



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

**March 12, 2009**

**Spring Fever – If only a Tylenol would help!**

By Dr. Gary Stueven, Principal

At this time of year it is a pleasure to see the “early risers” beginning to sprout from the ground. However, warmer weather also seems to bring with it thoughts of spring vacation, which is coming up soon, and a sort of “spring fever” to some of our older students. Maybe you are experiencing the same especially as the daylight hours become longer. I am not immune either.

Nonetheless, many important lessons lay ahead to finish out the rest of the school year. Please remind your child of the importance and value of self-discipline to stay on-task with class work and to comply with school rules. Everyone’s energy and focus needs to be on a full quarter of learning versus managing 40 school days of reminding and disciplining students about our expectations for dress code, classroom attention, homework, and general behavior.

Thank you and enjoy the official spring that begins on March 21.

**The Thankful Student**

By Krista Keane, Parent

It was a cold, crisp Colorado morning. I pulled myself out of bed at 6:30 a.m. dreading the task that was ahead of me, but knowing full well I was one of the few, the proud and the brave assigned to carpool duty at my daughters’ school. My children attend a charter school that does not offer bus service, so in order for the morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up to run as safe as possible, there must be a skilled team in place ready to handle any parking lot violation.

I reported to the “shed” at 0745 hours where all the carpool supplies are housed. Quick introductions were made with the rest of the team and then we went about our assigned tasks. Some barricaded one of the entry points; some handed out the bullet-proof vests, I mean the bright orange safety vests; while another handed out the ammunition, okay the hand-held stop signs. In about five minutes we were ready and in position at our assigned posts.

With my sunglasses on, my orange vest fastened and my stop sign in hand, I heard the hum of the first intruder, well at least their car anyway. Soon the parking lot was full of SUV’s, mini vans and a few four-door sedans. The team was doing a great job and everything was running smoothly—except my attitude.

In all honesty, I hate carpool duty. The orange vests match no outfit I own; it is freezing cold, not to mention very early in the morning; and it’s a “thankless” volunteer job, or so I thought. This particular morning though, I would be taught an important lesson.

As the parking lot became congested, I walked out to the middle of the cross-walk (my post that morning) and stopped the line of cars. I motioned for the students to walk across. But wait, were those smiles on their faces, and I think one of them just told me “thank you?” Surely I heard wrong.

A few minutes later I crossed another group of students, and heard a few more “thank you’s” and saw several smiles. I was baffled. But before long I found myself smiling back and saying, “Have a great day.” Soon the cold air didn’t seem like such a bother, and I actually felt that this was a nice way to start the day. Even the orange vest—never mind, it was still hideous.

After the last cars had passed through and the final group of students were safely in class, I thought to myself how nice this dreaded morning had turned out to be. A simple “thank you” changed my attitude instantly. And it was a group of K-8<sup>th</sup> graders that taught me this important lesson.

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



*Two for Two*

Dedicated volunteers Tara Morgan and Mariel Kindl have been selected as this period’s ‘volunteer parking space’ winners. Whenever they are at our school they have the privilege of parking in that ‘close in’ spot for two weeks.

Every two weeks I will be selecting two winners from the entries placed in the decorated glass container that is on the shelf under the office window. Thank you for volunteering.



**Attention Choir Members,  
 there will be no practice next  
 Thursday, March 19 due to an  
 event in the Gym.**



**SILENT AUCTION  
FRIDAY, APRIL 3  
6PM-9:30PM**

*The deadline to respond to your invitation to the Silent Auction has been EXTENDED until Friday, March 19. This will be a fun time to enjoy good food, get some fabulous gifts for yourself or a friend and support your great school! You won't want to miss it. But please hurry because there are only 75 spots remaining!*

*If you have a business, don't forget that you can place an advertisement in the auction brochure for a minimal fee! Also, if you have a business and would like to make a donation, but are not sure what to donate, we are still seeking BIG ticket items, such as a Flat Screen TV or a Wii Gaming System, and any other electronics or mountain getaways. We also accept cash donations.*

*If you are a doctor, dentist, optometrist, or surgeon & would like to donate your time/services to be auctioned, please contact Jenny Nicholson @ (303) 356-4457.*



**SAVE THE DATES**

Our Spring Book Fair is scheduled for April 13-16. Many volunteers are needed look for signup sheet at the Lobby desk.

