

March Newsletter 2010

*Message
From the
Principal*

Hello Everyone!

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March is here and spring is around the corner! Time has flown by and it feels as though it has no intention of slowing down! We are nearing the end of the 3rd quarter of our school year which falls on March 4th. Be sure to carry-out the necessary and valuable conversations with your student's teachers so that we may help them finish their school year strong. It is easy for students to become relaxed and complacent this time of year and this can adversely affect their academic future. The following are some helpful suggestions:

- A good night's sleep!** When middle school students get between 8 and 10 hours of sleep, they perform at a much higher levels in their classes and activities. Encourage your student(s) to get enough sleep and turn off the distractions.
- Eat well!** When everyone is on the go, it can be a challenge to eat good food. Foods are the fuel that helps our children stay healthy and happy. Make sure that your student is eating their fair share of fruits, vegetables, and other healthy foods that make up a well-balanced diet.
- Exercise!** When students get enough activity, they are healthier, happier, and more efficient when it comes to their own energy. When students do not get enough activity, they become lethargic, frequently ill, and somewhat depressed. Have some fun with your student and play! This may help you both!



Powell on the web:
<http://powell.littletonpublicschools.net>

Powell students will begin taking CSAP exams on March 9th. These exams are important not only as a Colorado State measure of performance, but as an individual measure of growth. The CSAP exam has a direct correlation to the ACT exam and teachers use this information to ability group students as well as offer appropriate learning interventions. Powell teachers have been having "CSAP conversations" with our students to help increase their confidence and to set performance goals.

Spring Break is almost here! This break occurs the week of March 22nd. I hope everyone takes this time as an opportunity to reflect, relax, and rejuvenate.

It's a great day to be a Puma!

Steve Wolf
Principal

PTO NEWS



A NOTE FROM DEBBIE and SHERI President's Report March 2010

Please join the Powell PTO in welcoming speaker Ellen Lynch, M.C.F.C. on March 18th at 7pm in the Powell cafetorium. Ellen will be speaking on: "Understanding Your Teen - Take Home Tools and Techniques." She will touch on some serious subject matter and encourage light-hearted discussions on raising our middle-schoolers. The evening will be funded by the PTO and we would like you to bring your friends and neighbors to share this evening. It is not limited to just Powell families. Anyone raising a teenager will benefit from joining us. Spread the word and we will see you then.

We are wrapping up another year of PTO duties here at Powell. Decisions are now being made that will affect the next school year. The PTO budget is being discussed and finalized as well as the need for more Parent and Grandparent volunteers is being determined. Next year will be a financially tight one for the PTO as it reflects the budget cuts that our district is feeling from our state government. We will be re-focusing our goals for spending. Our efforts will be directed towards the school's well-being. We would like to make sure that our staff is very well supported by the families in our community. If you can share some time next year with the school, we will be able to provide the same high-quality education that we have always had in the past. Do you have a grandparent in the family with free time? There is a great district supported volunteer program for grandparents; they even get a tax break for serving in our school.

For more information, go to: <http://www.littletonpublicschools.net/DISTRICTINFORMATION/GetInvolved/TaxRebateProgram/tabid/444/Default.aspx>. Volunteers will be (as they always have) an essential element to Powell's continued educational success. We need you.

Thank you to all of our staff and administration for their continued dedication to our children's education and their safety. Our thoughts go out to the young community that has been affected by the recent happenings in our public schools. As parents, it is disheartening that our children have to deal with issues that are far beyond their understanding. If your child is experiencing any feelings that you need help with, please reach out to get assistance. It is tough enough being a teenager and we, as parents, need to encourage discussions so they can voice their concerns even when we are sure of the answers.

Lastly, I would like to welcome all of our incoming 6th grade families for next year. Your experience at Powell Middle School is sure to be a successful and wonderful one. We look forward to meeting you all very soon.

Sincerely,
Debbie Cordero
Co-president PTO

Debbie Cordero
Debbie.cordero@comcast.net and

Sheri Brasher
ssbrasher@comcast.net.



