finished the season undefeated! They also won 1st Place in their division and took 3rd Place Overall at the Colorado State Championships held in Ft. Morgan. The Girls B Team also had a winning season with a 9-2 record. Congratulations, Ladies!!!! GO EAGLES!

Bronco Food Drive A Big Success! Thank you ACS Families!

ACS Families Donated 18 Full Boxes of Non-Perishables!

- 1st Place Winners - Mrs. Vier's Fifth graders for collecting 57 items.
- 2nd Place Winners – Mrs. Gauer's Fourth graders for collecting 52 items.
- Special Thank You to Student Council for coordinating the event and helping stamp out hunger.

If you have a story you want to share with us, please email us at ACSWantsToKnow@AcademyCharter.Org.

Volunteer Corner

What a busy week we have had at ACS! I want to thank those who participated in our Parent Work Day last Saturday—you accomplished so much! Please remember to log your volunteer hours. We also appreciate the wonderful breakfast the 6th Grade parents provided for us today.

I still need volunteers to help with Hearing and Vision screening on December 10th and December 11th. We will be starting at 8:25 on both days with a little training and then we will start the screening process. I need folks from 8:25 to 11:40 and 12:15 to 3:30 on Thursday, December 10th. You can work both shifts or just one and I would truly appreciate it. On Friday we will only test in the morning from 8:25 to 10:50. I need lots of volunteers for this big project. Please email me if you can help.

The Homeschool Support program is moving to a new building and they need help making the move here in Castle Rock on Tuesday, November 24th, from 9:00 to 1:00 p.m. Let me know if you would be able to help with this move.

Thanks again for all you do for our school—we couldn't do it without you, you are our Priceless Treasures!

Anne Belfrage
Volunteer Coordinator
belfragea@academycharter.org



ThunderRidge High School
1991 W. Wildcat Reserve Parkway
Highlands Ranch, CO 80129



International Baccalaureate World School

Information Meetings

Monday, **November 2nd**

Thursday, **December 10th**

TRHS Auditorium **6:30 p.m.**

Attention 8th, 9th and 10th grade students and parents! You are invited to attend one of the information meetings to learn about the IB Diploma Programme at TRHS.

Donna Ferguson
IB Coordinator
303-387-2207

Website:
<http://schools.dcsdk12.org/trhsib>

[Click here for the application](#)

We've had requests for shadowing at TRHS for freshmen coming to pursue the IB diploma as juniors. Here are the dates and times:

Nov. 19 8:30 a.m.

Nov. 23 1 p.m.

Dec. 3 8:30 a.m.

Dec. 14 1 p.m.

Jan. 13 1 p.m.

The shadowing will last about 1 hr. Your student will see various parts of TRHS and be able to ask questions.

Please RVSP by e-mailing or calling Jean King.

Jean King
ThunderRidge High School
IB Assistant
jean.king@dcsdk12.org
303-387-2207

5th Annual *Apple Awards* set for March 6th, 2010!

Highlands Ranch, CO, November 6, 2009 – The Douglas County Educational Foundation (DCEF) in cooperation with the Douglas County Federation (DCF) and the Douglas County School District (DCSD) are pleased to announce the nomination process for the 2009-2010 *Apple Awards* is now open online at <http://schools.dcsdk12.org/dcef>. The *Apple Awards* is an annual *fundraising event* that has brought in over \$400,000 in proceeds for collaborative programs within the Douglas County School District.

The *Apple Awards* honors teachers who have demonstrated a superior ability to foster excellence in education while contributing to the continuous improvement of student learning and the school environment throughout Douglas County Schools. Nominations are sought for educators who are included in the following: Pre-Kindergarten-12th Grade Teachers, Guidance Counselors, Building Resource Teachers, Special Area Teachers (Special Education, ESL, etc.), Speech/Language Pathologists, Psychologists, Social Workers, Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists and Media Specialists. Students, parents, teachers and community members are encouraged to nominate an outstanding teacher for these prestigious awards. Continuing on the success from last year, *Apple Awards* nomination forms will be available and accepted ONLINE only via the DCEF website at <http://schools.dcsdk12.org/dcef>. The online nomination process will close at midnight on Tuesday, November 24th, 2009.

Hundreds of teachers are individually recognized through the nomination process, leading to the selection of an *Apple Award* representative from each Douglas County School, to attend the event. From this list of representatives, an elementary and secondary finalist from each feeder area will be eligible to become one of the two *Apple Award* recipients. During this special evening, which honors teachers for their excellence in education, each school representative will receive the red carpet treatment.

The *Apple Awards* will be held on Saturday, March 6th, 2010 at the Wells Fargo Theatre in downtown Denver. This year's fundraiser has been customized in order to welcome as many district employees as possible, thus the change to a new, larger venue. Over 5,000 DCSD employees and guests will be in attendance to recognize excellence in the classroom! Nationally known Special Guest Speaker, Tom Sullivan, will also be featured. This year's event theme is "Fill the Gap", a new Foundation fund giving program that will provide matching grant opportunities to all schools within Douglas County!

Nominate a deserving DCSD teacher today! Visit <http://schools.dcsdk12.org/dcef>.



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We're on the web!

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