For more information or to volunteer, please go to: <http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/prabookfair>

**Extra Spirit Wear for Sale**

Listed below are the items we have on hand: (One of each unless otherwise noted)

**HOODIES:**

- Navy
- Youth S
- Adult XL

**T-SHIRTS:**

*Long Sleeve    Short Sleeve*

- |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| <u>White</u> | <u>White</u> |
| Youth XL     | Youth L (2)  |
| Youth L      | Adult M (6)  |
| Adult S (2)  |              |
| Adult M      |              |
| Adult L (2)  |              |
| <u>Navy</u>  | <u>Navy</u>  |
| Youth XL     | Youth XL (2) |
| Youth L (3)  | Youth M (3)  |
| Youth M      | Adult L (2)  |
| Youth S      |              |
| Adult S      |              |
| Adult L      |              |
| <u>Green</u> | <u>Green</u> |
| Adult S (2)  | Youth XL     |
|              | Adult S (2)  |
|              | Adult M      |
|              | Adult L (2)  |
|              | Adult XL     |

\$27.00 - hoodies

\$12.00 - short sleeve t-shirts

\$16.00 - long sleeve t-shirts

Anyone interested can contact Chris Hovater at 303-470-9407 or [chovater@comcast.net](mailto:chovater@comcast.net).



**Greetings Charter Parents, Staff, Board and Community:**

In searching for high quality options for High School, a group of parents have begun an effort to open a small, rigorous, liberal arts charter high school that could serve the LPS, Douglas County and Cherry Creek areas. We are asking for your help in a small but significant way. Included in this letter is a link to an online survey that we ask you to take - which shouldn't take more than 5 minutes. Your answers will help us validate the need for this type of program, and will also give us the feedback we need to continue to build the school design. Please take a few moments and complete this survey and feel free to pass it along to friends and neighbors who may also like to respond. Please visit:

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=V\\_2fc494ZEo6UD8z7PYg\\_2bOeA\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=V_2fc494ZEo6UD8z7PYg_2bOeA_3d_3d)

The survey will be available until April 30, 2009. If you have comments or questions, please contact Lisa Nolan at [lisajnolan@comcast.net](mailto:lisajnolan@comcast.net). Thank you in advance for taking the time to help this project!"



### March 2009

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

### Staff Birthdays/March

- 13- Diane DePinto (Spanish)
- 15 - Mike Willsea (Science)
- 20 - Michelle Enos (1<sup>st</sup> Aide)
- 20 - Kathy Johnson (Lunch)

### April 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		

### Staff Birthdays/April

- 5- Gina Gray (1<sup>st</sup>)
- 5- Joan Gilmour (Office)
- 22- John Hettich (English)
- 24- Gabby Vail (6<sup>th</sup> Aide)

## March/April Calendar of Events

Friday, March 13

- Pick-up Scrip Orders

Tuesday, March 17

- PAYMENT DUE for Hot Lunch Order

Thursday, March 19

- 7:15a-8:15a Jump Rope for Heart
- 9:15a-12:30p Denver Puppet Theatre (2<sup>nd</sup> grade)
- DRESS OF CHOICE DAY
- Report Cards go home
- 6pm SAC Meeting (postponed from 3/05)

Friday, March 20- March 27

- SPRING BREAK

Thursday, April 2

- 6pm SAC Meeting

Monday, April 6-Friday, April 10

- Staff Appreciation Week

Tuesday, April 7

- Spring Picture Day
- DRESS OF CHOICE (rescheduled from 4/17)

Wednesday, April 8

- 8:30a-9:15a Award Assemblies 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grades
- 2:15p-3p Award Assemblies 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades

Thursday, April 9

- 7pm Board Meeting

Saturday, April 11

- 8a-noon Family Work Day

Monday, April 13 -Thursday April 16

- Book Fair

Monday, April 13

- 6:30p PTO Meeting

Tuesday, April 14

- 7:15-7:50 DONUTS WITH DAD



Bake Sale Tomorrow  
Remember your Quarters!