

Arcadia Principal's April 2023 Newsletter



April 2023

Dear Arcadia Family,

I can't believe it's April already! This year has gone by so fast. We've been busy doing amazing things. I'm excited to finish out the year strong and keep striving to meet our Continual Improvement Plan goals.

The following is information I would like you to know and be aware of. We have a lot going on in April. Please consider volunteering in your student's classroom and being involved with our great PTA.

Resilient You Program!



Arcadia Principal's April 2023 Newsletter

We have been chosen to be a model school for the [Resilient You Program](#) created by Steve James and endorsed by Governor Cox! The goal of the program is to build lasting resilience in children through schools, homes and communities. Students will be introduced to the program on April 11th at an assembly put on by Steve James. After school, teachers will receive a free training on how to implement the program in their classrooms.

Teachers have a set lesson time to speak about social/emotional learning topics each week. They will use this time for the rest of the year to learn the songs associated with Resilient You and discuss questions the program asks at the end of each song. Please view the [parent portion](#) of the Resilient You website to learn more how parents can support this effort at home.

Arcadia Elementary and Steve James will present a **Community Concert at Taylorsville High School on May 24th at 7:00 p.m.** in the auditorium. You and your extended family are invited to join us to see your student sing the Resilient You songs and hear inspirational messages about what it means to be resilient. I hope you'll be able to come.



Waterford Upstart Summer Program



The Granite School District has obtained site licenses for students to access the Waterford Upstart Summer Program that was offered at our school a couple of years ago. The program is meant to help students in grades K-3 fill in learning gaps they may have due to the pandemic or extenuating circumstances. Please see the information below for more information on how to sign up for the

program. K-3 students will be given a paper copy of the flyer to bring home on April 3rd. This is a wonderful opportunity for younger students to prepare for the next grade and work towards proficiency in Reading, Math and Science.

Arcadia Principal's April 2023 Newsletter

Waterford | UPSTART
**SUMMER
LEARNING
PATH**

Granite
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Amazing At-Home Summer Learning Opportunity!

Granite School District has partnered with Waterford.org to give your family access to Waterford Upstart Summer Learning Path over the summer.

Summer Learning Path gives children in K-3 a boost in **reading, math, and science**. The program is proven to accelerate student learning.



97%

of families recommend
Waterford Upstart!

What Do You Get?



On-demand program your child uses at home less than 30 minutes each day



High-quality learning resources for offline practice



Family-focused guidance and tools to help you support your child's learning

Why Should You Sign Up?



Early education **matters** for your child.



We're **here to support you** with guidance and feedback.



It doesn't cost anything, but **it's worth everything!**



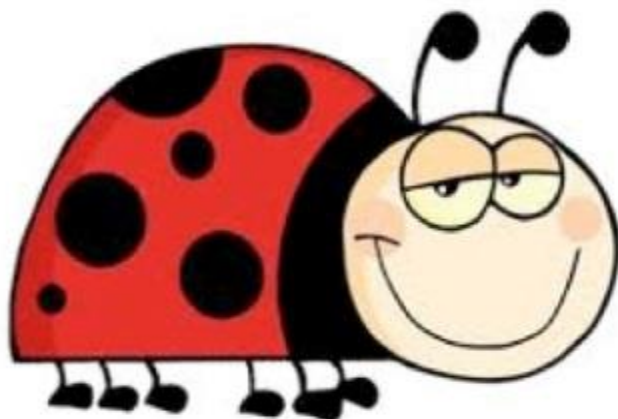
Get started today!

Visit tinyurl.com/GraniteSummer
Or scan this QR code to sign up
888-982-9898

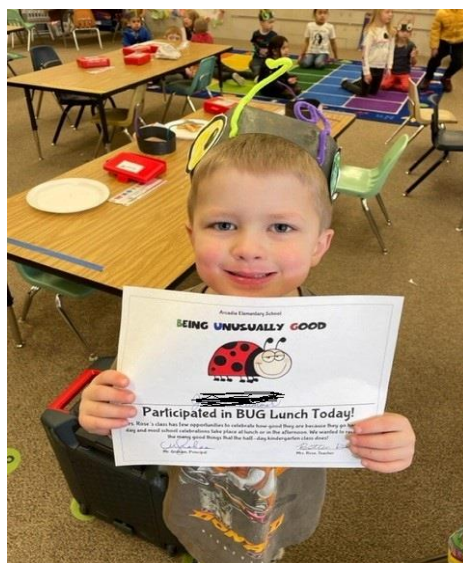
Arcadia Principal's April 2023 Newsletter

BUG Lunch!

