



## September News from the Director

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**Back to School Night:** Please plan to attend Back to School night along with your child, our goal is for 100% attendance and participation. A portion of the evening is spent enjoying hands on activities so that your child can guide you through experiences that happen in the classroom and part of the time is teacher presentation and question and answer for parents. This is an important event to learn about the year's instructional goals, homework policies, schedules, and each grade level curricular overview. Back to School Night is scheduled for Wednesday September 11<sup>th</sup> for grades K-4 from 6-7pm and Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup> for grades 5-8 from 6-7pm.

**Anansi Family Hike & Picnic at Williams Lake:** The Friends of Anansi are sponsoring a family the hike and picnic to Williams Lake. The purpose of the hike is to bring our school families together to socialize, get some physical activity together, and enjoy the outdoors. Families should meet in the parking lot for the William's Lake Trailhead above Taos Ski Valley at 10am, there will be signs and a meet and greet committee to launch the hike. Families can choose to picnic at the lake, or they may choose to shorten the hike and come back to picnic, play outdoor games, and socialize near the trailhead. Our hike day is scheduled for Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>. Hope to see you there!

**Field Trips:** The kindergarten through second grade students will be taking their annual fall hike field trip on Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup> on the Columbine Canyon Trail near Questa. If you are able to join your child for this fun trip, please let your classroom teacher know. The fifth grade class will be visiting the Petroglyphs near Velarde and then heading to Chokolat at the John Dunn shops in Taos on September 24<sup>th</sup>. The third grade class will be taking a field trip to the DH Lawrence Ranch on Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup>. There will also be arts field trips this month to the Lumina Gallery Gardens. Already the sixth and seventh grade classes have taken field trips to launch curricular studies. Our field trips are sponsored by the Friends of Anansi Charter School activity fund. Please remember if you choose to join us for field trips, leave dogs at home. The details for each field trip can be found on the monthly events calendar on the Anansi Charter School website ([anansicharterschool.org](http://anansicharterschool.org)).

**School Photo Days for Students:** Southern Exposure will be at Anansi to take school pictures for all of our students on Wednesday September 11<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup>. Our fifth through eighth grade students and sibling group photos will be taken on the 11<sup>th</sup> and the students in kindergarten through fourth grade will be taken on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Our photographer recommends dressing students in solid colors rather than prints for a better photo. The photos are taken outdoors on the school grounds in our natural environment and lighting. Forms will be sent home and will also be available on the school website: [anansicharterschool.org](http://anansicharterschool.org) soon.

**Coffee with the Director:** The purpose of Coffee with the Director is to gather parent input through discussion and provide learning opportunities. These gatherings will take place in the lunch room on the last Wednesday morning of each month from 8:35 until 9:30. Stop by with your cup and

grab some coffee and join in for a few minutes. Our first Coffee with the Director will begin on September 25<sup>th</sup> and the topic is a presentation on related to Emotional Intelligence

**Emergency Drills at Anansi:** All public schools in New Mexico are required to practice emergency drills to increase our preparedness in the case of fire or an external threat which may be caused by weather, an accident, chemical spill, or human threat. We have conducted two fire drills to date, and we will next be practicing our shelter in place procedure and our evacuation procedure. These next drills will take place on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of September. We will conduct four more drills throughout the year as required by state statute. If you have any questions, please check in with the school director.

**Beginning of the Year Assessments:** This week we are starting our diagnostic short cycle assessments to determine student needs in reading and math. The kindergarten through second grade students will take the required I-Station assessment to monitor student progress in learn to read skills. The results will be shared with parents. All students will participate in the I-Ready assessment that is replacing the MAP assessment this year. This assessment will provide each student with an instructional pathway and will inform teachers of current levels of learning for every student in math and language arts. These results will also be shared with parents.

**Dates to Keep In Mind: (*Remember you will find these dates on the monthly calendar on the Anansi Charter School website, [anansicharterschool.org](http://anansicharterschool.org)*)**

September 11<sup>th</sup>: School Photos for 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades & sibling group photos

September 11<sup>th</sup>: Back To School Night Grades K-4<sup>th</sup>, 6-7pm

September 12<sup>th</sup>: School Photos for Kindergarten-4<sup>th</sup> grade

September 12<sup>th</sup>: Paseo Artist Presentation for 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students, 9am at Anansi

September 12<sup>th</sup>: Back To School Night, Grades 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, 6-7pm

September 15<sup>th</sup>: Williams Lake Hike, 10am, Meet at the Trail Head

September 18<sup>th</sup>: Friends of Anansi Meeting, 8:45am, in cafeteria, Governance Council, 5:30 Anansi Library

September 20<sup>th</sup>: K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade hike field trip, Columbine Canyon

September 24<sup>th</sup>: 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip

September 25<sup>th</sup>: Coffee with Director EQ Presentation & Discussion

September 25<sup>th</sup>: Lion's Club Vision Screenings for students

September 26<sup>th</sup>: 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade DH Lawrence Field Trip

September 27<sup>th</sup>: No School, Teacher In-Service Day

September 30<sup>th</sup>: No School, Taos Pueblo Day