

Arcadia December 2022 Newsletter



December 2022

Dear Arcadia Family,

Below are some of the activities, programs and initiatives that are happening at Arcadia. If you can volunteer at the school for an event or in the classroom, we strongly urge you to contact our PTA president, Christina Belcher at: arcadiaroadrunnersPTA@gmail.com.

Just a reminder, when you volunteer for the first time, you must stop by the office and sign a confidentiality agreement that we will keep on file. At that time, we will have you use the Guardian Gate system to obtain your visitor's pass. Thank you to those who already volunteer at the school! Your help is always needed.

The following items are for your information. Please let me know if you have any questions by emailing me at: mgraham@graniteschools.org.

Family Center Possibility

We are currently looking into forming a Family Center at Arcadia to strengthen the partnership between our school and families to enhance every child's education and learning experience. A family center can help parents do the following:

- Communicate with your child's teacher
- Offer classes for adults like English classes, early childhood education, basic computer skills, wellness classes and more
- Be a resource connection for in-person and virtual presentations, access food and healthcare resources, obtain car seats, citizenship and more

Arcadia December 2022 Newsletter

The district is currently having trouble staffing family centers in the district with a Family Center Connector that is required to be there to run the center. If you or you happen to know of someone in the community that speaks Spanish and would be interested in this position, please let me know.

In the meantime, the nearest Family Center to Arcadia is at [South Kearns Elementary](#). South Kearns is located at 5544 S. 4385 W., Kearns, UT 84118-5514. The phone number is (385) 646-5026. Please feel free to contact them if you would like to access services provided by the district's family centers.

Out of This World Readathon Results

Considering our current economic environment, I thought we did amazingly well with our "Out of This World" fundraiser. Friends and families donated over \$7,000.00 for new recess equipment, field trips, student incentives and more! Our top three readers were: Andrew Dodd with 1,680 minutes, Isaac Kummer with 1,680 minutes and Kaven Fidler with 900 minutes. Thank you so much to those who participated. It was fun kissing the pig and some of the teachers joined in as well. Below are pictures of me and Ms. Snell, our assistant principal, kissing the baby pig and the hall sign that tracked donation progress.



Arcadia December 2022 Newsletter

Assessment Data Update

At the beginning of the year, students were given an Acadience Reading and Math assessment to create a baseline from which we will be able to measure their academic growth in those subjects. Students were also given an i-Ready Math diagnostic test to assess their mathematical skills thus far. Throughout the last quarter and into the second, teachers give frequent tests/quizzes called Common Formative Assessments (CFAs) that help them guide their instruction and group students according to their learning needs.

We will now begin giving the middle of year assessments in Acadience Reading and Math to analyze the data from the beginning of the year until now to determine if students are making adequate growth and progress towards their learning goals. Teachers usually share this data with parents at SEPs in February. We are planning to have student-led conferences then where your student will show you his/her data notebook and explain to you how he/she is progressing in each subject and with his/her behavior. The teacher will facilitate the discussion, but the student will do most of the explaining.

In the meantime, if you want to check on your student's progress, you can always login to the [Granite Portal](#) to access Gradebook or contact the teacher.

Attendance Statistics & Incentive Programs

The following are the attendance statistics for Arcadia from the beginning of the school year until now:

