

February 2024 Newsletter



School Hours

Monday through Thursday 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Friday 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

IN THIS ISSUE

- A Letter from Our Director
- New Staff Introduction
- Planetary Science to Kick Off 2024
- Paper, Plant, Proverbs
- Embrace the Extra Day: Unveiling the Mathematical Marvel of Leap Year
- Keep up the Good Work!
- A Multicultural Culinary Journey at H-Mart and Beyond!
- Last Month in Science
- Upcoming in Middle School
- We Have Much to Celebrate!
- January Pictures

IMPORTANT DATES

2/1 Ski Trip
2/2 Groundhog Day
2/14 Valentines Day
2/15 Ski Trip
2/19 Presidents Day-**NO SCHOOL**
2/19 Ms. Taleya b-day
2/21 Naoki's B-day
2/21 Wings over the Rockies
2/25 Carlo B-day
2/29 Ski Trip

Click Here to View Our February Calendar!



Birthdays this month

02/19 Taleya
02/21 Naoki
02/25 Carlo

Donor Spotlight February 2024

We would like to thank the following individuals and companies for their generous donations and pledges of support

Monthly Message From Our Executive Director, [Michelle Tuengel](#)



For the shortest month of the year, a lot is going on here at Accelerated Schools. First, Presidents Day will be celebrated on Monday, February 19, 2024, with the school closed. This is the time we honor two outstanding presidents. George

Washington was our first president, and Abraham Lincoln was our 16th president. Both presidents were outstanding in many ways.

By now, you should have the 2nd quarter report cards, and we are in the middle of parent-teacher conferences. If you have not yet met with your students' teachers, please let us know. We are offering in-person conferences as well as Zoom conferences for those who need them. We are excited to share all of the wonderful things that your student has been doing in the classroom.

I am excited to welcome Delaney S. to our Middle School community. We are delighted to have you here at Accelerated Schools!

If you have not heard, Fitzroy Place, Home of Accelerated Schools, was so excited to receive a grant this past fall from The State Historical Fund with the help of Historic Denver. This grant will provide the funds needed to help fix the red sandstone bases and wood column on the North side of our building. As you can imagine, 130 years of weather in Colorado has worn down the stones a great deal.

Work on the building is expected to start in March, weather permitting.

If you have any questions about the building or the renovation project, please contact Michelle at mtuengel@acceleratedschools.org

Valentine's Day will be celebrated on Wednesday, February 14, 2024. Traditionally, it is a time for you to acknowledge all the people in your life that are special to you. I would like to

during the month of January:

- **Madonna Nuce**
- **April De Roin**

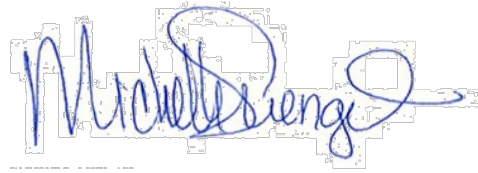
For information on becoming a donor, please visit [**acceleratedschools.org**](https://acceleratedschools.org) or contact us via [**email here.**](#)

Donate
Here

send out a special thank you to each of our families that have chosen Accelerated Schools to be the school for your child. Your children are special and important to us.

I hope you have a wonderful Valentine's Day.

Sincerely,



Referral Program Reminder!!

Attention wonderful Accelerated families (and friends)! we want to remind everyone about our referral program, which allows us to support more families in our community! Current families who refer a new family will get a **\$1,000.00 scholarship** toward their student's tuition (with a successful referral). AND new families joining Accelerated Schools on referral will receive **\$4,000.00** towards their first full year of tuition.

Want more information? Ask an enrollment counselor or visit our website at
<https://acceleratedschools.org/admission/scholarships>

New Staff Introduction

Kyle Pepper,

Hello, Accelerated Schools Family!

Happy New Year! I hope you're all having a great start to 2024!

With me being the newest member of the Accelerated Schools staff, I thought of using this opportunity to introduce myself. I'm Kyle, and I just started on January 8th as an Enrollment Counselor/Educational Recruiter and High School Instructor. Some of you may remember me when I previously worked at Accelerated Schools from 2019-2022. I am so happy and thrilled to be back!



