

November News from the Director



Truffles & Art Cards



Nov. 7, 2010

Summary of Fundraiser:

By now you will have received your order forms for selling gift packages of truffles and art cards. The truffles are hand-rolled gourmet chocolate truffles packaged in 1/2 dozen and dozen sized boxes with a beautiful child created gift card. The art cards are a packaged set of 8 of your child's art featured on note cards with envelopes. Art Card orders are due Nov. 18th and truffle orders are due Nov. 30th.

Our goal is for each family is to sell a minimum of \$100 worth of either art cards and/or truffles. If you are a family who prefers

to make a donation rather than sell products, you may also just make a contribution to the Friends of Anansi Charter School for the Winter Sports Program fund.

Who Benefits:

This fundraiser will cover the cost of 60% & 40% scholarships for our winter sports programs for our qualifying students and transportation for these programs for all students. **We give approximately \$5500 in scholarships to 50% of our student population; while the bus transportation is about \$3000**

for skiing/boarding and about \$800 for skating and swimming for all students..

Volunteers to Help:

Lucy Perera and Lori Wiechart are organizing the **truffle making day for Dec. 4th** and Marti Mac Donald is organizing the **card printing & packaging on Nov. 19 & 20** Please sign up in the office to assist in these projects. If you signed up to volunteer with these projects, you will be asked directly to help. A card sale day at Cid's is set for Dec. 3rd.

Please plan to help, it is a lot of fun to work together!

Special points of interest:

- ✓ Celebration of Learning, Nov. 22
- ✓ Remember to attend the T-giving lunch on the 17th
- ✓ Turn in your ski/board/skate survey before Thanksgiving
- ✓ Governance Council Meeting, November 14th
- ✓ Take the winter sports program survey ASAP

Winter Sports Program Options:



In order to prepare the winter physical education programs of skiing, snow boarding, and ice skating, we need to conduct our survey so that we know the approximately the number of students participating in each program and the number of students in need of scholarships. As a result of the evaluation of our pro-

grams we will explore the potential for further opportunities. At this point, we will explore the following possibilities if student interest is present. Those additional programs are: 1) adding a mountain explorer ski/board program, 2) adding the choice of a gymnastics class and 3) the continuation of swimming

lessons at the Northside Fitness Center. These programs will only occur if an instructor is available and the time can be coordinated with ice skating. Please fill out the attached survey at the end of the newsletter, so that we are able to get organized for these programs.

Inside this issue:

Practice Gratitude	2
Ojo Pass Fundraiser	2
Anansi Basketball	2
Educational updates	3
Odds & Ends	3
Ski, Board, Skate Survey	4
Dates to Remember	4

Practice & Acknowledge Gratitude

Why Gratitude? *Expressing feelings of thanks can decrease stress and increase a feeling of belonging. The best way parents can raise grateful kids is by modeling the behavior themselves.*

Most of us have taught our kids the importance of saying thank you by 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 good luck or a wonderful opportunity for the people in your life.

A sense of gratitude can benefit us in a variety of ways. 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 didn’t have to. “We want our children to be able to relate to other people’s feelings and 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 gratitude is one of our most straight forward ways to teach our children about gratitude. Kids pick up on what we do and also what we say. If you feel grateful for something that has happened to you express your feelings to your child, it can 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 & sharing what we are grateful for at dinner each evening. At school we will be creating a list of things that we are grateful for, please add to the list outside our multi-purpose room. It will make a great model for us all to consider and keep present in our daily lives.

Ojo Caliente Sale

One of our Anansi Families has generously contributed passes for Ojo Caliente as a fundraiser for our school. The passes are being sold for \$10 each, about a 40% savings! All proceeds from the sale will benefit the educational programs for the students. There is no limit to the number of passes that you may purchase, and they make great stocking stuffers or holiday gifts for friends. There are still plenty in the office for you to purchase. Any left at the end of the month will be taken to Cid’s to be sold to the greater community of Taos. Please take advantage of this terrific offer! A huge thank you to Jen and Andy Scott for their incredible generosity!



Slide Show with Dave Hahn

Anansi

Basketball Team

We are now offering an after-school intramural basketball team for students in grades second through fifth, and we are actively seeking players. The team is practicing on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays at either the Guadalupe Gym or the courts at Kit Carson Park. The coaches will meet the students at the bus stop to escort them to the practices. Students can blend basketball with other sports by attending practices one, two, or three days per week. The team will participate in local basketball tournaments. The coaches are Simon Torrez and Derek Heagerty for more information contact Coach Torrez at 770-3691.

On Friday evening, November 4th we hosted local hero, ski patrolman, and expeditionary mountaineer, Dave Hahn. Dave shared some of his many adventurous stories from all of his travels around the world. The students and families enjoyed a wide array of slides of our local mountains, the mountain ranges of Alaska and the northwest, the wide expanses of Antarctica, and Mount Everest along with the variety of amazing wildlife that inhabits these parts of the world. Dave focused in on the topic of optimism and the role it plays in persevering through challenging climates and steep mountain climbs. It was an inspiring evening organized by Deb vanWilligen.

