



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

**November 19, 2009**

## The Gathering Financial Storm

By Mike Rourke, PRA Governing Board President

I'll give you the good news first. Platte River Academy is on track to run a budget surplus for the 2009 – 2010 school year. When we first approved the budget back in June, there was doubt about whether we could expect full funding from the state and/or Douglas County School District (DCSD). We entered the budget process expecting a worst case scenario. Fortunately, the worst case didn't happen.....this year. With a little belt tightening, we were able to do as we have done in many years past, run a budget surplus. We put a little money in reserve for a rainy day. That rainy day may not be so far off.

There is talk from the Governor's office of cutting the state education budget significantly. The Governor is acting to close a \$1 billion budget shortfall. From the Denver Post...."Governor Ritter announced Friday his budget proposal for the 2010-2011 fiscal year, which includes \$260 million in cuts to K-12 education funding....." This could equate to a dollar amount of \$400 per student. If approved by the Colorado legislature, PRA's revenue will be reduced by as much as \$200,000. For an annual budget of 3.8 million, this is a significant chunk of change. The school district (DCSD) is in equally dire straits. The DCSD, over the last two years, has seen it necessary to deplete all available reserve funds in order to meet budget. We will get no shelter from the district.

Before you jump out a window, there is hope. Because of the competent financial management of previous governing boards and a financially conservative administration, PRA has **not** found it necessary to deplete our cash reserves. We have a significant buffer in place to weather just such a financial storm. Next time you grumble about writing a check for fees or having to buy paper, Kleenex or other supplies for the school, remind yourself that these small purchases are part of the reason that PRA is currently on sound financial footing. However, our reserves are not bottomless. We cannot run a budget deficit for years on end. As always, the Governing Board will make sound financial decisions when the time comes. Financial Stewardship is one of our primary responsibilities. We are currently in the process of refining school policy on the use of the reserve fund balance. If you have an interest or constructive input on what will become our reserve funds policy, we welcome your involvement.

We are hopeful that in a year or two, the state will find itself in better financial condition and will see fit to return K-12 funding to adequate levels. Until that time, we will do our level best to weather the storm.

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Attendance Line: 303-243-5210



*Two for Two*  
 Dedicated volunteers  
 Marcia Brauchler

And

Dana Ulrich

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  
 Rochelle Monahan  
 Volunteer Coordinator

## Second Semester Calendar Change for PRA

Did you enjoy those 3 snow days to end October? Well, here comes the treat or what some might see it as a "trick". In Colorado, public schools are required to be in session a sufficient amount of hours to meet minimum annual hours of instructional time for students. This varies between elementary and middle/secondary levels. Our 2009-10 calendar has four days built in for school closures. We are now down to one and it is not even Thanksgiving yet.

Accordingly, last week the Governing Board approved a revision to the second semester calendar to add two more days for students to attend school in the second semester. This is to prevent any last minute forced changes to the calendar and/or school day to be in compliance should there be any more school closures. Please add **Monday, January 4** and **Friday, May 28** as school days for your child(ren).

Other calendar business included the Governing Board reviewing and acknowledging the 2010-11 calendar as approved in December 2008.

If you have questions/comments about this announcement you are welcome to send as such to [calendar@platteriveracademy.com](mailto:calendar@platteriveracademy.com).



### BARNES & NOBLE BOOKFAIR

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4 – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

(COUNTY LINE BLVD NEAR PARK MEADOWS MALL)

JOIN US ON FRIDAY EVENING FOR THESE SPECIAL FUN EVENTS  
BEGINNING AT 7:00PM:

Excellent  
opportunity  
for your  
Holiday  
purchases

PERFORMANCE BY THE PRA CHOIR

FOLLOWED BY

• STORYTIME WITH MR. BARBER

A PERCENTAGE OF YOUR BARNES & NOBLE  
PURCHASES, MADE BETWEEN 12/04 AND 12/06,  
WILL BENEFIT 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE OUTDOOR EDUCATION

(VOUCHER REQUIRED FOR PURCHASES TO BE CREDITED TO PRA. VOUCHERS  
WILL BE AVAILABLE IN ELECTRONIC FOLDER AND IN THE LOBBY OF THE  
SCHOOL.)



CONGRATULATIONS to the following classes for having the most participation at  
the 5K Fun Walk/Run:

Kindies – Klee 1<sup>st</sup> grade- Kaze 2<sup>nd</sup> grade-Young 3<sup>rd</sup> grade – tied  
4<sup>th</sup> grade – Boyd 5<sup>th</sup> grade – Chamberlin  
MS – 6<sup>th</sup> grade Walton/Duque

TO DO:

*Please check the Lost and Found area in the foyer for any items that your child may be missing. All unclaimed items will be given to charity on November 25. Thank you.*

### ATTENTION 6TH GRADE PARENTS!!!

**Please check your e-mail.** On Monday, November 16, 2009 a request for confirmation was sent out as to whether your 6th grader would be returning, or not returning, for the next school year.

Please e-mail your response directly to Judy at [jpoulliot@platteriveracademy.com](mailto:jpoulliot@platteriveracademy.com) or send a hard copy back to school with your child.

**The deadline is Tuesday, November 24, 2009.** For those who have already responded, thank you very much!

F.Y.I.

You should have received your child's picture retakes last week. Please contact Lifetouch @ 866-955-8342 if you have problems or have not received your pictures.



Look for a new printable scrip order form in the 'electronic folder' after Thanksgiving break. The December scrip order will be due on Friday Dec. 4 and will be available for pick up Friday Dec. 11



## November 2009

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

### December Birthdays

- 2nd- Tina Dorsch (Lunch)
- 12<sup>th</sup> - Sharon Groeling (OT)
- 12<sup>th</sup> - Laurie Knapp (3rd)
- 16<sup>th</sup> - Kirstin Halpert (3rd)
- 18<sup>th</sup> - Kelli Boyd (4<sup>th</sup>)
- 19<sup>th</sup> - Marti Bacon (H.S)
- 22<sup>nd</sup> - Kim Young
- 25<sup>th</sup> - Melissa Wood (M.S.)

### November Birthdays

- 13<sup>th</sup> - Cheryl Tiedgen (Lunch)
- 17<sup>th</sup> - Ashley Chamberlin (5<sup>th</sup>)
- 20<sup>th</sup> - Sarah Harrell (7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> aide)
- 21<sup>th</sup> - Bob Barber (Asst. Principal)

## December 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		

## November/ December Calendar of PRA Events

### Thursday, November 19

- 11am-2pm French Club Lunch
- Mid-Terms Go Home

### Friday, November 20

- 7pm-9:30pm Middle School Dance (rescheduled from 11/13)

### Tuesday, November 24

- DRESS OF CHOICE
- 8:30am-11:15am First Harvest Festival (Kindies)

### Wednesday - Friday November 25-27

- Thanksgiving Holiday

### Friday, December 4

- 5pm Family Movie Night "G" Rated Movie TBA
- 7:35'ish Family Movie Night "PG" Rated Movie TBA

### Thursday, Dec. 3 thru Tuesday, Dec. 8

- Hot Lunch Ordering Period

### Thursday, December 3

- 6pm SAC

### Tuesday, December 8

- Hot Lunch Payment Due

### Tuesday, December 10

- 7pm Board Meeting

### Monday, December 14

- 6:30 PTO Meeting

### Tuesday, December 15

- 6:30 Choir Performance @ PRA

### Friday, December 18

- DRESS OF CHOICE
- End of Quarter

### Monday, Dec. 21 - Monday, Jan. 4

- WINTER BREAK



Bake Sale Tomorrow  
Don't forget your quarters!