

SEPTEMBER HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

October 2009



We've had a great start to the school year this September! First, a big thank you to all of the families that made it to the Family Potluck. There was a special energy to this evening as the staff talked about our plans for this year's program and families shared the impact that the school has had on their students. It was an inspiring evening and we look forward to bringing everyone together again soon. The next opportunity is actually this weekend – the fall semester Clean Up Day – and we hope you can join us to help make a difference for the school.

The school community recently completed a powerful three day adventure up at Camp Chief Ouray in Winter Park. The experience challenged us to reflect individually and as a community about who we are, where we want to be, what we want to accomplish, and how we are going to get there. We had a lot of fun, shed a few tears, and built some great connections. We are enjoying being on this journey with you and your student and look forward to the months ahead! See you soon, Dan

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

Fall Clean Up and Cookout Day.....	(9am to 3pm).....	October 3 (Sat)
Teacher Inservice.....	(NO CLASSES).....	October 9 (Fri)
Colorado College Fair.....	(Monarch High School, 6:30pm-8:30pm).....	October 7 (Wed)
Out of State College Fair	(Cherry Creek High School, 10am-2pm).....	October 10 (Sat)
October SAT Test.....	(various locations).....	October 10 (Sat)
September High School Service Project	Winter Park.....	October 17 (Sat)
PSAT / PLAN Test / Senior Mysteries Day...(September High School).....		October 14 (Wed)
Restaurant 4580 Scholarship Fundraising Event...(7:00pm).....		October 19 (Mon)
Pre-Eval Workday.....	(NO CLASSES).....	October 23 (Fri)
Mid-Semester Evaluations.....		October 28 (Wed) - October 30 (Fri)

TALKS ON TEENS

Come hear Dan Fox talk, tell stories, and share tools that are sure to be of benefit for anyone involved with teens. The topic is sure to have broad appeal: **How To Connect With Your Teen While Still Being A Parent**. This event is free and open to the public, so bring a friend and enjoy this entertaining and informative discussion.

Wednesday, November 4th from 6:30-8:00 PM in the Westby Community Arts Building.

PSAT and PLAN TESTING

On Wednesday, October 14th, 11th grade students will be taking the Preliminary SAT (PSAT) and all 9th and 10th grade students will be taking the PLAN (which apparently does not stand for anything, but is a Pre-ACT...I guess PACT didn't have the same nice ring to it). Both exams are designed to help students determine strengths and challenges they may want to address before taking the ACT or SAT – and to continue to prepare for education after high school. The PSAT is also the qualifying exam for the National Merit Scholar Program. Students can get additional information and preparation materials in the main office. If this leaves you thinking, "What will my student be doing that day if they are a Senior?", never fear...all students will have regular classes in the morning and Seniors will be meeting for special programming while the testing is taking place.

FALL CLEAN UP AND COOKOUT DAY

Join us on Saturday, October 3rd anytime between 9am and 3pm at September School for a fun day of sprucing up our buildings and grounds! Anyone who has taken part in our community clean up days in the past can tell you that a little bit of volunteering can go a long, long way for the rest of the school year (at least until Spring!). This is a great opportunity for students on Leadership or Service Scholarships to get some hours in and **all scholarship students should be in attendance.**



Featured projects will include outdoor painting (new corner of the main admin building), fall garden and grounds clean-up, library reorganization and clearing, and cleaning out of the main admin building basement. We'll also be cooking out over lunch, so if there is anything specific you would like to bring, let us know! We'll have burgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers and basic BBQ supplies on hand. Hope to see you there!

FEED THE FUTURE 2009: Restaurant 4580 Scholarship Fundraiser Event

Looking for a fun night out with friends for a good cause? There are still several tickets available for our exciting benefit dinner and live auction on Monday, October 19th! September High School invites you to enjoy a delectable evening with us at Restaurant 4580 featuring a gourmet three course meal of your choice and a glass of wine for only \$65! If you can't make it that night, please suggest the event to someone you know and help us raise money!

All proceeds from this event will directly fund the September High School Scholarship Fund and the entire school community is very grateful for your attendance and participation. Your ticket purchase is tax deductible and will increase our ability to make the September High School experience available to students who are experiencing financial need. Call or email Alexis today for more information and visit our website to RSVP and purchase tickets!