PARENT NEWS

POWELL PARENT ORIENTATION NIGHTS

Parent meetings for next year's seventh and eighth grade students will be held on **Wednesday, April 7, 2010, from 6:30-7:30p.m.** Parents of next year's seventh graders should plan to meet in the **Cafetorium**. Parents of next year's eighth graders should plan to meet in the **Band Room**.

**Check the Powell Website for more
Clubs and Activities:
www.powell.littletonpublicschools.net**

8th GRADE CONTINUATION

Parents of eighth grade students, please review and complete the Continuation Ticket Policy & Ticket Request Form that is attached to this newsletter. **Only one form** is necessary when requesting additional tickets. Forms should be turned in to Ms. Red Feather in the Main Office.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.



Labels for Education

Nourishing people's lives everywhere, every day.



Dear Parents,

Powell Middle School is collecting Box Tops and Campbell Soup Labels to raise money for our school. We want your student to bring in Box Tops and Campbell Soup Labels to the main office and put them in our collection boxes.

Thank you,
LSS class



PATHWAYS NON- TRADITIONAL PROGRAM INFORMATION NIGHT

For prospective students and their families.

Monday, March 15, 2010

6:00 p.m.

Pathways Gymnasium
6557 South Acoma Street

303 347-4725

Meet the Pathways staff, students, and hear more about the program and the nomination process.

CUSTOMER CARE FOR MAGAZINE ORDERS



If you have a question or concern about your recent magazine order, please contact David Schultz (dashultz@q.com or 303 241-5929) Mr. Schultz is our QSP Representative, and is happy to assist with magazine order issues that may arise.

SCHOOL NEWS

VIPS NEWS

WOW! We had a wonderful response from volunteers who contributed to a very successful Teacher's Luncheon. A huge thank you to the following contributors: Maripat Sparks, Liz Runberg, Julie Lukasiewicz, Sylvia Houts, Kristin Carlson, Sheila Gains, Nancy Betts, Bonita Vea, Elizabeth Moynihan, Pat Greenway, Sue Wolf, Melissa Miller, Jan Zieser, Carol Ann Smith, Melinda Pederson, Amy Eckhout, Julie Westfield, Mary Jo Becker, Shari Lamb, Mary Broussely, Jennifer Bird, Jeanne Cole, Chris Sugo, Steph Peterson, Susan Hutchins, Wendy Kent, Carol Junta, Sue Perkins, Jan Johnson, Carol McNulty Janelle Bruhn, and Nanette Harland.

We have some fun events coming up and would love for anyone who is interested to get involved. If you are interested in helping with Teacher Appreciation Week May 3rd-7th, please contact our wonderful chairperson for the event, Julie Lukasiewicz at ward-luke@earthlink.net. The time commitment is minimal for this event, but the purpose is so very meaningful. Our teachers at Powell are some of the best out there and we want to let them know it. Please help out if you can!

Also, 8th Grade Continuation is right around the corner. If you are interested in making this a memorable event for all of our wonderful 8th graders, please contact organizer Julie Westfield at juliewestfield@yahoo.com. This is a super fun event and great way to get involved and meet other volunteers.

Thanks to all of our volunteers for their contributions to Powell. Each and everyone of you makes a difference in the lives of students at Powell.

Questions?

Contact your VIPS coordinators:

Pat Corder pscorder@msn.com
 Holli Sparks hollisparks@msn.com

..CSAP TEST DATES

CSAP Testing will start on the following dates:

Tuesday, March 9
 Grade 8 Only

Wednesday, March 10
 Grade 6, 7 & 8

Thursday, March 11
 Grade 6, 7 & 8

Friday, March 12
 Grade 6, 7 & 8

Make-up tests dates:
 March 15–19

Thank you for helping make CSAP successful!

7th & 8th GRADE COUNSELOR CLASSROOM VISITS

The 7th & 8th Grade Counselors will be visiting current 6th & 7th classrooms the last week of March to share next year's registration information.

QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR NEW BEHAVIORAL PROGRAM?