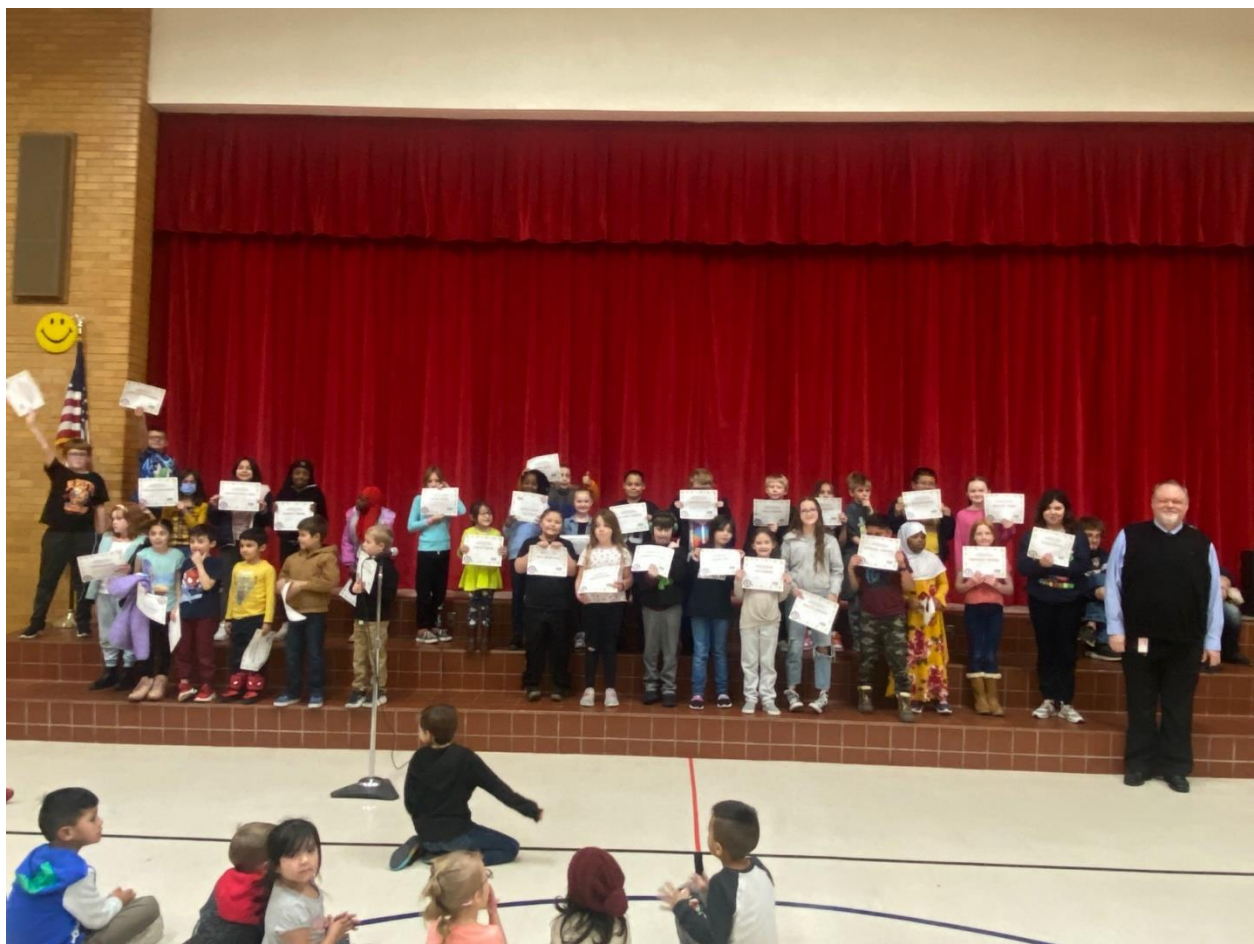
Unexcused	303
Excused	241
Funeral	6
Medical Excuse	70
Quarantine Excuse	2
Suspension	4
Tardies	260
Vacation	56

Arcadia December 2022 Newsletter

We have noticed this year that there have been a lot of absences.

Teachers are reporting that they have an average of 4 or 5 students missing each day. To improve our attendance, we are participating in the district's Everyday Counts program. I announce classes that have 100% attendance each day over the announcements, and they get an attendance pencil and are entered into the drawing for the Quarterly Principal's Party. Teachers have also been tasked to call parents of chronically absent students to see how they and the school can help.

The PTA is also involved and presented students who had 100% attendance in the first quarter with a certificate at our last assembly. The PTA will give certificates for 100% attendance every month from here on out. A picture of the students who received certificates is below.



Arcadia December 2022 Newsletter

It is of upmost importance to be at school as much as possible, so students don't get behind on their learning. Many students, because of COVID, have severe learning gaps and need time at school to fill in the holes in their learning. Thank you to those who have your students attend regularly. If you're having trouble in this area, please contact our attendance secretary, Sandra Perkes, at (385) 646-4756 or speak with your child's teacher for help and ideas. Please take a few minutes to watch this video on attendance from the Department of Education: <https://youtu.be/hEDQWgvJwHU>

Taylorsville Madrigals Holiday Assembly

We are so excited that the Taylorsville High Madrigals will come and perform holiday songs for us on Monday, December 5th at 2:40 p.m. You can learn more about this singing group by going to their [Facebook](#) page.

December Food Pantry

The December Mobile Food Pantry by the Utah Food Bank will be at Arcadia on December 8th. Students are encouraged to meet as family units in the hall by the library before they enter the cafeteria so we can distribute food to everyone who needs it. Students who ride the bus will receive their food 10 minutes before school lets out. Students who walk home or get picked up will be released to go to the cafeteria when the dismissal bell rings at 3:20 p.m. If you are able, please come and help your smaller children carry the food home.

Arcadia Holiday Shop

The PTA is sponsoring the Arcadia Holiday Shop again this year. It will be on Wednesday and Thursday, December 14th & 15th from 3:45 – 6:00 p.m. in the southern most relocatable (Relo 3). The PTA has asked me to remind parents that students **must** be accompanied by an adult or an **older** sibling to be able to shop. A flyer will be going home closer to the event to remind you of the dates and times. Please look for it in your child's backpack.

