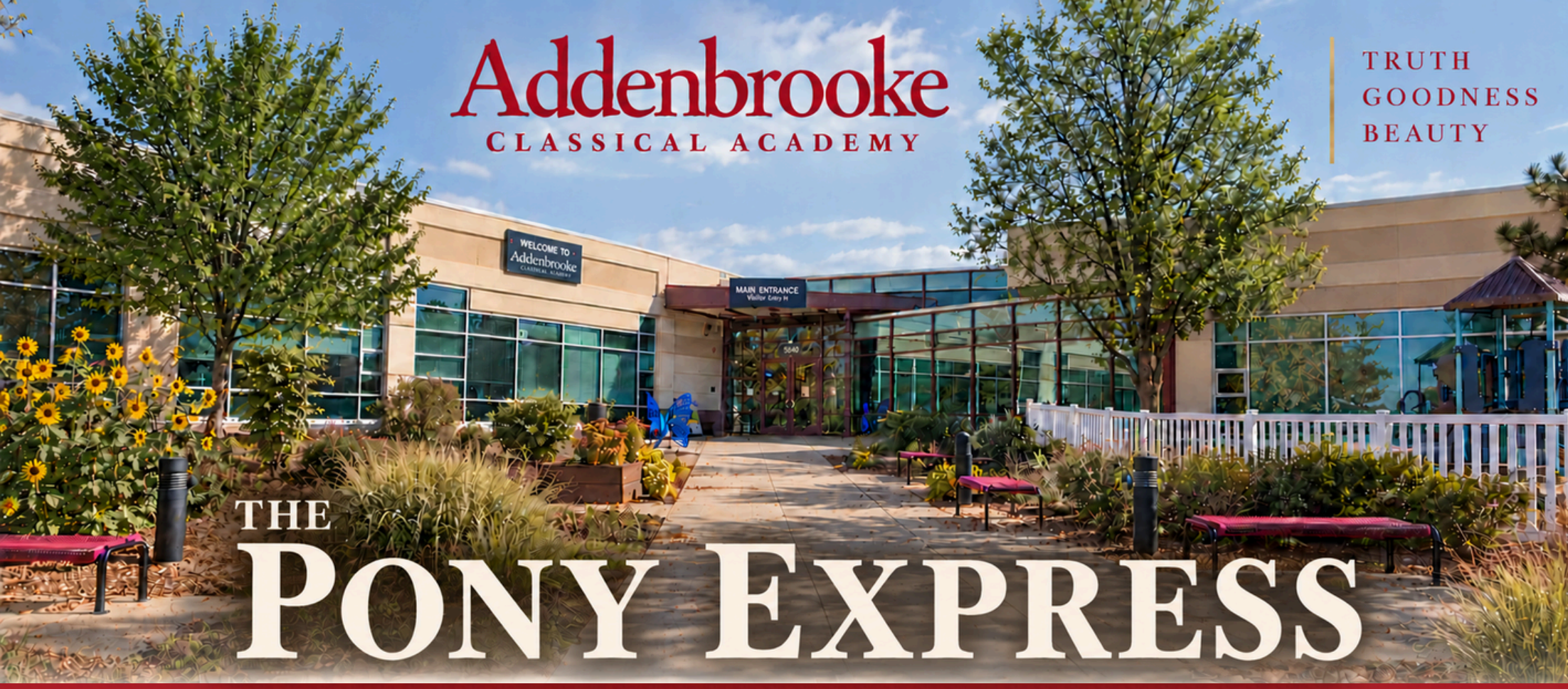

Addenbrooke CLASSICAL ACADEMY

TRUTH
GOODNESS
BEAUTY

THE PONY EXPRESS

K-8 NEWSLETTER | OCTOBER 29, 2026

PRINCIPAL'S LETTER

Dear Addenbrooke Families,

The ghosts and princesses were out on Tuesday night at our Fall Fest! It was such an extraordinary event. Each year, this event grows larger, from its origins in the halls of the middle school to now featuring trucks on the playground, activities and a boutique in the gym, food trucks in the driveway, and a massive canned food drive. Over 2,000 people came together for this special event. We hope you had a great time, and we're so glad you're a part of ACA's community.

If you missed it, the fun continues tomorrow, as about 300 parents will be on campus to watch the costume parade and help facilitate classroom Halloween parties.

