



October News from the Director



Picture Orders: All students have now had their school pictures and class pictures. You will receive your proofs for any re-takes this week, and then all orders are due to the office by Tuesday, October 10th. You should have received an order form; however, the order form can also be obtained in the school office or found on the school website, anansicharterschool.org.

Bus Update: Currently our ridership on bus #17 to town is hovering just below 70 students all days of the week. We are currently investigating our ability to have a second bus option, and true responsibility of cost for the second bus. We are conducting a meeting with the state transportation department this week to seek our best outcome.

Anansi Makes Payment Easier for Parents by Offering 3 Payment Options: The Anansi Charter School is now able to accept Master Card or Visa credit cards for your payments in addition to checks or cash for your after care or lunch bills. In addition, the Friends of Anansi Charter School \$100 activity fee can also be paid in the office by credit card, check, or cash, and in addition, payments can be made over time.

Change in the Lunch Menu October 3rd and 5th & No School lunch on October 13th: The school lunch on Tuesday, October 3rd will be orange chicken and the lunch on Thursday, October 5th will be chicken tacos, sorry for the change in menu. In addition, all students will need a lunch from home on October 13th because the Taos Schools are closed and therefore can not provide a school lunch for Anansi.

Medications Policy for School: If your child (regardless of age) requires medication during the school day please follow the following procedure:

- Parent must deliver medication to the school office in its original container with dosage clearly marked (regardless of over the counter or prescription medications)
- Parent must fill out the Permission to Administer Medication Form, staff will fill in the time and dosage administered on the form
- Even middle school students are expected to follow this procedure

Please **do not**:

- Send medications in an unmarked zip lock bag or pill container
- Send medications in your child's lunch box or back pack

Thank you very much for your assistance in keeping our campus and students safe.

Wednesday Coffee with the Director: We had a great conversation last Wednesday about the school report card assigned by the New Mexico Public Education Department. I will continue to offer parent input meetings on Wednesday mornings from 8:30-9am in the cafeteria. Our topics in October will be:

October 4th: Bullying Awareness

October 11th: Student Accountability, "The Table"

October 18th: No meeting, Director will be out at a training

October 25th: Parent's Choice

Vision & Hearing Screenings: Two of our parent volunteers who are also nurses in the Taos health care system will be coming to school on October 4th and October 11th to conduct vision and hearing screenings with all of our students in grades kindergarten through 3rd.

Governance Council Meeting, Wednesday, October 18th: The Anansi Charter School governance council will hold its monthly meeting in the Anansi Charter School Library at 5:30pm. Agendas are available upon request in the school office.

Truffle & Art Card Fundraiser Begins in October: We will launch our school-wide truffle and art card sales on October 27th. Please be sure to pick up an order form at your parent-teacher conference. We ask each family to sell some truffles or art cards or a combination of both. The proceeds of this fundraiser pay for all the winter sports bus transportation, which is approximately \$3,000 and the cost of scholarships for qualifying students, which ranges from \$6,500-\$7,000.

October Anti-Bullying Awareness Month: This month is national anti-bullying awareness month and Anansi will be taking the proactive focus on kindness and Random Acts of Kindness. Here are simple ways you can bring kindness in as a focus in your own homes:

- Leave an appreciation sticky note for someone in your house
- Take time to write a thank you note together, for someone you appreciate
- Take time when around the dinner table to share something you appreciated or enjoyed in your day
- Make a treat for someone
- Donate items you no longer need to others
- Lend a helping hand to others in the community
- Smile at others when you see them or when you are passing by
- Hold the door open for someone else

We have learned through our research that one simple act of kindness can lead to dozens more acts of kindness, just through witnessing the single act. This ripple can breed generosity, empathy, and a sincere care for others, please join in and pay it forward with kindness!