A little bit of background on me. I was raised in Houston, Texas, and moved to Colorado to attend undergraduate school at the University of Colorado at Boulder in 2009. After graduating from CU in 2013, I moved to Denver and completed a Master's degree at the University of Denver in 2016 and have been living and working in the Denver metro area since.

In my free time, I love spending time outdoors in nature, hiking with my dogs in the warmer months, snowboarding in the winter months, and attending live music concerts. I am also an avid Houston sports fan (Go Texans, Astros, Rockets!!!). I am very excited to be back working at Accelerated Schools, and I look forward to building meaningful relationships with all of the Accelerated Schools staff, students, and families. If we haven't had the chance already, I look forward to meeting you in the future!

Best,
Kyle Pepper

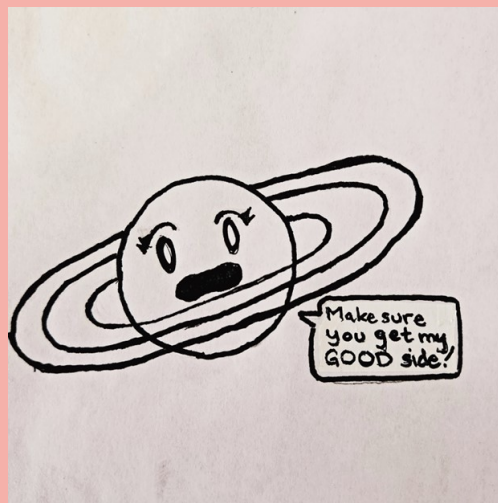
Planetary Science to Kick off 2024

Adrienne Chainey, Environmental Science and Drama Instructor

Taking a look at a planet within our own solar system, students, families, and everyone on Earth have one final opportunity to view Saturn's rings with their own eyes! (No not forever, although that is up for debate if you ask planetary scientists to consider the Saturn's distant future!) Don't worry, this isn't an apocalyptic moment, we will simply be viewing Saturn from a different angle than we've gotten used to over the last decade. Just as Earth "wobbles" along its axis while orbiting the Sun, so too does Saturn, and roughly every 15 years the angles align such that from Earth we view Saturn's rings "edge-on." Think of this as looking at a piece of paper from the side, you can barely see the edges only of the paper (joke's on those of us without telescopes who cannot see anything!) At approximately 1 km thick, it's no surprise that when viewed from the edge on, even those *with* telescopes will struggle to view the rings until the orientation of our respective planes changes. .

With this calendar year having officially kicked off, we are well into our journeys in high-school Earth Science, "coursing" around our Sun for another year of science and learning! We will be exploring the wonders that make our Earth habitable for humans, and the reasons why we as a species have been so successful here.

Exploring the reaches of the universe and applying our knowledge of the planet Earth to exoplanets. Our students will explore and identify potential Earth-alternatives, and appreciate and apply our foundations in Earth Science to explore extraterrestrial and cosmic geology and deep time.



Paper, Plants, Proverbs

Raechel Kimsey, Fine Arts Instructor

As I looked around the art room of the carriage house during the start of the semester, I couldn't help but admire the artisanal paper we made as a part of a lesson in December. The paper, which we made from seeds, pressed

flowers, leaves, and paper we recycled ourselves using a blender donated by our very own

groundskeeper, Mr. Craig, were intended to be used as holiday cards to send home with our students, but became beautiful works of art unto themselves. They didn't get sent home as intended, because they are on display in our carriage house. Perhaps one of the most interesting things about these sheets of paper is that this lesson, which I began planning all the way back in the Summer, was a slow-burning collaboration between staff and students yielding results that would not be possible without any single person's contributions. The idea came from Luke, who simply asked if we could do a paper-making lesson.

