

SEPTEMBER HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

February 2009



Here at September High School, we're in the business of growing teens. You could say that our business plan deals with **how** we grow teens. One thing we've learned is that growth doesn't always follow a consistent, gradual path. Sometimes there are plateaus, sometimes we backslide, and sometimes we grow in leaps and bounds. We see ourselves as facilitators of growth and are big believers in things like creating a warm, engaging environment, finding each person's optimal challenge spot, and actively promoting a positive peer culture, as well as providing opportunities to start fresh and time set aside for reflection.

At this point in the school year, we are fortunate to have two special opportunities in our "business plan" for supporting our student's growth. First, we see the beginning of a new semester as an ideal moment for a fresh start. We encourage our students to be deliberate about how they want to start the new semester, and we strive to model what we're looking for. Second, in two weeks we will set of on our Winter Trip which places great emphasis on reflecting over the past year and refining our goals for the future. We are looking forward to a semester of great growth and appreciate being on this journey with you and your teen. Here's to a great semester! - Dan

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

President's Day Holiday.....(NO CLASSES).....Mon, Feb. 16th
Winter Trip (see below).....YMCA of the Rockies, Estes Park.....Wed, Feb. 18th - Fri, Feb. 20th
Early Dismissal (upon return from the Winter Trip).....12:00pm, Fri, Feb 20th
Dr. Michael Bradley Presentation / Fundraising Event (see below) Weekend.....Fri, Feb 27th and Sat, Feb 28th
Mid Quarter Evaluations.....(NO CLASSES).....Wed, March 18th – Fri, March 20th
Spring Break.....(NO CLASSES).....Mon, March 23rd – Fri, March 27th

WINTER TRIP FEBRUARY 18th-20th

The September School Community will journey up to the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park for our 2009 Winter Trip. Like our Fall Trip, this 3-day, 2-night adventure allows us to explore activities both familiar and new, individual and group challenges, make new connections, and strengthen relationships. Students can expect to participate in indoor and outdoor activities, assist in food preparation, experience teambuilding and personal goal setting exercises and have a lot of fun. Our community returns with a renewed sense of purpose, new strategies for improving relationships, and additional resources for how we can support one another.

We will depart on Wed, Feb 18th at 8:30am and return for an early dismissal on Fri, Feb 20th (around noon). All students will travel by bus (no personal cars) to our destination and are expected to participate in the Winter Trip for part of their Community class credit. An informational sheet and packing list will be provided to students the week before the trip and emailed to families as well. If you have any questions or concerns, just give us a call or an email and we'll be happy to talk with you about this rewarding experience.

MICHAEL BRADLEY EVENT

It's almost here! In a few short weeks, The Daily Camera, Parent Engagement Network, September High School, and Boulder Counseling Cooperative welcome **Dr. Michael Bradley** to Boulder for THREE opportunities to help you improve your communication and relationship with your teen. All events are designed to not only bring Dr. Bradley's helpful experiences and advice to Boulder families, but to benefit September High School and the Boulder Counseling Cooperative. Want to know more about Dr. Bradley? Visit www.yesyourteeniscrazy.com

1. The Main Event – a primetime presentation **“When Things Get Crazy with Your Teen: The Why, the How and What to do NOW!”** at the Unity Church in Boulder from 6pm to 9pm. Tickets are still available (\$35 or \$45 at the door) and admission includes a complimentary cocktail reception and silent auction.
2. Explore things further on Saturday by attending an interactive workshop at September High School **“For Crazy Parents of Crazy Teens: Solving Problems While Loving Your Child”** from 10am to 12pm. Tickets are \$45 in advance and \$60 the day of. Space is limited, so reserve a spot today!
3. Get some more intimate time at **“Breakfast with Mike”** – a rare opportunity to sit down with a small group of parents and professionals. Breakfast begins at 8am Saturday Morning at the Boulderado. Tickets for this unique experience are \$150 and seat availability is limited.

We have advertising opportunities available for your business needs! Display tables and program advertising space is now available for the Friday night event that is expected to have over 200 families in attendance.

Lastly, if you are interested in getting involved as a volunteer or donating a silent auction experience or item, it isn't too late! Contact Alexis at 303-443-9933 or email alexis@septemberschool.org to get involved. Every little bit helps the Boulder Counseling Cooperative and September High School continue to provide quality support and educational services to students, families, and the Boulder Community.

MID QUARTER REPORTS and MID SEMESTER EVALUATIONS

The end of the 3rd week of February marks the middle of the third quarter of the school year. To help keep students on track, instructors will issue a mid-quarter report to any student that is struggling. You can expect a phone call from your student's teacher if there are any concerns at this point in the semester. In addition, teachers and students will also discuss what challenges are occurring and how things can be improved. Mid Semester Evaluations occur at the end of March and we'll sign up for a time to talk about how things are going for you and your student on March 18th, 19th or 20th. Please remember that you are welcome to call or email Lena anytime to request a more frequent “spot check” on your student's progress and experience.

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Ongoing - **Boulder County Healthy Kids Initiative** links eligible families and children in Boulder County to all available benefits and health coverage options. Eligibility is determined by income. Application specialists can help families apply for a wide range of health programs. Visit www.bchealthykids.org for more information.

February 4th – Denver Gap Year Fair from 6:30pm to 8:30pm at the Sherman St. Event Center in Denver, CO. A great opportunity to meet with over 30 programs designed to offer options for self-exploration and personal growth leading to direction and motivation. Includes travel, cultural immersion, directed study, service projects, internships and more. For additional info, call the Sherman Center at 303-243-3105 ext. 300.

February 20th – Dr. David Blumenkrantz presenting a **Model of Community Based Rites of Passage Processes** and Local Rites of Passage Leaders. Dr. B will discuss developmental tasks and needs in adolescence and how Rites Of Passage can address some of these needs. The Watershed School in Boulder from 7:00-9:00pm with a \$15 suggested donation.

February 25th – ‘Parenting Gifted Kids: Tips for Raising Happy and Successful Children’ by Dr. Jim Delisle. Sponsored by the Jefferson Co Association for Gifted Children. 6:00-9:00pm at the Jeffco Education Center, Building 27, School Board Room, 5th floor, 1829 Denver West Drive in Golden, CO, 80401. Visit www.jeffcogifted.org for more information about Dr. Delisle, the seminar and more.