



September News from the Director

Back to School Night

September 6, 2011

Please plan to attend the Anansi Charter School "Back to School Night." on Wednesday, September 14th from 6:30--7:30pm. First, your child will take you on a tour to learn about the activities and work in their classrooms. You will especially get to review your own child's work.

The children will then have a movie to watch or activities to participate in while the parents learn about the curriculum, classroom guidelines and policies, homework, communication with the

teacher and much more.

This is your first opportunity to get a deeper look at your child's learning and environment, classroom expectations, and curriculum for the year.

This is a great time to meet and connect with other parents in your child's class so that you can develop relationships and support one another and the teachers throughout the year.

This is also an excellent opportunity to ask any questions that you may have and seek out ways to become more involved

in your child's learning.

Look forward to seeing you there!



Ms. Blue greets some of her students back to school.

Special points of interest:

- ✓ Remember all enrollment paper work & \$100 activity fee is past due
- ✓ Back to School Night, Oct. 6th
- ✓ Picture Retakes: September 7th
- ✓ Governance Council Meeting, September 12th
- ✓

Tips for Facilitating EQ in Kids

Why is emotional intelligence so important in raising a child? Understanding the emotions that you are feeling and noticing the feelings of others, then learning to navigate one's feelings and make optimal choices may enhance or increase your child's quality of interactions with others and add to a feeling of satisfaction and social competence. As

parents you play an important role in your child's emotional development.

Three tips for Cultivating Emotional Intelligence in Your Child are:

1. Help your child identify his feelings. This is the first step. If your child can't identify his feelings, how is he supposed to monitor them or read the feelings of others? Use clarifying statements

such as, "I can see that you're feeling frustrated because you're having difficulty tying your shoes. I remember how that feels. Learning to tie your shoes can be tricky, but keep practicing and you'll get it. Here let me show you a little trick I know—you might like this way a little better."

2. Frame interactions with your child positively continued on p. 2

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Parent Work Day Tips for Facilitating EQ cont.

We are looking forward to our fall parent work day on Saturday, September 17th from 9 until noon. We will have our usual oiling of the outdoor wooden equipment and garden fencing. We will rake and fluff the wood chips under the equipment. In addition, we will begin trimming back some of our gardens and preparing them for winter.

We may have some small construction projects and we may have some indoor projects for in the classrooms. We will keep you posted as we approach the date of our work day this month.

Remember, your child is learning how to get along with others which is a process that takes place over time. Get your child's attention and correct gently, engaging him —pointing out what he did right and consulting with him about what he could have done to take others feelings into account. Going through this process with your child helps him develop the self-reflection skills that lead to emotional intelligence.

3. Give your child specific supportive feedback about his interactions with others. Use these statements to help him discover his own identity as one who cares for himself and others.

Don't tell him, show him through careful selection of your words. For instance, you can say something like, "I noticed how you helped your brother when he was feeling frustrated, even though he was being short with you. I was impressed that rather than reacting to his behavior, you responded and gave him what he needed. How does it feel to know that you can choose to act with patience in the face of someone else's anger?"

Your child's emotional intelligence begins with his or her relationship with you, these are just a few tips to begin to lay a solid foundation.

Enrollment Paper Work & Activity Fee

At this time, all paper work is now overdue to the office. Any family who has not provided all of their paperwork for this school year's enrollment and has not paid their activity fee has been sent a letter requesting your final paperwork be turned in immediately.

If your child's immunization record is not updated with the school we must have it now or else your child will not be able to attend

school. Alison has provided several notices to every family and we are in need of your cooperation.

Please remember the requirement of a \$100 activity fee so that Anansi can continue to provide the enriching school experience it is traditionally known for. These funds go directly to cover the costs of field trip transportation, additional educational activities,

and materials for your child's classroom.

At this point approximately 50% of our families have made their payment! You have signed up for a charter school, which requires your additional participation and support.

Morning Drop-Off & Afternoon Pick-Up

Thank you all for your cooperation towards a safe parking lot and following the guidelines for pick-up and drop-off procedures. The morning seems to be working quite well. We appreciate seeing parents park their cars and walking on to the campus to interact with the school community and check in with your child's classroom. Those dropping off, please consider stopping in on the cam-

pus one time per week to stay in touch with your child's teacher.

The afternoon also seems to be running fairly smoothly. We are glad to see parents parking and coming on to the campus to meet their children, it really relieves the long line of cars for pick-up. If you arrive between 3:30 & 3:45 you are able to join the pick-up line and we will escort your child

to the car.

