



Fabulous Falcon Flyer

Principal, Vanessa Valencia

Assistant Principal, Dana Tucker

Sixth Avenue Elementary

560 Vaughn Street

Aurora, CO 80011

Office: 303-366-6019

Open 7:30am-3:30pm, Mon-Fri

Attendance Line: 303-326-1640

October 2017

Dear Sixth Avenue Families,

Welcome Back! We hope you and your child or children enjoyed Fall break! It's hard to believe first quarter is behind us. We are proud of the growth our students have made and teachers and students are excited to share the progress with you at conferences on November 2nd and November 9th. Attending conferences is a great way for you to not only hear about your students' academic growth, achievement, and social-emotional development, it is also a time to learn how you can best support your student at home to ensure they make adequate progress and attain their grade level goals. In addition, report cards will be given at your child's conference. If you are unable to attend the scheduled times feel free to arrange a different time with the classroom teacher. They are often available by phone as well. If you are unable to attend a conference, your child's report card will be sent home with them on November 10th.

As I mentioned in my last letter, Sixth Avenue has reached performance status, (the highest state rating with the Colorado Department of Education) and your support is critical to our continued success.

This school year we have the following goals:

- ❖ Maintain an average daily attendance rate of 96% or better
 - You can help by ensuring students are here on time, daily and attend the entire school day. Scheduling doctor and dental appointments on breaks or after school is very helpful. You can also avoid illness by teaching your child the importance of regular handwashing.
 - Reduce referrals and suspensions by 30%
 - You can help by discussing and reinforcing appropriate school behaviors. Discuss how

students should resolve conflicts with peers peacefully and respectfully, how they can seek support when needed and how they might productively solve problems or difficulties when they arise.

- Improve academic growth and achievement by supporting teachers through
 1. Curriculum & Lesson Planning
 2. Instructional Culture: Providing every student with High Quality Instruction
 3. Data Analysis & Action Planning
- You can help by ensuring students do their homework, practice reading and math nightly, and asking students what their academic goals are and what their plan is for achieving them.
- ❖ Live our Golden Rule: "We take care of ourselves and each other"
 - You can help by ensuring students develop good habits with self-care. Help ensure they get adequate sleep, exercise, nutrition, and have a balance of responsibilities and play/fun. You may also help them understand what it means to take care of others and what this looks like at home, at school, and in our community.

Let's always work as a village to raise our children.

Together we RISE!

Sincerely,

Vanessa Valencia, Principal

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 11/2, 11/9** Parent/Teacher Conferences, 3:45-7:15
- 11/3** 2nd Grade Field Trip to Dinosaur Ridge
- 11/10** Half Day – Classes end at 12:00 pm
- 11/10** Bring Someone Special to School, 10:45 am-12:00 pm
- 11/14** Preschool Pictures and Retakes
- 11/20, 21** 5th Grade Field Trips to Young Ameritowne
- 11/22-24** Thanksgiving Break, No School



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- 11/30 Parent Coffee, 9:00-10:00
- 12/5 4th Grade Field Trip to Colorado History Museum
- 12/7 Preschool Parent Day, 10:30 and 2:15
- 12/14 Kindergarten and 1st Grade Field Trip, Holiday for Kids Party
- 12/21 Half Day – Classes end at 12:00 pm
- 12/22 Teacher Workday, No Classes
- 12/25-1/5 Winter Break, No Classes

Halloween:

In order to provide an inclusive learning environment at school, we will not allow any Halloween costumes or masks to be worn at school on Tuesday, October 31st nor will there be any class parties. Instead we will have a class pumpkin decorating competition!

Teachers may also decide to infuse some fun fall activities to enhance learning but Halloween will not be directly celebrated. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation with this matter.

Stranger Danger:

As the time changes and the skies grow darker earlier please speak to you student about how to keep themselves and their friends safe when walking to and from school and/or when they play outside without adult supervision. Encourage them to report any suspicious behavior to an adult.

Classroom News:

Preschool:

Please be sure to sign up for Parent/Teacher conferences!

We are starting the second quarter off with the “Home and Family” theme. Remember to send in your

family photos for our “Family Board”. The children have settled in to our classroom schedule and routines and are doing great work. We are writing in our journals and will be starting math and reading groups next week. We were sorry to have to say goodbye to Ms. Susana and hope to have a new Paraprofessional very soon. In the meantime, Mr. D has been here to help us out.

Please be sure to dress the children for the weather and to call the office if your child will be out. Also, please remember to return your visitor passes to the office when you are picking up your child.

Ms. Dian

Kindergarten:

Kindergarten has completed our first trimester. It has been a whirlwind of letters and numbers. We also had a super fun fieldtrip to the zoo. It was cold but we still saw a lot of animals.

We are looking forward to learning how to write nonfiction, learn about community helpers and become problem solvers. Please continue to help us learn to count to 20 and learning letter names and sounds.

First Grade:

First Grade students have come back from Fall Break ready to learn! We are looking forward to a great Second Quarter! Our focus in literacy for this quarter is informational texts. Students will be using non-fiction texts to research animals and complete their own animal project.

In math, we will be working on building number sense through adding, subtracting, counting and comparing.



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Thank you for your support at home. Please make sure that your child is reading every evening – just ten to fifteen minutes a day can make a great difference!

Second Grade:

The second grade team would like to remind everyone to please attend conferences on November 2nd and November 9th. They are from 3:45-7:00.

Reading for this quarter is focused on identifying text features in a nonfiction book and the main idea of a text.

Second graders are writing informational texts. Students should be able to conduct research about an animal and then correctly use capitals and punctuation in their informational books. We are using various mathematical tools to solve addition and subtraction problems within 100 in math. In science, we are learning about balance and motion.

