



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

December 10, 2009



Inside this Issue:	Page
Note from Mr. Barber	1
Note from Dr. Stueven	2
Change in School Calendar	2
Announcements	1-3
Holiday Concert	3
Calendar of PRA Events	4

Attendance Line: 303-243-5210



Please do not park in any of the RESERVED spots at the front of the school unless they have been assigned to you. Thank you.



Mrs. Brocka, one of our fabulous Kindie teachers, is looking for approximately 200 empty Pringles containers for a project being done for all the primary grades. She would like to have these before Dec. 18th. Thank you for your help.

BRRRR – It’s cold!

By Bob Barber, Asst. Principal

It has been very cold recently with temperatures dipping down into the negative numbers – add the wind chill to that and it is quite uncomfortable to be outside. The winter months give us all the challenge of keeping children properly dressed for the colder weather. This especially comes into play when it is time to go outside during recess. Our concern is to have reasonable expectations for what children should wear outside during the colder days with respect to our responsibilities to *in loco parentis*.

We generally use 20°F as the benchmark for determining if classes will go outside. Students need time to get fresh air and enjoy recess and students will go outside when the temperature is above 20°F. All students are expected to go outside for recess with the class – that is why we expect children to be dressed appropriately for the weather. Students do not have a choice to go outside or to stay inside because they are not dressed appropriately for the weather conditions. We believe that a temperature between 20°F and 32°F (45°F for students in K-2) is a range to expect children to wear their coats outside (a hoodie is not a coat). We also would expect students to wear long pants to school. This is not a choice that we want to give to children. There also may be times when going outside is beyond our control. In the event that a fire alarm is sounded students will be outside for as long as it takes the fire department to declare the school safe. If students are dressed appropriately for the weather staying outside for a prolonged period of time should not be an issue.

Please support us with the “enforcement” of these expectations for our students. Additionally, we need your help to ensure that your child comes to school on these cold days dressed in long pants, with a coat or jacket to wear, not just a hoodie. Thank you.

Do Carpool Rules Ever Take a Hiatus?

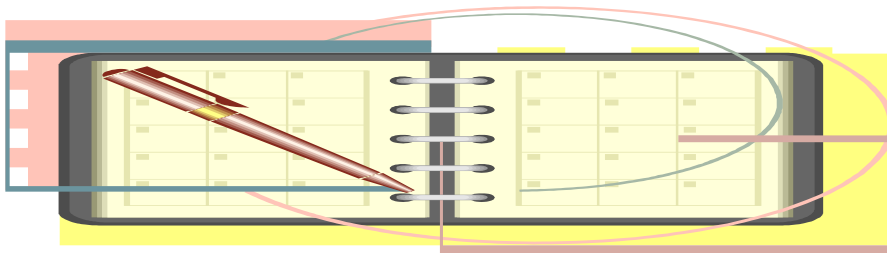
By Dr. Gary Stueven, Principal

By my own observations, as well as those shared with me by teachers and volunteers at carpool, one might assume the answer to this question is "Yes". That is unfortunate. School and student safety should never take a holiday. Interestingly, during poor weather days the forgetfulness of our drivers about carpool rules seems to increase.

So, here's a reminder about some key carpool rules that are too often overlooked for the sake of personal convenience or because of inattentiveness.

- Drivers talking on the cell phone. Please don't!
- Making U-turns on Lark Sparrow and even on Colorado Boulevard at Lark Sparrow.
- Not driving as far forward as possible when dropping off students. Not everyone can disembark in-line with the school's front doors.
- Merge onto Colorado Blvd. into the far right lane only. Don't hold up those parents behind you by waiting until both lanes are clear so that you can drive immediately into the left lane.

These are the biggies at this time. Please don't give these rules any time off as you drive your child(ren) to school.



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 Christmas 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.



DOUGLAS COUNTY OPEN ENROLLMENT WINDOW FOR 2010/2011

If your child will not be attending PRA for the 2010/2011 school year and wishes to attend a school that is not your neighborhood school, you will need to Open Enroll them with that school. The Open Enrollment window will open **December 1, 2009 and will close January 15, 2010.**

Applications will not be accepted after January 15, 2010. You can complete an Open Enrollment form on line by going to www.dcsdk12.org. Families will be notified between **January 20-25, 2010** as to acceptance or denial of their Open Enrollment request.

If your **8th grader** plans on attending **9th grade** at your neighborhood high school we suggest that you contact that high school to check if there are any upcoming meetings to attend or if there are any other steps you will need to take in order to ensure their enrollment. We will share any information that we receive from the high schools with you as well.



Attention Parents of Athletes

If you plan to have your children attend their sibling's games or the game of a classmate, they need to understand that they are not allowed to just wonder the school and are expected to be on their best behavior whether they attend a game here or at another school. Thank you for helping us maintain a positive, undisruptive and good sportsmanlike atmosphere.



Bring on the Holiday Shopping!

We would like to inform you that the PRA Athletic Department has developed an online Store. The Store has a variety of items to select with our PRA logos. You will be able to select and design items such as coffee mugs, blankets, clocks and sport items, to name a few.

The Store will allow you to make direct purchases. Once you select and purchase your items, the items will be shipped directly to your home or any address you wish. Now family, friends and relatives will be able to purchase PRA items. Gift giving made easy and convenient and all proceeds will benefit the PRA Athletic Department.

The Store should be up and running by next week and in plenty of time to order for the holidays. Please look for more information to come.

Happy Holidays!



LAST CHANCE TO ORDER SCRIP FOR HOLIDAY GIFT GIVING

Holiday scrip orders are DUE tomorrow Friday, December 11th.

All orders will be ready for pickup on Friday, December 18th in the morning.

<http://www.glscrip.com/index.aspx>



Holiday Concert

December 15 @ Platte River Academy Gymnasium at 6:30 pm

Featuring: P.R.A. Choir and Percussion Ensembles



Sixth grade Outdoor Ed fundraiser with Jamba Juice, Tuesday, Dec. 15th. Please check your e-folder for more information and an order form.



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		

December Birthdays

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

December/ January Calendar of PRA Events

Thursday, December 10

- 6:30pm 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- Friday, Jan. 1

- WINTER BREAK

Monday, January 4

- Revised Return Date School Resumes

Thursday, January 7

- 6pm SAC Meeting

Friday, January 8

- Classroom Spelling Bees

Saturday, January 9

- 8am-12pm Family Work Day

Monday, January 11

- 6:30pm PTO Meeting

Thursday, January 14- Tuesday, January 19

- Hot Lunch Ordering period

Friday, January 15

- DRESS OF CHOICE

Monday, January 18

- NO SCHOOL MLK DAY

Wednesday, January 20

- 9am HOT LUNCH PAYMENTS DUE

Friday, January 22

- 8:30am-11am Fairy Tales (1st gr.)
- MS 80's Dance (time TBA)

Tuesday, January 26

- 5PM-9PM- Red Robin fundraiser night

Thursday, January, 28

- 2pm School Spelling Bee



Bake Sale Tomorrow
Don't forget your quarters!