

STAR Academy News

AUGUST 24, 2009

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Important reminders
- Contact us

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Principal's Message 1

New staff bio's 1-3

Adams School Petition 3

CSAP Scores 4

PTO Welcome 5

Calendar 6

Welcome Back to School!

Dear readers,

Welcome back to the start of the school year at STAR Academy! We are off to a great start in learning. As the new CAO, I would like to thank all of the staff, students, and parents for making me feel welcome at STAR.

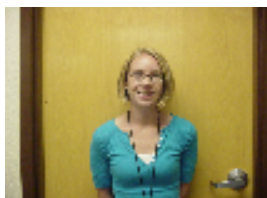
On August 4th STAR hosted a Meet the CAO event that brought in about 50 people. That night, we discussed school goals, my past work experience, enrollment, as well as a question and answer period. It was a good information gathering event that allowed people to meet each other and expand their network. On August 6th, PTO in partnership with STAR hosted the Ice Cream Social/"Back to School Night". The turnout for this event was enormous! Although the weather played trick on us, people had the opportunity to have some ice cream, meet the teachers, learn more about the school. Students and parents were eager to get the school year started. Remember it is never too late to join PTO.

This year we will have a mix of veteran and new staff. Please read on in the newsletter to find out more on about our new staff.

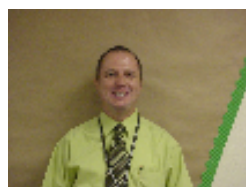
As always, if you have any questions, please contact Ms. Blair, Mrs. Castro, or Mr. Torrez in the front office. We'd be happy to assist you! Have a great week!

Joe Torrez
Chief Administrative Officer
STAR Academy

New Staff at STAR



Mrs. Martinez, Kindergarten– Mrs. Martinez is originally from Colorado Springs and a graduate of Harrison High School. She is a 2000 graduate of Doane College in Crete, Nebraska where she received her B.S. She is married with three children. She enjoys playing tennis, reading and spending time with her family. A favorite quote is... "Love is life... and if you miss love you miss life."- Leo Buscaglia



Mr. Warner, Kindergarten– Mr. Warner is originally from West Virginia and is a graduate of West Virginia Institute of Technology. Go Golden Bears! On his spare time, he enjoys music, theater, arts, camping hiking and skiing. A favorite quote is... "Learn as if you are going to live forever, and live as if you are going to die tomorrow."

New Staff at STAR (cont.)



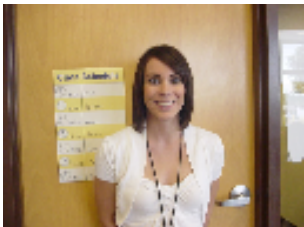
Mrs. Weidner, Kindergarten– Mrs. Weidner is originally from Longmont, CO. She received her B.A. in Education from the University of Colorado and she is currently working on her M.A. in Curriculum and Instruction. She is married with two dogs. On her spare time she enjoys reading, travel, scrap booking, and spending time with family. On being at STAR SHE SAYS, “Thank you for welcoming me into the STAR family”.



Mrs. Lingerfelt, 2nd Grade– Mrs. Lingerfelt is originally from Colorado , but grew up in rural West Virginia. She received her B.A. in 2008 from Metro State in Denver. Run Road-runners, run! She is married with three children. On her spare time she enjoys science fiction and reading. A favorite quote is... “Guns don’t kill people, physics kill people.” Dick from 3rd Rock From the Sun.



Ms. Colson, 2nd Grade– Ms. Colson is from Covina, California. She received her B.A. and M.A. in Education in 2006 from Asuza Pacific University. Go Cougars! On her spare time she enjoys singing, going for walks, exercising, and coffee! A favorite quote... “Yesterday has gone, tomorrow has not yet come. We only have today. Let’s begin”- Mother Theresa



Mrs. Snyder, 3rd Grade– Mrs. Snyder is originally from Berthoud, CO. She Received her B.A. in Elementary Education 2009 from the University of Colorado-Colorado Springs. Go Mountain Lions! On her spare time she enjoys playing and watching sports, hiking, scrap booking, and camping. Mrs. Snyder says, “I’m very excited to be here at STAR! I know its going to be a great year!”



Mrs. Beatty, 4th Grade– Mrs. Beatty is originally from Ames, Iowa. She received her B.A. in 2008 from Colorado State University-Pueblo. Go Timberwolves! Her husband Jason is in the Air Force. On her spare time she enjoys snowboarding and movies. A favorite quote is... “It’s kind of fun to do the impossible”- Walt Disney



Mr. Haas, 5th– Mr. Haas is originally from Mt. Morris, Illinois. He is an Air Force veteran and was stationed at Shriever Air Force Base in Colorado Springs. He received his B.A. in 2009 from the University of Colorado-Colorado Springs. Go Mountain Lions! He and his wife are soon expecting a baby! On his spare time he enjoys basketball, bicycling, and football.



Mr. Grage, 7th Grade– Mr. Grage is originally from Colorado Springs. He received his B.A. from Texas A&M University and his M.A. from Dallas theological Seminary. His PhD work is at the University of Colorado. On his spare time, he enjoys biking, camping, and any outdoor activity



Ms. Lee, 1st Grade– Ms. Lee is originally from Littleton, CO, but grew up in Texas. She received her B.A. in French and Religious Studies from Washington & Jefferson College, and her M.A. in Elementary Education from Colorado College. On her spare time she enjoys scrap booking, running, skiing, and movies. A favorite quote is... “Don’t worry, be happy!”



