



# ASPEN *Update*

Aspen Academy Weekly Newsletter

January 12th, 2024

- 1/12.....Middle School Dance
- 1/21.....February Lunch Ordering Closes
- 1/22.....Board Meeting 6pm
- 1/23.....School Tour 2pm
- 1/25.....School Wide Spelling Bee 1:30pm
- 1/25.....End of Quarter 2
- 1/26.....No School for K-8
- 1/26.....Family Get Together at Savage Dome
- 1/29.....SEAC 6:30pm
- 1/29.....Beginning of Quarter 3
- 2/1.....Family Strategic Plan 5:30pm
- 2/2.....7th Grade Field Trip - MN History Center
- 2/15.....Early Release 12:00pm / Conferences
- 2/16.....No School for K-8/ Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences
- 2/19.....No School for K-8



**Lost & Found items will be donated end of next week - please check-in for lost items!**

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## February Lunch Ordering



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## 2024/2025 Enrollment for Siblings

If you are intending to have a sibling apply for enrollment for the 2024/2025 school year, please complete an application (if you haven't already). Due date is January 31, 2024. We will hold our lottery on February 6, 2024. Thank you!

Questions, please contact Ms. Martini, [enroll@aspenacademymn.org](mailto:enroll@aspenacademymn.org), 952-226-5942.

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## Middle School Choir Concert

Aspen Academy's winter choir concert took place on Monday, January 8th. Scholars in grades 6-8 delighted the audience, including friends, families, and special guests, with their beautiful performance. The songs represented music from around the world. One highlight was the song 'Sisi ni moja,' performed by the 7th and 8th-grade choir, which left us with the message, 'We are one world, one people. And we all breathe the same... Now we stand here together and lift our hearts in song to the rhythm of this moment in our lives.' It was a wonderful experience!



Thanks to Mr. Gross for his work, passion, and dedication in leading the choir.

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## Spelling Bee Winners

Aspen Academy is participating in the Scripps National Spelling Bee this year! The first round of the competition consisted of classroom-level bees for students in grades 2-8, held this past week. The winners at the classroom level will now move

on to participate in the School-Wide Spelling Bee on January 25.

Congratulations to the following Classroom Spelling Bee winners:  
The students are listed from youngest grade to oldest\*\*

Celine B  
Darryl M  
Sana'a N  
Alysha H  
Lera M  
Genevieve R  
Audrey C  
Teigan D  
Sophia K  
Ayman K  
Ruqaya N  
Jadon F  
Asiya A  
Austin T  
Derek J  
Zabreen R  
Annabelle W  
Viviana T  
Neil R  
Keisha J  
Sara B  
Nithya K  
Zohaib R

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## 6th Grade Eagle Bluff Trip March 4-6, 2024!

If you have not already, make sure to sign up your 6th grader for this year's Eagle Bluff trip! Eagle Bluff is a 3-day, 2-night Environmental Camp in Lanesboro, MN.

During the trip, 6th graders will stay in dorms, dine in the hall, engage in outdoor science and team-building activities, enjoy a campfire, and, most importantly, have a whole lot of fun!

While the trip is optional, we would love to have your 6th grader attend.

Please reference communication regarding the trip from Ms. Olson.  
If you have not received any, please contact [debra.olson@aspenacademymn.org](mailto:debra.olson@aspenacademymn.org)

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## Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC)

The Special Education Advisory Council is an opportunity for families of students with disabilities and Aspen Academy staff to collaborate on issues related to providing quality services for students. This year's SEAC meeting will be held via Zoom on **Monday, January 29 at 6:30 pm**. Our special education director will share updates regarding our special education department, and there will be opportunities for families to provide feedback on our programming. We highly recommend parents/guardians of students with IEPs attend!

The meeting link is: <https://aspenacademymn-org.zoom.us/j/6468751749?pwd=NkNXNVBTcUk1SHFuSHhJMXMoVGtZZz09>

Meeting ID: 646 875 1749  
Passcode: 656960

For more information or questions, contact Jodi Herlick, Special Education Coordinator,  
at [jodi.herlick@aspenacademymn.org](mailto:jodi.herlick@aspenacademymn.org).

