



November News from the Director

Winter Sports Programs: All Anansi students participate in the Winter Sports Program for five consecutive Fridays starting January 12th and ending February 9th. The ACS Winter Sports program options are as follows and the activities' prices are approximations:

- TSV School Skiing/Snowboarding Program: cost \$150, Free lunch student cost: \$60, Reduced lunch student cost: \$90
- Ice Skating Program: cost \$55 w/ skate rental, Free lunch student cost \$27 w/ skate rental Reduced lunch student cost \$38 w/ skate rental
- Gymnastics Program: cost \$60, Free lunch student cost \$25, Reduced lunch student cost \$38
- Dance Program: cost to be determined

All students must turn in their selection form attached to the newsletter by Friday, November 10th and then turn their enrollment forms and payments in to the ACS office by December 1st. Students in grades 5th-8th are required to be in good academic standing to sign up and participate in the programs.

Truffles & Art Cards Fundraisers to Benefit Winter Sports Programs: All parents should have received an order form for our handmade gourmet truffles sale and art card sale. We ask each student to sell a minimum of 3 boxes of truffles to contribute to our main goal of selling 700 boxes of truffles! There are 8 truffles in each box which is topped with a student made mini gift card. In addition, every student has created a piece of artwork featured on an art card for the sale. Art cards come in packets of 8 cards for \$10. All orders are due to the office by Friday, November 10th and we ask that all checks be made out to the Friends of Anansi Charter School. You will be able to pick up your orders on December 4th at the school. We will also host a truffles sale at Cid's Market on December 16th to sell any remaining truffles. The proceeds from these fundraisers provide scholarships and the bus transportation for the Winter Sports Programs. The total cost to the Friends for providing for these programs is about \$7-8,000. These fundraisers are sponsored by the Friends of Anansi Charter School.

Volunteers are Needed for Truffle Fundraiser: We currently have sign-up sheets in the office and in every classroom to gather and organize volunteers to help with our fundraiser. We will need three shifts of about 15-20 parents on December 2nd to help with making and packaging the truffles. We will begin at 9 and wrap up our work hopefully by 3pm, and to make it easier for parents to help, we will be offering child care for the children and food for our volunteers. We will also be seeking volunteers to help with the Cid's sale on the 16th of December. It is a lot of fun to bring our community together for the sake of our sports program and your efforts are very much appreciated! Please sign up right away to help us you can find a signup sheet in your child's classroom!

Anansi Charter School Governance Council Needs You!: The members of the 2017-2018 Anansi Charter School Governance Council have been hard at work this school year, and would

like to invite other individuals interested in the possibility of serving on the council to contact Governance Council President Andy Jones by emailing ajones@anansi.acstaos.org and the school director, mhunt@anansi.acstaos.org. In addition to Jones, other officers on this year's governance council include Secretary Dawn Kittner and Treasurer Roxanne Rane. At-large members include Sagen Asplund and Leigh Trivino.

The role of the Governance Council is to establish the mission and purpose for the school, provide support and evaluation for the school leader, provide financial oversight, monitor and strengthen the quality of the program, enhance the school's benefit to the community and make over major decisions that will help guide the future successes of ACS. In addition to seeking new members for the council, there are also opportunities to join select committees as a parent or community member. These committees include: Finance/ Budget Committee, Audit Committee, Facility Committee, Program Committee, Council Development, and School Advocacy.

Please join us for our next meeting on November 15th at 5:30 at the Anansi Charter School.

Celebrations of Learning: The third grade class will be hosting a celebration of learning in their classroom on Wednesday, November 15th from 2:30-3:30pm. The students will share their culmination of learning for their social studies unit. The kindergarten through second grade students will be hosting their New Mexico studies celebration of learning on Friday, November 17th 11-12, the celebration will begin in song in the cafeteria, and then students and parents will proceed to their classrooms. Parents may considering bringing a picnic lunch and join their child's class for lunch. Dismissal on the 17th is at 1:30. The students will come together to sing for the parents and then each group will head to their classrooms to share all that they have created and learned. Each parent will receive a passport to guide their tour through the many activities and projects that the students have to share.

Coffee with the Director: Coffee with the Director will resume this Wednesday. Our meeting topics for November include:

- November 8th: the Arts as Anansi
- November 15th: Parent general feedback: How are we doing?
- November 29th: Planning the winter sports programs

Friends of the Library are Opening the Library to the Community: Anansi's parent run committee, the Friends of the Library are opening the school library before school from 8-8:30 and after school from 3:30-4pm on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Parents and students are welcome to visit the library to check in and check out books or to come in and enjoy the library and the many books it contains. Please stop in on a Wednesday or Thursday.