Arcadia December 2022 Newsletter

Holiday Sing-along for Parents



The holiday sing-along for parents is on the 20th at 2:00 p.m. in the gym. **Please plan to stay for the entire program.** Please be advised that we will not be checking students out early after they perform unless it is an emergency. You are welcome to wait in your car until school lets out on that day to pick up your student. Thanks in advance for your understanding and cooperation.

Winter Break

Winter break starts on December 22nd and lasts until January 3, 2023. Students return to school on Wednesday, January 4th. On behalf of the teachers and staff of Arcadia, we wish you the happiest of holidays and a wonderful New Year!

Community Council

Community Council will be on the 15th at 3:45 p.m. in the library. We are still in need of two or three more parents to join the council for a two-year commitment. **You only are required to meet for about 45 minutes once a month and view some training videos.** Please let me know if you're willing to be on the council and I will send you a declaration of candidacy form to fill out and return.


Arcadia December 2022 Newsletter

Testing Preparation

Arcadia Elementary is committed to helping prepare students for a successful future. Teachers are focused on helping each student show growth and mastery on Utah's end-of-year assessment (RISE Test). We've worked hard this year and have seen tremendous growth in our students. They have proven themselves to be resilient, smart, and great problem solvers. We look forward to seeing students achieve their personal best on the RISE Test this year. I will be meeting with all third – fifth grade students to set goals with them on what they will work towards when taking the test in April. These students will bring home their goal setting sheets for you to read, discuss, and sign. Please review your child's goals and encourage them to show how much they've grown and learned this year. Success begins with believing we can! Thank you for your support of your child's education. To learn more about the RISE test, please go [here](#).

Lockout Drill & Emergency Drill Overview

To increase safety at all Granite School District schools, the emergency protocols have been updated to align with standardized protocols throughout the country. These updated procedures are as follows:



LOCKOUT

- ▶ Potential threat to student safety **OFF** campus
- ▶ All outdoor activities are canceled and students/staff are brought inside
- ▶ Exterior doors are locked
- ▶ Likely police presence on site
- ▶ Activities and instruction continues inside the school
- ▶ Students may move around inside the building as necessary
- ▶ Visitors not allowed in the building unless otherwise directed



LOCKOUT

- ▶ Potential threat to student safety **OFF** campus
- ▶ All outdoor activities are canceled and students/staff are brought inside
- ▶ Exterior doors are locked
- ▶ Likely police presence on site
- ▶ Activities and instruction continues inside the school
- ▶ Students may move around inside the building as necessary
- ▶ Visitors not allowed in the building unless otherwise directed



Arcadia December 2022 Newsletter



LOCKDOWN

- ▶ Threat to student safety **ON campus or inside the building**
- ▶ Students and staff move to classrooms and lock doors
- ▶ Students and staff move out of sight away from doors and windows
- ▶ Doors remain locked and students may not leave for any reason.
- ▶ Emergency personnel unlock classroom doors after situation is resolved
- ▶ No visitors or parents permitted on campus until authorized by emergency personnel



RUN, HIDE, FIGHT

In a situation where someone is actively seeking to cause harm on the campus, staff members will use situational awareness to assess the circumstances as best they can. Using this information, they will lead students to either:

RUN - if a clear path escape is available;

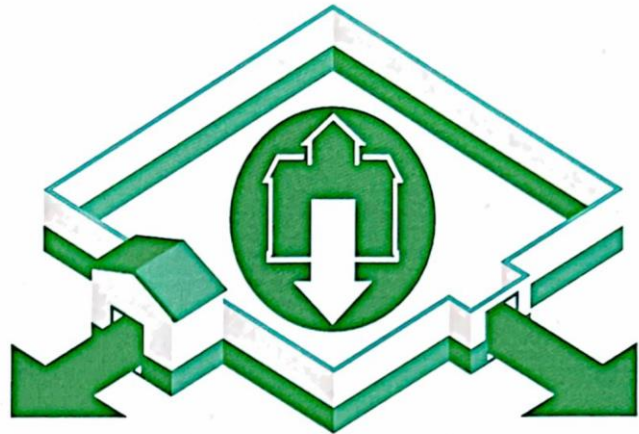
HIDE - if the attacker seems near or escape is not feasible;

FIGHT - as a last resort if confronted



EVACUATION

- ▶ Building is compromised due to hazard, natural disaster/incident, or other situation where students and staff must leave the building
- ▶ All students and staff exit using predetermined exit routes
- ▶ Students and staff gather at designated evacuation site
- ▶ Students and staff remain at evacuation until all clear is issued by emergency personnel
- ▶ If incident is prolonged, reunification process is initiated with parents/guardians picking up students



Arcadia December 2022 Newsletter



SHELTER IN PLACE

- ▶ Outside hazard, natural disaster/incident, or other situation where students must remain inside to stay out of harms way
- ▶ Students and staff brought inside to shelter in building
- ▶ Students will not be released until all clear is issued by emergency personnel
- ▶ If incident is prolonged, reunification process is initiated with parents/guardians picking up students



COMMUNICATING TO PARENTS

Communication during emergency situations will occur as quickly as possible. All available forms of relaying messages will be used, including the school's phone system and district social media accounts.

