



Upcoming Events

Oct 22nd	Staff Professional Development (Early Dismissal 12:15 for all students)
Oct 25th	Show What You Know Program at 8:15 am
Nov 1st	Spirit Wear Friday
Nov 7th	Veteran's Day Assembly (1st-6th grades at Draper 1 campus)
Nov 7th	Evening Parent Teacher Conferences
Nov 8th	Parent Teacher Conferences (NO SCHOOL)
Nov 15th	Spirit Wear Friday
Nov 26th	Pilgrim Play/Show What You Know Program
Nov 27th-29th	Thanksgiving Break (NO SCHOOL)

OCTOBER'S BUILDER THEME

Integrity has been described as “walking your talk”. This means that there should be no difference between our actions and our words. Integrity is shown not just in what we say, but in our whole character. Building a reputation of integrity takes years, but it takes only a second to lose, so we should never allow ourselves to do anything that would damage our integrity.

A great way to begin a discussion on the meaning and importance of integrity is to invent scenarios that encourage us to think about our choices. This provides a non-judgmental space in which to explore integrity and share responses. Discussion helps us to learn what the right thing is and how to actually do it, especially if there is peer pressure involved. Here are some examples.

“What would you do if...”

...you saw your best friend stealing candy from the teacher's desk?

- ...you noticed that your grandmother dropped a \$20 bill the same day you wanted to buy a new video game?
- ...you saw the last piece of chocolate cake in the fridge but knew your sister was hoping to have it for dessert?
- ...you jokingly said something at recess and later heard it repeated as a rumor?
- ...you witnessed a friend being bullied in the hallway at school?

Others need to be able to trust that we will “walk our talk”, that we can be trusted to do what we say we will do simply because it’s the right and honorable thing. Why? The value of the trust of others goes beyond anything that can be measured because it brings limitless opportunities and endless possibilities.

HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

With Halloween approaching, we wanted to remind our parents of our holiday celebration procedures. We typically do not celebrate holidays, although we do acknowledge some of them (see below). We do not have class holiday parties, but instead, we have fun culminating activities that go along with our units of study in history and science. Students often dress up, have food, and play games at these activities.

Birthday Celebrations- Teachers will most likely mention a student’s birthday during the school day of their birthday and have a special way of acknowledging that student. Parents may bring non-food items for class members. This is not something that needs to be done, but if parents choose to do that is acceptable.

Invitations to parties outside of school- Birthday parties and other parties held during the year are an exciting event for the child hosting the party and those who are invited. It can be a very disappointing time for a child who has not been invited to the same party. Out of respect and consideration for the feelings of all students, please do not distribute invitations to birthday parties or any other personal parties at school-before, during, or after- unless an entire class is invited. If only a portion of the students in a class is invited, please use other ways- outside of school- to contact those students and parents. We appreciate your consideration of others and appreciate the modeling of respectful behavior.

Halloween- It is important to remember that we don’t celebrate or acknowledge Halloween.

Thanksgiving Day- We talk about being grateful (in word and deed) for the whole month of November.

Religious Holidays (Christmas, Kwanza, Hanukkah, Ramadan, Easter)- We will talk about these holidays as part of the curriculum and help students understand what others in school are doing and experiencing. We may sing songs from any of these or other similar holidays in our choir classes as part of the curriculum.

READING UNIVERSITY (RU)

This week we hosted our first Reading University (RU) store. The students were excited to participate and be proud of their accomplishment! Thank you to our wonderful parents for completing your student’s RU log and helping this activity be such a success. Our kindergarteners are excited to share fun details of books they have read the night before! As you read with your child, please continue to record the books on your student’s RU log.

REPORT CARDS

Your student's report card was sent home today with their learning plan. As this is your first kinder report card from APA, we want to give you a little information. The purpose of report cards at American Prep in kindergarten is to communicate with parents regarding the academic progress and work habits development of their students. You will note there are letter grades on the report cards. This is unusual for kindergarten- meaning at most schools, report cards in kindergarten will use "grades" such as "satisfactory" or "needs to improve." We feel those labels are subjective measures (at best) and not very helpful to parents. We feel parents should have solid information about their student's progress, so we use letter grades on all our report cards.

If your child receives an "A" or a "B" in a subject, you can be confident that we have been able to gather sufficient data through observations of student performance that indicate the student is "at mastery" in the level they have been placed in. If your child received a lower grade, it means either they are not yet at mastery at their level, or that we are unable to determine mastery. Sometimes we are unable to definitively say if a student is "at mastery" at this young age because students have limited ways to demonstrate that mastery. Sometimes we need more time to observe and work with a student before we can determine mastery.

Also, you are probably aware that we place students at their achievement level for reading and math. So, the grade your child received reflects their level of mastery at THAT level, not at the "grade" level. You will also note a grade in work and study habits and citizenship. These are important measures of a student's progress as well.

Our view on grades in kindergarten is that they are primarily for communicating with parents regarding a student's progress. Kinder report cards are not something that parents should react to emotionally- with frustration, anger, worry, etc. If there were something to be worried about, we would have contacted parents directly and held a meeting with you. Report cards can be used as a positive, motivating tool when they reflect good progress. If they don't yet reflect that, the report card should be viewed neutrally with regard to emotion. It is inappropriate for parents to use kindergarten grades to punish children.

We schedule parent-teacher conferences after report cards have been issued so you will have an opportunity to discuss any questions you may have with your child's teacher. Using a positive attitude with your child's first report card will imprint their view of school!

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCE: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH

Sign-ups for parent teacher conferences will be available shortly through Sign Up Genius. Teachers will be emailing parents notifying them of this opportunity.

READING AND MATH LESSONS AVAILABLE ON APA'S WEBSITE

When students are absent, they are strongly encouraged to use the online APA reading and math lesson videos to help them stay caught up in their work. Parents can go to the APA website, www.americanprep.org and then click on the Parent Resources link. Once there, parents can scroll down to the Reading and Math Lessons link. The parent can select their child's reading and math level as well as the lesson they are on and have access to a video of the full lesson instruction. Though it is best for students to be in the class every school day, when they must be absent, completing these lessons while they are absent helps greatly with a successful return to school.

UTAH SCHOOLS ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT CARD

The 2024 School Report Cards are available on americanprep.org under Parent Resources, Plans and Reports, "Utah School Accountability Report Card" Or you may find our campus Report Card by going directly to this link:

<https://reportcard.schools.utah.gov/School/OverallPerformance?SchoolID=110573&DistrictID=110573&SchoolNbr=100&SchoolLevel=K8&IsSplitSchool=0&schoolyearendyear=2024>

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Sign-ups for parent teacher conferences will be available shortly through Sign Up Genius. Look for detailed information from your child's teacher notifying you of this opportunity to sign up for a meeting.

UNIFORM SHORTS- REMINDER

Students are no longer allowed to wear khaki shorts after Fall Break. They will have the choice of wearing shorts again after Spring Break.

JEANS DAY INCENTIVE

If your child has no missing assignments by Friday, October 4th, they will be able to wear jeans with the rest of their uniform on Friday, October 11th, which is the last day of the term. Your child will know they have earned this incentive when they get to wear a sticker home that says they earned a jeans day incentive.

KINDERGARTEN CORNER: (Sayings from our very own Kindergarten students)

Student: Are you excited for tripped break?

Teacher: Tripped Break? I think you mean Fall Break.

Warm Regards,
Cody O'Brien
Director of the Early Learning Center
cobrien@apamail.org
801-797-0069