

May 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

- Letter from the Director
- College Trips in April: Pima Medical Institute and CSU
- Celebrating Military Appreciation Month: Naoki's Journey
- How to Press Spring Flowers
- Graduation Day Music, Behind the Scenes
- Accelerated Schools' Successful Korean Language Program
- Last Month in Science
- Mental Health Awareness Month
- That time our bus was being driven by a 'madman'

IMPORTANT DATES

5/2 Gabe Birthday
5/2 Surya Birthday
5/4 Star Wars Day
5/5 Cinco de Mayo
5/6 - 5/10 Teacher Appreciation Week
5/7 National Teacher's Day
5/12 Mother's Day
5/15 Activity- Wash Park
5/22 LAST Activity- Boondocks (all students)
5/23 Last Day of School
5/24 Graduation
5/27 Memorial Day (No School)
5/28 Summer Session Starts

**Click Here to View Our
May Calendar!**



Birthdays this month

5/2 Gabe Birthday
5/2 Surya Birthday

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



It is hard to believe that it is already May. Many of our students that started in August will be finishing up their enrollments this month. The last nine months have been a whirlwind of fun,

learning, and activities. I would like to give special kudos to our families, that have supported us for the last 9 months. I am also thankful to work with such an amazing staff and students who have made this school year so much fun.

It was great to see so many families at our annual Awards Night, which was held on Wednesday, April 24. It was pretty spectacular to be able to share the students' accomplishments with their families. Congratulations to all of our students on their achievements—well Done!

Welcome to Cat. M, Jesse C, and Jayde T., who joined our high school community, and we are so happy to have all of you here.

Wednesday, May 15, 2023, will be Accelerated Schools Field Day/Picnic Day at Wash Park. The school will provide a pizza lunch for everyone, and there will be fun games and activities for the students in the afternoon. More details to come soon.

Wednesday, May 22, 2024, will be the last activity of this quarter. Students who have earned this activity will go to Boondocks for the day, and students who did not earn it will have a regular day of classes.

Thursday, May 23rd, is the last day of the current term. For some students, this will be the last day of school. Please remember that we are a year-round school, and since students can

Donor Spotlight May 2024

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

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

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

Donate
Here

April Activities

Eclipse 4/8/24



Awards Night 4/24/24

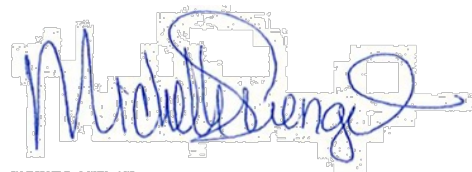


start any time of the year, this may not be the last day of school for your student. Please see your counselor if you have any questions.

Our in-person graduation will be on Friday, May 24th. Congratulations to our six (6) students graduating this year. The rest of our students will not have regular classes on this day. On Monday, May 27, the school will be closed for Memorial Day. All classes will resume on Tuesday, May 28, 2024.

We should have our yearbook back from the printer in mid-June or early July. We invite all students and families to come for lunch and sign yearbooks. We will send out more information when we have a date.

Happy Spring,



Last Month Around the School

Earth Day- 4/22/24 Clean Up Crew!



Fun in Science Class

Awards Night 4/24/24



Wonderland Tea Party (Fundraiser 4/27)



College Trips in April: Pima Medical Institute and CSU

Kyle Pepper, History Instructor and Enrollment Counselor

For those of you who may not already know, Accelerated Schools offers optional college trips to high school students who are at the age where they are ready to start thinking about their options and ambitions for life after high school. In an attempt to expose students to a variety of different options and ideas for post- high school life, I will be planning and organizing college/university trips throughout the school year. Touring colleges is an important and critical piece of the high school experience. College trips are so beneficial because they allow students to see the school and city in person, learn about the school from first hand sources, and officially demonstrate their interest in the school or program.

Our first college trip in April was on Thursday, April 11th to Pima Medical Institute, located just north of downtown Denver. PMI is an employee-owned, private, accredited medical career college that focuses exclusively on healthcare professions, including medical, dental and veterinary fields. The curriculum includes certificate, associate degree, bachelor's degree and master's degree programs. In order to find more information on enrollment and tuition at the Pima Medical institute Denver Campus, please visit: <https://pmi.edu/locations/colorado/denver/>



As well as visiting Pima Medical Institute, Accelerated Schools also took students on a self-guided tour of the beautiful Colorado State University campus in Fort Collins on Wednesday, April 24th. CSU has over 250 academic Undergraduate, Graduate, Online, and Research programs to choose from. Colorado State University's premier campus location in Northern Colorado, about an hour drive north of Denver along the I-25 corridor and about 45 minutes south of Cheyenne, Wyoming, offers the perfect mix of city life and mountain accessibility. In order to find more information on enrollment and tuition at Colorado State University, please visit: <https://admissions.colostate.edu/>



