

Parker Core Knowledge Charter School

January 14, 2010



FROM THE DIRECTOR

At the risk of sounding like the evening news, I want to give you a brief overview of how the State of Colorado's budget woes will impact PCKCS, both this year and in subsequent years. I want to preface my comments by saying that the situation is far from finalized, and the budget numbers we receive continue to shift almost weekly. However, **here's what we do know at this point in time:**

1. The State of Colorado is facing at least a 600M deficit this year, with a projected deficit of 1.4B in 2010-11 and 2.2B in 2011-12, unless something drastic is done to correct this problem
2. Lawmakers are looking at all options to correct this problem and, unfortunately, reducing K-12 education funding is one of the options they are considering. **ALL public schools in the state will feel this pinch and are preparing to make adjustments in programs, staffing and operating expenses to absorb the financial hit.**
3. This year, 2009-10, we received the full PPR (per pupil revenue) from the state, but we were told to withhold 1.9% "in case" the state needed to make a rescission; before the school year even began, we all knew that this money would definitely be needed...and now there's talk of needing even more, up to 2.31% and possibly higher. This equates to a reduction in our current budget of approximately 80,000. Fortunately, we have a contingency for unplanned expenses built in to our current budget and this fund will allow us to absorb the rescinded funds this year.
4. At the present time, we are anticipating a significant reduction in PPR for both the 2010-11 and 2011-12 school years. Much of what we are hearing is conjecture, but the early numbers indicate a cut next year between 6.9% - 10%. This will require us to make some noticeable changes.
5. We are currently working on several budget scenarios for next year and the year after, but it is too early to make any definite decisions. Our goal will be to preserve and protect the essence of what makes PCKCS such a strong and successful school, so we will be weighing all options carefully.

While the state's economic forecast paints a rather bleak budgetary picture for K-12 education in the next couple of years, ***I remain confident that PCKCS is prepared to weather this storm.*** We have always been a fiscally strong school with a very prudent approach to our finances; this gives us a certain degree of financial peace of mind. Additionally, we have an incredible staff that is prepared to do whatever it takes to preserve and protect the quality of education we deliver here at PCKCS. In addition, I believe that charter school families are strong and resilient, and even motivated by challenging circumstances and events. I trust that our families stand ready to support 'their' school through good times and bad. It is this incredible support that will allow us to work together and weather the current budget challenge.

On a final note, I am asking each of you to help us keep the rumor mill under control. In the coming months, you may hear all sorts of things that sound crazy. However, I believe ***it's always best to***

deal with facts, and I will commit to sharing the facts with you as this situation unfolds. Rumors are not constructive, and at this point we need everyone working together with a positive 'can do' attitude. We, the **Core Team, can and will** get through this current challenge, so **let's do it with class!** In the meantime, if you have specific questions or concerns, please feel free to stop by my office for a quick, clarifying conversation or contact one of our OC members. For an even broader perspective, please feel free to attend our regularly scheduled OC meetings on the second Thursday of each month.

Stay tuned for further updates, and thank you, in advance, for helping us weather this storm.

Teri Aplín

JANUARY		
14 th	O/C Meeting	6:30 P.M.
18 th	Martin Luther King Day	No School
29 th	5th Grade Renaissance Festival	1:15 P.M.
29 th	All School Dress Down Day	

GENERAL SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS



🍏 **Chess Club Starts** – Thursday, February 4th at 7 A.M. in the Art Room. Chess club is open to 1st – 8th grades. The fee is \$20 per member. Please call Jamie Lytle at 303-829-2041 with questions.

🍏 **Upcoming 8th Grade Parent Info Meetings for High School**

Chaparral	January 20 th	5:30 P.M.
Legend	February 2 nd	7:00 P.M.

(PHS held their meeting this past Tuesday evening)

🍏 **4th – 8th Spelling Bee Results** – After fifty minutes and twenty rounds, two competitors remained: Abby Kassal (4th grade) and Janae Barrus, (7th grade). As we were pressed for time, we stopped the spelling bee and reconvened the next day. After an additional ten rounds, Janae Barrus was declared champion. Both students were nothing short of exceptional!

Janae will participate in the Douglas County Spelling Bee on Wednesday, February 10th, at Northeast Elementary. Good luck, Janae!

🍏 **6th – 8th Geography Bee Results**

1 st – Noah Haberland (7 th)
2 nd – Jordan Albert (8 th)
3 rd – Heather Kaley (8 th)



🍏 **Art Room Needs** - Shoeboxes, acrylic craft paint, old photography or art calendars (especially of animals.) Thank you for your donations.

🍏 **CSAP Snacks Needed** - Testing is hard work! We like to provide snacks for as many students as we can during CSAP testing. We welcome donations of individually wrapped snacks like cookies, fruit bars, chips, dried fruit, etc. If you can donate, please bring your snacks to the front office as soon as possible! Remember \$10 spent = 1 hour of volunteer time. Thank you for your generosity!!

🍏 **A Gazebo for PCKCS** - Nate Higgins, a former PCKCS student and current Eagle Scout candidate with Troop 868, is looking for volunteers to help him construct a gazebo next to our field. Please contact him if you are interested in helping at 303-840-2751 or via email swhiggins@comcast.net. Middle and high school students who volunteer will receive community service hours.

🍏 **Homework Club – Spots are still available.** If you are interested in having your student complete most or all of their homework at school before they come home, please email Johanna Harth at jharth@ckcs.net. Homework Club will run from 3:30 to 5:00 P.M. from Monday to Thursday at a cost of \$10.00 per day.

Thank You

To all of the families that generously donated gift cards or money in the month of December. The Core families receiving the funds were most appreciative.
Thank you!

CHARACTER UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Students recognized at the assembly for demonstrating one of the Core Character Virtues presented to date:

Generosity

Ryan Westback - 1
Adam Jaffer - 1
Emily Zeller - 2
Adam Sparks - 3
Erin Barker - 3
Scott Mansfield - 4
Rebecca Tuska - 4
Zachary Smith - 5
Melanie Rost - 6
Ethan Fitzrandolph - 6
Aubree Clark - 6
Kaylee Clark - 6

Service

Connor Dimmer - K
Joshua Dermer - K
Colton Schannuth - 4
Braden Lennerts - 7

Responsibility

Lauren Moden - 7

Positive Attitude

Andrew Painter - K
Addie Schannuth - 2
Sammy Maestas - 3
Laura Ton - 7

Respect

Nicholas Dermer - 2
Garrett Nickel - 2

January Core Virtue
HONESTY