

September 3, 2010



# ACS E-News

*Dean Brown*

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Dear ACS Friends and Family,

We are excited to announce that we will be implementing a new elementary report card this school year, the Elementary Progress Report (EPR). This new report card aligns with the new state GLEs, Grade Level Expectations and allows us to measure growth in students' learning development. We will be using a 1-4 numeric grading scale that will enable the teacher to depict your child's progress toward achievement of the GLEs. This numeric scale depicts both learning and growth and is the biggest change in the report card. Typically a student will receive a "1" at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter indicating that the student is just beginning to master the content. The student will progress and grow throughout the school year ending with a "3" at the end of 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. A "3" indicates that your child has mastered the GLE and is progressing as expected. Some students may demonstrate early learning and receive a "3" prior to the end of the school year and can progress beyond the GLE to a "4".



This new report card will also allow us to report out to the state our progress on the GLEs. At ACS, we have decided to include Summary Grades with each content area. These Summary Grades will be a familiar area of the report card which will be reflected in the traditional grading system of A-F. Currently we are working with DCSD to determine the best way to set up our grade books in Infinite Campus. Please bear with us as we learn this new report card. Many teachers are keeping grades by the old method of pencil and paper until we work out all the technical glitches. Thanks for your patience!

We would also like you to view a 15 minute video that further explains the EPR. <http://online.dcsdk12.org/moodle/course/view.php?id=7141> We want you to be informed and knowledgeable about this new report card. Please be aware that ACS has made a few changes and is not completely following the district model. If you have any questions about this new format, please contact your child's elementary teacher. This new report card is only for grades K-5.

### Important Dates

- Sept. 6 - No School
- Sept. 7 - SAC Meeting 5:30
- Sept. 9 - Love and Logic Parent Class 6pm
- Sept. 11 - CVHS Carnival 10-4
- Sept. 13 - GB Meeting 6-8
- Sept. 16 - Love and Logic Parent Class 6pm
- Sept. 23 - Dress of Choice Day
- Sept. 23 - PTO Meeting 5-6
- Sept. 24 - Teacher Inservice Day / NO STUDENTS
- Sept. 30 - Flu Clinic
- Sept. 30 - Love and Logic



We have a new Volunteer of the Month parking space! Each month Anne Belfrage will determine which parent has the most volunteer hours and that parent will have their own special parking space. Parents can only win the spot once in a school year. Clayton Watson is the winner for the month of September! Congratulations, **Clayton Watson!!!**

The Orchestra, Band, and Choir will practice on the below schedule. The Orchestra meets in the library and the Band and Choir meet in the music room.

Orchestra:	
Level I (Beginning)	3:35 – 4:05 PM Mondays & Wednesdays
Level II Orchestra	7:30 – 8:10 AM Tuesdays & Thursdays
Level III Orchestra	3:05 – 3:35 PM Mondays & Wednesdays



Band:  
 Level I (Beginning) 3:35 – 4:15 PM Wednesdays & Fridays  
 Level II Band 3:35 – 4:15 PM Tuesdays & Thursdays  
 Level III Band 2:50 – 3:30 PM Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday-meets in the cafeteria

Choir: 4:15 – 5:00 PM Tuesdays & Thursdays



In order to ensure that we are meeting instructional hours, maintaining the safety of our students and addressing parent complaints, we decided to modify our current recess procedures and schedules. Only one grade level will be allowed outside at one time with the exception of lunch recess. Also while outside, each teacher on duty will wear a whistle and a safety vest and carry a radio. The teachers will also strategically place themselves around the blacktop, field, and playground in order to provide the most coverage and watchful eye on our students. We want to make ACS safe for our students and this new schedule helps us to achieve this.

We are heading into Labor Day weekend! Please enjoy your long weekend!

Sincerely,

Yvette Brown  
 ACS Dean  
[brown@academycharter.org](mailto:brown@academycharter.org)



## Volunteer Corner

I want to thank all the wonderful parents that volunteered to be Classroom Coordinators this year. I appreciate the work you do arranging schedules and help for each classroom teacher.



We are still in need of volunteers for lunch room duty for Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. If you are able to come in and help from 11:00 to 1:00 any of these days, please let me know. I have had a number of parents volunteer, but still need some more. Mrs. Hutchinson, our librarian, would like someone to help in the library on Friday mornings.

Congratulations to Mr. Clayton Watson for being our very first “Volunteer of the Month” here at ACS! You might have noticed the parking space in our lot designated for Volunteer of the Month. Clayton has the privilege of parking in this spot for the month of September as a result of logging over 109 hours of volunteer time. Thank you, Clayton, for all of your hard work for ACS.



