

Cologne Academy Director's News

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Executive Director
December, Issue 9

Calendar Dates

- December 20 at 8:00 p.m. Finance Meeting
- December 21 at 2:50 OSA (Outstanding Student Assembly)
- December 22-January 2 Winter Break!!!
- January 3 at 7:00 a.m. Personnel Committee Meeting
- January 9 at 6:30 p.m. PAVE Meeting
- January 12 at 6:30 p.m. Informational Open House for New Families (see details on page 3)
- January 13 at 6:30 p.m. Family Fun Night
- January 24th 7:00 p.m. Beyond 8th Grade Meeting



...From Cologne Academy to High School...



If you are a parent of one of our 8th graders, the question of where to go next in regards to your child's high school is likely on the forefront of decisions that need to be made in the near future. To help assimilate information, I have asked surrounding traditional school districts (Central, Waconia, Chaska, Belle Plaine, Chanhassen), private schools (Holy Family, South Western Christian, Mayer Lutheran), and Eagle Ridge Academy – a Core Knowledge charter school like CA– to come to our High School Transition meeting.

Please mark your calendar for
Tuesday, January 24th, 2012 @ 7PM
at Cologne Academy

Please attend this very important meeting regarding your child's upcoming high school experience. The meeting is open to any parent seeking information on High School choice.

Some things to consider:

Begin your search for a good high school early. If your child is in elementary school it's not too soon to start looking for a good high school. It could take some time to find the right school and this is not a decision where you should be rushing. You need to have time to visit the school and speak with the staff so you know you are getting your child into a good high school. If you are choosing a public school and do not live in the district, you will need to learn about open enrollment arrangements.

Decide between public and private school. [Good schools](#) come in both private and public schools. You do not have to choose a private school to see that your child gets a good high school education. However, this may be the route that you have always intended to go. If you are unsatisfied with the quality of public schools, your child has special needs, or for whatever other reasons you may have then you may want to check out a private school.

If you choose a private institution, your first decision will need to be whether you wish to send them to a religious or secular high school. Once you have made the decision between public or private and religious or secular, you can move on to looking at the individual school. There are plenty of online search tools that will help you find the top rated high schools in your area. [GreatSchools.net](#) is a helpful online resource for choosing a good high school, as is the [Private School Review](#) if you want to find a good private high school. If you want the private school to be Catholic, then [Catholic High School Honor Roll](#) will help you choose a good high school. For Protestant private high schools, visit the [Association of Christian Schools International](#) website.

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Teacher Portals

Did you know your child's teacher has a portal on the CA website? [Click here](#) to find class newsletters, homework information, and more!

Now through February 17 is our open enrollment period at Cologne Academy. If you have a child who is not currently enrolled at CA but would like to be, please turn in an application prior to February 17. Help spread the word to your family and friends, too! Enrolling for 2012-13 school year K-8.

Informational Open House Thursday, January 12th at 6:30 p.m. CA Lunch Room

This open house is geared toward new families looking to gain enrollment in the 2012/2013 school year. We are currently enrolling incoming K-8 grade students, however this open house will focus mainly on incoming Kindergarten and 1st grade students for the 2012/2013 school year.

Please tell your family, friends and neighbors who are interested in learning more about Cologne Academy!

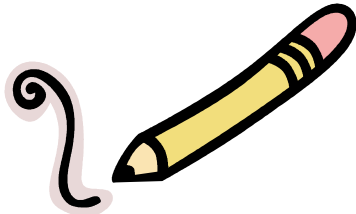


Can Trailer

Please drop off your cans in the school parking lot before winter break. The trailer is almost full and ready to be emptied!

The all school panoramic photo is displayed at the school. Laminated photos are available for \$16.

Make checks payable to Lifetouch.



We still need help serving lunch on Mondays and Tuesdays. Also anyone willing to be an on call sub please notify [Jami Reinitz](#).

Check out student art work on Ms. Blotz's portal [Click Here](#)



All items in the **LOST AND FOUND** will be donated over winter break. Please stop at the school to look through the 80+ items in our lost and found.