FINAL FRIDAYS HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION

September High School is committed to providing healthy activities for teens to take part in that encourage sobriety. We are proud to be the host site for a series of events this year called "Final Fridays". Final Fridays are planned and implemented by the Natural Highs Action Committee, a student-run committee made up of participants in the Natural Highs After Hour Arts courses. The September Final Fridays event was a great success and we are excited to announce October's program – a Halloween Party!



On Friday, October 30th, from 7:00pm to 10:00pm, Boulder area teens are invited to join in the fun for dancing, art, food, and good spooky fun. Final Fridays events are **FREE** and simply require student to sign in, be sober, and have a good time. The Natural Highs Action Committee is also interested in finding adult volunteer chaperones for this event and other events that come up this school year. For more info, contact joy@septemberschool.org

SEPTEMBER HIGH SCHOOL SERVICE PROJECT

Giving back to the community is an important value to students and staff at September High School. On Saturday, October 17th, from 8:30-5 PM, we will be bringing a group of students and parents back to YMCA Camp Chief Ouray in Winter Park (where we spend our Fall Trip) to take on a service project for their camp. We plan on making this another fun, community building day and hope to see a lot of students and parents participate. Transportation will be coordinated by the school. Contact Dan for more questions or to sign up.

WISH LIST

Thank you to everyone who helped us get materials from our recent wish list requests! Here are our top 5 current wishes – if you or someone you know may be able to fulfill these needs, be in touch!

1. Program – **5-7 Wall Clocks** and **Window Blinds / Panels** for various classrooms (call for details)
2. Curriculum - **New Science Lab Tables** – 2 or 3 – call for dimensions and information.
3. Maintenance – **Window Insulation Kits** for weatherproofing, **Home Depot giftcards** for regular purchases.
4. Program – new-ish **television** for science room, **disposable cups**, **cases of copy paper**.
5. Program - **Gift Cards** of varying small denominations for student attendance and achievement incentives.

AFTER SCHOOL TUTORING

Does your student need extra help with a specific subject or with general study and organization skills? Dan B. will be offering FREE tutoring sessions in his classroom on Mondays and Thursdays from 3:15 - 4:15 starting next week. We've found that starting off with a strong structure of support, such as planning to attend at least one of the two tutoring sessions each week is a great support for students who are struggling academically. We'll be encouraging specific students to attend as well.

COLLEGE ADVISING AT SEPTEMBER SCHOOL

Thinking about college? Of course you are. It can be difficult to know where to start, but we're here to help. All 11th and 12th grade students have a 1:1 meeting with Lena during September and October to check in with plans for the year and after graduation. These meetings are designed to get the process rolling and while we provide a lot of information, materials, and encouragement, the actual application process is up to students to pursue and complete. All Junior and Senior students will have checklist to get them started and help keep them on track throughout the year and a follow up meeting will be scheduled for November before Thanksgiving break.

To help you explore options, a number of colleges and universities will be visiting September High School during the months of October and November, including:

San Francisco Art Institute
Champlain College
Johnson and Wales

Cornell College
Colorado Mountain College
Rocky Mountain College of the Arts

Fort Lewis College
Quest University
CU- Boulder

Cornish College
Metro State College
Western State College

In addition, there are college fairs occurring in our area during the month of October. These are free events and are a great opportunity to meet with admissions representatives, ask questions about different programs and campus locations, and even participate in application and financial aid workshops (October 10th only). For more information, visit collegefairsdenver.org

October 7, 2009
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Monarch High School
329 Campus Drive
Louisville, CO 80027

October 8, 2009
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
John F. Kennedy High School
2855 S. Lamar Street
Denver, CO 80227

October 10, 2009
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Cherry Creek High School
9300 E. Union Ave.
Greenwood Village, CO 80111

Encourage your student to explore the information and resources available at:

- College in Colorado, a helpful website created by the CO Dept. of Education (www.collegeincolorado.org)
- College.gov, from the US Dept. of Education; comprehensive place to start your search. (www.college.gov)

If you or your student have questions about college options and admissions process support, please call the main office or contact Lena lena@septemberschool.org to set up an appointment.