Just a reminder—keep logging those volunteer hours in the card file at the volunteer table. All of our volunteer hours help us to receive grants and show an involved parent community for our school. Please log your hours even after completing your mandatory 20 hours, as volunteer hours benefit our school.

Thanks for being a “Vital Piece” of our ACS puzzle!

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

## PTO CORNER

### DAD'S CLUB

Dad's Club will meet Thursday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 7 p.m.

At the August Dad's Club Meeting, Kerry Kayton was elected Dad's Club Vice President, and Tony Durbin was elected Dad's Club Communications Chair.

Please contact Dennis Desormeaux if you are interested in working with this new club at 303-717-6846 (cell/text) or [enozzad@yahoo.com](mailto:enozzad@yahoo.com).

### ENRICHMENT

Enrichment classes begin next week. If you are planning to sign your child up for the art enrichment class or the I want to be an Astronaut class, please do so by September 3.

Drawing and Painting with Artful Journey To register call 303-674-0446

Grades K-2 Tuesdays, Sept. 7-Oct. 12 4:00 to 5:00 \$102 per student.

Grades 3-5 Thursdays, Sept. 9-Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> 4:00 to 5:00 \$102 per student

"I want to be an Astronaut" by Space Time Kids Grades K-3 Wednesdays, Sept 8 - Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> 4:00 to 5:00 \$65.70 per student. To register go to: [www.SpaceTimeKids.com](http://www.SpaceTimeKids.com)

Engineering Fundamentals with LEGO classes Grades 2-5 Tuesdays, Oct. 26 - Dec. 12 4:00 to 5:30 \$135.20 per student. To register go to: [www.play-well.org](http://www.play-well.org) \*\*\* The LEGO class is filling quickly, if you want to register your child, please do so soon

### 1ST PTO SPONSORED FUN RUN

Thank you so much to the parents that braved the early morning hours on Saturday to participate in the Fun Run. The weather was beautiful and the parents and children seemed to have a wonderful time. The event ended with a yummy breakfast of pancakes, fruit, coffee and juice. The PTO received positive feedback and many parents asked that this become an annual event. Thank you for supporting this new fundraising/community event. It was a great success! The PTO ended up netting approximately \$700.



The adult winners were:

1st place- Terri Nevarez

2nd place- Mike Nims

3rd place- David Beach



ACS winners:

1st place: Trevor Ellis

2nd place- Parker Guns

3rd place- Keegan Maez

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped pull it off, Mrs. Weeber, her dad Dave Beach, Tamaris and Jerry Dortch, Connie Holden, Laura Johnston, Lisa and Todd Ellis, Mike and Michelle Nims, Jim Reddan, Keith McNeill, Holly McClintock, Ann Folan, Diane Mills, Denise Cooper, Thomas VanSicklin, Misty O'Leary, Mrs. Knight, Ms. Shriver, and Mrs. Keeling, Dad's Club: Dennis Desormeaux and Dad's Club Members

McDonalds: for donating the coffee

Big Air Bounce (The Guns): Donation of bounce house

## ABC FUNDRAISING

Watch for information coming soon for the PTO Sponsored ABC Fundraiser. September 9th is the kick-off for our BIG fundraiser this year. Your child will be bringing home their catalogs and order forms. This is a sales based fundraiser that has had much success at other schools in the area. While the PTO would like to find events to stick with each year that parents enjoy, while bringing good money into the school, we have to be open-minded about trying new things to see what works the best. The feedback from other schools was enough to encourage the PTO to give this a try. Some schools sponsor the ABC Fundraiser only, and do not require any other events. We hope this fundraiser will be just as successful for ACS! This fundraiser will end September 23rd. Thank you for your patience with this new event and support.

Our goal for this fundraiser is \$20,000.00. The teacher of the class that has 100% participation will receive a \$200 spending spree!! There are also great prizes for kids!

## AUGUST PTO WORKING SESSION

The PTO met on the 26th for the first working session of the year. The PTO is researching PTO management software and/or the possibility of a PTO website, to help the board communicate to parents and organize our needs. Two different software packages are currently being reviewed. Dean Brown presented the following budget requests to be voted on at the September General Meeting: (1) Realidades -Spanish Curriculum; (2) Que Tal?-Spanish weekly reader; (3) Smartboards for classrooms that do not currently have one; (4) Rosetta Stone-Level 2; (5) Social Studies Books; (6) Electronic marquee; (7) Eagle mascot. These requests do not include individual requests from teachers/grades. Please attend the PTO General Meeting on September 23rd at 5 p.m. in the Middle School Science Room to have input on the fundraising goals for this year. Free babysitting is available in the Elementary Spanish room.