In addition, we will continue to educate our students about bullying and will teach them strategies for bullying prevention. Our biggest culprit is teasing others, which often seems light-hearted, but is actually very hurtful. The victim to teasing often tries to laugh along and accept the joke; however, ongoing teasing leads to feelings of exclusion, low self-esteem, and acts of self-deprecation. Please remember your role-modeling is your child's greatest teacher, consider a conversation about the impact of teasing others and choose kindness toward others yourselves.

Field Trip to Las Golodrinas: First, and Second Grade will be taking a cultural field trip on October 25th to Santa Fe to attend the cultural immersion day at Las Golodrinas to support their learning of New Mexico culture, architecture, and history. They will participate in activities and tours, and would be happy to have parent chaperones attend to assist with the children.

Parent Teacher Conference Sign-Ups: Please look for the conference sign-up sheet in your child's classroom starting, Friday, October 13th. Our goal is to meet with every family to review your child's progress and work together to set goals for the school year. Conferences are scheduled for Friday, October 27th from 8-4pm.

Halloween Festivities: Each classroom will have an afternoon Costume Party on Tuesday, October 31st. All students are invited to bring a costume in a bag to participate in the parade and festivities. The K-5 classes will gather together on the soccer field to parade in their costumes and then will return to classrooms to participate in games, crafts, and creating healthy snacks. We will be sending more details closer to the date so that you can be involved in your child's class party.

Simple Ways to Fundraise for the School without Spending any extra money! The Friends of the Anansi Charter School have set up several easy ways that you can contribute to the school with very little to no extra work on your part. The Friends of Anansi fundraise to provide additional funds to the classrooms to enhance education with events like our storyteller day, to bring special artists and educators into the school to work with students, and to sponsor field trips. In addition their fundraising efforts are used to help with school enhancements for classroom programs and equipment. You can contribute by signing up for your Smith's Rewards Card Inspiring Donations program under the Anansi Charter School name, bringing your own bags to Cid's and putting your poker chip in the Anansi Charter School can, or when you shop online at Amazon, you can click on to Amazon through the Anansi website: www.anansicharterschool.org, then on to "Amazon Smiles where you can elect Friends of Anansi Charter School as a benefactor to have a percentage of your purchase price go directly to Anansi. If you have any questions, please see Ms. Tracy in the front office.

Twirl Global Cardboard Challenge: Several Anansi students will display their self-created arcade games made out of 100% recycled materials. This event is inspired by a kid called Caine who created a cardboard arcade in his father's garage; check out his video at <https://cainesarcade.com/2012/04/caines-arcade-short-film/>. Kids who attend this event will have the opportunity to create their own recycled arcade creation.

Chess at Anansi: Dennis Hedges will be offering chess after school at Anansi on Tuesdays, we will let you know the start date as soon as I hear from our chess coach, Mr. H.

October Dates to Keep In Mind:

Tuesday, October 3rd: Orange Chicken Menu change

Wednesday, October 4th: Coffee with the Director, 8:30-9, cafeteria, Vision & hearing screenings grades K-3

Thursday, October 5th: Chicken Tacos Menu Change

Saturday, October 7th: Twirl Global Cardboard Challenge, at Twirl from 11-2pm

Tuesday, October 10th: School Picture orders are due

Wednesday, October 11th: Coffee with the Director, 8:30-9, cafeteria, Vision & hearing screenings grades K-3

Friday, October 13th: No School Lunch, begin sign-ups for parent teacher conferences, middle school early dismissal

Wednesday, October 18th: Governance Council Meeting, 5:30pm, ACS Library

Thursday, October 19th: Friends Meeting, 8:45, off campus, No School In-service

Friday, October 20th: Fall Mini Break, No School

Wednesday, October 25th: 1st & 2nd grade field trip to Las Golondrinas in Santa Fe

Friday, October 27th: No School, Parent-Teacher Conferences, Truffle and Art Card Forms distributed

Tuesday, October 31st: Costume Parade & Party, 1:30, Bring costume to change into

