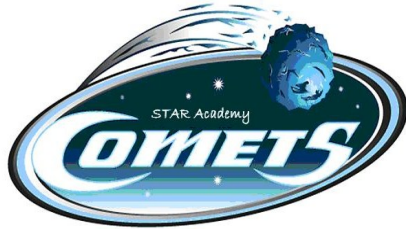


STAR Academy

February 2011



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

Inside this issue:

Feature Staff, VIPs	2
Board of Directors President's Corner	3
Counselor's Corner	4
For Your Information	5
Weekly Schedules	6
Calendar	7
Girls Basketball & Paragon Photos	8

Special points of interest:

- Parents Challenge Information
- After School Activities
- School Delays and Closures
- Parent Teacher Conference Dates

Dear readers,

In this newsletter, you will find some interesting and important information. I would also like to continue to direct you to the STAR Academy website where you can find additional information, website links, happenings, and meetings.

We are pleased at the efforts of our staff, students, and parents in raising dollars for the PTO's "Pennies for Patients" project. These funds will go toward the treatment and cure of blood cancers. It is great to have our community involved in service to others. Many thanks to the PTO as well for the PTO Pasta Party. It was fun, engaging, and many prizes were given out. New members joined PTO that night, but if you have not yet joined PTO, just let us know and we will connect you with the right people.

In addition, I'd like to give a very positive shout out to our 3rd grade students and staff for their efforts on performing their best on the 3rd grade CSAP Reading assessment. They have been preparing for some time now, and we are sure that their efforts will pay off.

As STAR Academy Charter School's authorizer, District 11 is meeting monthly with D-11 officials. Our meetings cover our academic progress, finances, and overall program performance. These meetings have a lot of information sharing, and we are happy to share all of the progress your children are making at STAR Academy! From a school that has grown from barely more than over 100 students to a school with an October 1, 2010 enrollment of 429 students, our intent is continue STAR Academy's continued presence in the community. Our continued growth is very important, so please share your positive attitude and comments with people looking for a unique school that can meet their students' needs.

Look for the STAR Academy entry in the St. Patrick's Day Parade March 12. This is a marketing event for the school to continue to grow enrollment, so tell all you friends about the Space, Technology, and Arts Academy!

Go Comets!
Joe Torrez, CAO
STAR Academy

Featuring STAR Staff, Volunteers and VIPs



**Angela Lovisolo,
5th-8th Paragon**
Hometown:
Yonkers, NY
BA in Political
Science from St.
Joseph's
University,
Philadelphia, PA;
Diploma in
Paralegal Studies
from NYU, NY and
Post-

Baccalaureate Degree in Secondary
Education from University of Mary Hardin-
Baylor, Belton, TX.
She enjoys Conformation classes with her
yellow lab, Flash and traveling in Colorado.
Favorite Quote: "A different language is a
different vision of life." Federico Fellini



**Joseph
Rodriguez,
Spanish**
Hometown:
Neshkoro,
WI
Bachelor in
Exceptional
Education
with Minors
in English
and Spanish
from
University of
Wisconsin,

Stevens Points.
He enjoys running, camping and hunting.
Favorite Quote:



On behalf of Columbine Temple #1053,
Daughters of the Elks, Shirley Mathis presented
a check to Mr. Torrez, CAO for STAR Academy.
The donation of \$500 was designated for
dictionaries and physical education supplies.
We appreciate the Daughters of the Elks for
their philanthropic efforts to support education
in our schools and specifically at STAR
Academy.

**Teachers of the Month
February 2011**
Pamela Quarles, Art
Suzanne Martinez,
Kindergarten
Michael Whitton,
Fourth Grade

Spotlight on a STAR Volunteer

Kristie Kehm volun-
teers at both the Main
and Adams campuses.
She is active with the
PTO plus she assists
with the Performing
Arts Club. Thanks, Kris-
tie for your efforts!