## PERPETUAL WAYS TO SUPPORT ACS!

### Papa John's Pizza and the Douglas County Educational Foundation

Wells Fargo will donate back to ACS for every new home loan, or refinance.

Liberty Mutual/Jeff Novotny will donate up to \$15/family for a quote on your homeowners and/or auto insurance. No commitment required!

## ACS PARENT'S PRIDE WEAR

The PTO has been asked to continue the popular Pride Wear for parents. Look for more information coming soon! If you are interested in earning volunteer hours by organizing and managing the sale of the Pride Wear for the PTO, please contact Misty O'Leary at [jimandmisty@comcast.net](mailto:jimandmisty@comcast.net).

## CASTLE VIEW HIGH SCHOOL HOMECOMING CARNIVAL

Don't forget to drop by the carnival on September 11<sup>th</sup> from 10-4pm. ACS will sponsor a game, and all net proceeds from the game will benefit ACS. If you need volunteer hours and can work any shift on the 11th, please email Misty O'Leary at [jimandmisty@comcast.net](mailto:jimandmisty@comcast.net).



## Academy Charter School

1551 Prairie Hawk Dr.  
Castle Rock, Co 80109

Phone: 303-660-4881  
Fax: 303-660-6385

**We're on the web!**

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

## DCSD Colorado Rockies Night & Colorado Rapids Night

In appreciation for the great response from the Douglas County School District Community (DCSD) Night in June, the Colorado Rockies and Douglas County Educational Foundation (DCEF) would like to extend a special offer for more games this season! The DCSD Rockies Appreciation Nights will be held on September 8, 10, 14 and 25. Tickets will be \$14 for seating starting in the Outfield Box (plus \$1 per ticket online service fee). \$2 of each ticket sold will go to the DCEF to help *Fill the Gap!* To order tickets go to <http://schools.dcsdk12.org/dcef> and click on the Rockies ticket link to proceed, and enter the special offer code DOUGLAS.

The Douglas County Educational Foundation (DCEF) is excited to announce the 3rd Annual **Douglas County School District Colorado Rapids Community Night!** The DCEF will once again be sponsoring an event for DCSD to enjoy a family night at Dick's Sporting Goods Park on **Saturday, September 18th at 7:00PM.** The Rapids will play the New England Revolution. Tickets will be **\$16** for seating in the South Stands (\$25 value, save \$9, plus no ticket fees) and parking is included with your ticket purchase! As a special incentive, the Rapids and DCEF will **donate \$3** of each ticket directly to YOUR SCHOOL to help *Fill the Gap!* To purchase tickets please visit <http://schools.dcsdk12.org/dcef> and click on the Rapids Night ticket link.

As always your support of the DCSD and DCEF is greatly appreciated

Best regards,  
Douglas County Educational Foundation  
<http://schools.dcsdk12.org/dcef>

# SABERCATS



## CASTLE VIEW HIGH SCHOOL HOMECOMING CARNIVAL

Saturday, Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> 10am – 4pm HS Parking Lot

**FOOD** – Burgers, Hot Dogs, Chips, Drinks, Nachos, Hawaiian Shaved Ices, Smoothies, Espresso Bar, Fruit and Veggies, Baked Goods, Cotton Candy, Sno Cones, and Popcorn.

**PERFORMANCES** – CVHS Band, Cast of our Fall Play, the Comedy Cats – CV's renowned improv group, Han Lee's Taekwondo, Omega Gymnastics, CV Cheer and Pom Squads and DJ, Marc McDonald.

**ACTIVITIES** – Dunk Tank, Velcro Wall, Bouncers, Giant Slide, Not So Giant Slide, 3 Lane Bungee Run, Entanglement (a huge inflatable Twister game), Sumo Wrestling Suits, Quarterback Blitz, Obstacle Course, CakeWalk and much, much more!!!

**\*EXTRA\*EXTRA\*** - Get a beautifully edited senior picture done for only \$25!! Don't need a picture? You can get your hair painted by the poms squad. Meet our new principal, Jim Calhoun. Meet the Sabercat. Rumor has it that Superman, Batman, Spiderman and The Flash will be in attendance representing our Superheroes theme. Sporty from Sports Clips and Soaring Hawk's mascot are all expected to stop by and visit.

