



# February Anansi Newsletter

## **Blue Ribbon Award Celebration:**

We will celebrate and recognize the staff and students for their hard work in earning the National Blue Ribbon award for Exemplary School in Closing the Achievement Gap on Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at the Taos Community Auditorium (TCA). Anansi is one of three schools in New Mexico who have been recognized and one in 349 schools in the nation who received this award this year. We will be providing each student with a blue ribbon T-shirt to wear to the ceremony and we ask that parents bring their students to the TCA for the festivities that will begin at 6pm. Please join us in celebrating this amazing honor!

**Spanish Language Celebration of Learning 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grades:** Please arrive a little early to pick up your student on Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> so that you can see the Spanish language research projects completed by our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students. Their displays include power points, display boards, and verbal presentations, please visit the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms starting at 2:45pm, until the end of day dismissal. The students and Ms. Margarita are excited and proud to share their accomplishments.

## **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 the exchange of Valentines on Thursday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. On Friday, February 15<sup>th</sup> we will continue our festivities with a "Valentine's Jump for Joy Fest" for kindergarten through fifth grade students and health awareness activities for the sixth through eighth grade students.

**Winter Sports End Date:** We currently have 2 more Fridays of Winter Sports: February 8<sup>th</sup> and February 22<sup>nd</sup>. 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!

## **Lottery for 2019-20 School Year:**

We opened up the Anansi Charter School lottery for next year for available spots in Kindergarten through eighth grade on Friday, February 1<sup>st</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 at [anansicharterschool.org](http://anansicharterschool.org). We have sent out a request letter to reserve a space for any siblings of currently enrolled Anansi students you may want to enroll in the school for 2019-20 school year. The letter also asks you to

inform us if your child will not be returning to Anansi next school 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 is also available in the office and on the website. If you have questions, stop by the office or call.

**Anansi's Let's Move: Bowling Party:** We had a great time at Gutters last Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup> bowling as a school community. In addition to all the fun, we earned over \$700 for the Friends of Anansi Charter School student support fund thanks to Gutters and LMNOC Radio Stations each donating 20% of the proceeds from our bowling party. Thanks to all who participated and enjoyed the event.

**Mid-Year Literacy Results for Kindergarten-3<sup>rd</sup> grade students:** We want to recognize the incredible growth in acquiring reading skills that our youngest children have made in our school. 81% of our K-3 students met their literacy goals for the mid-year assessment on IStation and 50% of the students are meeting grade level benchmarks and another 33% are within reach of the grade level benchmarks. Congratulations to our K-3 literacy teaching team and students on their hard work and results.

**Eighth Grade School Visits for High School:** Our eighth grade students will attend career day on February 13<sup>th</sup>. After our visit we will plan a day with the Taos High School counselors to orient the students in their enrollment procedures. We are scheduling individual appointments for the remaining visits that some students have requested at other high school options, which include Vista Grande High School, Taos Academy, Taos Cyber Magnet, Moreno Valley, and schools outside of Taos County.

**Eighth Grade Students to Participate in the NAEP:** Educators from the US Department of Education will be coming to our school on February 28<sup>th</sup> to administer the reading and math National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). Some of our eighth grade students will take the reading assessment and the rest have been selected for the math assessment. All students are expected to take one of the two assessments. Both assessments require about 90 minutes, and are computer based assessments. The students will receive community service awards for taking the assessments and their results will contribute the ranking of New Mexico for student achievement amongst the other 49 states.

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

The state standards based assessments are no longer known as the PARCC assessment. For the 2018-19 school year, we will be administering the New Mexico transitional assessment. The test will be made up questions from the PARCC bank of questions; however, the students will take 30% less tests this year. The NM Department of Education assures us that the results will be comparable to the former PARCC assessment so that students, teachers, and parents will be able to track their progress in comparison to last year's results. New Mexico is currently working to develop a new assessment that is still aligned to Common Core Standards and compliant for federal requirements for

19-20 school year. Students in grades three through eight will take the assessment. Our test window for this school year is below. **Please do not plan absences during the test window.** :  
**SBA Science Assessment Grades 4<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>:**

- Test Window Dates: March 4-29<sup>th</sup>

The science assessment consists of 3 separate tests administered on separate days.

**NM Transitional Math & English Language Arts Assessment, Grades 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>:**

- Test Window Dates: April 22<sup>nd</sup>-May 10<sup>th</sup>

The NM transitional assessments for Math and English Language Arts (ELA). The Math assessment consists of 3 separate tests, 60 minutes each and the ELA consists of 2 separate tests, 75 minutes each for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and 90 minutes each for 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students. These tests are also administered on separate days, requiring five days of testing. The students will test at the same time each day.

**Calendar Committee:** The formation of a committee to determine the Anansi Charter School calendar for the 2019-20 school year will convene its first meeting on February 13<sup>th</sup> at 4pm in the Anansi Library. We will do our best to align with the Taos Municipal Schools calendar due to bus and lunch services; while also taking into account the needs of our individual school. We will hold three meetings to develop the calendar and accept community input. The meeting schedule is as follows: February 13<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, and March 6<sup>th</sup> at 4pm in the Anansi library for each meeting. Please send the director an email, if you are interested in assisting with this process.

**Dr. Seuss Read-a-thon, Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 8:30-10:30 am:**

Anansi will host its annual Dr. Seuss Day and Pajama Party on Friday, March 1<sup>st</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:**

Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup>: Blue Ribbon Celebration, 6-7pm, Taos Community Auditorium

Friday, February 8<sup>th</sup>: Turn in sibling request or disenrollment for 2018-19 school year

Friday, February 8<sup>th</sup>: Winter Sports Day

Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>: Spanish Language Presentations, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms, 2:45pm,  
Calendar Committee Initial Meeting Day, 4pm, Anansi Library

Thursday, February 14<sup>th</sup>: Valentine's Day Classroom Celebrations, individual classes will share their plans

Friday, February 15<sup>th</sup>: Jump Fest & Heart Healthy Events for all students, watch for more details

Monday, February 18<sup>th</sup>: No school, President's Day observed

Wednesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>: Friends of Anansi Board Meeting, 8:45am, Governance Council Meeting, 5:30pm

February 27<sup>th</sup>: 2<sup>nd</sup> Calendar Committee Meeting, Anansi Library, 4pm

Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup>: Dr. Seuss Read-a-thon Day, 8:30-10:30 am, brings books, pillow, & wear your jammies!

March 4-29<sup>th</sup>: SBA Science assessments, grades 4 & 7, no extended absences

March 6<sup>th</sup>: Final Calendar Committee Meeting, Anansi Library, 4pm

March 11-15<sup>th</sup>: Spring Break, No School

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

April 22<sup>nd</sup>-May 10<sup>th</sup>: New Mexico State Assessments Grades 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> (This is the test window, we will provide the Anansi test schedule soon, no extended absences during this time)