

PARCC Assessments are Complete and Short Cycle Assessments are Starting: Hooray! All of our required state assessments for students in grades 3rd through 8th are completed, with the exception of the make-up assessments for students who were absent last week. Over the next two weeks, we will complete our computer-based MAP assessments for reading and math. The students in grades kindergarten through third will also take their End of Year IStation assessment. The short cycle assessments indicate the growth in learning for each individual student in the school. Our goal is for a minimum of 85% of our students meeting their growth targets for the year.

The Amazing Brain Presentations: International presenter and brain research expert, Tim Burns will be coming to Anansi to give interactive presentations to all of our students throughout the day. We will then have a parent presentation at 6pm in the evening at Anansi. We will open this up to the greater community of Taos, so invite a friend if you would like. Please see the attached flyer. Our schedule is as follows for the students: K-2, 9:30-10:15, 3rd-4th, 10:45-11:30, and then 1-3:15 for the middle school students. Please put this on the calendar, this will be great information for all.

End of Year Field Trips: All classes will be taking field trips during the month of May. The Read-a-thon was the vehicle for fundraising for the end of year trips with the expectation being that each family contribute the minimum request for his or her classroom for their respective trips. If you did not raise funds through the read-a-thon, you will have received a field trip invoice in the amount needed for the trip. The field trips are a celebration of student learning and accomplishments and most of the trips are tied to the content learned in their classrooms and also provide an opportunity to have fun while meeting physical challenges. The trips scheduled this year are as follows:

- Kindergarten: Swimming at Youth & Family Center followed by a picnic at the park, parents are welcome to join and some are needed as chaperones (May 18th)
- 1st Grade: Wild Rivers for hiking, outdoor activities, and a barbeque lunch, parents are welcome to join and assist with the trip (May 16th)
- 2nd & 3rd Grade: Trip to the Sand Dunes (May 17th)
- 4th Grade: Rock Climbing Trip (May 18th)
- 5th Grade: Three day away camp experience at Camp Shaver in the Jemez, (May 10th-12th)
- 6th Grade: "A Night at the Museum" in Albuquerque, 6th grade will be interacting at the National History Museum, spending the night in the museum (May 9th-10th)
- 7th Grade: Three day camping trip to Chaco Canyon. (dates May 16th -18th)
- 8th Grade: Overnight Camping Trip, Sand Dunes and Hooper Pool May 15th-16th)

All details will be provided by individual classrooms.

K-2 Celebration of Africa: This year the Kindergarten through 2nd grade students will be performing an African Play of "Anansi and the Moss Covered Rock" to celebrate their learning in their social studies unit of study about the culture of Africa. This unit

integrates the arts, life sciences, geography, literature, and music. *The K-2nd grade Celebration of Africa will be held on May 3rd at 2:00pm starting with their play and then followed by a "Meet & Greet reception. They will be accepting donations so that the students can adopt an African Elephant. We are no longer able to produce and provide a school-wide performance due to the many demands on our time and schedules with state testing at the end of the school year. All students have the opportunity to perform in the end of the year talent show scheduled for May 23rd in the afternoon.*

RoboRave: Fourteen Anansi students will be traveling to Albuquerque to participate in the RoboRave competition on May 5th and 6th. The students have programmed their "bots" for a variety of competitions. We wish them the best of luck in this challenging, "problem solve on your feet competition!"

Algebra Placement Test for Entrance to Taos High School: Our 8th graders who have registered to attend Taos High School need to arrive at Anansi on Tuesday, May 2nd at 8am to catch the bus ride to the high school for their math placement exam. Please send your student with sharpened pencils, a morning snack, and a water bottle so that they are in good shape for the test. Ms. Dickey will provide the students with a calculator and scratch paper. Any students who are absent from school on the 2nd may participate in the make-up test scheduled for May 5th. The test will begin on both days at 8:30am. If your student misses both test opportunities, it is the parents' responsibility to contact the math department at Taos High School to sort out the math placement for their students.

5th Grade Market Place Project: In order to solidify their conceptual knowledge of decimal algorithms, the 5th grade students have created a market place project. They are planning items to make or bake and sell on Monday, May 8th from 2-3pm. The fifth grades are hoping that students will be able to bring a dollar or two to school to visit one of their stands to buy a treat for the end of the day. The funds raised will be donated to the school.

Lunch Service ends May 23rd: This year we will have lunch right up until the next to the last day of school. We will not serve lunch on Wednesday, May 24th, because we have our school-wide potluck brunch following our end of year celebration, honoring the students.