**COLORADO STATE
UNIVERSITY**

I very much look forward to continuing to take our high school students on college trips around the Denver/Front Range area. If you have any questions, concerns, suggestions, and/or questions regarding College Trips moving forward, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Celebrating Military Appreciation Month: Naoki's Journey

Taleya Zinnea, Mathematics Instructor

As we observe Military Appreciation Month, we shine a light on individuals like Naoki, a sophomore at Accelerated Schools, who embody the spirit of service and sacrifice.

Naoki's motivation to enlist in the Marines stems from a simple yet profound desire: to defend his country and find a sense of belonging. In his own words, he explains, "I'm just an average joe who wants to do something better than myself and find the brotherhood I've longed for." His decision to join the toughest branch reflects his commitment to facing challenges head-on and serving on the front lines.

Reflecting on his aspirations, Naoki shares candid insights into his journey. "I've always wanted to be some sort of soldier," he admits, recalling childhood dreams of combat and a longing for purpose. Despite his apprehensions about boot camp, including fears of needles and heights, Naoki remains steadfast. He recognizes that success in the Marines

requires mental resilience and unwavering determination.

Looking forward, Naoki acknowledges the effort required to achieve his goal. "I need to work on not freezing up in tense situations," he reflects. "I need to push myself beyond what I think I am capable of." As he prepares to take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) test, Naoki exemplifies the resilience and determination that define our armed forces.

As we honor Naoki and all those in service, let's recognize their unwavering dedication to this country. Their commitment and sacrifices serve as a reminder of the values that unite us as a community.

How to Press Spring Flowers

Raechel Kimsey, Fine Arts Instructor

Spring has sprung, and that means FLOWERS! If you're looking for a fun family activity for a spring afternoon, you may try flower pressing. For those of you who do not know how to press flowers here are some easy-to follow instructions:



You will need:

- Your favorite plants and flowers
- Heavy books that you do not plan to read in the next 3-4 weeks
- Some sheets of any type of paper, or some paper towels

1) Gather your favorite plants and flowers. Remember that if you intend to press the flowers, they must be small enough to flatten between the pages of a book. For example: a cherry blossom would work, but a rose would not.

2) Grab some paper towels or some sheets of paper. Your flowers will press between the pages of your book without these items but may leave a residue on the pages.

3) Arrange your flowers on the page. Think about how they will look when they flatten out. Try not to arrange the flowers in such a way that they will overlap. If you do this, they are likely to fuse together during the drying process.

4) Place the arrangement in the middle of a heavy book and close the book. Put weight on the book by stacking books, or other weighted items on top of the book.

5) Walk away for at least 3 weeks. When you return, your flowers will be preserved and flattened.

Once you have successfully pressed your flowers, you can choose what to do with them. They're great for all types of artwork including scrapbooking and handmade cards. I like to press plants and flowers that remind me of special occasions such as weddings or birthdays. It can be a pleasant surprise to find a forgotten four-leaf clover between the pages of worn classic revisited!

Graduation Day Music, Behind the Scenes

Val Montano, Music Instructor

Every year, your faithful music teacher looks forward happily to the music to be performed at Accelerated Schools graduation in May. Here is a sneak peek:

The lovely graduation ceremony will begin and conclude with the music popularly known as "Pomp and Circumstance." It was composed by Sir Edward Elgar, an English, self-taught composer (1857 –1934). The regularly performed portion of this piece is actually the slower middle section known as the "trio section."

Midway through the ceremony, Accelerated Schools student Quinn LeDuc will perform a majestic piece on the piano in honor of the graduating seniors. You will hear "The Great Smoky Mountains," by David Carr Glover (1925–1988) a well-loved American pianist, composer, and educator.

While these performances might sound as polished as a recorded professional orchestra, don't be fooled. Indeed, we will perform the music live on the front lawn on one of our Yamaha digital pianos, owned by Accelerated Schools, and well-known by our students in the music classroom. We hope that you enjoy the music

Accelerated Schools' Successful Korean Language Program

Kate Oh, High School ELA, Korean and Cooking Instructor/Enrollment Counselor



Accelerated School is proud to announce the success of its Korean language program, where students have quickly mastered Hangul, the Korean alphabet, and are comfortable reading and writing by sound recognition.

In today's interconnected world, the allure of learning Korean extends beyond cultural appreciation to encompass significant cognitive advantages. The article written by John Carry delves into the compelling reasons why mastering the Korean language can lead to enhanced cognitive skills and memory.

