

Welcome Back from Spring Break!

Message from Director: The past week was absolutely unseasonably beautiful and I hope that you were all able to soak up the warmth and sunshine, get outdoors with your children, and engage in activities that bring you joy and energy! As we return to school, we are gearing up for the last quarter of our school year. This quarter wraps up the year's curricula for each grade level, provides time to the students for reflecting upon their learning, requires us to maintain our learning focus for our end of year assessments, and then rewards us with the opportunity to celebrate our achievements and hard work. We appreciate your support, communication, and collaboration with your children's teachers as they guide and educate your children and wrap up the school year.

Events on the Horizon:

Budget Committee Meeting: The first budget committee meeting will take place on Tuesday March 21st at 9am to begin our work on developing the school budget for the 2017-18 school year. The next meeting will take place on April 18th at 9am as well. We value parent and staff input as we develop our plans for the coming school year. The budget meeting will be held in the cafeteria at 9am. We encourage you to participate in this important process.

State Testing for Grades 3rd – 8th: We will begin the PARCC assessment for language arts and math skills in mid-April through the first week of May. These assessments will include: the English Language Arts assessment will include the following number of test sessions for varying lengths of time from one hour and fifteen minutes to one hour and fifty minutes: grades 3-5 will take three ELA tests and four math tests and grades 6-8 will participate in 3 test of each. Please remember the assessments are a requirement and we will be unable to approve any extended absences during the test window. Our school's funding is tied to participating in the PARCC assessment, if you would like to learn more about the assessments please contact me through email at mhunt@anansi.acstaos.org or make an appointment in the office when you drop your children off at school.

Anansi's 1st Annual Spring Fling Fundraiser: Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 8th and plan to attend Anansi's Spring Fling at the Taos Mesa Brewing from 2-5pm! This is a family event and fundraiser to benefit the Anansi Charter School educational programming. At the event, we will have bingo, tethered balloon rides, soft serve yogurt, and more! In addition, our annual art show which features the arts from all grade levels will be hung at the Taos Mesa Brewing. Play a little bingo, ride in a balloon, and celebrate the artistic talents of the Anansi students, join us at the Taos Mesa Brewing from 2-5 on Saturday, April 8th! (Thank you to Dan Irion, Eliza Barrett, Jen Scott, and Leslie Warnick for making this event)

Hosting TMS Board Meeting: Anansi Charter School will host the Taos Municipal Schools Board meeting on Tuesday, March 28th in the school cafeteria. Please consider attending a portion of the meeting. We will have presentations about our school at the onset of the meeting which begins at 6pm.

Parent-Teacher Conferences: Sign-up sheets for Parent-Teacher Conferences will be posted upon our return from Spring Break and will be found near the entrance of each classroom. Please be sure

to schedule an appointment with our child's teacher(s). Please remember that the middle school conferences are student led meetings. The actual conferences are scheduled for Friday, April 7th.

Earth Day Picnic at Anansi: In honor of Earth Day, Anansi will host a picnic and community beautify the grounds day at Anansi. Sink your hands into the earth to plant, weed, prune, and care for the grounds of the Anansi campus for the morning, then join us for a picnic lunch on the school grounds. Plan to bring your work gloves, some yard work tools, a water bottle, blanket, and picnic lunch. Work side by side with the children and faculty to care for your school grounds and the earth on Friday, April 21st.

Parent Help Wanted:

Volunteers to Help Prepare & Hang the Art Show: There is a great deal of preparation involved in hanging an art exhibition and Ms. Leslie would be grateful to receive your assistance! We will be preparing the art by mounting it, pressing it, and organizing the displays prior to hanging, and then we will be hanging the show on the morning of the Spring Fling (April 8th). If you are able and interested in helping us with the preparations and hanging of the show, please contact Ms. Leslie at lwarnick@anansi.acstaos.org.

Volunteers to Act as Proctors for Testing: We are seeking parent volunteers to help as proctors in classrooms other than their own students to assist test administrators with the PARCC Assessment. Please inquire with Ms. Liana regarding the dates and times where proctors are needed. Mr. Liana can be reached at lbayles@anansi.acstaos.org.

Turn In Your Read-a-thon Pledge Funds: On March 1st, we hosted our 16th annual Dr. Seuss Read-a-thon to promote reading and benefit end of year trips. Please turn in your child's pledge money by Friday, March 24th. All checks can be made out to the Friends of Anansi Charter School.

Chaperone Your Child's End of Year Field Trip: It takes the eyes, ears, and energy of several adults to manage a safe and great field trip for the students. Please let your child's classroom teacher know if you would be willing to assist with the preparation and/or the chaperoning of their field trip in May.

Join the Friends of Anansi Charter School Board for 2017-18: Plan to attend a Friends meeting or contact Jen Scott to learn more about the Friends of the Anansi Charter School. We are seeking new members who want to help to support the educational programming of the school.

Attend the Earth Day Picnic & Care Day: Plan to attend to help care for the grounds of Anansi and work side by side with the students and teachers to celebrate and care for the earth by caring for the gardens and grounds at Anansi, then stay for a picnic lunch with the students, 10:30-1 on Friday, April 21st at Anansi Charter School.

Kids Results from Events:

RoboRally Results for 5th Grade: The 5th grade class participated in the Roborally in Espanola on Saturday, March 11th. All students showed perseverance and team work as they participated in the competition. Students won 3rd place in the Jousting competition and 2nd place in "A-Mazing". This is a great opportunity for all students to get a taste of "Robotics" in a fun, creative event with students

from communities other than Taos. We appreciate the work of Ms. Eva and Ms. Liana in going the extra mile to provide this opportunity for our students.

Regional Science Fair: We will keep you posted on the results for our students who participated in the Regional Science Fair in Las Vegas over the Spring Break.

Dates to Keep In Mind:

March 21, 22, & 23rd: Make up dates for NM SBA Science Assessment, grades 4 & 7th graders

Tuesday, March 21st: Audit Committee Meeting, 8:30am, 2017-18 Budget Committee Meeting, 9am, Anansi Governance Council Meeting, 5:30pm

Friday, March 24th: Read-a-thon Pledge money due

Tuesday, March 28th: Anansi hosts the Taos Municipal School Board Meeting, 5:30pm

March 31st: No School, Teacher In-Service

Friday, April 7: No School, Parent-Teacher Conferences, Student-Led Conferences grades 6-8

Saturday, April 8: Bingo Fundraiser & School Art Show at Taos Mesa Brewing

April 11-28: PARCC Assessments, Grades: 3-8 please no extended absences planned for this time period

Friday, April 14: No School, Mini Break

Tuesday, April 18: Budget Committee Meeting 9am, Governance Council Meeting, 5:30pm

Friday, April 21st: Earth Day Celebration, Work Day, & Picnic, 10:30-1pm, early dismissal day for middle school

Wednesday, April 26: Anansi Charter School Lottery Drawing, Taos Public Library, 10am

May 1-May 12th: End of Year Short Cycle Assessments (all grades participate)

May 15-18th: End of year Field Trip Week

May 23-24th: Last week of classes, 8th grade graduation, field day, talent show, end of year potluck