Talent Show Tryouts & Event: We will be conducting tryouts at school for the talent show please watch for the details to be coming your way soon! We encourage all students to consider sharing their talent be it through dance, song, comedy skits, magic tricks, rap, gymnastics, martial arts or any other hidden talent that we have not yet learned of...The rules of the show submittals will be outlined on the registration form. When you receive your registration form, please review it and assist your student in preparing to participate in the show. ***The students will perform in the talent show on Tuesday, May 23rd at 1:30pm in the grassy yard in the middle of the school campus.***

Field Day, May 22nd: We will be hosting our annual Field Day event on Monday, May 22nd starting at 9am with silly relays and games for our kindergarten through second grade students. The third through fifth grade students will have their field day from 10:30 until 12 noon. The sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students will then come together after lunch at 1pm for their field day. At varying times the classes will participate in a variety of games and activities on the playground. Parents are welcome to attend and help out with the games and activities.

Eighth Grade Graduation, Tuesday, May 23rd at 6pm: The first graduating 8th grade class will have their graduation ceremony at the Anansi Charter School in the multi-purpose room and portal. The ceremony will begin at 6pm with a reception to follow. Be sure to walk the hall that day to see each student's personal poster presentation.

Book Exchange Book Donations: We will host our annual book exchange on May 23rd. In preparation of the book exchange. We ask each student to donate two books that he or she have read and are ready to share with someone else. There will be boxes in the front of the school entrance, on the library portal, and at the intermediate grade classrooms to collect books. This is a great way to pick up some new summer reads. Please drop of your books for the exchange by May 16th.

Last Day of School Celebration and Potluck: Our last day of school is scheduled for Wednesday, May 24th and will not be a traditional school day. The students may arrive at school at the regular time between 8 and 8:30; however, the day will really begin with individual class presentations at 9:15am in each individual classroom. At 10:15 the entire school of students will be presented to our parents. The community will then come together to enjoy a potluck brunch picnic. This year we will provide two areas to enjoy the food as our school is growing so that our potluck lines will not be too long. We will dismiss for summer at noon. There will be bus service in the morning; however, we will not offer bus service at the end of the day. The potluck is organized so that each class is responsible for bringing specific foods to be shared so that we are sure to have a balanced brunch, please select from the following choices:

- Kindergarten & First Grade Families: Side dish, salad, or fruit
- Second, Third, Fourth, & Fifth Grade Families: Sandwiches or quiche
- Sixth & Seventh Grade Families: Desserts
- Friends of Anansi will provide paper products and drinks

Dates to Remember in May:

May 1st-5th: Teacher Appreciation Week, please remember to express your appreciation to the teachers who work so hard with your children!

May 1st -18th: Short Cycle Assessments, grades K-8

May 2nd: Algebra Test at Taos High School for 8th graders, 8am at Anansi

May 5th: Make Up Test Date for Taos High School Math Placement Assessment

May 5th-6th: Roborave Competition

May 5th: Dance Party Grades 3-5 at 1pm, dance your PARCC Blues Away!

May 8th: 5th Gr. Market Place Project Bake Sale, 2-3 pm, bring \$1-2 to purchase

May 8-16th: Bring in two books to contribute to the Anansi Book Exchange

May 9-10th: 6th Grade Field Trip to Albuquerque

May 10-12th: 5th Grade Camp Shaver Field Trip

May 11th: Amazing Brain Presentations by Tim Burns, students throughout the day and Parent Presentation at 6pm

May 12th: Middle School Dance Party, more details to come!

May 15-16th: 8th Grade Field Trip to Sand Dunes & Hooper Hot Springs

May 16th: 1st Grade Field Trip to Wild Rivers

May 16th: Anansi Charter School Governance Council Meeting, 5:30pm to approve school budget and calendar

May 16th-18th: 7th Grade Field Trip to Chaco Canyon

May 17th: 2nd and 3rd Grade Field Trip to the Sand Dunes

May 18th: 4th Grade Field Trip Rock Climbing & Kindergarten Field Trip Day

May 19th: No School-Teacher In-Service Day
May 22nd: Field Day, 9-10:15 (K-2), 10:30-12 (3-5), 1:30-3 (6-7)
May 23rd: Book Exchange, 8th Grade Assembly, 4th grade puppet show in morning,
Talent Show 1:30pm, 8th Grade Graduation, 6pm
May 25th: Last Day of School, Classroom Ceremonies 9:15am, School-wide
Presentation 10:15am, Potluck Brunch to follow, 10:30-Noon, (see the
menu above in newsletter), No end of the day bus service

Have a fabulous summer!
Anansi Charter School will resume on August 15th!

Attachments: Amazing Brain Flyer, 17-18 School Calendar

Soon to come: Anansi's new website