There are 8 important factors why learning Korean can be beneficial.

1. **Boosting Attention and Concentration:** Learning Korean demands focused attention, stimulating cognitive control and the ability to avoid distractions. Bilingual individuals often excel in concentration tasks, making Korean an ideal choice for those seeking to sharpen their attention skills.
2. **Navigating a Unique Writing System:** The Hangul script presents a cognitive challenge that strengthens visual processing and memory recall. Engaging with Hangul enhances both motor skills and linguistic associations, fostering a multifaceted cognitive development.
3. **Understanding Complex Grammar Rules:** Korean grammar, with its distinct structure, offers a cognitive workout that improves linguistic flexibility and problem-solving abilities. Navigating these rules hones cognitive agility and enhances language comprehension.
4. **Strengthening Communication Skills:** Learning Korean involves grasping cultural nuances and effectively conveying thoughts and emotions. This process refines communication skills, making learners more articulate and attentive in their interactions.
5. **Delaying Cognitive Decline:** Research indicates that bilingualism can delay age-related cognitive decline. Mastering Korean keeps the brain active and adaptable, potentially mitigating the onset of neurocognitive disorders.
6. **Improving Multitasking Abilities:** Engaging with multiple languages sharpens multitasking skills, aiding in daily productivity and task management. The ability to switch between languages seamlessly enhances cognitive flexibility.
7. **Enhancing Sound Discrimination:** Acclimating to Korean's unique sounds refines auditory discernment, leading to sharper sound perception across varied contexts. This skill enhances language comprehension and overall auditory acuity.
8. **Encouraging Brain Growth and Neuroplasticity:** Learning Korean fosters brain rewiring and neuroplasticity, improving problem-solving skills, memory, and adaptability. This cognitive enhancement extends beyond language proficiency to broader cognitive functions.

The journey of learning Korean transcends linguistic proficiency, offering a pathway to cognitive enrichment and brain health. Embracing the complexities of Korean language and culture not only expands horizons but also nurtures a resilient and agile mind.

Take advantage of Accelerated Schools, where we offer Korean language!

Last Month in Science

Dan McMahon, Science Instructor

Chemistry

In chemistry class we have started to use pH to determine the ideal H^+ concentrations that will be needed to promote oyster survival at an oyster hatchery. We used this model to calculate the number of moles of H^+ that must be neutralized to bring the pH to safe levels for the 1000L breeding tanks. We then calculated the moles and mass of NaOH that would neutralize that amount of H^+ . Students will then be asked to design an investigation into how pH affects the shells of oysters. This will include a formal lab report illustrating the steps in the scientific method. These investigations are a continuation of the underlying goal of designing and implementing a solution for the decline in oysters in Washington State.

Environmental Science

The environmental science class has turned to population dynamics in the 4th quarter. After defining biological populations we looked into the population density of Denver's neighborhood and compared Denver County to the other counties in Colorado. Colorado elk were then studied as an example of how a population responds to low and high density conditions in their environment. A case study using mule deer on the Kaibab Plateau in AZ provided a second example. The focus has now turned to human population dynamics. We will look at several ways that humans have evolved and how human history has produced the exponential growth of the last 50 years and the effects of this rapid growth.

P.E.

The weather is allowing the middle school PE class to head down to Observatory Park and make use of the tennis courts. Students are working on form as well as learning how to play tennis. Warmer days has also meant time spent outside on campus playing the middle school's favorite game "Hide and Seek"



Mental Health Awareness Month

Debby Sharp, Middle School Instructor

May seems like the perfect time to talk about mental health. The weather is getting warmer, new life is starting to flourish and the days are getting longer. All these things aid in people feeling more mentally fresh and clear. Mental Health Awareness month is in May and has been observed since 1949. There is a national movement to help raise awareness about mental health.

There's a lot of stigma around mental health issues and together everyone has to fight against the mindset that having a mental illness is shameful. Not just in May but year round we need to educate the public and support policies that help the millions of people affected by mental illness.

Everyone in this world has an inherent value for the whole of their community, no matter their diagnosis, appearance, background or ability. Mental illness can be so

debilitating that just getting up in the morning is hard but everyone should know that if all you did for a day is get up in the morning then that is more than enough because showing up, just as you are, is important to yourself and others around you who care for you.

Practicing these mantras in the classroom is crucial to helping students appreciate each other's differences and that despite any diagnosis a person has inherited, we all have value and we all add to the strength of the whole even if we just show up. Something I plan on starting this month is spending our homeroom period with having each student share why they are more than enough. This is not only a positive way to start each day, but it helps the individual student become more aware of their inherent worth and strengths and also helps others see them in a positive light. With my guidance I'm hoping to help all the middle school students see the good intentions in each other and not focus on the negative.

