



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

January 2018

Dear Sixth Avenue Families,

Happy New Year! We hope you and your child/children enjoyed winter break. It's hard to believe first semester is behind us and it is already 2018. As we move into third quarter, we start to prepare students for various state assessments. Here is a quick glance at the state assessments that your student may take:

ACCESS: Annual Measure of Language Proficiency

This assessment starts next week and measures a student's progress in acquiring academic English. This assessment is administered to any student identified as an English Learner (NEP and LEP) in grades K-12.

- ACCESS for ELLs, Kindergarten is paper-based
- ACCESS for ELLs, grades 1-12 is computer-based
- Alternate ACCESS, grades 1-12 (for students with significant cognitive disabilities) is paper-based

CMAS: Colorado Measures of Academic Success

This assessment will start in March and end in April. These results help us understand whether students have mastered the content they need to know by the end of the school year to be on track for college and career success.

- English language arts in third through eighth grade
- Math in third through eighth grade
- Science in grades 5, 8 and 11

How are CMAS scores used?

Score reports demonstrate a student's understanding of grade-level subject standards at the end of the school year. Families can use the scores to begin a discussion with their child's teachers and school officials about the child's academic strengths and areas for improvement; together everyone can decide how best to support the student's needs.

Since a large part of Colorado's educational accountability system is based on the results from state assessments and school ratings are based on average scores on state assessments as well as the growth students show from year

to year on assessments, we ask for your partnership in ensuring our students are set up for success on these assessments. **Here's how you can help:**

1. Ensure students are on time and at school every day
2. Ensure students get adequate rest the nights before testing
3. Ensure students eat a healthy breakfast at home or school
4. Decrease stress and text anxiety by encouraging your student to do their best and show what they have learned and what they know
5. Support students and encourage them do their homework and ask questions when needed

Thank you for preparing our students to do their very best on these upcoming assessments. Let's always work as a village to raise our children. Together we RISE!

Sincerely,

Vanessa Valencia, Principal

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 1/15 | Martin Luther King Holiday-No School |
| 1/18 | Parent Coffee, 9:00-10:15 |
| 1/23 | Hearing/Vision Screenings |
| 1/31 | Bring Someone Special to School, 10:45-12:00 |
| 1/31 | Half Day, dismissal at 12:00 |
| 2/1-2 | No School, Conference Exchange Day |
| 2/19 | Presidents' Day Holiday, No School |
| 2/22 | Parent Coffee, 9:00-10:15 |
| 2/23 | 1st Grade Field Trip, Parker Arts Center |
| 3/2 | Read Across America Day |
| 3/7 | Parent/Teacher Conferences 3:45-7:00 |
| 3/8 | Career Day |
| 3/12 | Preschool Parent Day, 10:30 and 2:15 |
| 3/13 | Class Photos |
| 3/21 | Parent/Teacher Conferences 3:45-7:00 |



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Classroom News

Preschool

Happy New Year! Attendance is important in Preschool. Please make sure your children are coming to school every day. Congratulations to Alan Diaz and Yohana Tekly for perfect attendance! We will be starting the year learning about Farm Life. The children will be doing writing and reading assessments the second and third weeks of January. We finished math assessments before winter break. **Every** student made improvements in their rote and 1 to 1 counting. They are keeping track of what is being counted and can answer "how many?"

Please be sure your child is being dropped off and picked up on time.

Morning Class – 8:45 to 11:30

Afternoon Class – 12:30 to 3:15

Kindergarten

We are already 2/3 of the way finished with Trimester 2! Kindergartners are learning to use their knowledge of phonemic awareness and letter sounds to read and write. They are reading, writing, and counting to 20 and beyond in math. They are learning concepts of addition and subtraction and how to read and write math equations. Kindergartners have explored community helpers and have started to think about what they want to be when they grow up. In conjunction with this they are beginning to write non-fiction pieces as opposed to personal narrative. We enjoyed a field trip downtown with our classes. We enjoyed holiday activities and lunch was provided. A big thanks to AMP the cause for providing this free field trip to Kinder and 1st grade students at Sixth Avenue! As always please use the calendar in the blue folder for ways to help students practice at home. Thanks for your support!

First Grade

In quarter three, First Grade will continue to focus on informational texts. In writing we will focus on using text features to further elaborate on a topic. We will be learning about text features and how they help us understand a topic better too. In math we will shift our focus mostly towards geometry. Lastly, we will be working to integrate solids and liquid science lessons into our

reading and writing lessons. We are excited for the second half of the year when we really dig in and see some great growth.

Second Grade

The second grade team would like to welcome everyone back from break. We hope it was relaxing, and you were able to enjoy time with your family.

Reading for this quarter is focused on determining author's purpose, as well as comparing and contrasting the most important points in two different texts. We will continue our work on summarizing the main idea from second quarter. Second graders are writing opinion pieces in which they introduce a topic or book they are writing about. They will continue to use grade level conventions in their writing. In math we are going to be solving three-digit addition and subtraction with and without regrouping within 1,000. Also, they will be using place value to learn and understand money. In science, we are learning about how weather and the changing of seasons impact the environment and living organisms.

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

Third Grade

Third grade parents and guardians, During third quarter, third graders will be learning an interdisciplinary science unit on comparing and contrasting landforms, rocks, and minerals, and geographic features and regions. Our essential question for third quarter is, "How do characteristics of land impact human decision?" Reading and writing will be within this unit, focusing on opinion writing and reading fiction texts. In math, we will be learning about fractions, area and perimeter, and multi-step word problems with all operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division).