We also have lots of fall field trips and learning experiences happening. In K-8, students typically take at least one field trip per semester, and these experiences are always tied to classroom learning. When reflecting on the school year, many students report that field trips are their favorite days of the year. Kindergarten went to the Urban Farm on Tuesday. Whether they're riding the bus for the first time or getting the opportunity to pet animals, it's definitely a memorable experience for all. Today, our 7th grade students went to see the Tempest at the Denver Center for Performing Arts. Next week, our 6th grade students will be going to Outdoor Lab. And our 5th graders will be at Young Ameritowne, learning about economics.

Have a fabulous weekend! If you are celebrating Halloween on Saturday, don't eat too much candy, and remember to set your clocks back as daylight savings time ends.

Mrs. Julie Spencer

Mrs. Julie Spencer
K-8 Principal

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Addenbrooke Classical Academy

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AROUND CAMPUS

Habit of the Month

PUNCTUALITY

Starting next week, students will be introduced to a new habit of the month for November: punctuality.

Often, a student's first association with this word is the expectation to show up on time. That's a great start, but at Addenbrooke, we emphasize three Ps as we practice this habit. We want students to be Prepared, Punctual, and Professional.

Punctuality is about more than being on time. It's about honoring commitments, respecting others' time, and putting our best effort into everything we do by showing up ready to learn. Through consistent practice, students develop the self-discipline and personal responsibility to manage their time without so many parent reminders.

We're eager to share with you how we practice this in the classroom throughout November, and to hear from you how you're practicing this habit at home!

Staff Spotlight

Ms. Payton Ruter

5TH GRADE TEACHER

Ms. Ruter is from Colorado and has lived in the Denver-Lakewood area her whole life. She graduated from Colorado Christian University, which she credits for her love of teaching. She was a competitive cheerleader and grew up playing volleyball and basketball. She also coached high school competitive cheerleading for a number of years and loves sports. She says, "There is nothing more fulfilling to me than getting to teach, coach, and guide the next generation as they work to become leaders everywhere they may go."

Ms. Ruter, we're so lucky to have you on campus!

INSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Curriculum Day

Curriculum Days are experiential learning opportunities that bring classroom learning to life through hands-on activities. These special days allow students to explore the topics they've been studying in a way that makes their unit more memorable. Every time we help students connect academic concepts to real-world experiences, students deepen understanding and develop more appreciation for the subjects they're studying.

Last week, 2nd graders had a Curriculum Day to celebrate the end of their Ancient Asia unit, complete with Lion and Dragon dancers, a feast hosted by ACA parents, and special classroom activities like calligraphy and crafts.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October

30

Grammar School Halloween Parties
8:15 - 9:30 a.m. | Pre-K–8 Campus
Join for the sidewalk parade at 8:15 a.m. or RSVP for classroom parties at 8:30 a.m.

November

2

PACS Pumpkin Drop
2:00 p.m. | Pre-K–8 playground
Raffle tickets for students can be purchased at Fall Festival. All students may attend.

3-4

4th Grade Field Trip
9:30 – 11:30 a.m. | Morrison Natural History Museum
Two classes will go on the 3rd and the other two classes will go on the 4th.

3-6

6th Grade Outdoor Lab
All day | Off Campus
Teachers will send communication about event details.

4

Prospective Parent Meeting
6:00 p.m. in the Library
Prospective families with students in Pre-K–8th grade are invited to learn about Addenbrooke.

5

Dad's Book Club
Dads are invited to attend at 7:45 a.m. in the Library. Reading list is: K-1st, The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats | 2nd-3rd, My Father's Dragon by Ruth Stiles Gannett | 4th-5th grade, Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell

9-13

Scholastic Book Fair
Hours: Mon-Fri from 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
On Thursday, Book Fair will stay open until 7:00 p.m. during the Art Show.

10

5th Grade Field Trip
Teachers will send communication about event details.

11

Pre-K–8th Grade Veterans Assembly
Students may wear red, white and blue!
Kindergarten, 5th, and 7th grade will perform recitations. Parents and veterans are welcome to attend!

12

Pre-K–8th Grade Art Show
5:30 - 7:30 p.m. | Art will be on display and family-friendly activities will be available.
Please sign up to volunteer here.

STAY CONNECTED
FOR MORE EVENT DETAILS

For the most up-to-date information, subscribe to our school calendar.

