

# Timberwolf Howl (lite)

February 11, 2010

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## From the Principal, *BJ Buchmann*

### *Twin Peaks Charter Academy Summer School Programs*

The TPCA Board of Directors has established that two separate, distinctive summer programs be offered to selected/identified students based on multiple indicators of student achievement: 1) Literacy Support 2) Gifted/Talented & Advanced Enrichment. These two course offerings will be developed through Twin Peaks teaching staff and school administration. The tentative schedule for this summer offering will be from June 1 – July 2, 8:30AM – 12:30PM. There will be a nominal fee for this additional instruction and support for current and incoming Twin Peaks students. More information will be available in future issues of the Howl and during 3rd quarter Parent/Teacher Conferences on March 18 – 19.

## Charter Schools: *Against All Odds*

Charter schools reached a new milestone this year. According to the Center for Education Reform, more than 5,000 charters are now operating in 39 states and the District of Columbia. Considering that the first charter didn't open until 1992, and that these innovative schools have faced outright hostility from teachers unions and the education bureaucracy, their growth is a rare gleam of hope for American public schools.

More than 1.5 million students now attend charters, an 11% increase from a year ago. That's only about 3% of all public school students, but the number has more than quadrupled in the past decade. And it would be much higher if the supply of charter schools was meeting the demand. As of June, an estimated 365,000 kids were on waiting lists.

The students who attend these schools, which are concentrated in urban areas, tend to be low-income minorities. Yet they regularly outperform their peer groups in traditional public schools often located blocks away. In their 18-year history, only 740 schools have lost their charters and been shut down for poor performance. Unlike traditional public schools, charter schools must be re-authorized every few years, which means they don't exist in perpetuity to fail multiple generations of youngsters.

Despite this record of accomplishment and accountability, the charter school movement continues to face all manner of obstacles. Eleven states ban charters, and even those that don't can make it very hard for them to succeed and multiply. Charters typically receive less money per pupil and, unlike other public schools, they must pay for the buildings they occupy. In many states, charter enrollment is capped and only school districts—which generally oppose charter schools—are allowed to approve charter applications.

The Obama Administration has said it will withhold discretionary federal education dollars from states that block the creation and growth of charter schools. Let's hope it follows through. We'd be hard pressed to name a more successful education reform in recent decades.

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**Our Legacy:**  
**"Academic Excellence"**

### February Calendar

**11—8th Graders register for Skyline HS 2:35-3:15PM; 2nd Grade OM 3:15-4:30PM; 007 Homework Assistance 3:20-4:30PM; Jazz Band 3:20-4PM; MS OM 3:30-4:30PM**

**12—1st Grade OM 3:30-4:30PM; 2nd Grade OM 3:30-4:30PM; 3rd Grade OM 3:30-5PM; 4th Grade OM 3:30-4:30PM; 5th Grade OM 3:30-5PM; 4th Grade Self Defense Class 3:30-4:30PM**

**15—Presidents Day - No School**

**16—4th Grade trip to the State Capitol 8:45AM-2PM; Marketing Committee meets 9-10:30AM; Jazz Band 3:20-4PM; 4th Grade Self Defense Class 3:30-4:30PM**

**17—Finance Committee meets 7:15-8AM; 3rd Grade CSAP-reading 8:15-11AM; Girl Scout Troop #115 3:15-5PM; K OM 3:30-4:30PM; 2nd Grade OM 3:30-4:30PM; 4th Grade OM 3:30-5PM; High School Planning meets 6PM; MS Orchestra performance 7PM**

**18—PTO Family Fun Night planning meeting 8:30-10AM; 2010-2011 Admissions Lottery 2:35PM; 2nd Grade OM 3:15-4:30PM; 007 Homework Assistance 3:20-4:30PM; Jazz Band 3:20-4PM; MS OM 3:30-4:30PM**

**19—5th Grade trip to Denver Museum of Nature & Science 8:30AM-3PM; 1st Grade OM 3:30-4:30PM; 2nd Grade OM 3:30-4:30PM; 3rd Grade OM 3:30-5PM; 4th Grade OM 3:30-4:30PM; 5th Grade OM 3:30-5PM; 4th Grade Self Defense Class 3:30-4:30PM**

## 2010 Encore Award Program



### Purpose

This awards program, sponsored by the Education Foundation for the St. Vrain Valley, provides the opportunity for students, parents, community members and business partners to recognize and honor individual teachers at the Pre-K–12 levels in the St. Vrain Valley School District who exemplify excellence in teaching.

