

# STAR Academy News

DECEMBER 18, 2009

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Principal's Message	1
New staff bio's Girls Basketball	2
Delays and closures	3
Counseling Corner	4
College Focus Day	5
Student Activities and field trips	6
	7
Calendar	8

## CAO's Message

Dear readers,

As we approach the winter holiday break, it is with a sense of pride to let you know that a lot has been accomplished with STAR students this semester. The students and the staff have worked extremely hard and all deserve a vacation. When we return from vacation, please know that we will ramp it up again to finish the year strong. So while everyone is on break, make a snowman... go shopping...see a good movie... when you eat out, get dessert... most of all enjoy your family and friends!

Our students in grades 1-4 have just completed their Winter MAPS assessment and we are eager to see their progress. We also look forward to the results for grades 5-7 who will take the MAPS assessment when we return from break.

As a school with a technology focus, you will be happy to know (our students and staff are happy) that we have installed three more SMART Boards in 3rd, 6th, and 7th grade.

Are you aware?... That there is a Girl Scout and Boy Scout troop at STAR?; there is a School Accountability Council?; there are volunteer opportunities in every classroom?; discipline referrals have gone down by 50% since September?

Please read on for information concerning PTO, school delays and closures, etc. 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!

However you celebrate, HAPPY HOLIDAYS! See you in 2010!

Joe Torrez  
Chief Administrative Officer  
STAR Academy



# New Staff at STAR



**Mrs. Debbie Paul, 2nd Grade-** Mrs. Paul has worked with children for the past 20 years and in a school setting for the past 6 ½ years. She graduated from Regis University in May 2009 with a Bachelor of Arts and Elementary teaching license. Most recently she worked as a library aide at Banning Lewis Ranch Academy. She is married and has a 17 year old son. Mrs. Paul enjoys dog training, hiking, biking, fishing, horseback riding, reading, crafts, cooking, and playing video games with her son. A favorite quote is: “Any book that helps a child to form a habit of reading, to make reading one of his deep and continuing needs, is good for him.” -Maya Angelou



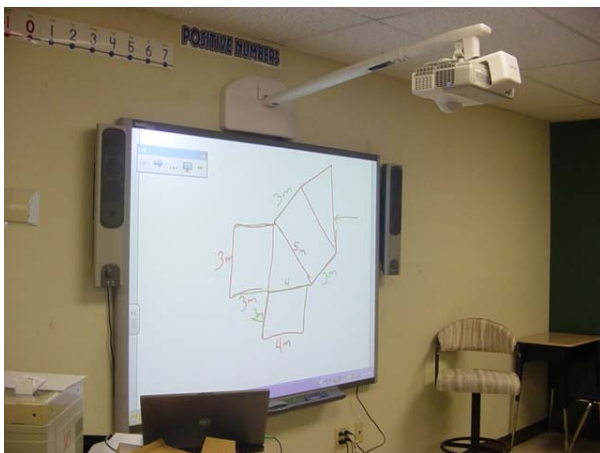
**Mrs. Kerri Denney, 3rd Grade-** Mrs. Denney is originally from Long Island, NY. She graduated from St. Josephs College in Patchogue, NY, in May 2007. Following graduation, she moved to Northern Virginia to teach second grade. She arrived in Colorado Springs in February 2009, with her husband, who is serving in the U.S. Army. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her husband, her friends, and of course, her dog. She enjoys movies, shopping, and being with the people she cares about.



## Girls Basketball Concludes Season

Coach Alvarado (pictured left) and the STAR Academy Comets concluded the inaugural season of the Charter Schools League. Eleven girls from grades 4-7 competed against other area charter schools. The girls gave a great effort and had a lot of fun! We would like to thank Mr. Alvarado and Mr. Pizzolatto for their time and commitment. Also, many thanks to the parents for their support this season! Go Comets!

## Technology update... SMART!



The STAR Board of Directors allocated \$10,000 for the purchase of three additional SMART Boards (shown left) for use in the 3rd, 6th, and 7th grade classrooms. Teacher and students will access this technology to improve teaching and learning. From the SMART Board students can access the internet, make a PowerPoint presentation, view educational videos, and access computer graphic tools.

# School Delays and Closures

At STAR Academy, we want to ensure the safety and welfare of our students, families, and staff. The determination on whether to delay or close school will be made after gathering as much data as possible.

Please remember that the YMCA program at STAR will close and/or delay as well.

In the Event that STAR Academy will be closed or delayed due to bad weather, it will be posted as STAR Academy on the following channels and their websites:

**STAR Academy** [staracademycolorado.org](http://staracademycolorado.org)

**Channel 11-** [News@kktv.com](mailto:News@kktv.com)

**Fox 21-** [morningnews@KXRM.com](mailto:morningnews@KXRM.com)

[www.FlashAlert.net](http://www.FlashAlert.net)

**Channel 5/30 -** [www.newsfirst5.com](http://www.newsfirst5.com)

We will also e-mail “blast” parents that have provided us with an e-mail address.

 A yellow flag will be displayed outside of school when there is a 2 hr. delay

 A red flag will be displayed when school is closed.

From the Board of Directors...

Happy Holidays!