SCHOOL CALENDAR
addenbrooke.org/calendar

INSTAGRAM
@officialaddenbrookemustangs

FACEBOOK
Addenbrooke Classical Academy

PACS is a parent-led organization that supports Addenbrooke through community events and volunteer opportunities. All parents are welcome!

Join our next meeting on Friday, November 13 at 8:00 a.m. in the Grammar School Commons

PACS SNACKS

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11 ON BOTH CAMPUSES

Once a month, staff receive treats as a special thank you for all they do. These treats are donated by you. This month, bake or buy a dozen cookies to say thanks to our amazing teachers and staff.

Click here to volunteer to bring cookies.

Click here to volunteer to set up or clean up.

THANK YOU, PARENTS!

Parents, thank you for the way that you invest in our Addenbrooke community. We know there are endless demands on your time and attention, and we see all the ways that you show up for our school and students. You attend Fall Fest and host class parties, buy candy, and do Teacher Appreciation. You help with costumes and sign up to send snacks. This month's exceptional events would not be possible without you. Whether you decorated a trunk or Googled "Halloween activities for first graders," your work is seen and appreciated.

Thank you for making this such a special community.

GIVING TREE

TEACHER WISHLISTS COMING SOON!

Our annual Giving Tree is a special opportunity for families to support Addenbrooke teachers by selecting an ornament from the tree which lists an item a teacher wants for their classroom. Families are invited to choose an ornament, purchase and wrap the gift, and return it to the front desk. Stay tuned for more details on how to participate.

SCHOLASTIC

BOOK FAIR

The Scholastic Book Fair is coming to Addenbrooke! Students will have the opportunity to shop a selection of books during their library time and after school.

The book fair is open November 9-13.

Hours: Mon-Fri from 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

On Thursday, we'll have longer hours and stay open until 7:00 p.m. during the Art Show.

Please plan to attend and click below to volunteer.

Sign up to volunteer for the book fair.

BULLETIN BOARD

Art to Remember

Art to Remember flyers went home last week. These personalized projects make great Christmas presents, so check it out and use your personalized QR code.

NOVEMBER 12 AT 5:30 P.M.

Save the date for Addenbrooke's Fall Art Show! Join us for an evening featuring artwork from Pre-K–8th grade students, handmade jewelry, a gratitude tree, and family activities. Click here to volunteer.

Dad's Book Club

NOVEMBER 5 AT 7:45 A.M.

Dad's Book Club is coming up! K–1st grade should read The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats. 2nd–3rd grade should read My Father's Dragon by Ruth Stiles Gannett. 4th–5th grade should read Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell.

After-School Homework Help

Junior National Honor Society members will be available to help 3rd–5th grade students with homework on Tuesdays until 4:00 p.m. Students who want to participate can head to Room 200 after dismissal. Parents, if your student would like to attend, please email your child's teacher!

ABOVE BOARD
News from the Addenbrooke Board of Directors

Board of Directors Letter

The Board of Directors publishes a monthly letter to the Addenbrooke community that was sent to your email. If you haven't read it yet, click here.

Prospective Parent Meeting

Enrollment and re-enrollment are coming up in December! Think about who you could invite into the Addenbrooke community. If you know a family seeking a classical education and aligned with our mission, please **encourage them to join a 9:00 a.m. Tuesday tour or attend our Prospective Parent Meeting on November 4 at 6:00 p.m. in the Library. No pre-registration required.**

Stay Home When Ill

Please remember to keep your child home if they are contagious, too unwell to participate in school activities, or have symptoms such as fever, vomiting, or diarrhea. Thank you for helping us keep our school healthy!

Pack a jacket!

As the weather changes, please ensure that your child has appropriate cold-weather clothing so we can continue spending time outside every day. We won't go outside with our K–5 students if the weather is too wet or below 20 degrees. During the winter months, we encourage boots when there is snow (bring a pair of tennis shoes to change into while in the building).

Art at Bear Valley Library

Artwork created by Addenbrooke's preschoolers as well as our 6th, 7th, and 8th graders is currently on display at Bear Valley Library. Stop by to admire our students' art within the larger community!

Fall Fest Snapshots

Thank you for attending Fall Fest!

More than 2,000 members of our Addenbrooke community came together for a night of fun and friendship.

Click here to watch our Fall Fest recap!