BEING UNUSUALLY GOOD



Mrs. Rose's half-day kindergarten class rarely gets rewarded or recognized like the rest of the classes because they go home early. Most of our reward activities and recognitions are in the latter half of the day. Because of this, I decided to recognize her students' excellent behavior and success in following the school rules by having BUG (Being Unusually Good) Lunch on the same days as the Quarterly Principal's Party! We had a great time eating pizza and dancing. The students made antennae to wear and received a certificate at the end of the party!



Arcadia Principal's April 2023 Newsletter

Holocaust Remembrance Day

Holocaust Remembrance Day is on April 18th. The legislature has required each school in Utah to honor this day by teaching students about being kind to everyone, accepting others' differences, and being an "upstander" or ally. Teachers have been asked to teach a 20 minute lesson on these subjects and have been encouraged to have students create art, photos, poems, etc. to post in the main hall and on social media.



Panorama Student Survey



During May, students will take the Panorama Student Survey. This is a district wide survey that helps district and school administration connect what students and parents want to see in the classroom. The Granite School District, will use the survey platform to make decisions about improving

student academic progress, determining the best ways to promote student and staff wellness, and supporting a feeling of belonging and connection at school. To learn more about the survey, please go to the [Panorama Website](#).

Upcoming School Land Trust Plan

At our last Community Council meeting, the council approved the following Land Trust plan for next year:

Goal: At least 60% of students will be at benchmark or above benchmark on the End of Year Acadience Reading assessment.

Academic Area: English Language Arts

Measurements: Acadience Reading Progress Monitoring Assessments



Arcadia Principal's April 2023 Newsletter

Action Steps:

- 1.) Lower grade teachers will coordinate with 4-5 paraprofessionals (aides) to work with intensive/strategic students in small groups to target concepts that need to be retaught or reinforced and to help deliver reading interventions if students are referred to the Student Support Team. Paraprofessionals will work directly under the supervision of a certified teacher.
- 2.) Additional Land Trust funds will be spent to replace out-of-date or needed technology devices such as student earphones and teacher microphones.

Summary of Estimated Expenditures

Category	Estimated Cost (entered by the school)
Services, goods and fees not defined above	\$1,000.00
Technology related supplies < \$5,000 each - devices, computers, E-readers, flash drives, cables, monitor stands	\$2,000.00
Salaries and Benefits (teachers, aides, specialists, productivity, substitutes)	\$57,105.38
Total:	\$60,105.38

Six members approved the plan with one absent. If you have any questions about the upcoming plan, please let me know or feel free to reach out to a member of the council.

Art Night!



For those of you who came to Art Night, you know how much fun it was. Our choir performed at the beginning two songs having to do with colors and art related themes. They were great and added much to the event! Below is a picture of the mural hanging in the main hall that

families created during the event. Ms. Williams, our wonderful art teacher, had students do a scavenger hunt and, if they turned their papers in the next day, would get a purple ticket from their teacher for completing it.

Thank you to everyone who came and participated. I also would like to thank Ms. Williams for her excellent work with our students and the Art Committee for putting together such a nice family engagement activity. Lastly, I would like

Arcadia Principal's April 2023 Newsletter

to thank Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Prettyman and the other volunteers and the choir for giving their time to help make the event even more special.



Utah School Climate Survey

The Utah State Board of Education is interested in learning more about your experience with your student's education. You are invited to participate in completing the Utah School Climate Survey. This survey includes questions about your student's learning, school safety, and interpersonal relationships, as well as your attitudes about the institutional environment and your personal involvement in school. Your



Arcadia Principal's April 2023 Newsletter

responses will be very helpful in improving student relationships, learning conditions, and the overall school environment.

Last year, there were about six people who filled out the survey. The respondents seemed to be those who either love or hate me, the teachers, our programs, etc. which really isn't a true reflection of how the community in general views what is happening within our school.

This year, **it would be nice if we received valid data and feedback** on how we are doing and what we can do to improve the school. This means we need **many more responses** from the community than we received last year.

The survey includes 33 questions and is due by May 5th. You can access the survey by clicking on the link below.

[Utah School Climate Survey](#)

Smart Phone Safety & Policy Reminder



Each year, more and more students are arriving at school with internet enabled smart phones. I often have conversations with parents about cyberbullying, supervised internet use and whether or not their child should even have such a device.

Just a reminder, the policy on electronic devices is if they are brought to school, the school is not responsible for them if they are lost or stolen and they should be turned off and stored in a backpack or pocket. Teachers and staff are authorized to confiscate devices if seen during instructional times (which is all day). If a student needs to contact a parent during the day, he/she must come to the office with a phone pass to call home. Please do not call, text or message your student during the day. This policy applies to smart watches as well. Teachers have been given permission to have students put smart watches in their backpacks during the day if they are texting/calling or receiving messages/calls from their parents. I usually give devices back if they are confiscated for the first time. Parents are required to come and get them if the student breaks the policy repeatedly.