Educational Program Updates:

New Mexico Celebration of Learning in K-4 & Science Explorations in 5th grade: The kindergarten through fourth grade students will be sharing their learning from their integrated studies units of New Mexico History and Culture. Each classroom will provide some journey and exploration of their learning. Each parent will be given a passport to travel through the school and discover specific information from the students in all grade levels. The tour will include the arts, maps, animals, dramatizations, food for tasting, music and fun-filled facts about our great state. The fifth grade students will be sharing scientific discoveries, experiments, and inventions. This student centered event is scheduled for Tuesday, November 22nd from 1-3, please watch for the specific details that will be sent with your invitation.

Parent Teacher Conferences: Thank you for participating in conferences, we had nearly 100% participation, which is our goal. Your involvement and

attention to your child's education is one of the best ways to assure school success now and in the future. It sends a powerful message to your child about valuing education. Your support is a critical element to student success. If you missed your conference it is not too late to make an appointment with your child's teacher.

Parent Education Programs: We will try again with either our Love and Logic course or the Emotional Intelligence (EQ) for Families Course in the second semester after the winter holiday break. IN the meantime, there is a wonderful collection of parenting tapes, CDs, and DVDs available in the school library. Please see, Director, Michele Hunt for suggestions and assistance in checking out materials.

Online Educational Support Materials: We lost funding this year for providing after school tutoring programs; however, we are able to provide some instructional support through two online programs. The school

can provide access to a reading support program called Lexia Reading. This is a research based learning program that tracks your child's progress through specific skill building games for learning to read and building comprehension skills. If you are interested in having this program at home, please see the director, Michele Hunt so that the needed files can be loaded in your home computer. For mathematical support, please check out the Khan Academy website online. This is a free program that is available on the internet, all you need to do is create a Google account. If you need assistance with this program please see our enhancement teacher, Dennis Hedges, for assistance. We are currently using it with second through fifth grade students.



Odds & Ends

Bus Use: Please remember to keep us informed of your child's bus schedule and do your best to keep a consistent schedule to avoid mistakes. Also remember to be on time when meeting this bus in town, we don't want any of our children to be left without an adult at the bus stop. If there are any issues with the bus please be sure to inform me (the director) so that any issues can be resolved.

Taos Feeds Taos: We will be a collection site again this year for contributions to support the needy and hungry families of the Taos community. Please make your non-perishable contributions at the front entrance to the school.

Sing along: We will be hosting a school-wide sing-along at the Angladas building again this year on December 17th. Please plan

to join us. There will be more information to come closer to the event.

Thanksgiving Lunch at Anansi: We will be hosting a school lunch on Thursday, November 17th. The food will be prepared and provided by the Taos Student Nutrition Program. Lunch will be served to K-2 students and families from 12-12:30 to 3-5 students from 12:30-1. Please join us!



Anansi Charter School

57 State Hwy 230
PO Box 1709
El Prado, NM 87529

Phone: 575-776-2256
Fax: 575-776-5561
E-mail: mhunt@acstaos.org



Support the Winter Sports Program by:

- Meeting your goal of selling \$100 total of Art Cards/Truffles
- Volunteering to help make truffles and/or cards

Turn in Your Winter Sports Survey

Please fill out the survey below & turn it in to the office ASAP

Dates to Keep In Mind:

Monday, November 14: Governance Council Meeting, 5:30pm

Thursday, November 17: Traditional Thanksgiving Lunch at ACS

Friday, November 18th: Art Card orders due

Saturday & Sunday, November 19 & 20: Art Cards Making at ACS

Monday, November 21st: Friends of Anansi Charter School Meeting, 5:30

Tuesday, November 22nd: Celebration of Learning 1-3pm

Monday, November 24th-25th: No School Thanksgiving Break

Wednesday November 30th: Truffle and Art Card Orders are Due

Sunday, December 4th: Truffle making at TEDC Kitchen 9-6

Monday, December 6th: Pick Up Truffle Orders at ACS

Survey for Winter Sports Program

Student Name: _____

Physical Activity Choice:

Better Shredders Ski or Boarding Program

Cost: Approximately \$300 includes equipment, pass, lessons, and meals

Skating Club of Taos Ice Skating Program

Cost: Approximately \$30 includes skate rental And lessons

My student is interested in one of the following:

Ski/Board Explore (Advance/Expert only)

Gymnastics Lessons*

Swimming Lessons*

***Will only be offered if available and adequate student interest**

Yes, my student is eligible and in need of a scholarship.

****** Cut & return this form to the office before Thanksgiving break.**