Hello again,



Just a few words to again thank you for allowing STAR Academy to be part of your child's life, and specifically your child's education.

For this edition, I thought it would be appropriate to share some recent STAR Academy initiatives. Let me quickly recognize our Chief Administrative Officer Joe Torrez for helping us to expand our space credentials by creating a partnership with the local Space Foundation. This new partnership will lead to expanded opportunities for your child to participate in space and technology related field trips, robotics, math and science.

Board of Directors President's Corner

As we move forward, we are also considering the merit of an all girls and all boys classes, maybe a home school element, and possibly a junior ROTC element. These are initial stage discussions so no date has been set for implementation of these initiatives. As we move forward with these discussions we hope to provide you with a means to provide your input regarding these strategic education initiatives. I would like to thank the entire 3rd grade teaching staff for their CSAP administration efforts last week. We eagerly await the positive results.

Again, thank you for allowing STAR Academy to be part of your child's education.

Willie H. Breazell, Sr.
STAR Academy
Board President

The Star Academy Board would like to get help from parents to help with different tasks such as sending e-mails, typing papers, looking up information and other tasks. Most tasks are short and take short periods of time and can be done from at home. Please give your name and phone number to the school office. Thank you.

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.



Counseling Corner— Matt Borchers

If you are the parent of a middle schooler, this is about the time that you are beginning to feel that you no longer have a grip on your child's academic or social life. The school schedule, both during and after school, is foreign territory for most families and students are quick to understand that their parents don't truly know where they are all day. This is exhilarating to those who want to skirt the edge of rebellion. It is also a time when it is difficult for parents to check on whether that late meeting is really happening or is the child simply using this newfound freedom to "hang out" a little longer. The following may help you to keep your sanity.

1. **Friends:** It is more important than ever before to keep tabs on the friends your child is choosing. For the first time your student is meeting people from a wide variety of backgrounds. This means that you probably don't know the values with which the new friend has been raised. Get to know your children's friends. It is amazing how much you can learn simply by watching how children interact with each other and how comfortably the other child interacts with you.

2. **Involvement:** It is extremely important to become involved in your school's parent teacher organization and to be an active member. It will do you and your community good to be able to help make the school experience a better one for all our children. PTO is a vibrant and thriving group that keeps parents informed about what is happening at the school and is a support to the teachers who spend more time with our children than we do.

3. **Awareness:** It is imperative that you maintain an awareness of any changes in your child's dress, attitude, behavior, sudden shifts in mood beyond that which can be explained by hormones, and any other things that make you uncomfortable. You are the parent and you know your child better than anyone else. If you feel that something is wrong either physically or emotionally with your child, get help. If you suspect that your child may be pushing the limits too far, speak to other parents about what limits may be appropriate for a middle school student. Fit that information into your own comfort zone and be consistent with your child about what you expect. Clearly discuss consequences for a lack of adherence to the rules and, most importantly, follow through. This is a time when you will be tested in much the same way as when your child was a toddler only now the stakes are much higher. It should not be your goal to be popular with your child. You must remain the parent, but be open to discussing with your child his or her point of view on an issue. Communication is critical and it must be two-way.

It is important to remember that college planning begins in grade 9. The actions your child chooses to take now will affect the transcript, rank and other information on the college applications in a few years. Developing good habits now can make the whole process easier later!

Director of College Consulting Services (www.ccs4college.com) in Westborough, MA and Brunswick, MD.

For Your Information

Parents Challenge Information

At Parents Challenge we want to give parents the power to change the course of their family's history. We help break the cycle of poverty by giving students the extra help they need for success while training parents to engage as change agents for their children. We believe through structured mentoring and guidance of parents and students, and the help of resources directed at the problem, we can reach new levels of success with our students and their families.

- Uniform reimbursement and purchase
- Transportation assistance
- Curricula purchase
- Computer programs
- Extracurricular Activities
- Advocacyjust to name a few.

