



STAR is going “greener”! A limited number of print copies will be in the office or by request. Please find our newsletters on-line at: www.staracademycolorado.org

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Special points of interest:

- Boys Basketball Games and Practice
- Scouts, Choir and more
- School Delays and Closures

Dear readers,

How quickly time has flown by! With the end of the first quarter, comes a time for preparation for things to come. Teachers are planning what is coming up this second quarter, students need to prepare for improving in their schoolwork and performance. As a school we look forward to doing a better job everyday. Our basketball team under the direction of Mr.. Borchers and Mr. Haas are preparing for their season. There is so much to do!

We thank everyone for attending Parent/Teacher Conferences. They were very productive. As well we had super Paragon celebrations for October and plan to continue.

This upcoming month of November, as we do every year, is the month that we participate in the **Harvest of Love Care & Share Food Drive** to benefit needy families in southern Colorado. Last year, STAR Academy donated through cash and donated food items over 3,000 lbs. of food.

Our goal this year is to exceed 2 tons—that is over 4,000 lbs. of food! By pulling together we can achieve this. **Remember, each \$1 donated buys 10 lbs. of food!** We got an early start with some food items donated at the October Paragon celebrations. The main reason for this event is feeding the needy, but also it is important for our students to have a sense of community and become part of a solution—being a part of something bigger than themselves. While any non-perishable food item is accepted the school’s focus will be on **BEANS AND RICE**. Please visit the school website for more information. As always, if you have any questions, please contact Ms. Blair, Mrs. Castro, or Mr. Torrez in the front office. We’d be happy to assist you

Joe Torrez, CAO



Daily Schedule

	Main Campus (K-3)	Adams Campus (4-8)
Open for Breakfast.....	7:15 am	7:30 am
Classrooms Open.....	7:30 am	7:45 am
Class Begins.....	7:45 am	8:00 am
Dismissal.....	3:15 pm	3:30 pm

Welcome New Staff



Kari Tooke, Second Grade

Hometown: Prior Lake, MN
Bachelors from Winona State University.
Mrs. Tooke and her husband Mike have one son, Bradley. They have 3 dogs and a cat.

Her hobbies include reading, photography and theater. Her favorite musical is *Wicked*.

Favorite Quote: *"Music washes from the soul the dust of everyday life."*



Dawn Atwater, Second Grade

Hometown: Marlton, NJ
BA and MA History; University of Colorado, BA Anthropology;

University of Colorado TEP; Regis University.

Mrs. Atwater and her husband Steven have been married for 20 years and have 2 children, Hannah and Abby. They have 2 dogs, Lucy and Huckleberry. They love to travel, especially to the ocean.

Favorite Quote: *"Imagination is more important than knowledge."* Albert Einstein



Bret Murray, 5th-8th Grade Science

Hometown: Indianapolis, IN
BS in Primary Biology, Supporting Chemistry from Ball State University.

Mr. Murray enjoys magic, art and music.

Favorite Quote: *"This too shall pass."*



Petra NewlandGadea "Newly", Third Grade

Hometown: Colorado Springs
Undergraduate Degree from Adams.

Mrs. Newly and her husband Christopher have one pet, Bubba. Her interests include reading, butterflies,

walking her dog and spending time with her family.

Favorite Quote: *"Teaching keeps you young!"*



Jessica Bruinsma, 5th-8th Grade English Language Arts

Hometown: Colorado Springs
BA in English Literature with a Minor in German. Masters of Curriculum and Instruction with secondary English licensure.

Her interests include skiing, biking, hiking, running, cooking, and food.

Favorite Quote: *"My philosophy, in essence, is the concept of man as a heroic being, with his own happiness as the moral purpose of his life, with productive achievement as his noblest activity, and reason as his only absolute."* Ayn Rand, *Atlas Shrugged*

Ariana Lopez, Kindergarten Para-Professional

Hometown: Fremont, CA
Obtaining a degree in Elementary Education with an emphasis in English.

Her interests include reading and painting. She has an American Bulldog and a Chilchilla.

