



ASPEN Update

Aspen Academy Weekly Newsletter

January 26th, 2024

1/29.....SEAC Mtg - 6:30pm
1/29.....Beginning of Quarter 3
1/30.....Report Cards Available by 8:30am
2/1.....Strategic Plan Family Night - 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 - Presidents Day



I Love To Read Month!

During the month of February, Aspen scholars and staff will receive: the book "The Borrowers", by Mary Norton. Each Aspen family will receive one copy of the book and a bookmark with the reading schedule on January 31st, 2024.

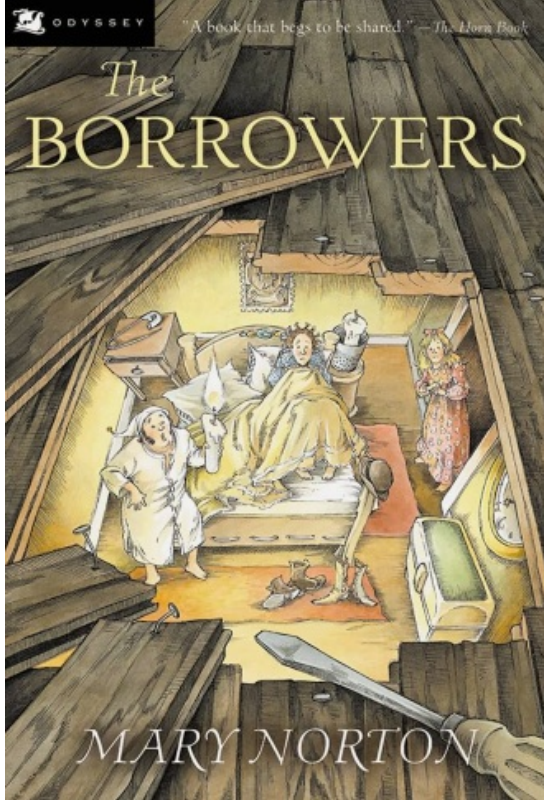
In "The Borrowers," a tiny family resides beneath the kitchen of a regular-sized house where "human beans" live. This family borrows items from the humans to craft a comfortable life in their miniature home. For instance, they might use borrowed postage stamps as paintings. However, the Borrowers must exercise caution, as being discovered by a human means they may never be seen again.

Throughout the month, there will be weekly trivia and discussions about the book in your scholar's homeroom. If your scholar prefers, "The Borrowers" is also available for free through the Libby App in audiobook format.

Aspen scholars will collectively participate in tracking their reading minutes at home. For every 20 minutes a scholar reads, parents are to sign a paper button. These buttons will help staff monitor reading minutes throughout February. Upon achieving reading goals, school-wide prizes will be awarded to our scholars!

During the month of February, scholars can look forward to...

- Dress up days
- Highlighting diverse authors
- Tracking reading minutes
- Book trivia
- The read-a-thon
- Movie day to watch *The Borrowers*



- A chance to win all school prizes

February 2nd: Decade Day
February 9th: Sports Day
February 14th: Dress Your Best Day
February 23rd: Book Character Day
March 1st: Cozy Day

I Love To Read Decor!

Have you ever envisioned constructing a phenomenally larger-than-life object?

Well, families, here's your chance! For I Love to Read month, the front lobby will be adorned with larger-than-life objects. We're reaching out to challenge caregivers and families to participate in creating something LARGER-than-life!

This could be anything: paper clips, books, stamps, matchboxes, televisions, game consoles, cell phones, or cupcakes—anything your heart desires (that's appropriate for school).

If you're inclined to see what you can build, please submit your objects to the office by January 31st at the end of the day. Thank you!

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Stacie Milton - Stacie.Milton@aspenacademymn.org

Celebrating Paraprofessional Week!



Governor Walz has proclaimed that January 21-27, 2024, in the state of MN, is Paraprofessional Recognition Week! We have an awesome paraprofessional team!

The support and services provided by paraprofessionals are integral to student achievement. Paraprofessionals take on a wide range of responsibilities to meet the unique needs of the students in their care.

Their dedication supports a safe, effective, and engaging learning environment throughout our school! Paraprofessionals play an essential role in the success of our students.

We are so fortunate to have an amazing team of paraprofessionals! We celebrate them this week and are so grateful for their contributions every day!!

**2023-2024 Aspen Academy
Paraprofessional Team**

Afifa A. Angie J. Stacey F. Teresa D.
Jennie T. Manisha P. Noah J. Maia C.
Emily L. Canyon T. Morgan W. Elizabeth H.
Morgan W. Noelle W. Kathie S. - Interventionist
Jasmin B. - Interventionist Erin B. Ethan D. Rochelle M.
Anna L. Maria M. Harry A.

All School Spelling Bee



Congratulations to Nithya K. for securing the top spot in the Aspen School-Wide Spelling Bee!

Nithya is now poised to take the online qualifying test, aiming for the opportunity to compete in the Twin Cities Regional Spelling Bee in March.

Kudos are also in order for Sara B., who claimed the 2nd position, and for the impressive tie between Sophia K. and Viviana T. for 3rd place.

A round of applause to all our classroom-level winners for showcasing remarkable tenacity in the competition.

We eagerly anticipate establishing the Spelling Bee as an annual tradition at Aspen Academy!

The Minnesota Institute for Talented Youth is providing summer programs tailored for advanced students in Grades 5-7. Although this initiative is not officially endorsed by Aspen, we find it valuable to share this information with families who may be interested in exploring this opportunity.

You can find out more by clicking [HERE](#) for the flier or by visiting their website at MITY.org.

SchoolStore Fundraiser

Your child received a letter this Monday introducing our fundraising initiative for essential school needs, such as recess equipment (e.g., balls, jump ropes, etc.) and classroom materials. We're excited to share this new opportunity that came to us unexpectedly and has great potential to support our teachers!

The SchoolStore fundraiser is entirely online, eliminating face-to-face selling, handling money, or delivering products. Your involvement will take less than 12 minutes, and there are exciting prizes to make it enjoyable for the students.

To participate:

1. Visit <https://www.schoolstore.net/sid.t?0000362212> to sign up.
2. Use the provided form emails to invite family, friends, and co-workers to support your child.
3. Return the envelope with the Student Prize Code to school, allowing your child to receive their fun participation prize.

Please check in with your child regarding the Parent Envelope this evening. Your involvement can truly impact our school and support our teachers!

Please be aware that your participation is entirely optional.

If you have any questions please email Lydia Cedarberg
Lydia.Cedarberg@aspenacademymn.org

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, 952-226-5942.

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

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.

YEARBOOKS!

Yearbooks are ready to order!

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

Code: 15238024

Family Strategic Plan Night

EXTENDED RSVP!!!!

Moved from Jan. 25th to Jan. 30th

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



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>



A 2019 National Blue Ribbon School

PH: 952-226-5940
AspenAcademyMN.org

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!

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>

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.

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)



Aspen Academy | 14825 Zinran Ave, SAVAGE, MN 55378

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