Ms. Farrior, 1st grade– Ms. Farrior comes from a military family so she has been “all over”, but she has called Colorado Springs home for the last eight years. She received her B.A. in Education from the Univ. of Northern Colorado. Go Bears! In her spare time she enjoys reading, writing, watching the NFL and NBA, spending time with family, and exercising. A favorite quote is... “The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams”



Mr. Alvarado, 1st grade– Mr. Alvarado received his B.S. in 1996 from Colorado State-Pueblo. Go Timberwolves! He has two children, Jadon 8, and Kailee, 7. In his spare time, he enjoys biking, fishing, camping, hiking, rafting, and the Broncos! His message is, “Be positive! You only fail if you don’t try! Expect excellence.”

STAR Parents Petition D-11

At its monthly meeting on Wednesday August 12, the D-11 School Board heard from STAR parents petitioning to have the D-11 BOE to release the (formerly) John Adams Elementary School for use as part of the STAR Academy campus. The request was to use ten classrooms, the gymnasium, and cafeteria to accommodate the growth at the STAR facility on Airport Road. No decision has been made on the request.

*“A good education is much less expensive than ignorance.”
Chinese proverb*

Important Reminders

Have you read the flier that was sent home last week about parking, pick-up and drop-off? As safety is a top concern, **we need everyone’s cooperation**. We have too many people dropping off students in the parking lot. Walk them in or drop them off curbside just west of the main doors. After school we will release students to parents/guardians: Kindergarten and 1st grade through the main doors, 2nd, 6th, and 7th through the northeast exit, and 3rd, 4th, and 5th through the southeast exit.

Attendance is crucial to your child’s academic success, Excessive absences and tardies will derail your child’s learning. Remember instruction starts at 8:00 a.m. and school ends at 3:30 p.m.

School uniforms is a key component to the program at STAR Academy. In the student handbook it clearly states, **“shirts must be tucked into pants/shorts/skirts”**. Many students are arriving to school with shirts un-tucked. This is not allowed and it wastes too much class time to make students “tuck in” once they are here.

Our Positive Behavior Support program is underway and students are recognized in their classrooms for being Safe, Truthful, Respectful, and Responsible. They receive “Blue Cards” that are taken to the office and randomly drawn for prizes at the end of each week. So, be on the lookout for “Blue Cards” coming home.

CSAP Re-cap



Congratulations to the staff and students at STAR Academy for outstanding effort and improvement on the 2009 CSAP testing! Although we have a long way to go, STAR Academy posted some of the largest gains in the Pikes Peak region and the largest CSAP Composite Score gain in D-11!

STAR Academy CSAP Highlights		% of Students Proficient/Advanced		
		<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>GAIN</u>
3rd Grade	Reading	32%	48%	+16%
	Math	18%	24%	+6%
4th Grade	Reading	11%	36%	+25%
	Math	22%	44%	+22%
	Writing	11%	36%	+25%
5th Grade	Reading	40%	53%	+13%
	Math	20%	57%	+37%
	Writing	7%	47%	+40%
	Science	20%	50%	+30%

STAR Academy CSAP Composite Score (composite is the average % P/A for all tests given)	% of Students Proficient/ Advanced	
	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
	20.26%	37.98% (+17.72%)



Welcome to a new school year from the PTO! As a newly appointed PTO Board, we are excited about all of the fun things we have planned for the future of STAR Academy.

PTO meetings will be held the second Thursday of every month at 5:30 p.m. We welcome everyone to come join us and learn more about what we are and could be doing to support our wonderful students and STAR staff.

Last night was our first event - Skate City night - and we had over 150 students attend. That has tripled our previous attendances! We will have future Skate City nights as well as other fun events.

Our first major fundraiser will kick-off October 9th. Students will have a chance to earn a "pig" for a school-wide pig race. More information will follow about the event. We are currently looking for energetic, organized parents that would be interesting in serving on committees that would focus on fundraising, communication, and recycling.

If you are interested or have any questions about PTO or any events, you may contact the PTO President, Cassie Beckey at 499-7206 or email the PTO staracademypto@yahoo.com.

We look forward to working with parents, teachers and staff to make STAR Academy a wonderful experience for everyone involved!

September 2009

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

1

2

3

4

5

6

7
L a b o r
D a y N o
s c h o o l

8
B o o k
f a i r

9
B o o k
f a i r

10
B o o k f a i r

P T O
M e e t i n g
5 : 3 0 p m

11
B o o k f a i r

12

13

14

15
P a r a g o n
C e l e -
b r a t i o n

16

17

18
N o
S t u d e n t s
P r o f e s s i o n a l
D e v e l o p m e n t

19

20

21

22
B o a r d
o f
D i r e c -
t o r s
m e e t i n g
6 : 0 0 p m

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30



Mosaica Education Inc.

STAR Academy

2520 Airport Rd.

Colorado Springs, CO 80910

Phone: (719) 638-6554

Fax: (719) 638-2246



Colorado Springs School District 11

Food Service Questions?

E-mail hugherh@d11.org

Call 719-520-2924

On-line <http://www.d11.org/fns/rantandraves.htm>