Favorite Quote: *"If you are never born, you never have to die. But you sure do miss a lot of fun,"* Unknown



Board of Directors President's Corner

Hello Parents, Grandparents, Guardians and Staff,

We are well into the school year, and I would like to thank the parents, grandparents and guardians for trusting us with the education of your children. I also would like to thank our staff for the Herculean efforts to make us a success as a public institution. I would like to extend a special thanks to Mr. Torrez, Ms. Castro, Ms. Blair, Ms. Pizzolatto and Mr. Borchers, and the many school volunteers.

As most of you know we are a new school with fresh ideas. We as a board believe Space, Technology and Arts (STAR) is path to a bright future. In that regard we will make every attempt to ensure your child receives a STAR focused education.

Among the initiatives we are exploring greater partnerships with local Space Technology firms, and we

hope to expand our language education to include Chinese Mandarin. Some may say, "why Chinese Mandarin?" Well here are a couple of reasons: there are more people in China that speak English than in America; China is currently sending 100,000 students to America to study in our best technical colleges and universities. Over 3000 Chinese students will soon be studying locally at Colorado Technically University.

If our young people are to be competitive in an international arena 20 to 30 years from now, we must think outside of the box with respect to a quality 21st Century education. Again, thank you for allowing us the opportunity to educate our young leaders of tomorrow.

Willie H. Brezell, Sr., President
STAR Academy Board of Directors

School Delays and Closures

At STAR Academy, we want to ensure the safety and welfare of our students, families, and staff. The determination on whether to delay or close school will be made after gathering as much data as possible. Please remember that the YMCA program at STAR will close and/or delay as well.

In the Event that STAR Academy will be closed or delayed due to bad weather, it will be posted as STAR Academy on the following channels and their websites:

STAR Academy staracademycolorado.org

Channel 11- News@kktv.com

Fox 21- morningnews@KXRM.com

www.FlashAlert.net

Channel 5/30 - www.newsfirst5.com

We will also e-mail "blast" parents that have provided us with an e-mail address.



A yellow flag will be displayed outside of school when there is a 2 hr. delay



A red flag will be displayed when school is closed.



Counseling Corner— By Matt Borchers

Working to improve communication with your student takes less yelling and more creativity along with greater consistency.

THE BEHAVIOR: Your child doesn't listen. You ask your son to get ready for bed, and he just sits there pretending not to hear you. Or you ask your daughter to pick her clothes up off the floor, and she says, "I will... later," but it never gets done unless you do it for her.

THE PROBLEM: The kids have learned that they don't have to cooperate right away. Most of us start off asking our kids to do something nicely, and if they don't listen we ask a second time using a louder and firmer tone of voice and then we escalate to threats "If you don't come to the table this instant you won't get any desert!" When begging, pleading

and bribery fails... we do what any desperate parent would do... we blow up. We yell, rant and rave and dole out punishments that are impossible to impose. Kids like to feel powerful, and seeing Mom and Dad pitch a fit is worth the consequences.

THE SOLUTION: Think in terms of teaching your kids to listen instead of punishing them for ignoring you. In the book, *The Parent's Problem Solver*, they suggest parents teach their kids to listen using the A, B, C and D's.

- A. Ask in a no-kidding-around tone of voice
- B. Be clear and specific
- C. Communicate your request in six words or less
- D. Don't make not listening an option

For instance, if you ask the kids to get ready for bed and they tune you out, say "Bedtime. Please, turn the television off." Don't walk away and hope the kids

will do as they're told. Stay with them until it's done. Turn off the television yourself if needed, and just thank the kids for listening. Don't yell, don't threaten the kids, just do it. Be creative. Getting ready for bed can be turned into a game, or you can give the kids motivation to cooperate by saying, "Go get ready for bed and choose the book you want me to read."

HINT: Be realistic. It will take time for your kids to become better listeners, and it may very well take you time to learn to stay calm. In the meantime, be on the lookout for small improvements and make sure you praise your child for listening.

Read more: <http://parenting.ivillage.com/gs/gsbehavior/0..p5vq-3,00.html#ixzzOSQu2lc0Q>

For Your Information



Special Focus: Dress Code

A reminder about the dress code:

Tops: White, red, light blue or navy polo or collared shirts. Shirts must be tucked into pants/shorts/skirts.

Bottoms: Navy blue or khaki pants/shorts/skirts/jumpers (no denim jeans or cargo pants). The hemlines in skirts, jumpers and shorts will not be shorter than **two inches above the knee**.

