



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 07, 2010

Can't Get No Job Satisfaction?

Dr Gary Stueven, Principal

An article in Tuesday's *Denver Post* stated that Americans "are becoming more unhappy with their jobs" according to a recent survey. The survey indicated that only 45 percent are satisfied with their work as compared to 49% in 2008. The 45% is the lowest in the 22 years of this survey. Additionally, only 51 percent consider their jobs interesting, down from nearly 70 percent in 1987. Does this mean that 6 percent of the respondents find their job interesting, yet still dissatisfying? Or, does "satisfaction" have more to do with one's overall compensation than does the work itself?

As I drove to PRA on Wednesday I was thinking if it was really true that over half of the drivers I saw on either side of C-470 were heading to a job that made them unhappy. This might make sense when observing how some of them drive. However, I certainly am pleased to note that I am not part of that group –either the unhappiness or the lack of driver etiquette.

When I read articles about job satisfaction I always want to put that information in the context of my workplace and for those with whom I work and lead. As a school principal, I am sensitive to the "satisfiers" and "dissatisfiers" that teachers and other employees feel and experience in their work with students, parents, and administration and as they look at their respective monthly pay check. This is also important to members of the Governing Board. During this semester individual board members will begin visiting with individual or small groups of teachers about this very topic.

The success of a school, or one's feeling of value and success at school, depends so much on the type and intensity of communications and interactions between school personnel (us) and parents (you) over many varied needs, concerns, and issues. Additionally, believing that one is adequately compensated for his/her effort as a school employee is equally important.

I read the *Post* article to teachers at the Wednesday faculty meeting and asked them to share with me what each one sees as satisfiers and dissatisfiers in their work at PRA. In a future newsletter we will share this collective information – thoughts shared with the board members and with me. Please know that I will do the same with our support staff, but at a later time.

Would you expect our results to be different from the survey results mentioned in the newspaper article? Are there reasons that make us different from the general public? Do you have some ideas/thoughts on how to ensure that all of our employees at PRA remain satisfied in their commitment and service to their students and to the parent community? The Governing Board and I are listening - (gstueven@platteriveracademy.com or board@platteriveracademy.com).

Inside this Issue: Page

| | |
|--|---|
| Note from Dr. Stueven | 1 |
| Hometown Hero | 2 |
| TRHS 8 th Grade Parents Night | 2 |
| Announcements | 2 |
| Calendar of PRA Events | 3 |

Attendance Line: 303-243-5210



Two for Two
 Dedicated volunteers

Cindy Benn
 And

Karyn Jones

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



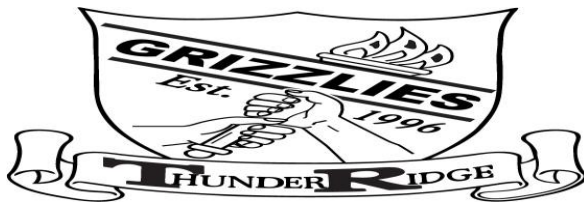
Hometown Hero

The funeral procession that passed by PRA on Thursday afternoon was that of Jeff Christ. Mr. Christ was a Battalion Chief for the Littleton Fire Department and passed away on December 30 from brain cancer which had been diagnosed two years ago. He was 52 years of age.

Chief Christ had lived in Colorado most of his life. He graduated from Heritage High School in 1976 and went on to college at the University of Colorado where he played football. He was an avid Buff fan and rarely missed a game at Folsom Field. He graduated from CU with a degree in Environmental and Biological Sciences prior to starting his career in the fire service.

Chief Christ was a fire fighter for nearly 25 years starting his career with North Washington Fire before being hired on in Littleton. He was with Littleton Fire and Rescue for nearly 22 years where he served as a firefighter/ paramedic, engineer, captain, SWAT medic and for the past 10 years he was a Battalion Chief. In 1999 he was one of the first responders to the tragedy at Columbine High School. In the eyes of many, Chief Christ will always be a "hometown hero" for his years of fighting fires, rescuing those in harms way, building a quality fire department, and valiantly battling cancer for two years.

Chief Christ resided in Highlands Ranch. He is survived by his wife, Julie, his daughter Jessie, and stepchildren T.J. and Jenna Zecchino. Jessie is a senior at Mountain Vista High School where she is a cheerleader and runs track. Sadly, Jessie also lost her mother two years ago after a long battle with cancer.



**Attention 2010-2011 Incoming TRHS
Students and Parents . . .**

**You are cordially invited to attend our 8th Grade
Parent Night!**

**PLEASE JOIN US ON
TUESDAY, JANUARY 19TH
FROM 5:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.
THUNDERRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM**

**This evening will cover class registration,
transitioning to high school, academic
expectations, timelines, extra-curricular activities,
interventions and much more.**

**Don't miss this essential informational session planned especially for
you.**

For more information go to the TRHS website or call 303/387-2205.



Recycling Pays Us Cash and Helps Save the Earth!

**Did you receive a new cell
phone, a new iPod, camera
or laptop for Christmas?**

**Or maybe you have
scratched video games or
DVD's you no longer want.**

**We are always collecting
your old 'cast offs', so
please bring them in and
place in the recycle box by
the front door. Thank you.**

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 **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.



January 2010

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| 31 | | | | | | |

January Birthdays

8th - Ali Hinkle (Art) 8th - Lisa Houston (aide)
 24th - Erica Hildebrand (reading)

January Calendar of PRA Events

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
- 7pm Board Meeting

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