



# 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 Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. The jump fest will take place in three different groups one in the morning and two groups in the afternoon. The official schedule by class will be sent out by the end of the week. 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.

**Winter Sports End Date:** Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup> 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!

**Flu Outbreaks in Community:** A small percentage of students have been diagnosed with the flu in the Anansi community. Flu symptoms vary from person to person. In general, people who have the flu often feel some or all of these symptoms, according to the CDC:

- Fever or feeling feverish/chills (not everyone with flu will have fever)
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Muscle or body aches
- Headaches
- Fatigue (tiredness)
- Vomiting and diarrhea, although this is more common in children than adults

If your child is feeling any of these symptoms, please keep your child home to rest and observe any further symptoms. As with any illness, contact the school regarding the absence and if your child is not well within three (3) days please visit your pediatrician.

## **Lottery for 2018-19 School Year:**

We are opening up the Anansi Charter School lottery for next year for available spots in Kindergarten through eighth grade on Monday, February 5<sup>th</sup>. 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 online soon at [www.acstaos.org](http://www.acstaos.org). We have sent out a request letter to reserve a space for any siblings you may want to enroll in the school for 2018-19 school year and to inform us if your child will not be returning to Anansi next year. Siblings of currently enrolled students are accepted prior to the lottery for any openings in their grade levels. Families planning to return next year, need to fill out a re-enrollment form, which will be emailed to you, and will also be available in the office and on the website. If you have questions, stop by the office or call.

**Anansi's Let's Move: Ice Skating Day:** The student leadership council and the Friends of Anansi Charter School are inviting you to an Anansi Skating Party on Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup> during the open skate at the Taos Youth and Family Center from 2-4pm. The Friends of Anansi Charter School will sponsor the event. It would be great to see our community come together for some healthy and fun recreation. We hope that this event will inspire 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:** Some of the Anansi 6<sup>th</sup> grade middle school students participated in the local 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 to Annabelle Caldwell who finish 4<sup>th</sup> overall in a field of 75 presentations. She will now have the opportunity to go forward to compete in the Regional Science Fair in March.

**Spelling Bee Results:** Five Anansi students participated in the Taos County spelling bee including Anna Hastings, 4<sup>th</sup> grade, Meili Brown, 5<sup>th</sup> grade, and Emma Mason, Flynn Basehart, and Annabelle Caldwell, 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Congratulations to Meili who finished second!

**Middle School Valentine's Dance:** The Anansi student leadership council is hosting a school dance on Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup> from 6-8:30pm for grades 6-8. The cost is \$2 per student and \$3 per guest from outside Anansi. Each student may bring a guest from another school, however, the Anansi students are requesting no high school students. The dance will have two staff chaperones and a few parent chaperones, let us know if you would like to help.

**Eighth Grade School Visits for High School:** Our eighth grade students will have an orientation at Anansi on February 8<sup>th</sup> to learn about enrollment for ninth grade and we are working on scheduling a shadow day at Taos High. Students who signed up for Moreno Valley will visit on February 13<sup>th</sup> and students interested in shadowing at Taos Academy will visit for the entire day on February 20<sup>th</sup>. We are still working on a shadow day at Vista Grande, and New Mexico School for the Arts.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Visit to Capital:** The 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will spend the day on Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at the capital. They will attend the education committee hearing, work on the floor with legislators, have lunch with our representative and senator, meet the charter lobbyists, and tour the amazing art in the Roundhouse. They will leave at 7:30am from Anansi.

### **State Testing for Grades 3-8:**

The state standards based assessments known as the PARCC and SBA Assessments are required to be administered within the state designated time period to all students in grades three through eight. Here is the Anansi assessment schedule:

#### **SBA Science Assessment Grades 4<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>:**

- Test Dates: March 6, 7, & 8, 2018
- Make-up Dates: 19, 20, 21, & 22, 2018

#### **PARCC Math & English Arts Assessment, Grades 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>:**

- Test Dates & Make-Up Dates: April 17-30, 2018

The science assessment consists of 3 separate tests administered on separate days. The PARCC assessment consists of four separate tests for each subject for a total of eight tests. These tests are also administered on separate days, requiring eight days of testing. The students will test at the same time each day and the test length is 75-90 minutes.

### **Dr. Seuss Read-a-thon, Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8:30-10:30 am:**

Anansi will host its annual Dr. Seuss Day and Pajama Party on Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. 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-2<sup>nd</sup> 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!

### **Dates to Keep in Mind:**

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Monday, February 5<sup>th</sup>: Turn in sibling request or disenrollment for 2018-19 school year

February 7<sup>th</sup>: 8<sup>th</sup> Grade field trip to the Roundhouse in Santa Fe, 7:30am-4pm

Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup>: Taos High School Presentation for 8<sup>th</sup> grade, 2:30pm

Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup>: Last Winter Sports Day,

Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup>: Middle School Valentine's Dance, 6-8:30pm

Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup>: All School Skating Party at Taos Youth & Family Center, 2-4pm

Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>: Moreno Valley Shadow Day, 10:30-2

Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>: Valentine's Day Jump For Joy, 11-12, 1-2, 2-3pm, individual classes will share their schedule for participation

Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup>: Friends of Anansi Charter School meeting, 8:45am

Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup>: No school, President's Day

Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>: Governance Council Meeting, 5:30pm

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

March 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>: SBA Science assessments, grades 4 & 7, no extended absences

March 12-16<sup>th</sup>: Spring Break, No School

March 19-22<sup>nd</sup>: Make-up Dates for SBA Science Assessments

April 17<sup>th</sup>-April 30<sup>th</sup>: PARCC Assessments Grades 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> (This is the test window, we will provide the Anansi PARCC schedule soon, no extended absences during this time)