From there, my research led me to discover that recycled paper could be decorated with pressed plants. Conveniently, a lesson on Nature Art and Andy Goldsworthy provided plants that could be pressed and preserved for future use, but that's not all! My research led me to discover that seeds could be sprinkled over wet pulp to make a plantable paper. I employed the help of Ms. Adrienne to collect seeds that could be used for this lesson during the Fall. Gabe and Miles helped us collect seeds as a part of their Biology class, and Amelia helped deconstruct old frames found in the Fitzroy basement that would enable our resident handy-man to construct paper-making screens for us. Ms. Adrienne also volunteered her time to press flowers and leaves out of the kindness of her own heart, and Mr. Evan helped by taking students outside one afternoon to find their own greenery to press for our future lesson.

Now I reflect on these artworks, how they turned out, and everything that went into creating them. Yes, you can plant them in your yard and have tall pink or purple Holly-hocks, some fiery Orange Globes, or bushel of Black-eyed Susans to remember 2023 by, but I think you would have a hard time in doing so, because not only is each sheet of recycled paper a unique expression of the student who made it, it is a reminder that community is powerful and patience is a virtue.

If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together. - African Proverb

Embrace the Extra Day: Unveiling the Mathematical Marvel of Leap Year

Taleya Zinnea, Mathematics Instructor

Every four years, our calendar unfolds an intriguing quirk, offering an extra day in February, turning the month into a dynamic 29-day powerhouse instead of the customary 28. This peculiar occurrence, known as a leap year, serves a crucial role in harmonizing our calendars with the Earth's revolutions around the sun. Without this periodic adjustment, the subtle shifts in the seasons would slowly slip away from their natural cadence.

The criteria for identifying a leap year is a subtle dance of divisibility: a year is a leap year if it is divisible by 4 with exceptions for years divisible by 100. In that case, it needs to be divisible by 400 in order to qualify as a leap year. So, the year 2000 was a leap year, even though 1900 was not. This intricate rulebook keeps our calendars in sync with the astronomical reality, maintaining a delicate balance between precision and simplicity. It also creates a unique numerical rhythm — R-L-L-R; where 'R' denotes regular years and 'L' signifies leap years.

As we set foot on this leap year journey, let's not just see it as an extra day on the calendar but as an opportunity to appreciate the mathematical elegance that underpins our entire temporal framework. Embrace the bonus day as a chance for reflection, exploration, and, perhaps, a touch of numerical curiosity.

Here's to the leap year – a periodic reminder of the fascinating interplay between mathematics and the passage of time!

Keep Up the Good Work!

Val Montano, Music Instructor

Dear music students,

You are awesome! Thank you for practicing with perseverance throughout the year. Please keep learning and practicing well in 2024.

Here are some examples and tips:

- Try to improve one small thing during every practice session. Small accomplishments add up to big improvements over time.

- Focus on learning just one line of music.
- Sit with good posture, relax, and breathe when you play.

This is the best part of all – play for a friend and enjoy your success.

Sincerely,
Ms. Val

A Multicultural Culinary Journey at H-Mart and Beyond!

Kate Oh, Cooking Instructor

I hope everyone is starting a good new year and all in high spirits and ready for another exciting update from Accelerated Schools' Cooking Class. This time around, our culinary adventures took a multicultural turn, blending the worlds of cooking and language learning.

Did you know that 50% of my students in the cooking class are also enrolled in my Korean language classes? It sparked an idea to fuse these two passions, leading us to embark on a flavorful excursion to H-Mart, the renowned Korean grocery store.

As we strolled through the aisles of H-Mart, the enthusiasm among the students was noticeable. The labels with Korean characters became an impromptu language lesson right there in the store. It was heartening to see how excited they were to connect their language learning with a real-world experience.

However, the clock seemed to tick faster than ever, and the one hour and thirty minutes we had at H-Mart flew by. The students expressed a collective wish to return, eager to explore every aisle at a more leisurely pace. What became evident is that H-Mart, though rooted in Korean culture, is a melting pot of international flavors, with something for everyone.

Christian and Miles demonstrate a genuine curiosity for diverse cultures, consistently expressing their enthusiasm for exploration and the willingness to try new experiences. I deeply admire their fearlessness when it comes to embracing the unknown.

Quinn, Katherine, and Lars, in particular, stood out during our visit. Their ability to quickly read Korean characters showcased their linguistic prowess. Beyond the classroom setting, they had a genuine adventure experiencing Korean culture in a practical, everyday context.

