

Arcadia October 2022 Newsletter



Dear Arcadia Family,

I'm excited for fall and the cooler weather! October is going to be bustling with many activities and events at Arcadia Elementary. As I have visited classrooms this month, I have been so pleased by the many great things that are occurring and the learning that is taking place. Our teachers are truly dedicated public servants who love the students of Arcadia!

The following is information that you need to know for the month of October:

Picture Day!

Picture Day is on the 11th. Students will be sent home with information on how to purchase pictures. Classes will be called down throughout the day for picture taking. All students will have their picture taken, but only those whose parents pay for the pictures will get prints. You can pay for pictures online by going to: www.bellphoto.com. There are three packages to pick from ranging from \$14.00 - \$45.00. Please call the office if you have questions.

New Attendance Program

Attendance continues to be an issue at our school. Because of this, we have opted to join the district's Everyday Counts Attendance Challenge. The program runs from October – March. This is a fun and POSITIVE attendance initiative to promote awareness and emphasize

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the important role that school attendance plays in achieving academic success. There will be monthly cash awards to the top 5 schools with the most improved attendance. There will be a \$2,000.00 grand prize awarded in March including a raffle for 6 iPads. All prizes will be used towards recognizing and rewarding good and improved attendance.

School/Parent Compact

I will be sending out our new School/Parent Compact via email and will post it on our website. The compact is a document describing Arcadia's academic and social skills goals and what students and parents can do to help their students work towards having a successful year. Please be on the lookout for the compact email/posting and feel free to give us any feedback you have. At SEPs, we handed out purple brochures with a snapshot of the compact. I have attached the brochure to this email for your reference in case you did not receive it.

Open Enrollment

The early open enrollment application period is quickly approaching. The early open enrollment period begins on November 15th and continues through the first Friday in the month of February. This is earlier than it has been in the past. Open enrollment is basically school choice. Patrons may elect to come to Arcadia Elementary even if they live outside of the boundaries. Out of boundary students are accepted during this period pending on space available.

If you know of someone who would like to apply to attend our school, the district will be trying out an electronic application process. A link to the application will be found on the district's website and will be provided to each school to add to their website soon. I have attached the district's letter to parents in English and Spanish explaining the open enrollment process. If you have any questions after reading this document, please let me know and I will be happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have. Currently, our enrollment is on the low side so we welcome students from outside the boundaries to apply.

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Literacy Night

Arcadia's "Fall Into Literacy" Night will be on October 6th from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. We will have literacy stations that families can visit to learn more about how students can be supported with their reading at home. A representative from the Taylorsville Library has been invited to come and sign families up for library cards and speak about what the local library has to offer. I will be reading a story to students and we will be decorating classroom doors with a literacy theme for the event. Dinner will be provided from 5:00 – 5:30 p.m. We will have pizza, salad, a cookie and water available during the event! Lower grade students and their families will learn about phonics and phonemic awareness. Upper grade students and families will learn about the main idea and details. We're so excited to hold this event and hope that you will reserve the date and attend! I have attached a flyer for Literacy Night for you to look at. Please let me know if you have any questions about our Falling Into Literacy Night.

Food Pantry

The food pantry will be on October 6th beginning at 3:20 p.m. in the cafeteria. I apologize that we ran out of food last month. We have ordered more food this time and everyone should be able to receive food if they want it. Please instruct your children that they need to meet in the hall before they come into the cafeteria. We need to count family units and it is difficult to do if siblings are not together. If, for some chance, we do run out of food or you need food throughout the month, please contact me and I will put you in touch with the Taylorsville Food Pantry.

Joining Community Council!

We have had a couple of parents join Community Council! We still need two or three more parents to join in order to meet the state requirement. Teachers have been asked to reach out to parents they think would be a good fit and invite them to email me their interest in joining. Once contacted, I will send you a declaration of candidacy form to fill out and send back to me. **Remember, the commitment is only one day a month for 45 minutes.** It is a two-year term, but that

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is flexible depending on your situation. My email is mgraham@graniteschools.org. We need you!

Halloween Parade

The Halloween parade will be on October 31st beginning at 9:30 a.m. Like last year, we will have it outside and walk around the school. Patrons are invited to bring folding chairs and sit or stand along the parade route. For a good look at your student in his/her costume, you will want to sit opposite of their grade level door. I will begin the parade by picking up Kindergarten and Pre-school first on the east side of the building. I will then lead the parade around the south side, picking up grades as we pass their grade level doors and so on. We will make two passes around the school and then return grades through their grade level doors ending up on the east side by the Kindergarten doors. Last year, if you were near the outside speakers, they were really loud and caused discomfort to some students and patrons. We will attempt to turn down the music this year, but you probably want to stay away from the outside speakers just in case.