The following video gives parents information on how to keep your student safe when using a smart phone.

Arcadia Principal's April 2023 Newsletter

[Smart Phone Safety Video](#)

April Assemblies & Activities



The following assemblies and activities will occur in the month of April:

- 4/4/23 - The Plan B Theater Company will perform for our students in an assembly.
- 4/6/23 - 1st & 5th grades will take a field trip to watch a performance by Ballet West downtown.
- 4/7/23 - Junior Achievement volunteers will be in various classrooms teaching students about financial literacy.
- 4/11/23 - Steve James will present an assembly on the new Resilient You Program.
- 4/13/23 - The Community Council will meet to review the Land Trust budget and go over agenda items. Everyone is welcome to come to the meeting.
- 4/18/23 - The state legislature has directed schools to commemorate Holocaust Remembrance Day by doing age-appropriate activities to promote kindness and tolerance in the community. Teachers will have activities about being kind and accepting others' differences throughout the day.
- 4/17/23 - Acadience reading testing begins for 4th graders and last until the 20th. Please make sure your 4th grader is in attendance during this time. Acadience Math testing will occur during this window as well.
- 4/20/23 - The PTA fundraiser deadline is this day. Please turn in all donations by this date. Thanks!

Arcadia Principal's April 2023 Newsletter

- 4/20/23 – The PTA monthly meeting is in the library at 3:30 p.m.
- 4/20/23 – The Band and Choir will perform a concert at 5:00 p.m. for family and friends!
- 4/24/23 – Acadience reading testing begins for 3rd & 5th graders and will last until the 27th. Please make sure your 3rd & 5th graders are in attendance during this week. Acadience Math testing will occur during this window as well.
- 4/24/23 – The PTA Glow & Go Fun Run and Dance Party will begin at 2:00 p.m. If the PTA reaches their fundraising goal, Mr. Graham and Ms. Snell have agreed to be slimed!
- 4/25/23 – The last day of Tanner Dance is this day for 1st graders. Parents will be invited at various times (TBD) throughout the day to watch their students' final performance.

PTA Glow & Go Fun Run/Dance Party Fundraiser

The PTA fundraiser will run from April 3rd through April 14th. This year, the fundraiser is a Glow & Go Fun Run & Dance Party which will occur on the 24th. If the PTA reaches their goal of raising \$10,000.00, Ms. Snell and I will be slimed. For more information, please visit the [PTA's Facebook page](#). To set up your FundHub account to be able to donate, please go to the [GetMovinFundHub](#) website. More information will be coming the first week of April. You can also contact our PTA president, [Christina Belcher](#), to receive help or get your questions answered.



PBIS: School Service



Ms. Paras, our upper grade Resource teacher, mentioned to the facilitator of our Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Committee that we should have students do school service as part of our PBIS efforts to help maintain our grounds and give students opportunities to serve the school community.

Arcadia Principal's April 2023 Newsletter

This has been going on for a while now but I thought I would let you know about it. Teachers take students out for about 15 minutes with bags and gloves to pick up trash around the school. The remaining schedule of grade level school service is as follows:

April 3-7	5 th Grade
April 10-14	Special Classes
April 17-21	Kindergarten
April 24-28	1 st Grade
May 1-5	2 nd Grade
May 8-12	3 rd Grade
May 15-19	4 th Grade
May 22-26	5 th Grade
May 29-June 2	Special Classes

Acadience Reading & Math Testing Schedule



Acadience end of year (EOY) testing will start on the 17th and last until May 12th. The testing schedule is below.

April 17-20	4 th Grade
April 24-27	3 rd & 5 th Grade
May 1-4	Kindergarten (Math)
May 8-11	Kindergarten, 1 st & 2 nd Grades

Arcadia Principal's April 2023 Newsletter

RISE Testing Schedule



RISE testing for 3rd – 5th grades will also begin on April 17th. It is very important the students are in attendance throughout the months of April and May so they are able to take these very important high stakes tests. The RISE testing schedule is as follows:

April 17-20	5 th Grade Writing Testing
April 24-27	3-5 Science Testing
May 1-4	3-5 English Language Arts Testing
May 8-11	3-5 Math Testing
May 15-18	RISE Make Up Testing

Paraprofessionals Appreciation Day!