Interestingly, the excitement to read Korean characters somewhat overshadowed their exploration of the diverse foods available at H-Mart. They now express a regret that their initial eagerness to read labels led them to overlook the vast array of delicious offerings.

Fear not! Our culinary journey doesn't end at H-Mart. Once our exploration of Korean cuisine in the cooking class concludes, I plan to take the students to an authentic Korean restaurant for an immersive dining experience. This will allow us to savor the flavors we've been exploring in class in a setting that truly captures the essence of Korean culinary traditions.

As we continue this multicultural culinary journey, I invite you all to stay tuned for more updates and delicious discoveries in our upcoming classes. The world of food and language awaits!

Happy Cooking!



Last Month in Science

Dan McMahon, Science Instructor

Chemistry

Why are oysters dying in the shallow bays near the Skagit River in Puget Sound? In this new chemistry unit we will be building a deeper understanding about chemical reactions by exploring reversible reactions through the exploration of ocean acidification. Students will explore case studies, analyze data and read about how the movement of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere to the ocean makes sea water more acidic.

After an introduction to the area and a glimpse of the indigenous people who originally utilized the extensive oyster beds, students explored the physiology of oysters, as well as the life cycle of Olympic oysters. We have since moved on to an introduction to pH as we look to modeling the changing conditions of the earth's atmosphere and ocean.

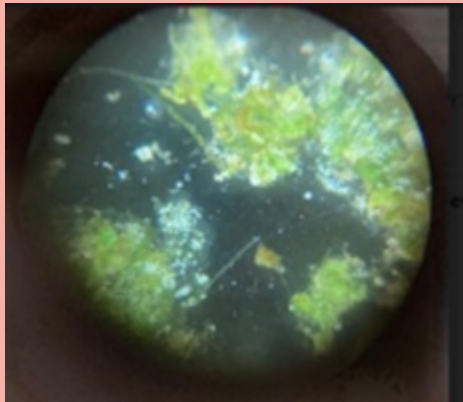


Environmental Science

In the New Year the environmental science students are picking up where they left off investigating pollution looking at water pollutants in Harvard Gulch. Soil samples were analyzed to determine permeability. A surface runoff evaluation was completed using field techniques and a modeling program. Then the data was used over a square km including the study area using the MyRunOff modeling software.

This week they have turned their attention to a second persistent pollutant found in the creek, Nitrogen. Students have identified sources of the nitrogen, and will be conducting a demonstration to observe how algae from the creek responds to varying levels of nitrogen found in a commercial lawn fertilizer. Students then will be asked to suggest remediation strategies for reducing runoff, and ideas for how to rebuild phase 2 of the Harvard Gulch Flood Control Project which consists of an

open concrete channel from S Race to S Downing.



Upcoming in Middle School

Debby Sharp, Middle School Instructor

What kind of writing tells a story? If you know that it's narrative writing, then you are correct! Middle school is in the process of creating their own narrative essay. When we started we weren't quite sure what narrative writing was. Now we know that there are three types of narratives. There's personal, biographical, and fictional and each type tells a different type of story.



Following this, we read and studied each type of narrative. After studying each mentor text, students got to pick which type of narrative they wanted to write. We have one student writing a biographical and everyone else is writing a fictional narrative.

We also learned the components of a narrative. A good narrative has to have well-developed characters, a setting, an inciting incident (plot starts), rising action, conflict, a climax to the rising action, falling action and ultimately a resolution. So far, we have developed our characters, created our setting(s), written a tantalizing title and come up with a magnetic lead to our stories.

Usually, each period starts with a mini-lesson and these mini-lessons are centered around key features students want to use in their stories to make them more coherent and interesting, such as transition phrases, dialogue, figurative language, concrete language and sensory details.

As we move along in the writing process, I will be conferring with each student. Conferences aren't lengthy and start with positives while giving advice on one aspect of the essay.

Of course, we will go through the writing process. Right now we are in the drafting phase followed by editing, revising and final draft. Students will have the opportunity to peer edit/revise and finally evaluate themselves.

All of the students are very excited about developing their stories and I can't wait to read the final product and share with you!

We Have Much to Celebrate!

