



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

June 12, 2009

Who Really Graduated?

By Dr. Gary Stueven, Principal

On May 28th we said “Good-bye” to forty-eight students. The evening included entertainment provided by some of the students, a presentation of certificates to the graduates, recognition of those 21 graduates who began at PRA in kindergarten, and an excellent picture biography of each student displayed on the big screen. What a special evening!

However, it should be noted that it wasn’t only the students graduating. There were many proud parents attending the graduation who have in past years served PRA in various volunteer leadership positions during the time that their eighth-grader attended PRA. Some are continuing to serve. I believe it is important to let the larger PRA community know who these parents are. Some will be missed. Others have younger children and will continue at PRA. But, all have had an impact on the quality school that PRA has become.

A special thank you to:

- Stephanie Bracken PTO Board
- Joellen Camden Governing Board
- Paul Camden Governing Board
- Terry Croy-Lewis PRA Founding Parent
- Bob Ghia Governing Board
- Janelle Jones School Advisory Committee
- Renee Joseph Governing Board
- Greg Kilkenny Governing Board
- Len Meyer Governing Board
- Randy Richeson School Advisory Committee
- Cindy Shearon PTO Board
- Cathy Skelly School Advisory Committee

I would like for our parents to understand the value that this level of service means for a successful charter school. Please make sure that you have stepped forward to serve while you have a child at PRA in support of continuing the quality programs at PRA.

Summer Office Hours:

Effective Monday, June 1 through Tuesday, June 16th, the office will be open from 7am-3pm M-F. June 17 begins our summer vacation, and we re-open on Wednesday, July 22.

During the five weeks that the office is closed, a staff member will be in the office on Wednesdays from 10am-12 noon to check voice mail, U. S mail and district mail.

If there is an emergency and you feel that you need to contact the school, please call Mr. Barber at 303-506-8106

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Attendance Line:
303-243-5210

Student Registration for 2009-10 School Year

Registration will come in three parts:

Part 1: On-line registration by accessing the Parent Portal in Infinite Campus after 7/13. You should have already received information in May on how to do this. If you are uncertain about this process, email Judy Poulliot at jpoulliot@platteriveracademy.com.

Part 2: Reading and reviewing the registration information/forms posted on the Parent Page on the PRA website. Some of these forms are optional, some required. Please download what is necessary, fill in the information, and have it ready to turn-in at registration. The link is:

<http://www.platteriveracademy.com/parents.htm>. Then click the tab on the left called ‘registration’.

Part 3: Registration at school is July 30 (5pm-8pm) and July 31 (7am-10am). Choose one of these times to come to school and complete the registration process.

School Personnel Update

- **Gina Gray** has resigned from the first grade teaching position. We wish her well and appreciate the five years of service that she gave PRA.
- **Jessica Martinez**, six years of teaching experience at Woodrow Wilson Academy in Jeffco, has been hired to teach 1st grade. Her interview, references, and resume impressed Mr. Barber and me as much as Mrs. Kaze did when we hired her last year. Mrs. Kaze and Mrs. Martinez will make a great team.
- Mr. Barber and I have narrowed the "search" for the **7/8 math position** to two candidates. A decision to hire will be made soon. (Mrs. Tompkins resigned to provide care for her father.)
- **Katy Kristoffersen** has resigned her position as **Music Teacher** at PRA effective immediately. She accepted a middle school choir director position in Cherry Creek. Applications for this position are being accepted. It is posted on our website.
- Mr. Barstad and Kelli McBean will soon begin interviewing for an **Instructional Aide** to work with them in **4th grade** for 2009-10. This is a 25-hour per week position.

Social Safety Online: Cyber-bullying (From DCSD "Newline")

Summer break often means more online time for kids and teens, possibly with less supervision. June is National Internet Safety Month, which began in 2007 to increase awareness of the ways in which the Internet can affect kids' safety and wellbeing. While parents and teachers are all aware of stranger danger on the Internet, they may be less aware of a kind of Internet harassment that can come from a child's very friends and classmates: cyber-bullying.