Please remember that students are not allowed to wear masks, bring replica weapons or have really gory or disturbing face paint. Every year it seems like we have students who wear costumes that violate the rules such as dinosaur costumes that cover the head. This causes unneeded stress for school staff and a negative experience for the student. I ask that parents ensure that their student(s) follow the costume requirements this year so that we don't have to diminish someone's Halloween parade experience.

PTA Meetings

We just finished our PTA membership drive. I promised a free Chick-fil-A meal to students who nudged their parents to join. Thank you to those of you who joined during the drive. We really appreciate your support and willingness to be a part of the PTA. We still need parents/grandparents to join. It's only \$5.00 to be a member for the year and there are many volunteer opportunities throughout the year.

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The PTA meeting schedule is below. We meet in the library at 3:30 p.m.

October 6th

November 3rd

December 1st

January 5th

February 2nd

March 9th

April 20th

May 11th

Every member is invited to attend. At our meetings, we go over the budget, talk about volunteering opportunities in the school and assign tasks that need to be done among other things.

Quarterly Principal's Party

As part of our positive behavior interventions and supports (PBIS) effort, students earn purple tickets for following the school rules. Students can spend their purple tickets on the school store cart when it comes to their classroom. After they have spent their tickets, the tickets go into a basket as part of a drawing. Classes earn tickets for being the best behaved at lunch and students with perfect and improved attendance are entered as well. Each quarter, Ms. Snell and I will host a party for a class and students that are drawn out of the basket. Our first party will be on October 26th. We will have an ice cream sandwich party, play music, dance, socialize and have fun! We will take pictures and post them on our Facebook page.

BTS Arts Video

The Beverly Taylor Sorenson Arts Program is going strong at Arcadia thanks to our wonderful Art teacher, Ms. Williams. The BTSAP has asked us to share a video with our patrons about the program. You can access the video by going [here](#).

Ms. Williams will be helping students throughout the month work on holiday cards to be entered in the superintendent's holiday card competition. Dr. Nye will select winners from the many cards entered

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and the winning cards will be displayed at the district office. Ms. Williams has agreed to take pictures of some of the cards our students produce, and we will post them on our Facebook page and website so that you can see some of them.

Riverton Music – Arcadia Band

Students in 3rd – 5th grades are eligible to apply for our Band program sponsored by Riverton Music. Our own Mrs. Minshew will be teaching the class. We haven't had enough interest in orchestra to warrant having a class, but we will keep a list of those interested and may eventually open up an orchestra class if there is enough demand. If you can't afford the program, come and see or contact me and we can work something out. We want all students who want to play in the band to be able to participate. I have attached a flier for the current program so that you can sign up.

Vision Screening

PTA volunteers are needed for vision screening on the 18th of October. Students will be tested throughout the day. If you suspect that your student has a vision problem, please let me know and I will alert our nurse to look for your student during the vision testing process. If you learn that your student has a vision problem, please let me or the school nurse, Jackie Candilora, know. If you can't afford glasses for your student or don't have insurance, let me know and we will try and get you a voucher for glasses through the district.

Coming in November!

- Our fall fundraiser will be at the first of November. This year, we will have a readathon and patrons may sponsor students during the fundraiser. The recommended donation per student is \$35.00 or \$50.00 per family. Proceeds are deposited into our student body fund, which pays for student incentives, field trips, playground equipment, student resources, etc.
- The Mobile Food Pantry is on the 10th at 3:20 p.m. in the cafeteria.
- Community Council is on the 17th at 3:45 p.m. in the library. Everyone is welcome to attend.
- The 22nd is an early out day. Students are dismissed at 1:15 p.m.

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- Thanksgiving Break is on the 23rd – 25th – no school on these days.

Ms. Snell and I really appreciate your support and help. We're looking forward to seeing you on October 6th for Literacy Night. We're excited about what we have planned to accomplish in October. As always, please let me or Ms. Snell know if you have any questions or concerns that need to be brought to our attention. We always welcome your feedback to help us be better educators.

Sincerely,

Matthew Graham, Principal