College T-shirt Days:

December 21
January 27
February 13
February 24
March 5
March 30
April 16
April 27
May 25

Uniform pants/skirts required.



Yearbook Pre-orders

We are taking orders for the 2011/2012 CA Yearbook. Cost is \$18 per book. Orders are due by January 11.

For order form, [click here](#).

PAVE Reminders

CHICKEN DINNER

Check those backpacks on Tuesday for the tickets being sent home with the oldest child in each family. We are sending home books of 10 tickets per family. If you need more, please contact PAVE@cologneacademy.org and we will be happy to get you what you need. We hope you will support this fundraiser and invite your family and friends to attend.

SILENT AUCTION UPDATE

The planning committee has been busy arranging for some great "Teacher Experiences" for the silent auction. A detailed list will be available the first week after the holiday break. Get ready to bid on some of these one on one adventures with teachers and students. Remember, these are lifetime memories being made!!

NEXT PAVE MEETING

Come join us on January 2nd at 6:30 p.m. for the next PAVE meeting.

SPRING FLING PLANNING COMMITTEES

Seems like this is a long way off, but really it is just around the corner!! We are still in need of coordinators for many areas of the Spring Fling Event in May. Please contact PAVE@cologneacademy.org if you are interested in joining a team to help out. This event is the school's major fundraiser of the year and really needs your help to be the best it can be!!

JANUARY FAMILY FUN NIGHT

The Third graders are busy planning a great event for the whole school. There is an outdoor theme, with many, many activities being planned. This is a great way to meet other families at Cologne Academy. Mark your calendar to attend on Friday, January 13th. A flyer with additional information will be available soon.

The PAVE Coordinators would like to wish you a Very Happy Holiday Season and hope you are able to share it with family and friends. Remember, as a parent/guardian of a Cologne Academy student, you are a member of PAVE and really can make a difference. We thank you for all of your support in 2011 and look forward to an amazing 2012.

Tammy, Carrie, Stacey and Anita

BEST BUY NOW TAKING ELECTRONICS FOR FREE

Best Buy has announced that it will no longer charge \$10 to accept electronic items with screens through its in-store recycling program.

Consumers can now drop off any item, including TVs, monitors, DVD players, audio and video cables, cell phones and other items, free of charge and regardless of where each good was purchased. Accepted CRT TV screens can be as large as 32 inches, and up to 60 inches for flat panel screens.

For more information click [HERE](#) to be redirected to Best Buy's site.

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Take a serious look at the school's academic record. The most important part of picking a good high school is going to revolve around the academics. Is the high school willing to sit down and go over the basic and in-depth curriculum they provide with you? Will they answer your questions and let you see a basic homework schedule for the average student in their school? If there have been cutbacks in the schools funding, as many schools are now facing, how is that affecting their curriculum? Do the teachers use additional books and resources beyond the main text or is your child going to be learning from one set book per subject? These are all going to be important things to find out. If the school is unwilling or unable to answer your questions about academics, you may conclude it's the wrong school for you.

How are the attitudes of the professionals? You are going to want your child to be in a high school where the professionals have a pleasant and helpful attitude. If they do not want to be bothered then you need to consider the needs of your child and continue to look for another school. The attitude that the school professionals give to you and your child will also affect the way that your child learns or perceives the learning experience. It is important for them to be around helpful, supportive, upbeat professionals that love their jobs because this will help your child to love learning with them.

Does the high school cater to all kinds of children? No two children are ever going to be the same. The simple truth is that everyone learns differently. Of course, you cannot expect a high school to have a set curriculum for each child but you can hope that they respect all learning styles and do not attempt to fit all children into one box. If your child is advanced or has trouble in certain areas you should pay special attention to the programs that the high school has set in place for both advanced and learning or emotionally disabled children. It is important to see that your child is treated fairly and that learning is fostered no matter what the situation.

How are the career and college services? At some point your child will deal with a high school's career and college services department, so you will want to speak to them too. You need to determine how helpful and knowledgeable they are. Does the high school offer extensive help in finding part-time jobs while in school? Are they going to offer plenty of guidance on various colleges? Will they be able to answer specific college questions that your child may ask? How much information do they have on different colleges? Make sure they do not focus on just a few local colleges, but instead have information on many colleges throughout the country.