PBS

Positive Behavior Support

CORE

**/Community Minded/Own It/
 /Respectful/Eager to Lean**

More information coming soon on the
 Powell Website

SCHOOL NEWS

National Junior Honor Society Web Page

The Powell National Junior Honor Society is pleased to announce our new link on the Powell website. Please check us out. Our NJHS secretary, Paul G., and Mrs. Pam Bump created the link. We will be adding video segments of our second quarter service projects. . . soon.

VIPS CO-CHAIRS NEEDED FOR THE 2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR!!!

Looking for 2 individuals that are well organized and willing to put in a limited amount of time. This job is fun, rewarding, and a very moderate demand on your schedule. VIPS Co-Chairs are given extensive lists of volunteers for every event at Powell. The job entails finding a co-chair for that event. The co-chair then contacts the volunteers for the event. It is quite simple! There is a notebook that will walk you through every step.

Please contact either one of us if you are interested!

Holli Sparks
hollisparks@msn.com

Pat Corder
pscorder@msn.com

VIPS Co-Chairs

TAKE YOUR CHILD TO WORK DAY

April 22nd, is "Take Your Child to Work Day." If you choose to have your student participate in this family activity, **PLEASE** make sure you call the attendance line at 303-734-6310 to record your child's absence

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Each year, the District purchases a few pieces of student artwork to be displayed at the CASB Convention or for gifts to individuals who are retiring.

Congratulations to the following Powell students for having their artwork purchased:

Sarah P, Grade 8, Acrylic and Carly K, Grade 8, Acrylic, "Fall Trees"; Alayna W, Grade 8, Colored Pencil, "Squirrel."

PUMA PRIDE!



8TH GRADE ~ WASHINGTON D.C.

The Washington DC is coming up quickly and we are all getting very excited. Students turned in their Tomb of the Unknown Soldier essays and we will announce the winners soon. There will be a student only meeting on **March 4** during lunch. Students will be bringing home a manila folder with paperwork that needs to be completed and returned to me as soon as possible. Our last mandatory parent meeting is **April 12th at 6 PM** in the cafetorium. Please let me know if you will not be able to attend by e-mail and we will set up an alternative time to meet. This meeting will be important as we will go over what time to be at Powell to leave on April 22nd, flight information, hotel information, final itinerary, a reminder about the discipline policy, and other important reminders. Thanks so much for all your continued support and excitement.

Dawn Hare
dhare@lps.k12.cous

INCOMING 6TH GRADE NEWS

6th GRADE REGISTRATION

Mr. Hancock, 6th grade counselor, will be visiting the below listed schools to register incoming 6th grade Powell students on the following dates:

Highland * Monday, April 5, 2010

1:15p.m.

Hopkins * Tuesday, April 6, 2010

9:15a.m.

Twain * Tuesday, April 6, 2010

1:30p.m.

Franklin * Monday, April 12, 2010

9:15a.m.

Runyon * Monday, April 12, 2010

1:15p.m.

Lenski * Tuesday, April 13, 2010

9:15a.m.

Sandburg * Tuesday, April 13, 2010

1:15p.m.

Incoming 6th grade students will be visiting

Powell on the following dates:

Twain * Tuesday, April 20, 2010

9:30-11:00a.m.

Lenski/Hopkins * Wednesday, April 21, 2010

9:30-11:00a.m.

Sandburg/Franklin * Tuesday, May 4, 2010

9:30-11:00a.m.

Highland/Runyon * Thursday, May 6, 2010

6TH GRADE PARENT ORIENTATION MEETING

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Tour of Building

6:30-7:00p.m.

Building tours will be conducted by our PRIDE Leaders.

Orientation—Cafeteria

7:00-8:00p.m.

PTO WELCOME

Welcome incoming 6th grade families and welcome to middle school. The Powell PTO would like you to know that your time and support is very important to us. There are many events that take place, some require a lot of support and some are a few hours here and there. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Powell Middle School

<http://powell.littletonpublicschools.net/>

Pat Corder

pscorder@msn.com



POWELL MUSIC CONCERT FOR FEEDER ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

The Powell Music Department will perform its annual concert for our feeder elementary schools on **Wednesday, March 31st, from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in the Powell Cafetorium.** Members of the Puma Band, Jazz Choir, Ladies Select, Musical Arts Choir and Eighth Grade Strings will be performing.