Please remember that information will not be relayed until all students are safely accounted for, and all information is accurate. Please ensure your contact information is up to date with the school, including any changes to email addresses, cellphone numbers or home phone numbers.

Parents should not call the school unless instructions indicate otherwise. Staff members are not permitted to give out information during a crisis, and calling the school may block phone lines and take away resources.



LOCKOUT
PROTOCOL



LOCKDOWN
PROTOCOL



EVACUATION
PROTOCOL



SHELTER IN PLACE
PROTOCOL

Our next lockout drill will be on December 19th at 1:30 p.m. Our lockdown drill will be in January on the 25th at 9:30 a.m. Our earthquake drill is scheduled for April 26th at 1:30 p.m. but may change because we are participating in the Great Utah Shakeout and may change the date depending on when the shakeout takes place. We will let you know if we change it.

If you happen to be at the school during these times, please wait outside until an office staff member comes to unlock the door as no

Arcadia December 2022 Newsletter

one is permitted to come in or out of the building during these drills. The rest of the drills will be our regular fire drills that happen monthly. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns about the new protocols, drills or anything safety related. If you would like information on our School Emergency Response Plan (SERP), please let me know.

Staff Member Highlight

I would like to highlight one of our second-grade teachers, Ms. Tina Tuifua. Ms. Tuifua is a brand-new teacher who is doing a great job working with her cute class and helping them every day to learn what they need to successfully pass on to third grade. Every time I have been in her classroom observing, she uses best practices in classroom management, lesson planning and creating relationships with students. I have included below the sign that is outside her door so that you can get to know her better. When you see Ms. Tuifua, please thank her for her excellent work this year.

MS. TUIFUA



TEACHER

My family is everything to me. I love to go on hikes, watch movies and try new foods.



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED
East High School

COLLEGES ATTENDED
SLCC, University of Utah,
Utah Valley University

FAVORITE COLOR
Orange 

FAVORITE FOOD
 Pasta

FAVORITE BOOK
And Then There Were None 



Arcadia December 2022 Newsletter

Facebook & Email Communication

If you haven't noticed, we mostly communicate with parents and the community through email, text and social media (Facebook).

Sometimes we send paper copies/flyers home with important information in your child's backpack. If you aren't receiving our emails or texts, please call the office and update your email address and cell phone number listed on your child's registration card. If you're on Facebook, we invite you to follow our Facebook page by searching for Arcadia Elementary or you can go to

<https://www.facebook.com/ArcadiaElementary>

Recess Skill of the Month

I just wanted to let you know that during morning announcements, I remind students what our recess skill of the month is. I thought I would let you know the skills we are concentrating on for the year. They are:

- **September** – Be kind to one another while at play and in conversation.
- **October** – Be respectful to everyone.
- **November** – Be resilient and flexible when you don't get your way.
- **December** – Communicate well and express your needs appropriately.
- **January** – Share with others and be willing to take turns.
- **February** – Have good sportsmanship and play nicely.
- **March** – Be friendly and include others in games you play.
- **April** – Remember SWAT: If someone is being disrespectful to you, remember to tell them to stop. If they don't stop, walk away. If they still won't stop, tell an adult.
- **May** – Accept other students' differences and include them in your recess activities.

Teachers have been emphasizing these skills to their students before they go out to recess; however, I would like you to be aware of them and follow up with your child on how he/she is coming along practicing them throughout the day.

Arcadia December 2022 Newsletter

Coming in January!

- January 4th – First day back to school from winter break.
- January 11th – 5th Grade to take a tour of Bennion Jr. High.
- January 11th – Quarterly principal's party!
- January 11th – Early out day.
- January 12th – End of term (no students at school that day).
- January 13th – No school for students.
- January 16th – Martin Luther King Jr. Day (No school)
- January 17th – Beginning of 3rd term.
- January 18th – Ririe-Woodbury POPS Dance Assembly.
- January 19th – Community Council meeting.
- January 23rd – Bennion Jr. counselors at Arcadia for 6th Grade registration.
- January 25th – Lockdown drill
- January 26th – Math Night!

I love working with the students, teachers, staff, and parents at Arcadia. We're doing great things and working hard to help your children be successful in their education and, as always, please let me know if you have any feedback, questions, or concerns.

Happy Holidays!

Matthew Graham
Principal
Arcadia Elementary