April 5th is Paraprofessional Appreciation Day. We have wonderful paraprofessionals at Arcadia who are dedicated to helping students. Please consider letting one of our awesome paras know how much you appreciate them and all they do for Arcadia.



Arcadia Elementary Paraprofessionals

Martha Tua – Small Groups & Lunch Supervision	Carol Armstrong – ESL, WIDA Testing & Lunch Duty
Sharla Savage – Progress Monitoring	Liz Schow – Lunch Duty
RaAnn Foote – Small Groups, Website, Testing	Kim Allen – Resource Aide
Alma Turner – Behavioral Health Aide	Jennifer Dodd – Lower Grade Resource
Sam Minshew – Upper Resource	Braedon Fordham-McCracken – Motor Aide

Administrative Professionals Appreciation Day!



Administrative Professionals Appreciation Day is on April 26th! Most of you know Debbie and Sandra in the front office. Please consider sending them a message or telling them how much you appreciate them on that day.

Arcadia Principal's April 2023 Newsletter

Debbie is like the mother of our school. She takes care of bumps and bruises each day and manages the front office expertly. I am so grateful for her help and support. I could not do my job without her.

Saundra, like Debbie, gives out “magic” ice and takes care of sick kids and monitors student attendance. She is well known in the community and is a great resource for me and Ms. Snell. She helps out with PTA and the bookfairs and is willing to stay late to attend family engagement activities. I’m grateful for her and all she does for me and the school.

I’m looking forward to celebrating these great ladies on the 26th.

Employee Spotlight



I’ve selected Carol Armstrong for our April Employee Spotlight. Carol has been working at Arcadia as a paraprofessional for a very long time. This will be Carol’s final year as she has decided to dedicate herself to other interests and personal pursuits. It has been fun working with Carol. She has helped many multilingual students over the years as the designated ESL aide for the school. She has also been stalwart as a lunch playground aide. It has been really nice to know Carol is always there at lunchtime to supervise students during their

Arcadia Principal's April 2023 Newsletter

lunch recesses. Thank you, Carol, for your service and dedication to our school.
We wish you the best as you start new adventures.

Coming Up in May & June!

- May 1st – Acadience Math Testing for Kindergarten
- May 1st – RISE ELA Testing for Grades 3-5
- May 4th – Mobile Food Pantry
- May 8th – 12th – Teacher Appreciation Week
- May 8th – 12th – Acadience Reading Testing for Grades K-2
- May 8th – RISE Math Testing for Grades 3-5
- May 11th – Talent Show (Students Only)
- May 11th – Monthly PTA Meeting
- May 15th – Kindergarten KEEP Exit Testing Begins
- May 15th – 18th – RISE Make Up Testing
- **May 18th – Family Culture Night**
- May 18th – 5th Grade Resilient You Field Trip to Bees Game
- May 18th – Community Council Meeting
- May 22nd – 25th – RISE Make Up Testing
- May 22nd – RISE Golden Ticket Raffle
- May 22nd – Magic Show on Kindness Assembly
- May 23rd – RISE Movie Party
- May 23rd – 1st Grade Field Trip to Clark Planetarium
- May 23rd – SpEd 5th Graders Tour Bennion Jr. High
- May 24th – 3rd Grade Field Trip to Clark Planetarium
- **May 24th – Resilient You Community Concert at Taylorsville High**
- May 25th – RISE Popcorn Party
- **May 29th – Memorial Day (No School)**
- May 30th – 5th Grade Field Trip to Classic Skating
- May 30th – Kindergarten Field Day
- May 30th – Mrs. Godfrey's Class Opera Performance
- May 30th – Kindergarten BUG Lunch
- May 30th – RISE Dance Party
- May 31st – Kindergarten Field Trip to Discovery Gateway
- May 31st – Quarterly Principal's Party
- June 1st – Field Day
- June 1st – 5th Grade Promotion Ceremony
- June 1st – Kindergarten Graduation Ceremony
- June 1st – PTA Monthly Meeting
- June 1st – After School Choir, Band & Lego League Party



Arcadia Principal's April 2023 Newsletter

- June 2nd – End of Term
- June 2nd – PBIS Beach Party Celebration
- June 2nd – Last Day of School

Parent Resources

Utah Parent Center	University of Utah Center for Child Care & Family Resources
UEN Parent & Caregiver Resources	Workforce Services Parent Resources
Utah PTA Parent Resources	ParentsEmpowered.org
Tips for Effective Parenting	Utah 211
988 Suicide Prevention Hotline	

I hope you have a happy Easter, Ramadan or Passover. Thank you for supporting our school and for taking the time to read this newsletter. Happy spring!

All the best,

Matthew Graham
Principal
Arcadia Elementary

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