Fifth grade students from three of our six elementary feeder schools will be in attendance. These elementary schools are Franklin Elementary School, Hopkins Elementary School, and Twain Elementary School.

INCOMING 6TH GRADE NEWS

POWELL INSTRUMENT SCREENING

Hello Parents of Incoming 6th Graders,

The Powell Music Department would like you to know that Powell does the choice of band, strings and choir a little differently than other schools. In order to select an instrument to play, instead of having a "Screening Night" in the spring so students can try the band and strings instruments out, we simply ask that you sign up your incoming 6th grader for band or strings. Then in the fall we will have students try the band and strings instruments in class (and can rearrange students' schedules easily enough between the two classes if necessary) and choose their instrument then. We find that this is more convenient for you and your students, and it also resulted in a better mix of instruments in our strings and band classes. If you prefer participating in a "Screening Night", you are still welcome to go to these events at Euclid, Newton or Goddard (contact us for specific dates and times) and then sign up for band or strings at Powell.

All incoming 6th graders should attend a performance by one of the middle schools. This is arranged by way of a field trip between the elementary and middle schools. At this performance your student should hear the middle school band, strings, and choir and thus get a clear idea if they prefer band, strings, or choir. Strings and band are both classes that need to be signed up for. However if your student does not do strings or band, then they will take other electives including choir for 9 weeks with Ms. Summers.

If you have any questions about this, please contact myself or Ms. Bailey at our information below. We look forward to working with your students this next school year!

Thanks,

The Powell Music Department

Mark Talley

Powell Band & Jazz
303 347-3965
mtalley@lps.k12.co.us

Marilyn Bailey

Powell Strings
303 347-3982
mbailey@lps.k12.co.us

Kathie Summers

Powell Choirs
303 347-7988
ksummers@lps.k12.co.us

STUDENT NEWS

HERITAGE HIGH SCHOOL



Cheer Try Outs

Come join the Heritage Cheers!

Please email:

HERITAGECHEERS@LIVE.COM

for your Try-Out Packet or Questions.

Try Out Clinic

March 15th—March 18th

Monday—Thursday

5:00p.m.—7:00p.m.

Try Outs

Friday, March 19th.

5:00 till completion

Heritage High School Auxiliary Gym

ARAPAHOE HIGH SCHOOL CHEER TRYOUTS

Mandatory Information Meeting:

March 3, 2010—6:00p.m. in AHS Forum
Student & Parent **MUST** attend if you plan to
cheer, this is the **only** meeting.
Questions: 303 347-6025

Tryout Clinics: March 16th 3:30-6:30p.m.
March 17th 5:00-8:00p.m.
March 18th 3:30-5:00p.m.
Upper Gym

Tryouts: March 19th 3:00-9:00p.m.

One Clinic and Tryouts
are mandatory and are
closed to the public.



PUMA CROSS COUNTRY STARTS APRIL 5TH!

Want to learn how to run *without getting* tired? Then please join us for the Puma Cross Country Club. Come improve your running ability in a fun and relaxed club. We will have ten sessions in which we warm up, stretch, and then run in groups on the Lee Gulch and Highline Canal Trails near Powell. Weather permitting, the dates are:

Monday, April 5
Thursday, April 8
Monday, April 12
Wednesday, April 14
Monday, April 19
Wednesday, April 21
Tuesday, April 27
Thursday, April 29
Tuesday, May 4
Thursday, May 6

The club will last from 3:00-4:05p.m. each day. You will need a comfortable pair of running shoes and proper clothing for the weather. Cost is FREE!

See Mr. Sprague in Room 343 for more details!

DEBATE CLUB

The Powell Debate Club allows students to present their point of view on issues while taking in other student's opinions. Debate Club is open to any Powell student 6-8. See Mr. Hagemeister in Room 339 for more details.

