

September Anansi News

Newsletter September 5, 2016
Volume 1, Issue 1

Anansi Charter School
Director, Michele Hunt



"Happiness never decreases by being shared." 14th Dalai Lama

Contents

Classroom Accomplishments	1
New Mission Statement	1
Upcoming Events	1
Back to School Night	2
School Photos	2
In-Service Days	2
School Assembly	2
Forms	3
Governance Council	
Accomplishments	3
Twirl Family Science Day	3
Calendar of Activities	3

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Twirl Family Science Activity
- ◆ School Photo Day
- ◆ Back to School Night

Classroom Accomplishments to Date

Academics:

- All classes are underway
- Students are in the process of completing short cycle assessments

Social Emotional Learning:

- Cross Grade level buddies are established: Kindergarten & 3rd, 1st & 5th, 2nd & 6th, and 4th & 7th grades will come together to get to know one another and establish friendships across the grades
- EQ activities and learning about the brain in many classrooms

Enrichment & Field Trips:

- 5th & 6th Grade visited the Wild & Scenic River area to launch their life science unit
- 1st & 2nd grades are hiking Yerba Trail to build rapport and comradery Sept. 9th
- Fourth & third grade will be heading out for a New Mexico

studies field trip in Bandelier National Monument

- Seventh & Eighth Grades have taken field trips in the community: 8th for the Paseo activity & 7th service learning at Veteran's Garden

- Kindergarten is in the process of planning their first field trip

The Arts:

- Take a look at the hallway bulletin boards in our front facility to see some of the first completed visual arts projects
- Music class has started in all K-6 classrooms

7/8th Grade Electives

All students are participating in arts electives, & web design, robotics, or yoga. In addition, we are offering tutoring in lieu of electives for students. Students also have the option to participate in middle school sports at TMS.

Anansi Charter School is Beginning its 16th year & Has Updated its Mission.

The Anansi Charter School's charter was successfully renewed and is in its first year of its five-year renewal. This is Anansi's 3rd successful renewal of its charter with the Taos School District. Since Anansi has moved from being an elementary school to now being a K-8, the faculty and governance council worked to update the vision and mission for the school. The new vision statement for Anansi Charter School is: *"To be a public community school that educates the heart and mind of each learner to ensure success."* *"The mission of Anansi Charter School is to develop the academic potential and emotional*

intelligence of each learner. We strive to promote the love of learning through student engagement, innovative educational practices, and family and community partnership." The Anansi faculty strives to be in line with its mission everyday through its innovative instructional practices, integration of social emotional learning instruction and seeking to engage our families in the education process. Learn more by attending "Back to School Night".

Back to School Night, September 14 & 21 at 6pm



We will host two separate evenings for our classrooms "Back to School" Nights. The Kindergarten through fifth grade will host their meetings on Wednesday, September 14th from 6:00-7:00pm. There will be an open house student led learning tour in the classroom so that your student is able to introduce to you and share the learning and projects that have taken place in the classroom. This will be followed by a brief classroom meeting for parents to learn more about the schedule, policies, and needs in the classrooms. The

sixth through eighth grade students will host their Back to School Night" on Wednesday, September 21st from 6:00-7:00pm as well. You will have the opportunity to interact with your student about his or her learning in the classroom and then you will have a teacher led meeting in the classrooms. We seek to have 100% participation in our Back to School night to set the tone for participation and a positive attitude toward school. Your involvement and interest in school is critical to your student's success.

School Photos, September 26 & 27

At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child's success is the positive involvement of parents. Jane D. Hull

Plan to attend Back School Night!

Anansi has contracted with Southern Exposure for individual and class photos again this year. Monday, September 26th will be the day for grades Kindergarten through fourth grade and Tuesday, September 27th will be for grades fifth through eighth grade. If you wish to have a photo of all your children in one photo, we will take those pictures on the day of the younger children's picture. So please plan to

have your children that are in grades 5th and up dress for photos both days if you wish to have a family shot. Please remember that solid colors work best for photographs. Also if you would like your child in "party shoes", please plan to also send sneakers for recesses and PE classes.

Please watch for the Southern Exposure flyer for more details about the photos.

