



November News from the Director

Winter Sports Programs: All Anansi students participate in the Winter Sports Program for five consecutive Fridays starting January 13th and ending February 12th. The ACS Winter Sports program options are as follows:

- 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

All students must turn in their selection form attached to the newsletter by Thursday, November 10th and then turn their enrollment forms and payments in to the ACS office by November 30th. Students in grades 5th-8th are required to be in good academic standing to sign up and participate in the programs.

Truffles Fundraiser to Benefit Winter Sports Programs: All students will be bringing home an order form for our handmade gourmet truffles sale. We ask each student to sell a minimum of 3 boxes of truffles to contribute to our main goal of selling 650 boxes of truffles! There are 8 truffles in each box which is topped with a student made mini gift card. All orders are due to the office by Tuesday, November 29th 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 5th 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 the fundraiser 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. This fundraiser is 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 3rd 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!

Celebrations of Learning: The kindergarten through third grade students will be hosting their New Mexico studies celebration of learning on Wednesday, November 16th at 1:30, this will follow the Thanksgiving Lunch Feast and will allow parents to stay for the festivities. 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. On December 1st the intermediate

grades will be hosting their Celebration of Learning to share their work from the first semester of school, we will keep you posted with details for this event later in the month.

Thanksgiving Lunch Feast: Parents are welcome to order a Thanksgiving lunch and join the lunch feast that is scheduled at Anansi on Wednesday November 16th. The K-2 students eat at noon, the 6th-8th grade students eat at 12:15, and the 3rd-5th grade students eat at 12:30. Any guests need to order their lunch in the Anansi School Office by Wednesday, November 9th. The cost is \$5 per adult, and checks need to be made out to Anansi Charter School.

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 12th and 19th. This will provide an academic progress check prior to the end of the semester on December 22nd. Report cards will then be provided at the end of our first week back to school in January.

New Mexico Every Student Succeeds Act Parent & Staff Focus Group: The New Mexico and Federal Government are renewing their commitment to education with a vision replacement for the No Child Left Behind Education Act. The governance Council and Friends organizations will be hosting a focus group so that parents and staff from the Anansi Charter School can contribute their input to changes that they would like to see in the public education system. We will conduct our focus group meeting on Monday, November 14th from 5 until 6:30pm. There will be child care this evening during the meeting and we will have food for all who attend. We will conduct a forum for all to share their thoughts about how schools are currently preparing children to graduate from high school and where there might be room to improve. WE will also consider the PARCC assessment we are currently requiring in public schools and what might be alternatives for showing student mastery of skills. Our input will be joined with all other charter schools in the state of New Mexico to make a common voice for our governments to consider what we want to see valued in our education programs.

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 we truly instructed them in the sincere art of feeling 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:

November 7th: Distribution of Truffle order forms

November 8th: Friends Meeting at 2pm

November 10th: Turn in your Winter Sports Selection Form

November 11th: No School, Veteran's Day

November 14th: Every Student Succeeds Act Focus Group Night, 5-6:30, food & child care provided

November 16th: Thanksgiving Lunch Feast 12-1, Celebration of Learning 1:30-2:30, grades K-3

November 17th: Governance Council Meeting, 5:30pm

November 23rd-25th: No School, Thanksgiving Break

November 29th: Truffle Orders are due at the school

November 30th: Enrollment forms & payment due for winter sports programs

December 1st: Celebration of Learning, 2:30-3:30, grades 4-8

December 3rd: Truffle Making Day at Anansi 9-3

December 5th: Pick up pre-paid/pre-ordered truffles at Anansi

December 12-21: Short Cycle Assessments MAP for grades 1-8

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

December 23-January 9: Winter Break, No School

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

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

Choice of Sport (please circle):

Skiing/Snowboarding Ice Skating Gymnastics

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 fundraiser.

Parent Signature: _____

Enrollment forms for the winter sports programs will be due with payment on November 30th