Debate Club Dates

March 1
March 15
March 29
April 12
May 10

G/T AT POWELL

Gifted and Talented News

Learning & Volunteer Opportunities for GT Parents

Science Olympiad: Don't let the name scare you! We are in need of parent volunteers to come in and work with students to help them prepare for Science Olympiad. We have 23 events to prepare for and each one should have its own coach. Right now we only have about 4 coaches. If you have time either once, or once a week from 8:50 – 9:30 and would like to work with a small group of students, we'd love to have you. No science experience necessary, although anyone with a background in: medicine, biology, chemistry, engineering, forensics, geology, ornithology, astronomy or meteorology would be helpful. It's a lot of fun, the kids are very enthusiastic, and we have a good shot of winning the tournament this year! Please contact Ms. Fraietta asap if you are interested; our tournament is scheduled for February 27th.

Advisory Council: This is an LPS group that meets monthly to discuss topics such as:

- Gender-based instruction.
- Articulation of students from grade to grade and level to level.
- Funding of gifted education.
- Data disaggregation and analysis for improving GT services
- Identification and services for underachieving and twice-exceptional students.
- Collaboration and communication with G/T students, their parents, classroom teachers, G/T facilitators, and building principals.
- LPS policy, regulations, and exhibits on gifted education.

Advisory Council meets on the following dates at the ESC from 7-9: **2/8, 3/8, 4/12**

All parents are welcome to attend (although we do have one assigned Parent Representative who is our spokesperson).

Clubs & Activities

Brain Bowl: Is underway! We have 3 6th grade teams, 2 7th grade teams, and one 8th grade team. Our regional completion is on Saturday, February 6th at Overland High School. All Brain Bowl parents are welcome and encouraged to attend. Good luck Brain Bowl teams!

Science Olympiad: Began in January! This is a quarter-long 7th grade elective course. We will spend the quarter preparing to compete with teams from across the state in events like: "Science Crime Busters," "Battery Buggy," "Junkyard Challenge," "Compute This" and "Disease Detectives," just to name a few.

For further information, check out our GT wiki at:

www.powellgiftedandtalented.wikispaces.com

Did you know that almost 33% of the students at Powell are identified as gifted and talented? Spread the word: GT at Powell is the place to be. We welcome out of district students!

Thanks, and hope everyone is having a great year.

Maria Fraietta, GT Facilitator



IMPORTANT DATES

Non Student Day.....	March 5
Day Light Savings Begins—Spring Forward.....	March 14
CSAP Testing.....	March 10—13
PTO Evening Meeting.....	March 19
Spring Break	March 22-26

Eighth Grade Continuation Ticket Policy

Powell Middle School's 2010 Eighth Grade Continuation ceremony is scheduled for **Thursday evening, May 20th, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the Main Gym.**

The Powell Recognition Committee, comprised of parents, teachers, counselors and administrators, holds three Continuation beliefs: 1) each eighth grade student should have the opportunity for at least two guests in the Main Gym, where the actual ceremony takes place; 2) each eighth grade student should have the opportunity for additional guests in the audience; and 3) the ceremony should adhere to the Littleton Fire Department's capacity guidelines for our collective safety.

For these three reasons, we will be issuing tickets again this year. We recognize the hardship that a ticket policy may impose on Powell families. We also know that by limiting the size of the audience, the dignity of the ceremony is more easily maintained and our eighth graders, not the audience, become the center of our attention.

On Monday, May 3rd, each eighth grade student participating in the Continuation ceremony will be given four tickets: two tickets for the Main Gym and two tickets for the Cafeteria.

With this policy, extra tickets for the Main Gym will be available through a trade process. If you prefer to trade in your Cafeteria tickets for Main Gym tickets, please fill out the *Ticket Request Form* below. On a "first-come" basis, we will trade Cafeteria tickets for Main Gym tickets until the Gym tickets are gone. Similarly, if you prefer all Cafeteria tickets, we will trade Main Gym tickets for Cafeteria tickets until the Cafeteria tickets are gone.

