



*The mission of
Platte River Academy
is to provide a content-rich,
academically rigorous education
with a well-defined, sequential curriculum
in a safe, orderly and caring environment*

January 09, 2009

\$37 Million in Two Years

By Dr. Gary Stueven, Principal

There can be little argument that the Douglas County School District is facing some tough financial times for the years to come due to the failure of the mill levy override and bond issue ballot questions in November's election. The impact will be especially felt by the neighborhood schools, central administration, and the operational services of the District. It remains uncertain as to the possible affect (short-term or long-term) on charter schools since we are not a direct expense to the District. Nonetheless, we want to be vigilant to ensure that these budget reductions do not become our issue, too, since we have not been the source or cause of this financial dilemma. Additionally, we do not want any part of our per-pupil revenue steam from the District to be reduced.

The Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Jim Christensen, is asking for feedback from the community via an online survey regarding the District's future as tied to the budget. The areas for feedback are:

- The proposed reduction plan for school years 2009-10 and 2010-11.
- Review areas of study and provide any additional new ideas you may have.
- Prioritize a list of the top reduction, redesign, or elimination ideas to provide clarity into the needs and desires of the stakeholders.

Yes, we are a charter school and one might ask how this is important to me as a parent? A number of our families currently have children in a DCSD neighborhood school, especially at the high school level. For families who have children only at PRA, be reminded that your child(ren) will eventually go to high school and most will continue their secondary education at a DCSD high school. So, no matter how it is for you today, decisions made by the District will have an impact presently and in future years.

Please take on this opportunity to provide the District and the Superintendent feedback about budget reductions, etc. Go to the front page of the District's website (www.dcsdk12.org) to begin the process. Make sure that you identify yourself as a charter school parent to demonstrate that charter parents are just as interested in the future of DCSD as neighborhood school parents.

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**Attendance Line:
303-243-5210**

MONTHLY SCRIP ORDERS

Do you need to refill your stock of gift cards for last minute gifts, dinners out or birthday presents? Our first scrip order of the year is due on Friday January 9th. Go to www.shopwithscrip.com and do your shopping! Your order will be available for pick up on Friday January 16th.

If you have questions or problems contact: Kris Alexander at krisanderic@q.com or 303-683-6418.

Order and payment due on the first Friday of each month; orders will be ready for pick up on the second Friday of each month. Check newsletter calendar of events for exact dates.



Please Note:
Doors will be locked at dusk. You will need to ring the bell and state your name in order to enter.
Thank you.



Attention Choir Members and Families:

Choir will begin on Tuesday, January 13, and will continue with the Tuesday/Thursday morning rehearsal schedule. We will be working on the musical performance of Disney's Aladdin.

More information to come!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

January Crossing Guard Duty Needs:

Three (03) additional for AM shift and two (02) additional for the PM shift for the week of 01/12; five (5) additional for AM shift and one (1) additional for the PM shift the week of 01/19; ten (10) additional for AM shift and one (1) additional for the PM shift for the week of 01/26.

Please call or email Rochelle @ rmonahan@platteriveracademy.com ASAP if you are able to help out and fill any of these vacancies.

For those of you who have a hard time volunteering in other areas, this would be a much needed way for you to increase your hours.



PRA will be participating with Cartridges for Kids in a recycling contest to help raise money and 'Save the Earth'. The contest begins January 8 and continues through February 4. Please see the flyer in your child's Thursday Folder for more information.



****ATTENTION 8TH GRADE FAMILIES**** MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Mountain Vista High School will be hosting its annual 8th Grade Parent / Student Information Night
Wednesday, January 14, 2009, 7-9:00 p.m.
in the Main Gym.

We will be discussing the registration process, course descriptions, graduation requirements and higher education admissions requirements. We hope to see you! (If you are unable to attend, you are welcome to stop by Counseling after January 14 to pick up our handouts.)

Additional High School Info Nights for Incoming Freshman's 2009-10

Mountain Vista HS (303-387-2500)

- January 14, from 7pm-9pm

Highlands Ranch HS (303-387-2500)

- January 22, at 2:30pm (registration)
- January 29 from 5pm-9pm (information night)

ThunderRidge HS (303-387-2000)

- Date to be determined in February, please check their website:
<http://www1.dcsdk12.org/secondary/trhs/>

Rock Canyon HS (303-387-3000)

- January 14, from 7pm-9pm



January Birthdays

8- Ali Hinkle (Art)

**24 – Erica Hildebrand
(Reading)**

27 – Lisa May (Homeschool)

January 2009

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

January Calendar of Events

Thursday, January 8, 2009

- Report Cards Go Home
- 6pm SAC Meeting

Friday, January 9, 2009

- Monthly Scrip Order w/payment Due

Saturday, January 10

- 8am-noon Family Work Day

Monday, January 12

- 6:30pm PTO Meeting

Wednesday, January 14

- 8:30am-9:15am/Award Assemblies
grades 4-6
- 2:15-3pm/Award Assemblies
grades 7-8

Thursday, January 15

- HOT LUNCH ORDERING PERIOD begins
- 7pm Board Meeting

Friday, January 16

- Dress of Choice Day
- Monthly Script Order Pick-up

Monday, January 19

- NO SCHOOL TODAY

Tuesday, January 20

- HOT LUNCH PAYMENTS DUE

Tuesday, January 27

- 5pm-9pm/ Red Robin Fundraiser Night



**Bake Sale Tomorrow
Remember your Quarters!**