Just a few reminders, please remember that students bring homework home every Friday, and it needs to be returned the following Friday.

Third Grade:

Dear Third Grade Parents,

Thank you so much for joining us for math/literacy night. We appreciate your commitment to your student's learning. We look forward to meeting with you again soon. This quarter, we are working on reading non-fiction texts with a focus on main idea, supporting details, asking and answering questions. Students are being asked to support their thinking with details from the text. In writing, we are writing to explain why, which will then guide us into persuasive

writing. Finally, in math, we are working on multiplication and division. Within all subjects there will be a focus on economics. Third graders will produce a product, advertise for it, and actually sell it. We have homework every week. Please have your student read 20-30 minutes daily and complete the math work sent home. Homework is due Fridays. Thank you again for your continued support. Please contact us for any questions you might have.

Third grade team

Fourth Grade:

Hello 4th Grade Families! We have so many great things happening this quarter. In math we will be working on multiplication and division. Knowing basic multiplication facts will be critical as we move forward with math this year. Please practice those basic facts with your child at home. In literacy we will turn our focus to informational text in both reading and writing. We will be learning how to identify the main idea and support it with details from the text. In social studies we will be learning about important people and events in Colorado history. In November we will participate in an interactive musical program called Tunes and Tales of the Colorado Trails, and in December we will be visiting the History Colorado Center in Denver. More information about that trip will come home closer to the date. There is a lot of new learning in 4th grade and daily attendance is crucial for student success. Please make sure your child is at school every day to ensure they get all the information, knowledge, and help necessary to be successful in 4th grade. Have a great fall!



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Fifth Grade:

We made it through Quarter 1! The students did great things in all content areas and showed some awesome growth. Last quarter we worked on persevering through high level content. We focused on current events around the world, specifically, through a science lens and investigated the interaction between the Earth and humans. Students worked on improving their understanding of multi-digit multiplication and volume of rectangular prisms.

Looking ahead at our new quarter we are switching into a social studies focus. Our integrated units of literacy and social studies will focus on learning about perspectives. The children are going to work on answering essential questions of "How do we know who is right?" and "Is there a right?" We will use this overarching question to guide our learning about American history.

In math, we will be working with and expanding our understanding of fractions and decimals. Specifically, how can we add and subtract fractions and decimals. We will be working different familiar models, such as clocks and money to help students connect their understanding of fractional and decimal concepts.

There are a number of fun things scheduled in this quarter. On November 10th, we will be having a Birds of Prey Assembly for our 5th graders. Our first real field trip will happen on November 20th or 21st, at this time students will venture to AmeriTowne a day long simulation of what it is to be an adult.

Quarter 2 Music News

We are off to a good start in music this year. Our focus for second quarter will be on additional music standards to continue to develop musicians at Sixth Avenue Elementary School.

Kindergarten through 2nd grade will be focusing on learning and identifying opposite sounds of music including: loud/soft, fast/slow, high/low, long/short. We are still continuing with the concept of steady beat and how do we move our bodies to that beat. Our focus on rhythm is still strong with their practice of reading, saying, creating and performing rhythms on non-pitched percussion instruments.

Students in 3rd - 5th grade are beginning to understand the musical alphabet and how we read music on the treble clef. Students will demonstrate their understanding of these concepts by playing xylophones, bells, metallophones and boomwackers. 5th grade will begin their ukulele unit when they demonstrate their understanding of reading music, instrument care and tuning of a ukulele. Your students are assessed twice a year and will be receiving grades during quarter 2 and quarter 4 on their accomplishments for each standard and their effort in class. Please feel free to reach out to either one of us if you have questions or concerns regarding your child in music.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Roldan and Mrs. Peacock

Technology News

In Quarter 1 students had a great start with refreshing or learning basic skills. In Quarter 2 students in Kindergarten will continue to build on the previous mouse and keyboard skills while consistently and regularly typing the alphabet A-Z to develop letter recognition and basic keyboard literacy. 1st and 2nd grade students will continue to gain a strong focus on typing while also strengthening their word processing skills with assignments that include sequence



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writing using the formats of beginning, middle, end, and first, then, next, and finally learning to use clipart to add illustrations to their typed documents. 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students will continue to develop two hand home row typing proficiency along with learning expense spreadsheets with charts, fundamental programming concepts and coding logic. Talk with your students about how they are further learning to be digitally responsible online.

Library Reminder

We have a lot of books that have not been returned to the library. Missing/overdue book notices will be going home next week. Please help your student look for missing books so that we can have them back on the shelves for everybody to read!

PE Reminder

Don't forget with the weather changing to wear your PE shoes to PE class.

Thanks Mr. Valdez and Mr. McDermott

Check out our school's art room social pages!



www.facebook.com/missgapsart



www.instagram.com/missgartclass

PTO Committee News

We just kicked off our Fundraiser on October 23, 2017. Please help your student with the selling of Pastries and Pizza in the fundraiser. The order forms need to be turned in on November 6, 2017. Delivery Date is on November 15, 2017.

We will be doing a Monthly Multicultural Display. Every month we will honor a different culture in the display case next to the office. Starting in November we will be honoring Mexico in observance of the Day of the Dead. We will be displaying different items that are used during this celebration and we will explain why this day is celebrated in Mexico. We would like to embrace as many cultures as possible, please contact Antonia Lopez, family liaison, for the possibility of helping with a display of some of the history and traditions of other cultures at 303 366 6019.

aplopez@aps.k12.co.us

The PTO Committee needs help with our school events throughout the school year, please contact our office and let us know if you are interested.

Together We Can Make a Difference in a Child's Life!



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