



October News from the Director



Anansi Charter Selected as Blue Ribbon School for 2018! The Anansi Charter School is one of 3 schools in New Mexico and one of 300 public schools and 49 private schools in the nation selected to receive this award. Specifically, Anansi is receiving the award in the category of Exemplary Closing the Achievement Gap. The award will be presented in Washington DC on November 7 and 8th. Congratulations to our teachers and students for their very hard work every year at Anansi. You can read more about the award at [National Blue Ribbon Schools](#).

Picture Retakes & Orders: Picture retakes are scheduled for Thursday, October 11th. If your child was absent he or she will automatically get a picture taken. If you want a retake of your child's picture, please turn in the retake request form in the picture packet and check in at the office by Thursday morning. All picture orders are due, Thursday, October 18th.

Storyteller Coming: On Friday, October 12th to kick off the storytelling festival in Taos this weekend, and Elaine Murray, internationally recognized storyteller, will enchant our kindergarten through fifth grade students through storytelling right here at Anansi on Friday morning. The kindergarten through 2nd grade students will attend at 9:30am and the third through fifth grade students will attend from 10:15-11:15am.

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 discussion in September on the topic of EQ and the parents who attended asked to have a continuing dialogue on this topic. Please consider joining us at 8:45 in the cafeteria on Wednesday, October 24th.

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 17th to provide vision and hearing screenings for our kindergarten and first grade students and on October 24th for our 2nd graders and any upper grade students in need of a vision and hearing screenings.

Governance Council Meeting, Wednesday, October 17th: 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.

Friends of the Anansi Charter School, Meeting, October 17th: The Friends of Anansi Charter hold their meetings the third Wednesday of the month in the school multi-purpose room at 8:45am. The Friends are the fundraising vehicle for the school and also the Parent Advisory Council.

Truffle & Art Card Fundraiser Begins in October: We will launch our school-wide truffle and art card sales on October 26th. 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.

Parent Teacher Conference Sign-Ups: Please look for the conference sign-up sheet in your child's classroom starting, Friday, October 12th. 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 26th 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. The 6th-8th grade students will watch the parade, followed by a costume contest, and party. We will be sending more details closer to the date so that you can be involved in your child's class party. Please remember no weapons of any kind with your costumes.

Chess at Anansi: Dennis Hedges, our chess coach offers chess in the Anansi Charter School library every Tuesday from 3:30-5. If your child is interested, you can sign up in the school office on the aftercare sign-up sheet. The cost is \$5 if you pick up at 5pm, and \$8 for staying the extra half hour until 5:30.

October Dates to Keep In Mind:

Thursday, October 11th: School Picture Re-Takes

Friday, October 12th: Storyteller in the library, 9:30-10 K-2, 10:15-11:15 3-5

Friday, October 12th: begin sign-ups for parent teacher conferences, middle school early dismissal

Wednesday, October 17th: Friends Meeting, 8:45am Multi-Purpose Room, Governance Council Meeting, 5:30pm, ACS Library

Thursday, October 18th: Picture Orders are due

Friday, October 20th: Teacher In-Service, No School

Wednesday, October 24th: Coffee with the Director, EQ Discussion, 8:45am multi-purpose room

Friday, October 26th: No School, Parent-Teacher Conferences, Truffle and Art Card Forms distributed

Wednesday, October 31st: Costume Parade & Party, 2pm, Bring costume to change into at school