Please continue to encourage your child to read every night for 30 minutes. Homework is always sent out on Mondays and returned on Fridays. Thank you for your commitment to your child's academic success.



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Fourth Grade

The new quarter begins on January 8th. Our math focus will be fractions including adding, subtracting, and finding equivalent fractions. Our science focus will be the sun, Earth and moon. To support this new learning our science unit will be integrated with literacy. Your student will be reading and writing about the solar system and will write an opinion piece on a space topic. We will have an interactive learning experience when the Denver Museum of Nature and Science visits our classrooms engaging your student in a hands on learning activity.

Fifth Grade

We have finished half of 5th grade! The students really showed some great growth this quarter and learned some awesome things. We really ramped up the expectations for this quarter and going into the next. We learned about the American colonies and The American Revolution. The children looked at the history of the colonies and the revolution through different perspectives. They improved their writing skills by taking a side and writing an opinion essay. In math, we focused on improving understanding and application of adding and subtracting fractions.

Next quarter we will be looking at change. Our essential questions are how do we know when something has changed and what is the evidence of change? We will be working with the landforms on Earth and mixtures and solutions. The integrated units will have students reading and writing about change. They will use what they learn to write an informative essay! In math, we will be working to expand our understanding from 2nd quarter of fractions. Students will work with multiplying and dividing fractions and decimals.

PE

Happy New Year from PE!

Please remember that all students need to wear proper shoes and clothes to school on days when they have PE. During the 3rd quarter students will be climbing on ropes and cargo nets, jumping rope and doing basketball.

Please remember during the winter months it is always great to get outside for a walk or to play in the snow.

Thanks, Mr. McDermott and Mr. Valdez

Music

Kindergarten, First and Second grade will start working on the concept of how we listen and describe music. Our focus will be on opposites of sounds: loud/soft (dynamics), fast/slow (tempo) and high/low (pitch). We will also continue to focus on our singing and performing with voice and basic non-pitched percussion instruments including drums, tambourines, wood blocks and others.

Students in Third, Fourth and Fifth grade will begin their instrumental music unit to gain a further understanding of how to read music and apply it to an instrument. Depending on the music teacher, these instruments will include: xylophones, metallophones, recorders, keyboards and ukuleles. They will also begin their listening journals to further explore how we can listen and describe music using musical terms.

We look forward to spending second semester with your children.

Mrs. Tammy Peacock and Mrs. Melissa Roldan

Art – Ms. Brown

“Life is like a clay... It is up to you to mold it into any form you desire” – Unknown

It is hard to believe that we are starting the third quarter of the 2017-2018 school year. We have been very busy in the Art Room! As we look forward to the third quarter, we will be studying different types of sculpture and students will be creating works of art out of clay.

Thank you and Happy New Year ☺

Art – Ms. Gonzales

Greetings from the art room! For Ms. G's classes we will be starting a unit on painting and we will be making self-portraits! This is always one of my favorite projects to make with students and I can't wait to show you some examples on our social media pages!



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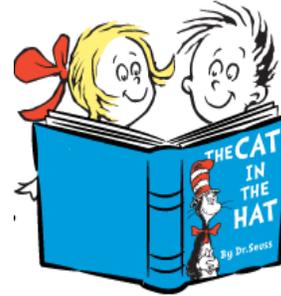
Technology

We are learning so much in Technology and having fun while doing so. In Quarter 3 students in Kindergarten and 1st grade will have more reading and math variety as well as building on the previous mouse and keyboard skills. Topics include letter and word sounds, dolch-sight words, digraphs (SH, WH, TH), mouse skills with numbers 40-80 with some simple math. 2nd and 3rd grade students will strengthen their word processing skills with multiple assignments that include learning how to cut, copy, and paste images and text along with beginning research skills. Students will research about a variety of animals and insects. Students will learn to locate important information on a webpage using page titles, headings, subheadings, bold text, links, and text search techniques such as Ctrl + F (Find). 4th and 5th grade students will continue to develop typing proficiency along with exploring coding, and learning to draw and create their own graphics using paint and drawing programs. Digital Citizenship will be enforced to ensure all students are responsible and safe while online.

Volunteer Opportunities

Sixth Avenue values and promotes active engagement of the community in all of our school events. Many of our parents and community members serve as volunteers in our school each year. Volunteer opportunities may include:

- Providing assistance to teachers with bulletin boards, making copies, and small reading groups
- Serving as tutors, mentors, or guest speakers
- Providing assistance in classrooms, cafeteria, library, or playground
- Organizing student enrichment and recognition activities
- Supporting special events, athletics, and field trips



Read Across America Day!

On Friday, March 2, 2018 we invite you to participate in Read Across America Day in celebration of Dr. Seuss's birthday!

Volunteers are needed to read to our students for 20-25 minutes in the morning and afternoon sessions.

Career Day Speakers Needed!



This year we will celebrate Career Day on Thursday, March 8, 2018. Please let us know if you, or someone you know, are available on this date to present information about your career to our students.

For additional information about volunteer opportunities, contact Antonia Lopez at 303 366 6019 or email aplopez@aps.k12.co.us

Preschool Screenings are Now Available

We are now conducting preschool screenings for **NEW** preschool students for the 2018-19 school year. If you have a child who will turn 3 or 4 years of age on or before Oct. 1, please visit our website at ece.aurorak12.org/screenings to complete a preschool screening online or to schedule an onsite screening appointment. Feel free to share this with other parents of other preschool students. Please contact the APS Early Childhood Education Department at 303-364-9371 if you have any questions.



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