Jessica Machetta, English Language Arts, English Literature, Civics, Life/Study skills, and Activities Coordinator

Valentine's Day is the overarching February holiday, and I have fond memories of helping my own children create their cards to distribute and decorate shoe boxes to gather them in. However, I often feel like Charlie Brown said of Christmas way back in 1965: "We all know that (it's) a big commercial racket. It's run by a big eastern syndicate, you know." Creator Charles Schultz once said of Valentine's Day, "All you need is love, but a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt."

I don't overdo Valentine's Day in my classroom, instead focusing on a holiday that – in my opinion at least – is way more interesting and cool: The Chinese New Year! This year is the Year of the Dragon and we will be doing some fun and educational activities to mark the end of the 2023, the Year of the Rabbit.

Last year, my students made little Chinese lanterns out of red construction paper and we wrote our wishes for the coming year on them. Mine still hangs in my classroom to remind me of what is truly important in life: Health, Home, Happiness, Peace. (One written on each side of the four-panel lantern.)

There are lots of ways we can brighten up February, a month that is notoriously difficult for those of us who are solar-powered and are at our wits end with the winter blues. The Chinese New Year falls on Saturday, Feb. 10 this year. A public holiday in China, people there get eight days off: from Feb. 10 to Feb. 17. Wouldn't *that* be nice? Still, here are some traditions we can embrace and celebrate the coming year:

- Wear red. (Not white since that symbolizes death in Asian culture.
- Buy colorful bouquets for your home and to give to others. (Again, avoid white!)
- Give red envelopes with money in them to children. These are known in Mandarin as *hong bo*.
- Don't cut or wash your hair on Chinese New Year's Day! You don't want to wash away or cut short your luck! Also avoid using knives and scissors that day for the same reason.
- Clean your house before and not on the day of; you don't want to sweep out any good luck! Also don't take out the trash; do it the day before or after.
- Open your windows! This helps blow in the good luck and blow out the bad. If it's too cold to leave them open for long, just a few minutes will do!
- Eat traditional food: Dumplings, noodles, fish, and fruit like oranges, tangelos and pomelos.
 - Dumplings symbolize wealth and prosperity since they resemble ancient Chinese ingots (money).
 - Noodles symbolize longevity. Do not cut them or bite them in half!
 - Fish also symbolize wealth and served last. Be sure to leave a few pieces so prosperity continues throughout the year!
 - Fruit like oranges and pomelos symbolize fullness and wealth. The more fruit you eat, the richer you shall be!

Celebrities born in the Year of the Dragon include Bruce Lee, Charles Darwin, John Lennon, Martin Luther King Jr., Che Guevara, Stanley Kubrick, and Dr. Suess! What Chinese Zodiac year were *you* born?

- [I will let you choose any photo that you like best and will fit and be pretty: Anything year of the dragon! Lots to choose from online.]

January Pictures!

01/04/24 Ski Trip





01/10/24 Stock Show



01/25/24 Escape Room



For more than 40 years, concerned parents have turned to Accelerated Schools for individualized learning programs helping students overcome challenges, and excel



academically. The fact is, a traditional school system is not designed to meet the needs of every child. When a student is not being successful, or is not thriving in a traditional environment, parents must often look elsewhere for a solution. This is where Accelerated Schools comes in.

Accelerated Schools begins by creating a learning program designed specifically for a student. Our work points are toward changing the ratio of failure to success and by cultivating an environment of accountability. Our students are given attainable goals and are rewarded by celebrating their accomplishments. Once a student starts experiencing success, their attitude, motivation and effort improve dramatically. This ends the negative cycle and leads to positive academic progress and positive self-esteem.

Accelerated Schools



ACCREDITED
BUSINESS



If you have comments and/or suggestions about our newsletter, email [Kayla Presnal](mailto:Kayla.Presnal)

Accelerated Schools

www.acceleratedschools.org



Accelerated Schools | 2160 S. Cook Street, Denver, CO 80210 www.acceleratedschools.org

[Unsubscribe marketing@acceleratedschools.org](mailto:marketing@acceleratedschools.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by marketing@acceleratedschools.ccsend.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!