What extracurricular activities does the school have? You should encourage your child to become involved in sports and other activities because these are things that will not only promote socialization, but will also look good on your child's college applications. Does the high school have an excellent sports program? How are the non-sport activities for children that are not good in sports? A school that has spirit and offers a lot to do is going to be a good high school for your child to attend. The more activities, events, and interest they take in their education, the better.

What do you notice about the other children going there? Socialization is going to be important. Of course, this means you are going to want your child going to a good high school that is safe and that has other children that you feel are being raised in a proper manner. No one wants their child going through a metal detector to get into their high school so you should consider the other children and the school's location, in addition to all the other mentioned issues. How do the media perceive the school? Have there been issues with fights or violence that worry you? When you visit the high school, how have the students acted or reacted in your presence? This is one of the most important things because, when dealing with peer pressure, your child may do things that these other children want them to do.

Good luck finding the best high schools for your child. Remember, this may take time so have patience.

<http://www.howtothings.com/education/a2974-how-to-choose-a-good-high-school.html>

Help us... Give Kids a Smile

As a professional who works with children, you know you can learn so much about their health and wellness simply by watching their smiles. Unfortunately, many Minnesota children struggle with their smiles because their families face barriers to dental care. That is why, for the tenth year, the Minnesota Dental Association is coordinating a statewide charitable program called **Give Kids a Smile**. The dates are Friday, Feb. 3, and Saturday, Feb. 4.

More than 200 clinics across the state will open their doors to provide free dental care to low-income children. With your help last year, the program provided \$2.5 million worth of free care to more than 5,000 children!

Thank you for helping us again this year. Please tell families in need about **Give Kids a Smile** and help ensure they know how to make an appointment for their child.

Here is what families should know about Give Kids a Smile:

After Jan. 1, parents can find local participating dental offices by visiting the [MDA Web site](#) or calling United Way 2-1-1 (just dial 211). Cell phone users should call 651-291-0211. Toll free is 1-800-543-7709. Parents then call the dental office to make an appointment.

- Each child must have an appointment and must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.
- Services vary from clinic to clinic. When calling to make an appointment, we encourage parents to talk with the clinic about any specific needs or concerns.
- Families are asked to respect the clinic's time and dedication. *For every child who doesn't show up for his or her appointment, another child could have been helped.* If the family must cancel, they should give the clinic at least a day's notice so they can fill that appointment.
- In the weeks before the child's appointment, families or teachers should read age-appropriate books to familiarize the child with what to expect during their dental exam. School or community libraries have some good selections.
- On the day before the appointment, families should drive by the dental clinic together with their child. Just driving past the clinic helps ensure families know where the clinic is located and helps the child visualize – and feel more confident about – where he or she will visit the dentist.

For ongoing updates about this program, become a fan of the Give Kids a Smile - MN on [Facebook](#).

Promote the program

Please help spread the word about **Give Kids a Smile** in your office building, school and community. On the [MDA Web site](#), you will find classroom take-home fliers (in multiple languages) as well as fliers. We invite you to download, print and distribute these materials. Thank you! And, of course, please pass this e-newsletter along to your colleagues.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call the MDA at 612-767-8400 or e-mail gkas@mndental.org.

A few dental notes...

While **Give Kids a Smile** occurs on two days of the year, children's dental care is a concern every day. We encourage you to share the following information with your clients.

Milk consumption. One in four ninth-grade girls in Minnesota drink no milk each day. By twelfth-grade, the number rises to 29%. The recommended daily calcium intake for this age group is 1,300, or about four glasses of milk. (Source: Minnesota Student Survey, 2010.)

Soda pop. Children who drink soda are at a higher risk for developing cavities. The culprit is acid and sugar in these drinks. Even diet drinks are harmful. Learn more about how kids "[Sip All Day, Get Decay.](#)"

Sour candies. Dentists are sounding the alarm about sour candy. The acid and sugar in these colorful candies causes irreversible erosion to children's teeth. Learn more about the "[The Power of Sour on Your Teeth.](#)"