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## **YEARBOOKS!**

Yearbooks are ready to order!

<https://ybpay.lifetouch.com/>

Code: 15238024

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## **Family Strategic Plan Night**



Join us on February 1st  
5:30pm - 7:30pm

What is a Strategic Plan?

Aspen's Strategic Planning process sets our goals and priorities for the next 5 years. This plan guides the actions we take, decisions we make, and the resources we allocate to achieve our vision.

Please **RSVP** by January 25th, 2024

A light meal will be provided  
as well as childcare\*\*\*



<https://forms.gle/pGDwdbvzzFEvgdwT7>



PH: 952-226-5940  
AspenAcademyMN.org

<https://forms.gle/72BGdvuEWNifu7NW8> - Link for RSVP!

## Reminder of Winter Screening Assessments

Hello Families!

Believe it or not it is January, even though there is no snow on the ground!

This means it's time to check in on all the progress our scholars have made so far this year. Starting January 8th, the scholars will complete the winter FastBridge Learning® screening assessments. We use these assessments in the fall, winter and spring to provide information to teachers about which scholars need their instruction differentiated.

Some of the assessments are administered in the classroom on Chromebooks and some are administered one on one with the teacher or other trained staff.

Here's the list of assessments:  
Grades K: earlyReading and earlyMath

Grade 1: earlyReading and earlyMath

Grades 2-5: aReading, CBM-Reading, AUTOreading, aMath, CBM Math Automaticity, and the Social, Academic, and Emotional Behavior Screener (4th and 5th grades only)

Grades 6-8: aReading, AUTOreading, aMath, CBMmath Automaticity, and the Social, Academic, and Emotional Behavior Screener

Remind your scholars to do their best and have a positive attitude! This information helps us document all their growth for the first half of the year! Try to make sure your scholar gets a good night's sleep and encourage your scholar to eat a healthy breakfast.

We are excited to share with you the news on your scholar's progress on these screening assessments as well as their progress towards their academic goals in February during winter conferences!

Don't forget to sign up when the email comes out in early February!

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## PTO OPPORTUNITIES!

Looking for something to do with the kiddos on Friday, January 26th and meet other Aspen families? Come to the Savage Dome between 12 and 3pm. Bring your own balls or games to play. \$5 per person.

February is I Love to Read Month! The I Love to Read Committee is in need of decorations for the lobby and hallways and volunteers to decorate and distribute books on January 31st. Please see the sign ups for more information.

Book Distribution link - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050F49A9AA23A31-47172374-iloveto>

Decorating help link - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050F49A9AA23A31-47172427-iloveto>

Decorations link - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050F49A9AA23A31-47172426-iloveto>

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## Aspen Community Closet

Thank you so much to those who have donated to the Aspen Community Closet!  
We have already used our resources to support scholars and families.

If you have any questions about our Aspen Community Closet,  
please feel free to email our School Social Worker, Maddie Zulk, at  
[madison.zulk@aspenacademymn.org](mailto:madison.zulk@aspenacademymn.org).

All items can be dropped off in the front office labeled Aspen Community Closet.  
Thank you!

Please make sure all used donated items are cleaned prior to donation.

Clothing:

- Aspen uniforms (can be used) specifically looking for sizes M, L, XL, or larger
- Aspen spirit wear (can be used)
- Hijabs (new)
- Socks (new)
- Winter coats (new or used)

- Snow pants (new or used) specifically looking for sizes XS, S, M

Personal Care Items:

- Mini deodorants (new)
- Combs or brushes (new)
- Feminine care products (new)
- Body spray (new)

School Supplies:

- Pencil pouches (new or used)
- Scissors (new or used)
- Markers, colored pencils, crayons (new)
- Pencils (new)
- Glue sticks/bottles (new)
- Notebooks, folders, binders (new)

Food (all new):

- Granola bars (any variety)
- Fruit snacks (any variety)
- Individually wrapped crackers (any variety)
- Juice boxes (any variety)
- Mints (any variety)



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