### Award Winners

One teacher from each St. Vrain Valley school will be recognized as an Encore Award recipient, along with 2 finalists for the honor from each school. In addition, several teachers from across the district will be recognized with Spotlight Awards for their exceptional contribution to student learning.

### Award Nomination Guidelines and Deadline

Nominations are accepted from students, parents, and volunteers at the school; as well as from community members or the school's business partners. The nomination form and a more detailed set of guidelines are available on the Education Foundation's website [www.efsvv.org](http://www.efsvv.org). Click on the word Nominations on the Home Page and you will be taken directly to the nomination form. For additional information, contact Lora Lawrence, Education Foundation Coordinator, at 720-652-8208. Nominations may be submitted either through the mail or electronically. **Nominations must be postmarked or electronically date stamped no later than March 20, 2010.** Nominations received after this date are not eligible.

## Free Parent Day at the Colorado Charter Schools Conference

The Colorado League of Charter Schools is excited to offer parents a FREE, full-day admission to the 16th annual Colorado Charter Schools Conference!

**Thursday, February 25—8AM-5:30PM—Sheraton Denver Hotel, Downtown Denver**

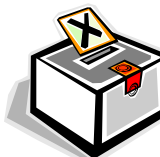
Follow this link: [www.coloradoleague.org/charterconference](http://www.coloradoleague.org/charterconference) to learn more about the Colorado League of Charter Schools and this event.

This is a great opportunity for parents from across the state to network with their peers, learn how to advocate for their school, improve public opinion about charters, and understand how getting more involved in their school can help their children succeed. Join in for the full day or just a portion of the day. *(cost of lunch and parking not included)*



## The 2010 BOD Elections Are Coming ...

Lucky us, it is an election year!!! Perhaps it is time for you to declare your own candidacy. Twin Peaks Charter Academy needs parents for the Board of Directors. The very core of the charter school movement is to provide parents a meaningful say in the governance of their school. Please consider lending your expertise and perspective to this vital part of TPCA.



The 2010 spring election will be held **March 18 and 19**, during 3rd quarter Parent/Teacher Conferences. There are three open seats. This term runs from June 2010 through May 2012.

Contact Carroll Dragon to pick up a candidacy packet or to request one electronically. The deadline to declare your candidacy is March 1.

Please direct any questions to Robert DuBois at [rrdubois@me.com](mailto:rrdubois@me.com).

### Administrators:

*BJ Buchmann, Principal:*  
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*Danielle Feeney, Asst. Principal:*  
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*Mic Finn, Dean of Students*  
[finn\\_mic@stvrain.k12.co.us](mailto:finn_mic@stvrain.k12.co.us)

### Board of Directors:

*Pete Wanninger, President*  
[pwanninger@ieec.org](mailto:pwanninger@ieec.org)

*Chris Labbe, Vice President*  
[chris-tpcabod@sunshinelobby.com](mailto:chris-tpcabod@sunshinelobby.com)

*Robert DuBois, Treasurer*  
[rrdubois@me.com](mailto:rrdubois@me.com)

*Mark Newson, Secretary*  
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*Darlene Brown, Member*  
[dbrown@svvcu.org](mailto:dbrown@svvcu.org)

*Kathy DeMatteo, Member*  
[Longmontco@tutoringclub.com](mailto:Longmontco@tutoringclub.com)

*Wendy Allen, Member*  
[wendyeallen@msn.com](mailto:wendyeallen@msn.com)

## 007 Homework Help is Back for 2010!!!

If your middle school student could use some help with assignments after school, please contact Heather Ko at [ko\\_heather@stvrain.k12.co.us](mailto:ko_heather@stvrain.k12.co.us) to register. Help will be available from 3:30-4:30PM on Mondays and Thursdays. For a one time fee of \$6.00, students can "drop in" to as many sessions as they would like.