Parents please call 719-473-5430 and see if we can help. Every child deserves a chance to reach their highest potential. Remember they are our future!!!

Parents Challenge accomplishes this mission through providing scholarships ,grants and educational tools and resources to families who qualify by income.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Lisa

The resources we provide can help in the areas of:
A Computer in the home

Lisa Villanueva
Executive Director / CEO
www.parentschallenge.org

Parent Teacher Organization

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

President: Tomeka Williams-James
Tomeka.n.williamsjames@gmail.com

If you are interested in joining the PTO at Star Academy, the next meeting will be on Thursday, December 16 at 5:30 pm in the Library on the Star Academy Airport campus.

Vice:President: Christine Simmons
Christine.simmons@usfencing.org

Treasurer/Secretary: Colleen LaComb
Coll.1103@gmail.com

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 connected to the school to serve as an impartial participant. **Who do you know who could serve in this role?**

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

Tutoring Schedule

Main Campus	Adams Campus
Tuesday 3rd Grade Math	Tuesday 4th English Language Arts 5th-8th English Language Arts 5th-8th Science
Wednesday 3rd Grade Reading	Wednesday 4th Grade Math 5th-8th Math
	Thursday 5th-8th English Language Arts 5th-8th Science

After School Activities

Main Campus	Adams Campus
Monday 3:30-4:30 Choir	Wednesday 3:45-4:45 Performing Arts Club
Tuesday 6:00 pm Girl Scouts/Art Room	3:45-4:45 Art Club
Thursday 3:30-4:30 Choir	Alternating Thursdays 3:45-4:45 Chess Club
5:30 pm Boy Scouts/Library	3:45-4:45 Programming Club

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.

March 2011

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
Feb. 20	Feb. 21 President's Day NO SCHOOL	Feb. 22 4:30 Girls Basketball Tournament <u>Game at CSCA</u> 6:00 pm Board of Directors Meeting	Feb. 23	Feb. 24	Feb. 25 6:00 pm PTO Pasta Party	Feb. 26
Feb. 27	Feb. 28	March 1 CSAP testing	2 CSAP testing	3 CSAP testing	4 CSAP testing	5
6	7	8 CSAP testing	9 <u>CSAP testing</u> Parent Support Forum 4:00 "How can I support my child with homework?"	10 CSAP testing	11 End of 3rd Quarter Rescheduled Health <u>Assessment</u> Spirit Assembly 2:00 Main 2:45 Adams	12
13	14	15	16 1:00 Early <u>Dismissal</u> 5:15 SAC School Accountability Committee	17 1:00 Early <u>Dismissal</u> 1:00—4:00 Parent Teacher <u>Conferences</u> 5:30 PTO Parent Teacher Organization	18 1:00 Early <u>Dismissal</u> 1:00—4:00 Parent Teacher Conferences	19
20	21 Spring Break NO SCHOOL	22 Spring Break NO SCHOOL	23 Spring Break NO SCHOOL	24 Spring Break NO SCHOOL	25 Spring Break NO SCHOOL	26
27	28	29 6:00 Board of Directors Meeting	30	31		

Girls Basketball—Go Comets!



This year STAR Academy only had one Girls Basketball team; a 4th-6th Grade team, consisting of 15 4th and 5th grade girls. Although the girls won only one game, against CSCA, the girls made a great effort throughout the season. Every single game the girls showed up and put it all on the floor. The improvement that all of the girls on the team made through the season was outstanding. The last game they played during the season was in the first round of Tournament games, where they lost to CSCA by 3 points. The Co-Captains (Kyarra Nazario and Tysha Brigdes) led the team during the 6 weeks of the basketball season. The players have become more than just girls playing basketball together; they became a team. It was exciting to see the improvement and growth on, and off, the basketball floor for all 15 girls on the team.



First Grade Teachers and Students demonstrate their Native American costumes.