Please return your *Ticket Request Form* to the *Main Office* as soon as possible. As the forms are turned in, they will be numbered. As tickets become available in May, we will award two additional tickets to each eighth grade student, following this numbering order.

No student will receive more than two additional tickets for a total of six tickets. All six tickets may be requested for one location.

Students who plan *not* to use all four tickets should return the unused tickets to the Ms. Red Feather in the Clinic.

Powell Continuation Ticket Request Form

Request # _____

I understand that all eighth grade students who will be participating in the 2010 Continuation Ceremony will receive *four* audience tickets on *Monday, May 3rd*: two tickets for the Main Gym and two tickets for the Cafeteria. I also understand that eighth grade students who will not be using all four of these tickets have been asked to turn their extra tickets into Ms. Red Feather in the Clinic.

_____ I would like to **trade** my two Cafeteria tickets for two Main Gym tickets.

_____ I would like to **trade** my two Main Gym tickets for two Cafeteria tickets.

_____ I would like to request two **additional tickets** for the Main Gym.

_____ I would like to request two **additional tickets** for the Cafeteria.

I understand that all ticket requests will be filled in the order that they are received. I also understand that my request will be honored only if there are additional tickets available. Powell will begin this ticket exchange process on *Monday, May 3rd, 2010* and will conclude it on *Friday, May 14th, 2010*.

Eighth Grade Student's Name: _____

Date: _____

Eighth Grade Parent's Signature: _____

Date: _____



Littleton Public Schools 2010-2011 School Year Calendar

Approved by Board of Education on January 29, 2009

KEY

- NT - New Teacher Orientation
 - SS - Start of School
 - TC - Teacher Contract Day
 - 6 - End of 6 Weeks
 - 9 - End of 9 Weeks
 - 12 - End of 12 Weeks
 - * End of Semester
 - ◇ Holiday or Vacation
 - Nonstudent Day
 - ▧ Elem. Planning (short day)
 - ⬡ Elem. Only Nonstudent Day
 - Elem./Middle Nonstudent Day
- Shaded = 2 Hour Late Start Days

August 2010					September 2010				
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6			1	2	3
9	10	11 NT	12 TC	13 TC	◇ 6	7	8	9	10
16 TC	17 SS	18	19	20	13	14	15	16	▧ 17
23	24	25	26	27	20	21	22	23	24 6
30	31				27	28	29	30	

October 2010				
M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	▧ 14	▧ 15 9
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

November 2010				
M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5 6,12
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	◇ 24	◇ 25	◇ 26
29	30			

December 2010				
M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17 *
◇ 20	◇ 21	◇ 22	◇ 23	◇ 24
◇ 27	◇ 28	◇ 29	◇ 30	◇ 31

January 2011				
M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
◇ 17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

February 2011				
M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11 6,12
14	15	16	17	18
◇ 21	22	23	24	25
28				

March 2011				
M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4 9
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
◇ 21	◇ 22	◇ 23	◇ 24	◇ 25
28	29	30	31	

April 2011				
M	T	W	T	F
				1 6
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
◇ 25	26	27	28	29

May 2011				
M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20 *
23 TC	24	25	26	27
◇ 30	31			

June 2011				
M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

Important Dates

Start of School	Aug. 17	Martin Luther King Day	Jan. 17
Back to School Night		Presidents' Day	Feb. 21
Labor Day	Sept. 6	Spring Break	Mar. 21-25
Thanksgiving Vacation	Nov. 24-26	End of School	May 20
Winter Break	Dec. 20-31	Memorial Day	May 30

Nonstudent Days

K-12 Parent/Teacher Conferences: Oct. 14-15, Mar. 4
 Additional Elementary Parent/Teacher Conference Day:
 Mar. 3
 K-12 In-Service/Staff Development Day: Jan. 3
 Each high school has one nonstudent day for graduation:
 Heritage: May 18; Arapahoe: May 19; Littleton: May 20

Elementary Planning (*Short Days*): Sept. 17, Nov. 5, Feb. 11, and Apr. 22

All schools will choose 1 additional teacher contract day before the start of school or after school ends.