To help raise awareness in your community, you can help others understand mental illness by educating yourself and embracing everyone in their struggles and differences.



That time our bus was being driven by a 'madman'

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

Some of my favorite times with our kids are when we are on the school van going to and from various activities. We were recently coming back to school from Loveland Pass and there was a car in front of us – a convertible, throwing loud backfires and nauseating fumes – in which the passenger had his feet hanging over the side. Our kids were having a lot of fun with all of the "what ifs".

Quinn L. needed to be dropped off before we returned to school, so I gave him an alternate homework assignment: Free write for an hour about the two clowns in the convertible.

He prefaced the following result with, "This may be the greatest assignment ever given." As a teacher, seeing that at the top of the page was certainly a feather in my cap!

The sun was shining in the Riverpoint area of Englewood. My close friend Mark and I knew that today would be the perfect day for a convertible joyride, our second favorite activity, closely following running through our neighbors sprinklers, draped in stolen curtains or rugs during the wee hours.

We set out full of anticipation. It got really hot really quick, my toes in particular were becoming toasty. "Hey Mark, do you think it would be socially acceptable and safe if I stuck my feet out of the window?"

It is important to note that Mark had spent a majority of his life working in the honorable, pre-ride safety speech industry. He could really give that speech, he had a perfect record, no one dared disobey him, his word was the law. Until one long day, he had become resentful of the amusement park, he thought that he couldn't possibly actually be contributing to the safety of any ride goers.

"Surely this is all plain common sense. If I said nothing I would have the same results," he thought to himself sadly.

He felt as though his entire life had been wasted on developing a skill that didn't contribute anything, then it happened...in his moment of weakness, misfortune struck him down. In a moment, he lost everything. He was lost in thought, he didn't have time to deliver his monologue, he snapped back, just too late. For the ride had

begun, every fear he had, every sleepless night he had spent contemplating what would happen if he failed, was unfolding before his very eyes. His face drained of blood, he knew he had sealed not only the fate of the innocent riders, but his own also. Not wanting to face the shame of his shortcomings, and letting everyone who had ever trusted him down, he fled the park and for a time, joined a traveling circus, briefly acting as a clown. This is when he arrived in Riverpoint, he found a comfortable bridge, the underbelly of which would serve as a nice home to live out the rest of his days.

This is until I mistakenly hit him with my convertible. I obviously felt some guilt, so I bought him some fries and invited him to live in my garage, instead of under the bridge. Over the next several months, we grew close, I hired him as a chauffeur and he told me his story, and how he drank all the tears he cried in honor of his casualties. (it is also worth noting, that it had not ever been proven that anyone really died, but this was not worth mentioning to him, because it would just cause him to weep.)

Now returning to the original point of writing this, his response highlights his bleak views on the matters of people: "What difference does it make? Die today, or lose everything you have lived for, there is no way out." What a jokester, right?

Rather than removing my shoes – which would cause the car to smell of feet, which is unpleasant to say the least, additionally this would come at the cost of looking significantly less cool, seeing as those shoes were crucial to the rest of my outfit – my solution: stick my feet outside the window to give my toes some breeze.

This is when out of the blue, the madman began to gain on us. It occurred to me that he may be following us after we made 18 consecutive right turns and there he was. His van was a dark blue, the color you might see after a long stare into the depths of the sea, and some consideration of the countless lives lost to its frigid waters.

He was accelerating, it occurred to me that he was trying to take my legs, seeing as bleeding out would make me temporarily less cool. He drove after only one thing, not caring about the damages he might incur, he did not care, he was possessed. Either by some demon, hating on my epic shoes, or the promise of great fortune, like a high five. The chase went on for some time, until he just vanished. In hindsight, I likely should have just put my feet back into the car but, CRASH CRUNCH SNAP AAAAARGGHH. He made off with my shoes, and my feet still inside them. I knew that we had to make our way to the hospital to deal with my temporary uncool condition of bleeding out, but after that, I will retrieve my shoes and my feet with them... Mark my words, madman.



Wonderland Tea at the Fitzroy (Spring Fundraiser 2024)

On April 27th, we had a Wonderland Tea Party to raise money for the preservation of our beautiful historical building.

We had such an amazing turn out, despite the random Colorado Spring snowstorm! We truly are so thankful to have such a supportive community surrounding us! We cannot wait for the next event and we hope to see everyone again!

Sincerely,
Accelerated Schools Fundraising Committee





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



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

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