In Centers for Disease Control (CDC) publication on electronic aggression, *Electronic Media and Youth Violence: A CDC Issue Brief for Educators and Caregivers*, findings from several studies suggest that anywhere from 9% to 35% of young people say they have been the victim of electronic aggression. The higher percentages appeared in studies where aggression was defined more broadly – defining bullying as threats but also as spreading rumors or lies, and including varying forms of communication such as email, instant messaging, through websites or text messaging.

Electronic aggression is becoming more common. In 2000, 6% of internet users age 10-17 said they'd been on the receiving end of online threats or other harassment. In 2005 it was 9% – an increase of 50%. This summer, as kids enjoy more leisure time online, families are encouraged to take steps to educate themselves and their children about the uses of that time:

- **Talk to your child.** Parents routinely ask their children where they are going and with whom when they leave the house; they should do the same when that child goes on the Internet. Encourage children to report bullying incidents – children are often reluctant to talk about them because they fear having their Internet or cell phone privileges revoked.
- **Explore the Internet.** Visit the websites your child frequents and get familiar with their contents. Socializing online has great benefits for kids, but parents should know what sites their children are visiting and if they are appropriate.
- **Stay informed.** Technology changes frequently; stay up-to-date on the new devices and websites your child is using.
- **Monitor their usage.** Putting the computer in a central place, like the living room, allows parents to monitor where their kids are going online. Limit the amount of time kids spend online unsupervised, such as on laptops in their rooms. Forbidding access to technology may not be a practical solution. But talking to kids about appropriate behavior – and emphasizing that behavior that is unacceptable in person is just as unacceptable online – can go a long way towards minimizing cyber-bullying and keeping technology safe and pleasant for everyone

An Election in November 2009?

If you have not already done so, please take this opportunity to provide your feedback to the District Leadership and the Board of Education about a possible bond issue and mill levy override election as early as this November. This feedback is important to the District AND to the charter schools. The link is: <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/?p=WEB229A96AJ2U5> and it will take 5 minutes to complete.

PTO Officers for 2009-10

At the PTO meeting on Monday, June 8 the officers for 2009-10 were elected. They are:

President	Nicole Cimbura
Vice President	Pam Carter
Secretary	Crystal Lytle
Treasurer	Eric Bookman

Meetings for 2009-10 have been set for the 2nd Monday of each month, except August 10th so as not to conflict with the Back-to-School Picnic that evening.

August's meeting will be the following Monday on the 17th.



Don't Throw it Away!!
 As a fundraiser for the Washington, DC trip in April of 2010, our upcoming 8th grade class will be having a garage sale this fall. Please keep this in mind if you do some 'spring' cleaning this summer and save your items for this worthy cause!

July 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	

August 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					

Summer /August Calendar of PRA Events

Tuesday, June 16

- 7PM Board Meeting(rescheduled from 6/11/09)
- Office closes for summer(open Wednesday's only from 10am-12pm)

Wednesday, July 22

- 7-3 Office Reopens for the new school year

Thursday, July 30

- 5pm-8pm Registration

Friday, July 31

- 7am-10am Registration

Monday, August 3-Monday August 10

- Hot Lunch Ordering Period Begins

Monday, August 10

- Hot Lunch Payment Due
- 4pm-5pm New parent info Night
- 5pm-8pm Back to School Picnic
- 6:30pm SAC meeting

Wednesday, August 12

- First Day of School Grades 4-8 (sm. Groups for both Kindies, testing 1st-3rd)

Thursday, August 13

- First Day of School Grades 1-3 (testing for both Kindies)

Thursday, August 13

- 7pm Board Meeting

Friday, August 14

- First Day of School for Full Day Kindies (testing for 1/2 day Kindies)

Monday, August 17

- First Day of School (1/2 Day Kindies)
- Hot Lunch Begins
- 6:30pm PTO Meeting

Tuesday, August 18

- Picture Day

Tuesday, August 25

- 6:30pm-8pm Back-to-School Night/ grades K-2

Wednesday, August 26

- 6:30pm-8pm Back-to-School Night/ grades 3-5

Thursday, August 27

- 6:30pm-8pm Back-to-School Night/ grades 6-8