



## September News from the Director

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**Bus Facts & Proposals for Change:** Our buses to and from town have capacity for 70 students, and we are ranging from 64-80 riders per day. The afternoon bus is generally arriving on Monday through Thursday at 4:20-4:30; therefore it is probably safe to arrive at 4:20 to pick up your child. On Fridays the bus arrives by 1:50—2pm; therefore, it is best to arrive by 1:50. Anansi signs a contract with the Taos School District to provide daily bus service for an additional cost of \$10,900. It would cost an additional \$5,450 to get an additional afternoon bus to town, currently this is not in the Anansi Charter School budget. Currently, 65 families responded to the survey that I had put out to each family. According to the survey, Thursdays have the greatest number of children riding the bus at 54 students (far below the actual count on the bus). In order to provide a safe ride to town each day we will first gather each family's needs through the attached form at the end of the newsletter. If the daily need exceeds 70 students, we will conduct a lottery for riders for all days that exceed 70. If we have well over 70 students on a daily basis, we could conduct a fundraiser to raise the additional funds needed pay for a second afternoon bus, which could then include a middle school bus for Friday afternoons for the full days. Please turn your bus use form into the office by Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, and be sure to include your name on the form.

**Academic Attire Change for Middle School:** We are proposing one change to the current dress code. Currently the short requirement is shorts that measure to the end of the thumb when arm is by the student's side. We are revising the policy to require that shorts completely cover the student's bottom and underclothing cannot be seen when bent over or standing. All other guidelines remain the same.

**Picture Day for Students:** School pictures for students in grades K-3 and sibling group pictures are scheduled for Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> throughout the day. Pictures for students in grades 4-8 are scheduled for Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup> throughout the day. Make up dates have not yet been scheduled. The Anansi school pictures are taken outdoors by Southern Exposure Photography. Our photographer recommends dressing students in solid colors rather than prints for a better photo. The photos are taken outdoors on the school grounds in our natural environment and lighting. Forms are attached, and will also be available on the school website: [anansicharterschool.org](http://anansicharterschool.org).

**School Website Ready for Action:** Our website is now mostly operable. You can use the website to find forms, check the event calendar and school calendar, find the handbooks, use educational links, and read the minutes for the Governing Council and Friends board meetings. Please check it out. There are still a couple of corrections, but it is for the most part operating properly. The website is [anansicharterschool.org](http://anansicharterschool.org).

**Back to School Night:** Please plan to attend Back to School night with along with your child. A portion of the evening is spent in hands on activities so that your child can guide you through experiences that happen in the classroom and part of the time is teacher presentation and question

and answer for parents. The 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade is scheduled from 5-6pm and the Kindergarten-4<sup>th</sup> grade is 6-7pm.

**1<sup>st</sup> Family Let's Move Event:** The Friends of Anansi sponsor three family oriented activities per school year and the first one is the hike to Williams Lake. Families should meet in the parking lot for the William's Lake trailhead above Taos Ski Valley. The purpose of the hike is to bring our school families together to socialize, get some physical activity together, and enjoy the outdoors. After the hike it is the Octoberfest in the Taos Ski Valley, which could also be fun to join for bratwurst, music, and more outdoor activities. Our hike day is scheduled for September 17<sup>th</sup>. Hope to see you there!

**Turn in Your Summer Reading Log:** In the spring we sent out our summer reading log and book lists to help you find books to read. We are now collecting the logs and so far not too many have been turned in. Turn in your log by Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup> and your child will receive a certificate for an ice cream cone and also a chance to win a kindle. Reading throughout the summer is one way to combat the "summer slump"; the Friends of Anansi recognize this and therefore provide the incentives for the summer reading along with Anansi's Read to Lead program. Hear more about our literacy program from our Reading Coach, Nancy Stotts at Back to School night.

**Coffee with the Director:** The purpose of Coffee with the Director is to gather parent input through discussion and provide learning opportunities. These gatherings will take place on the lunch room portal until the weather cools down on Wednesday mornings from 8:35 until 9:30. Stop by with your cup and grab a cup of coffee and join in for a few minutes. Our first Coffee with the Director will begin on September 20<sup>th</sup> and the topic is understanding the school report card, and there will also be time for open forum. The director uses this time to gather parent input for the Parent Advisory Council from the school community at large.

**Congratulations! Anansi Charter Earns an A:** Anansi earned in an A on the school report card provided by the New Mexico Public Education Department. The report card reflects student achievement on the PARCC assessment, the growth students make on the PARCC assessment, input from students and parents surveys regarding teacher instruction, and student attendance. This grade is earned and owned by the students and faculty, and supported by parents. Congratulations to all, we had a great year.

**Field Trips:** The kindergarten through second grade students will be taking their annual fall hike field trip on Friday, September 15<sup>th</sup>. If you are able to join your child for this fun trip, please let your classroom teacher know. The fourth, eighth, and seventh grade classes will be attending the Bio Blitz coupled with a hike up in the fish hatchery area on the 21<sup>st</sup> of September. The fifth grade will be heading out to the "Greater World" earthship community in support of their studies of solar energy. There will also be field trips this fall to support the fall arts and their studies of New Mexico history and culture. Our field trips are sponsored by the Friends of Anansi Charter School activity fund.

**Starting off Strong is Paying Off with Attendance and School Culture:** Kudos to our students and families we are at 99% average attendance rate. We have had minimal discipline referrals and students are taking their work seriously in the classroom. The climate of our campus is positive and welcoming for students.

**Dyslexia Workshop for Parents, Students, & Teachers:** The local branch of the Dyslexia Association will be providing a workshop and simulation of "How Difficult Can This Be?" to educate the community of the challenges and inner workings of the dyslexic brain. The workshop will take place on Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup> from 8-noon on the Klauer Campus at UNM. Please consider attending especially if you have a dyslexic student in your family. You can register online at [sw.dyslexiaida.org](http://sw.dyslexiaida.org)

**Assistive Technology Workshop for Parents & Students:** The Taos Schools are hosting a workshop specifically for parents and students on how to use assistive technology. This will be helpful for dyslexic students and life skills for daily activities for students with disabilities. There is no cost and the meeting will be held at the Taos Schools board room on Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm. Please register with [Samuel.Castillo2@state.nm.us](mailto:Samuel.Castillo2@state.nm.us). There is an educators and therapists training as well on the 11<sup>th</sup> from 3-6pm, please register by emailing Samuel Castillo as well. This is being provided by the NMPED.

### **Dates to Keep In Mind:**

September 6<sup>th</sup>: K-3 & Siblings Picture Day

September 7<sup>th</sup>: 4-8 Picture Day

September 11<sup>th</sup>: Assistive Technology Workshops

September 13<sup>th</sup>: Back To School Night, 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grades: 5-6, K-4<sup>th</sup> grade 6-7

September 15<sup>th</sup>: K-2 Hike Field Trip

September 16<sup>th</sup>: Dyslexia Conference, 8-noon at UNM Klauer Campus

September 17<sup>th</sup>: Williams Lake Hike, 10am

September 20<sup>th</sup>: Coffee with the Director, 8:35 at Anansi Lunch Room

September 20<sup>th</sup>: Governance Council Meeting, 5:30pm, at Anansi Library

September 21<sup>st</sup>: Friends of Anansi Meeting, 8:45am, off campus inquire in office

September 29<sup>th</sup>: No School, Teacher In-Service Day