



February Anansi Newsletter

Happy Valentine's Day!

This year we are once again recognizing and participating in February's Heart Awareness Month, and therefore, our Valentine's party theme for each class is a heart healthy treat and a "Valentine's Jump for Joy Fest" on Tuesday, February 14th. The jump fest will take place in the afternoon from 2-3 for grades K-5. In addition, students will exchange valentines with their classmates. The teachers will provide class lists so that you can assure that all students are included when preparing valentines, and they will send out a request for any ingredients needed for the holiday treat. We are seeking parents to assist with the event, please see communication from the individual classes to see how you can volunteer to help. Mr. B is also seeking help in setting up the "Jump Fest" at 1:30pm.

6th-8th Grade Make Up Ski Day:

We will be taking the 6th-8th grade students who signed up for skiing as their Winter Sport to the Taos Ski Valley on Friday, February 24th. We are making up the ski day so that the students have a day to make use of the pass that was paid for. We will leave Anansi at 8 and will return to Anansi at 4, students will still need to bring a sack lunch and their own snacks.

The 6-8th grade students who are signed up for skating and gymnastics will not have the opportunity for a make-up due to the small number of 6-8th grade students participating in these programs. These students will have a regular school day.

Winter Sports End Date for Grades K-5: Friday, February 10th is the last official week for the Winter Sports Program. This will complete the programs for this year. We appreciate the assistance you all have provided in sending your children on time and prepared each week. It has been great to see the excitement and success of our students in their sports activities, thanks for your help!

Lottery for 2017-18 School Year:

We are opening up the Anansi Charter School lottery for next year for available spots in Kindergarten through eighth grade on Friday, February 3rd. If you have friends, extended family, or co-workers with children who might be interested in attending the Anansi Charter School please alert them that our lottery applications are now available at the ACS office and on line soon at www.acstaos.org. We have sent out a commitment letter and re-enrollment form to our current families so that you can re-enroll your student for next year, and reserve a space for any siblings you may want to enroll in the school for 2017-18 school year. These forms are due Feb. 17th. Siblings of currently enrolled students are accepted prior to the lottery for any openings in their grade levels. If you have questions, stop by the office or call.

Anansi's Let's Move: Tubing Day: We kicked off National Heart Awareness month with our annual winter "Let's Move" winter event at the Taos Ski Valley on Sunday, January 29th from 12-4. It was a beautiful, sunny day on the mountain! A big thanks to our organizers, Maggie Rael and Jim O'Donnell, and the Friends of Anansi Charter School for sponsoring this family event. We hope that this event inspired families to want to get outdoors and plan physical activities every day for your family. Physical movement can become a healthy habit and bring a lot of joy to you and your family!

Science Fair: The Anansi grade middle school students participated in the Regional Science Fair along with middle school students from Taos Charter School. All students presented their science boards very well to the judges. Congratulations are in order for the following students who will now have the opportunity to go forward to compete in the Regional Science Fair at the start of March.

Owen Donovan 2nd place

Selina Bayles/Peter Woll 5th place

Liam Lambie 8th place

The following placed high enough to qualify for regionals:

Isabella O'Donnell

Dylan Abrums

Cyrus Cameron

Aidan Heflin

Sasha Kushner

Samahni Bouchey

Kian Morgan

Aidan Besser

Nevaeh Galaviz

State Champions in Chess: Several Anansi chess players participated in the New Mexico State Chess Tournament in January. Two of our students were overall state champions in their grade levels. Robbie Gersten is the seventh grade state champion and Kian Morgan is the eighth grade state champion! We want to offer a big congratulation to these two boys and all of our players who participated in the tournament. Dennis Hedges and the many parents and older student volunteers have done a great job of fostering skills and commitment to the game of chess. Dennis is currently gone, however, the chess club is still meeting on Wednesdays in the school library.

State Testing for Grades 3-8:

The state standards based assessments known as the PARCC and SBA Assessments are required to be administered within a specific time period beginning April 3rd and ending May 12th for the first series of tests. The SBA science assessments are administered in 4th and 7th grades from February 27th through March 24th. These tests are mandatory for all children attending public school in grades 3rd through 11th; therefore, we ask that you refrain from planning any absences due to trips, doctor appointments, or family visits. We will be unable to approve any extended absences during this time period. We appreciate your cooperation with this important assessment requirement. We will provide the specific schedule for the PARCC tests for each grade closer to the end of February. Our schedule for the SBA science assessments in grades 4th and 7th is to use the week of March 7th through March 10th for our science test week and the week of March 20th through the 24th for our makeup test week.

Dr. Seuss Read-a-thon, Wednesday, March 1st, 8:30-10:30am:

Anansi will host its annual Dr. Seuss Day and Pajama Party on Thursday, March 2nd. Each class sets a goal of the number of books they will read or the number of pages they will read in a two-hour period to raise money for their end of the year field trips. Then each student collects pledges from friends and extended family members. We ask for each K-2nd grade student to have a family reading buddy that morning, while the other older students are able to read on their own. Please support your young student as a reader by attending, and encourage your child to collect pledges for their reading commitment. In addition, each classroom will have a surprise guest in honor of Dr. Seuss. Remember to bring a bag of favorite stories, a cozy pillow, and wear your favorite pj's!

Spanish Cultural Report Presentations for grades 3 & 4: On Tuesday, February 7th, from 2:30-3:30 pm, the 3rd grade students will have a celebration of learning about Spanish speaking countries. Parents are welcome to join us to view the 3rd grade presentations. Their reports focus on the culture and life in Panama and Paraguay. And then on Wednesday, February 8th, from 2:30-3:30 our 4th grade students will have their celebration of learning about the Spanish speaking countries of Argentina and the Dominican Republic. Please consider coming to view their work and hear about their learning in Spanish.

Dates to Keep in Mind:

Friday, February 3rd: Winter Sports

Tuesday, February 7th: 3rd Grade Spanish Presentations 2:30-3:30

Wednesday, February 8th: 4th Grade Spanish Presentations 2:30-3:30

Thursday, February 9th: Governance Council, 5:30

Tuesday, February 14th: Valentine's Day Jump for Joy, 2 pm party times provided by individual classes

Friday, February 17th: Confirmation of re-enrollment & submittal of siblings' letter due to the office

Monday, February 20th: No school, President's Day

Friday, February 24th: Make Up Skiing Winter Sports Day for Middle School Students

Thursday, March 2nd: Dr. Seuss Read-a-thon Day, 8:30-10:30am, brings books, pillow, & wear your jammies!

March 8th & 22nd: Fractal Art Projects with Team from Twirl

March 6th-10th: SBA Science assessments, grades 4 & 7, no extended absences

March 13-17th: Spring Break, No School

March 20-24th: Make-up Dates for SBA Science Assessments

April 4th-May 13th: PARCC Assessments Grades 3rd-7th (This is the test window, we will provide the Anansi PARCC schedule soon, no extended absences during this time)