# Counseling Corner

Matt Borchers, Behavior Intervention Specialist



## Counselor's Corner – Students Should Read For 30 - 60 Minutes Per Day (Reading Is A Great Way For Students To Spend Free Time On Winter Break)

Reading lets students create their own adventures. Reading is a great way for students to spend free time on winter break. Here is a short list of some great books.

### Books for Children Ages 4-8

*The Polar Express* by Chris Van Allsburg    *Green Eggs and Ham* by Dr. Seuss  
*The Cat in the Hat* by Dr. Seuss    *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak  
*Love You Forever* by Robert N. Munsch    *The Mitten* by Jan Brett  
*Stellaluna* by Janell Cannon    *Oh, The Places You'll Go* by Dr. Seuss  
*Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day* by Judith Viorst  
*Strega Nona* by Tomie De Paola    *The Velveteen Rabbit* by Margery Williams  
*How the Grinch Stole Christmas* by Dr. Seuss    *True Story of the Three Little Pigs* by Jon Scieszka  
*Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* by John Archambault    *The Tales of Winnie the Pooh* by A. A. Milne  
*If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* by Laura Joffe Numeroff    *The Lorax* by Dr. Seuss  
*Amazing Grace* by Mary Hoffman    *Jumanji* by Chris Van Allsburg  
*Math Curse* by Jon Scieszka    *Are You My Mother?* by Philip D. Eastman  
*The Napping House* by Audrey Wood    *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble* by William Steig  
*The Tale of Peter Rabbit* by Beatrix Potter    *Horton Hatches the Egg* by Dr. Seuss  
*Basil of Baker Street* by Eve Titus    *The Little Engine That Could* by Watty Piper

### Books for Children Ages 9-13

*Charlotte's Web* by E. B. White    *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen  
*The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* by C. S. Lewis,    *Bridge to Terabithia* by Katherine Paterson  
*Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl,    *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle  
*Shiloh* by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor,    *Little House on the Prairie* by Laura Ingalls Wilder  
*The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett,    *The Boxcar Children* by Gertrude Chandler Warner  
*Sarah, Plain and Tall* by Patricia MacLachlan,    *The Indian in the Cupboard* by Lynne Reid Banks  
*Island of the Blue Dolphins* by Scott O'Dell,    *Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli  
*The BFG* by Roald Dahl,    *The Giver* by Lois Lowry  
*James and the Giant Peach: A Children's Story* by Roald Dahl  
*Little House in the Big Woods* by Laura Ingalls Wilder,    *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by M. D. Taylor  
*Stone Fox* by John Reynolds Gardiner,    *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry  
*Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of Nimh* by Robert C. O'Brien,    *Best Christmas Pageant Ever* by Barb Robinson  
*Matilda* by Roald Dahl,    *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* by Judy Blume  
*Ramona Quimby, Age 8* by Beverly Cleary,    *The Trumpet of the Swan* by E. B. White  
*The Chronicles of Narnia* by C. S. Lewis,    *The Phantom Tollbooth* by Norton Juster  
*Tuck Everlasting* by Natalie Babbitt,    *Anne of Green Gables* by Lucy Maud Montgomery

### **Books for Young Adults**

*Where the Red Fern Grows* by Wilson Rawls,    *The Hobbit* by J. R. R. Tolkien  
*Summer of the Monkeys* by Wilson Rawls,    *The Cay* by Theodore Taylor  
*The Sign of the Beaver* by Elizabeth George Speare

\*\*A couple of websites are listed below that have teacher-editors selected titles that have shown continuing appeal, whether for school or recreation. You can check out these websites, others, and the library for a list of grade level appropriate reading material.

<http://www.teachersfirst.com/read-sel.cfm>

[http://childrensbooks.about.com/od/forparents/tp/summer\\_reading.htm](http://childrensbooks.about.com/od/forparents/tp/summer_reading.htm)

# COLLEGE FOCUS DAY



On December 10, teachers and staff at STAR Academy participated in “College Focus Day”. Pictured above are teachers and staff proudly displaying their college sweaters. Teachers took students on virtual tour of the college/university from which they graduated, visited college websites, explored careers, and learned of their teacher’s path to and through college.

## PARENTS:

“Student dismissal is at 3:30 pm. *Please* do not ask our office staff to make arrangements for you child to be in the office or to deliver messages at the end of the school day. At this time of the day, those requests place an unnecessary burden on the office staff and disrupt the normal dismissal procedures in the classroom. Thank You”





# Culture and Communities

## 2nd grade @ the Manitou Cliff Dwellings





# DECEMBER 2009 / JANUARY 2010

SUN                      MON                      TUE                      WED                      THU                      FRI                      SAT

6      7                      8                      9                      10                      11                      12

13    14                      15                      16                      17                      18                      19

Holiday  
Performance  
2:00 p.m.

20    21                      22                      23                      24                      25                      26

STAR  
office  
closed

Christmas Day



27    28                      29                      30                      31                      1                      2

New Year's  
day



3      4                      5                      6                      7                      8                      9

No School  
Teacher PD  
day

1st day  
Second  
Semester

Students  
Return



**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](mailto:hugherh@d11.org)**  
**Call 719-520-2924**  
**On-line <http://www.d11.org/fns/rantandraves.htm>**