



**Community Announcements  
February 15, 2012**

DSA families are reminded that Monday and Tuesday, February 20th and 21st are non-school days for students. Monday is the president's holiday and the school building will be closed. Tuesday is a flex day for staff members and the school offices will be closed and staff will not be working in the building.

On Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> the DSA Collaborative School Committee will hold a parent community meeting at 7:00 pm in the Concert Hall. The new DSA Friends Foundation Board will be announced to the community, the CSC co-chairs will present a synopsis of the ten year vision the CSC has been developing for DSA, the principal will present an overview of the budget for the 2012-2013 school year and a sub-committee of the CSC will present highlights from a new "Travel Policy" being developed by the CSC. The travel policy committee will seek community input through focus groups at this meeting to gain a perspective of the entire community in the development of this policy.

TCAP testing (the former CSAP test) begins on Monday, March 12 and will continue through March 15, 2012. It is imperative that all middle school and 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students are in attendance and on time for each testing day. Testing will begin at 7:35 am and conclude at 11:30 am each day. During the testing time periods junior and seniors will not report to school until mid-day. A testing schedule will be posted on the DSA website by the end of next week.

Granola Bars needed!! Just as we did last year, we are asking for nut-free granola bars. We will give them to our kids each day as a snack during the TCAP testing window. We will need over 3,000 bars. Last year we had a few families concerned about food allergies. We ask that you have your child bring his/her TCAP snack. Any donations may be dropped off at the main office.

The Denver Public Schools Board of Education approved a new school calendar in January for the 2012-2013 school year. The new calendar can be found on the

DPS website under the calendar tab. It is important to note the new start date for school. Classes for 6<sup>th</sup> grade students only will begin on Monday, August 27<sup>th</sup> and classes for all DSA students will begin on Tuesday, August 28<sup>th</sup>.

**During the last six weeks DSA has earned many important honors. The following awards and recognitions have been awarded to the school or our students:**

*The Colorado Department of Education announced winners of the 2011 Governor's Distinguished Improvement Awards and the John Irwin School of Excellence awards. The Governor's Distinguished Improvement Awards are given to schools that demonstrate excellent student growth and the John Irwin awards are given to schools that demonstrate excellent academic achievement. Denver School of the Arts received both recognitions by the Colorado Department of Education. This is the second year in a row that DSA has received the John Irwin award.*

*Denver School of the Arts advanced dance majors will be traveling to Philadelphia in March to attend the National High School Dance Festival. This is the first time DSA has submitted work for festival adjudication and the class of 2012 is excited to have this new opportunity to represent DSA on the national stage. The DSA senior dancers were chosen to present their work in a gala performance. The festival is hosted by the University of the Arts. NHSDF is the only festival of its kind, where high school dance students from public art schools gather to take classes from distinguished high school and university instructors. DSA dance faculty members Ms. Karczewski and Mr. O'Banion will also be teaching at the festival. In addition to classes, there are evening Gala performances by festival participants, including 17 seniors of Denver School of the Arts who will perform SHIFT by guest artist Scott Putman in the Gala.*

*On January 26, 2012, senior video-cinema major Kimberly Greenwell, was named the filmmaking winner of the Arts Schools Network On Your Way Student Talent Program. Greenwell was recognized at the national conference in Lake Buena Vista, Florida, of the Arts Schools Network, the nation's largest professional membership organization of specialized arts schools. The conference was held January 23, - 28<sup>th</sup>. On Your Way gives students a chance to display their talents and increase their opportunities in classical voice, filmmaking, musical theatre/acting, and visual arts.*

*DSA senior Kathleen Burke was one of 25 National finalists in Theatre/Musical Theatre division for NFAA (National Foundation for the Advancement of the Arts). Kathleen was in Miami in early January for this competition. Each year, 20 Young Arts Finalists are named Presidential Scholars in the Arts. At the request of The Commission on Presidential Scholars, which is appointed by the President of the United States, National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts, through its Young Arts program serves as the exclusive nominating agency for U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts. Participants in the Young Arts program are the only students eligible to receive the designation of Presidential Scholars in the Arts (PSA), based on their artistic and academic achievements. Being named a Presidential Scholar is the highest scholastic honor available to graduating high school seniors. Each year, a group of 60 PSA nominees are selected from the 150 Young Arts Finalists. From these students, 20 winners are chosen by the White House appointed Commission on Presidential Scholars and named U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts, alongside 141 academic scholars at a White House ceremony.*

*It was announced this week that 25 DSA students received Gold Key honors in the annual Scholastic Art and Writing Awards competition. A Gold Key award is the highest honor a student can receive for their work. DSA students were recognized in 2-D and 3-D visual art, film and creative writing. This is a huge honor for our DSA students and staff.*

*The Colorado Department of Education released graduation rates for high schools across Colorado in January. DSA boasts one of the highest graduation rates in the state and highest graduation rate in Denver Public Schools, 97.5% of DSA seniors graduate on time.*