**VENDORS** – Local businesses supporting Castle View HS – stop by, say hi and thank them for supporting our schools!!

**SHOPPING** – We have it all!!! Sabercat Cards, Entertainment Books, King Soopers Cards, Colorado Football Magazine, CVHS Spiritwear, etc... You can even pre-order Butter Braids and Spirit Cups for delivery in November.

We would like to thank the administrators and the parent boards from Academy Charter, Clear Sky Elementary and Soaring Hawk Elementary for being a part of our Homecoming Celebration. Their students now are our Future Sabercats!!

## Homecoming Game – Castle View Sabercats vs. Brighton Bullfrogs

Thursday, September 16 at 7pm, DC Stadium

Adults \$5 \*\* Students \$3

# Elementary Progress Report (EPR) 2010-11



### Why is DCSD introducing a new Elementary Progress Report (EPR)?

Like many other school districts, we have been using standards-based progress reports for several years. The most recent changes to the EPR reflect our next step toward a standards-based system as well as an alignment with the new Colorado Academic Standards and Grade Level Expectations (GLE's) adopted in December of 2009. This new progress report provides the opportunity to show both growth and student achievement.

### How is the new EPR different from the old EPR?

The new progress report uses a number system 0-4, with 3 representing the end-of-year target. Because 3 is the end-of-year target, most students will receive lower ratings first and second trimester. Typically, students will receive 1's first trimester (beginning understanding of the GLE), 2's second trimester (meeting some aspects of the GLE), and 3's third trimester (mastery of the GLE). This allows us to see growth over time. The old EPR used the numbers differently. A 3 on the old EPR meant "making appropriate progress," but did not connect to specific indicators of student learning.

### How do I know what a 1, 2, 3, or 4 means?

For each GLE, the specific learning associated with each numerical rating can be found on a Proficiency Level Descriptor (PLD). By looking at the PLD's, you can see what knowledge or skills your child has mastered, and what he/she needs to master to move to the next level.

### If a student has received 3's and 4's in the past and receives a 1 this year, is that a concern?

No. A 1 is totally appropriate at the beginning of the year as a student begins to learn new content. The number scale is linked to proficiency level descriptors (PLD's) similar to a rubric. As an example, a 1<sup>st</sup> grade end-of-year expectation is to add and subtract to 10. During the first trimester, a student might demonstrate repeatedly that he can add to 5 consistently and accurately as evidenced by many different assignments. The student is only adding to 5 – only beginning to learn to add and subtract to 10. This would likely be reported on the EPR GLE as a 1 at first trimester because his/her performance most closely matches the level 1 PLD.

### If a student is high performing, must the student receive a 1?

No. Any student can receive any rating at any time of the year. If the student has achieved the end-of-year expectation by the end of first trimester he might receive a 3, or even a 4 if he is working beyond the grade level expectation. Using the previous example, if a 1st grader can add and subtract to 10 by the end of first trimester, he might receive a 3 on that GLE. If he can add and subtract to 100 he might receive a 4. While a 1 will be a

typical score first trimester for most students as they are just beginning to learn the content, students who demonstrate the skills in the level 3 and 4 on the PLD's could receive those scores at any time of year.

### Social Studies, Science, and Specials (e.g., Music, PE) look different. Why?

Science and Social Studies progress will be based on the Colorado Academic Standards (rather than the more specific GLE's). Since topics in these subjects are often taught to mastery in one trimester, you may see 3's earlier in the year. (Note: we are transitioning to the Colorado Academic Standards in these subjects. During the transition, you may see NA [Not Assessed] for some topics. This is because they may not be taught to avoid overlapping content during this transition.)

Specials teachers often see students less often than classroom teachers. For this reason, they do not report progress at the end of first trimester because they may not have had enough contact with students to provide accurate information about their progress.



Additional Information can be found in the following location: or by asking your child's teacher or the school principal:

- DCSD Home Web Page: Timely Topics: scrolling info box
- DCSD Home Web Page > CSCD Main Page > eTrainings > #5 Learning Services > EPR > EPR for Parents Video  
Scroll below the video to find Frequently Asked Questions, the Grading Practices Document, sample EPR's, etc.  
<http://online.desdk12.org/moodle/course/view.php?id=7141>
- DCSD Home Web Page > Curriculum & Instruction > Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Resources > Colorado Academic Standards Reports > Select appropriate content area, standards, and grade level, then check Proficiency Level Descriptors