Please remember if you arrive early to park and walk on to the campus to meet your child, so that cars are not stacking up in the school parking lot.

Remember after care begins 15minutes after the end of the school day and your child should be signed up in advance.



Friends of the Anansi Charter School

The Friends of the Anansi Charter School Foundation are actively recruiting new members for its organization. The Friends have completed their latest construction projects of installing a new roof on the facility, installing acoustic tiles and are currently completing the fitness station project to the north of the track and soccer field. The trees, gardens, and raspberry patch that were installed through the assistance of the Friends organization have made it through this very dry summer and are really adding to the beauty of our campus.

The Friends hosted their first "let's Move" event of the year with a

spectacular hike to William's Lake in the high alpine meadows of the Taos Ski Valley. The day was topped off with a lunch at the Bavarian Restaurant at the base of the mountain. Those who attended had a great time and the Friends earned \$650 for the lunches served! Thanks again, to the generosity of Thomas and Jamie Schulze at the Bavarian.

The Friends will now begin planning for its winter "Let's Move" event, the truffle and art card sale, and will continue to hone its skills as facility landlords and an educational support foundation.

Their next meeting will be held on Monday, September 19th at

5:30pm. Please consider attending a meeting to learn more about how you can become involved in supporting our school's future. Make an appointment with director, Michele Hunt if you have any questions regarding the Friends



prior to the meeting on the 19th or to express the interests you have for the school.

Chess Program & Arts Enrichment After School



The month of September brings the start of our chess program on Friday, the 23rd. Dennis Hedges, the founder of the Taos Knights Hawks Chess Club, will facilitate our program providing excellent instruction of the game, and inspiring the students to take risks and learn some of the strategies of the game. Dennis has built a broad network of chess players throughout Taos, and led many

students to state and national chess championships. If your child enjoys math and the strategies of games, you might consider taking the opportunity to work with "Mr. H" (aka Dennis) and join the chess club on Friday afternoons.

In addition on Wednesdays this year we are also offering our Arts Enrichment Program with Lucy Perera (mother of Skyler

and Maia) and director of educational programs at the Harwood Museum. Please consider signing your child up explore creativity in this wonderful program. Of course, after care

Research shows that after school programs enhance children's ability to interact socially with their peers in a safe setting and learn new skills or hobbies.

Odds & Ends

School Pictures: You should have received a yellow envelope with a picture order form and photo choices. Please return your order by September 19th or order directly online. **Picture Retakes** are scheduled for Wednesday, September 7th.

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. If there are any issues with the bus please be sure to inform me (the director) so that they can be resolved. Remember that our downtown bus stop is now at the old Taos Elementary at the turn to the public library.

Fitness Stations North of the

Track: We are completing the process of installing the fitness stations that we purchased. Please plan in time to go back and get a look at our latest equipment. Then by mid-September take a run around the track with stop-offs to work through each of our fitness stations at the north end of the track.





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Educating
Hearts & Minds

Anansi Charter Website:

Be on the look out for the link to the newly designed website for the Anansi Charter School. An update has been long overdue, and the website is currently under re-construction. You will be able to look forward to educational links to support your child's education and your learning as a parent, beautiful photos of the school in action, and lots of information regarding schedules and background about the school. You will also be able to link into the agendas and minutes for the school's governance council. We will provide the website address in the October Newsletter!

Anansi Charter School Mission:

The mission of Anansi Charter School is to provide a nurturing and supportive environment where children of all races, creeds, religions, and special needs develop a love of learning and acquire a strong foundation on which to build a lifetime of knowledge.

Dates to Keep In Mind:

Wednesday, September 7th:

Picture Re-Take Day

Monday, September 12th:

Governance Council Meeting,
5:30

Wednesday September 14th:

"Back to School" Night 6:30-
7:30

Saturday, September 17th:

Parent Work Day, 9-12

Monday, September 19th: Pic-
ture orders are due to the office

Monday, September 19th:

Friends of Anansi Charter
School Meeting, 5:30pm

Friday, September 30th:

No
School San Geronimo Ob-
served

Parenting with Love

& Logic Class: We will
be offering a parenting
course in the Love and

Logic program starting Oc-
tober 11th. The class will
meet on

Tuesday
evenings
from 5:00-
6:30 at the
school.

(Child care
Provided)

The program
will be facilit-
ated by cer-
tified Love
and Logic

Instructor: Michele Hunt

Please watch for the flyer
to sign up soon.



**Ms. Elsbeth and Teresa
working together in a game.**