In-Service Day: September 29th No School

There is a planned teacher in-service day on Thursday, September 29th; therefore, there will not be school for students that day. The time shall be used to review the assessment data and classroom performance data to determine the need for intervention plans to support students who are in need of extra help. The plans will include additional instructional support and goals that we will be working to meet to assure each student's success.

If your student is in need of additional support you will be contacted to set up a meeting to discuss the interventions that are being proposed for your student.

We also will be out on Friday, September 30th in honor of San Geronimo Day celebrated at Taos Pueblo. Please consider attending this special day at the Pueblo.

"I feel the capacity to care is the thing which gives life its deepest significance."

Pablo Casais

School-Wide Assembly

The first elementary school-wide assembly will take place on Monday, September 12th at 8:45am. The theme of our first assembly is "Creating a Kind School Environment" and Meet the Teachers. The students will be introduced to all of the teaching staff and then they will be led in a game to get to know this year's new teachers.

We will then share ideas about how everyone can make a small difference in

the world through acts of kindness toward one another in our community. The middle school students will begin to conduct cross-grade assemblies later in the month.

We will continue to have monthly assemblies with a theme focused on social emotional development. Our next theme will involve bully-proofing education.

Forms, Forms, Forms!

Many of you have done a terrific job of returning all forms back to Ms. Tracy in the office. And we want to thank you for helping us launch the school year effectively and efficiently. Here is a list of the forms that we are still looking for from some of our families:

- Student nutrition form
- Bus form for bus riders

- Parents as Partners Volunteerism Form
- Immunization record or conscientious objector's form

If you still need to provide any of these forms and need our assistance, please stop to see Tracy in the office.

ACS Governance Council Accomplishments of 2015-16

The Anansi Governance Council (GC) had a busy and successful past year and they are looking forward to another successful year. Over the last year, the Governance Council along with the director, Michele Hunt, successfully renewed Anansi's Charter, created new policies, and vision and mission statements to reflect the growth of Anansi into a K thru 8th grade school. Also, the GC finished the middle school expansion projects and outlined a long term Facility Master Plan. In addition, the GC passed a budget and renewed the director's contract

for the 2016/2017 school year. Lastly, the GC has been continuing to update the Anansi's website. This year the GC's goals are to continue update policies, implement the Facility Master Plan, create a budget for 2017/2018, work with local and state legislators and expand the membership of the GC. If you are interested in being part of Anansi's GC, then please contact Michele Hunt or Melissa McNulty. And please check the parent board in the front facility for the schedule of Governance Council meetings.

Never believe that a few caring people can't change the world. For, indeed, that's all who ever have.
Margaret Mead

Twirl Comes to Anansi with an Interactive Project

We are pleased to have the opportunity to collaborate with the Twirl education outreach program this Friday, September 9th from 1:30-3pm for an afternoon of "Motion Play". The activities will include an exploration of movement and art through the creative potential of the pendulum. During this family Science event students will have an opportunity to explore a variety of pendulums and create pendulum inspired artwork. Students in grades k-6 and their parents are invited to participate in these creative experiential

activities in the Anansi multi-purpose room.

The students' art will be showcased in the Twirl courtyard on September 23rd and 24th, along with the work of local and international artists throughout downtown Taos. Come create a "take home art piece" as you make artistic discoveries of this moving science! Please consider picking your student up rather than using bus transportation in order to participate in this activity on September 9th from 1:30-3.



Dates to Remember in September:

September 2nd-16th: Short Cycle Assessments in grades 1-8, & observations in kindergarten
 September 8th: Governance Council meeting at Nursing Ed. Building Civic Plaza Dr, 5:30pm
 September 9th: First and Second Grade Field Trip to Yerba Trail in Taos Ski Valley
 September 9th: Twirl Family Science Event: "Motion Play" at Anansi 1:30-3pm, in the multi-purpose room
 September 12th: School Wide Elementary Assembly, 8:45am (grades K-5)
 September 14th: Lion's Club Vision Screening for Kids (make sure you signed a form with us!)
 September 14th: Back to School Night Grades K-5, 6-7pm
 September 19th: 3rd & 4th grades Field Trip to Bandelier
 September 21st: Back to School Night, Grades 6-8, 6-7pm
 September 26th & 27th: School Picture Days
 September 29th: No School Teacher In-Service, (Data & Instructional Intervention Planning Day)
 September 30th: No School, Pueblo Day, (San Geronimo Day)