Belts: Belts must be worn with pants that have loops. Belts

are optional for kindergartners.

Shoes: Shoes should be in basic colors: black/brown/navy or white, same color on both feet. Shoelaces must be tied at all times.

Other details: Students are not allowed to wear clothing that is torn or has holes.

Students are not permitted to wear hats inside the building. Students may not wear makeup. Students are allowed a maximum of one

earring per ear. No other piercing jewelry will be allowed (ex. Eye brow, nose, lip, etc.) Necklaces, bracelets or rings should not be a distraction and may need to be removed for safety during some activities. The school is not liable for any losses.

Items not covered above, but considered inappropriate, unsafe or a distraction from the learning environment are subject to review by the administration and teachers.

Return to the Moon and Rendezvous with a Comet

On Thursday, October 21, 2010, the STAR Academy 5th grade students attended the Challenger Learning Center. The students spent about two weeks preparing for their mission: Return to the Moon. They learned about teamwork, acids and bases, chromatography, coordinates, and created a patch for the mission.

The mission did run into a glitch mid-way when the space station was hit by a meteor shower endangering the safety of the crew. The mission had to be aborted. Upon the return of the astronauts, NASA called the crew

back to finish the mission. The meteor shower was a small one and the area in space was clear again. There was a little difficulty with the operation of the space probe that was sent to the surface of the moon. After a couple of flickers on the screen, the probe began sending information to mission control. Flight Director Merry Bartek labeled the mission a success!

The astronauts returned safely to Earth to cheering and congratulations! The students were pleasantly sur-

prised and were fully engaged in learning about science. Communications officer, Ashley said, "I want to work for NASA when I get older!"

The 6th grade class flew their mission: Rendezvous with a Comet, on Tuesday the 26th of October. The 7th and 8th grade classes combined for their comet mission on Wednesday the 27th.



Parent Teacher Organization

Upcoming Events at Star Academy

Without YOU, there can't be a successful PTO!

Volunteers for Field Trips
Skate City Volunteers
Track & Field Day

If you are interested in joining the PTO at Star Academy, the next meeting will be on Thursday, November 18, 2010 at 5:30 pm in the Library on the Star Academy Airport campus.

School Accountability Council

The School Accountability Council will meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 5:15 pm.

The Council consists of staff members and parents who

will make recommendations to the Board of Directors and provide oversight on school accountability. The Council also needs a member of the community who is not con-

nected to the school to serve as an impartial participant.

Who do you know who could serve in this role?

What is Going on at School?

November 2010

STAR ACADEMY
Main Campus (K-3)
2520 Airport Rd.
719-638-6554

Adams Campus (4-8)
2101 Manitoba Dr.
719-328-2510

See us on the web:
www.staracademycolorado.org



STAR Academy prepares students for success in a global culture through rigorous core academics, arts and technology.



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Boys Basketball Home Games Vs. SLA 4:45 4th/5th 5:30 6-8th Main Campus Gym	2	3 7 AM Adams Open Gym Basketball Practice	4 3:30- 5:00 Boys B-ball Practice	5	6
7	8 Boys Basketball Game at Pikes Peak Prep 4:45 4th/5th 5:30 6-8th	9	10 5:15 SAC Meeting Library Boys B-ball Home Games Vs. CSCA 4:45 4th/5th 5:30 6-8th	11	12 3:30-5:00 Boys B-ball Practice	13
14	15 Boys B-ball Home Games Vs. Globe/RMCA 4:45 4th/5th 5:30 6-8th Main Campus Gym	16	17 7 AM Adams Open Gym Basketball Practice	18 5:30 pm PTO Meeting Main Campus Boys B-ball Home Games Vs. PPP 4:45 4th/5th 5:30 6-8th	19	20
21	22 3:30-5:00 Boys B-ball Practice	23	24 NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break	25 NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break	26 NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break	27
28	29	30 6:00 pm Board of Directors Meeting 3:30-5:00 Boys B-ball Practice				

After School Activities:

Girl Scouts: Tuesdays at 6:00pm in Main campus Art Room

Boy Scouts: Thursdays at 5:30pm in the Main campus Library

Choir: Mondays & Thursdays 3:30-4:30pm Mr. Warner's room

Performing Arts Club: Wednesdays 3:30-5:00 Adams campus Gym