8th Grade Collaboration Activity with Taos High EQ Group: The 8th grade students will participate in a mini retreat with Taos High School students who have been trained in the facilitation of Emotional Intelligence activities. The Taos High Students will provide the retreat from 8:30am until 1pm. The students will then be excused for the day at 1:30pm.

Mid-Year Short Cycle Assessments: The first grade through 8th grade students will participate in their mid-year short cycle assessments sometime during the weeks of December 11th

through the 21st. This will provide an academic progress check prior to the end of the semester on December 22nd. Report cards will then be provided after our first week back to school in January on the 16th.

Acknowledge & Practice Gratitude: *Why Gratitude?* Recent studies have linked gratitude to greater social support and protection from stress and depression over time. In addition, these studies suggest that gratitude not only helps children form, maintain, and strengthen supportive relationships, but it also helps them feel connected to a caring community, feel happier, and more optimistic, and give more support to themselves and others.

Most of us have taught our kids the importance of saying thank you by the time of entering grade school, if not sooner. But how have truly instructed them in the sincere art of felling grateful? Both expressing and feeling gratitude are important parts of life. Gratitude in the most basic terms is being thankful and appreciative of the good things you have. We can be grateful for a wide range of gifts, everything from nature and good food to the kindness friends and family show us at home, in the community, and in school. A person who is grateful tends to spend less time comparing him or herself with others and feeling envious. It also helps us, especially children, step into someone else's shoes and realize that another person did something nice for them even though he or she did not have to. "We want our children to be able to relate to other people's feelings as well as to feel a sense of belonging in their classrooms and community. Cultivating a sense of gratefulness goes a long way toward this goal."

How do we teach gratitude? Modeling and expressing is one of our most straight forward ways to teach children about gratitude. Kids pick up on what we do and what we say. If you feel gratitude for something that has happened to you, express your feelings to your child, it might be something big like a gift or something as simple as the beautiful sunny day or a fresh hot cup of coffee. We can encourage reflective thinking about gratitude by discussing and sharing what we are grateful for at dinner each evening. At school we will be creating a list of things we are grateful for, please consider add to the list when you notice it. It will make a great model for us all to consider and keep present in our daily lives. (Resource: "The Greater Good: The Science of a Meaningful Life")

Dates for November & December:

Open Library Every Wednesday & Thursday from 8-8:30 & 3:30-4

November 8th: Coffee with the Director, 8:30-9 topic: The Arts at Anansi

November 9th: Friends Meeting at 8:45am, cafeteria

November 10th: Turn in your Winter Sports Selection Form & your Truffle & Art Cards Order forms

November 15th: Coffee with the Director, How are we doing? Parent feedback

November 15th: Celebration of Learning in 3rd Grade, 2:30-3:30 parent attendance requested

November 15th: Governance Council Meeting, 5:30pm, Anansi Library

November 17th: Celebration of Learning in K-2nd grades, starts in cafeteria, 11-12, bring a lunch & join your child for lunch after the Celebration

November 17th: 8th Grade Retreat with Taos High students, Middle School Early Dismissal

November 20th-24th: No School, Thanksgiving Break

November 29th: Coffee with the Director, Winter Sports Program

December 1st: Enrollment forms & payment due for winter sports programs

December 2nd: Truffle Making Day at Anansi 9-3

December 4th: Pick up pre-paid/pre-ordered truffles at Anansi

December 11-21: Short Cycle Assessments MAP for grades 1-8

December 21: Winter Performance & Singalong (tentative plan, watch for more information)

December 23-January 8: Winter Break, No School

Winter Sports Student Selection Survey

Please fill out your survey for your child so that we are able to distribute the correct forms for enrolling in the Winter Sports Programs.

Anansi Winter Sports Selection Survey Form: Due to the Office by Friday, November 10th!

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

Choice of Sport (please circle):

Skiing/Snowboarding Ice Skating Gymnastics Dance

I am eligible for a Winter Sports Program Scholarship & I want to accept it: Yes No

I understand in order to receive a scholarship for my child, I must participate in the truffles or art card fundraisers.

Parent Signature: _____

Enrollment forms for the winter sports programs will be due with payment on Dec. 1st!