



Afton Elementary Newsletter

September 2024

Welcome Back

The first week back to school has been fantastic and makes me excited for this year! I hope you all have had a great experience this week as well. At Afton Elementary we know that we achieve success when we do our very best and this year will be full of wonderful successes and opportunities. We have a western/camping theme this year so get ready to rope up some math facts and ride the horse of reading success. Whether you are excited or a little nervous about school, please know that we have a whole corral full of caring adults that are here to help you! It's going to be a great year!

Principal Robinson

Phone Messages

If you need to get a message to your child before school lets out for the day, please call before 2:00. Because of the busyness at the end of the day we cannot guarantee that your

Coming Events

Sept. 3.....Vision Screening

Sept. 4.....Hearing Screening

Sept. 10....PTO Meeting
12:15PM

Sept. 13....No School

Sept. 20....No School

New Staff



Ali Mackey - Ali is teaching 1st grade this year. She is team teaching with Michelle Van Slyke. Ali has four kids. She has taught elementary for nine years, and four years of preschool. She loves to read, hike, camp, and play sports. She is married to Bridger.



Michelle Van Slyke - Michelle is teaching 1st grade this year. She is team teaching with Ali Mackey. She is married to Mark, who is a teacher at Swift Creek High School. They have two kids, a boy and a girl. Her and her husband have lived in Boise, ID and Logan, UT and now Star Valley. Michelle has taught for twelve years. She loves to adventure by skiing, climbing, hiking, biking, and reading.



Sydney Guild - Sydney is teaching 1st grade. She has four people in her family, her husband TJ and two daughters, Isla and Denali (who share the same birthday). She has been teaching 2nd Grade at Thayne Elementary for several years and she taught Kinder/1st Grade in Utah for a few years before that. Sydney was born and raised in Star Valley. She loves to fish, boat, and ride bikes.



Danyel Turner - Danyel Turner is a special education teacher. She is married to Nathan Turner. They live in Osmond and have four children and nine grandchildren. She has been in Star Valley for 34 years. She loves being in the outdoors, swimming, camping, and reading. Her hobbies are crocheting, quilting, cross stitch, and teaching swimming. Danyel has worked at SVHS, Bridges, and Thayne before coming to Afton Elementary.



Marie Erickson - Marie is a school counselor. Marie and her husband Zane have been married for 14 years. They have three kids, ages 10, 6, & 5. She grew up in North Carolina. Marie loves to read, play the piano, and spend time with her family.



Darbi Stoll - Darbi is a Special Education aide. She grew up in Star Valley, but just recently moved back home with her husband and two dogs. She is helping coach the Brave Cadettes and instructing at Dezi's Dance Studio. Darbi loves spending time in the outdoors and with her family.



Brittany Atkins - Brittany is a Title 1 aide. She has a family of four. She has two kids attending Afton Elementary (1st grade and kindergarten). She has been a stay at home mom for five years. Before that she was a special education para in Virginia. They moved to Wyoming about two years ago and absolutely love it here!



Chloe Moffat - Chloe is a Title 1 aide. She is married to Tanner and has two kids a son Jaxon and daughter Fynnlee. She loves anything sports, especially volleyball and football. She is a huge bookworm. An interesting fact about Chloe is that she has a birthmark on her eye.



Cindy Matthews - Cindy is a Title 1 aide. She moved here from Salem Oregon about two years ago. She has been home with her kids for the last 23 years. Her and her husband just celebrated their 25th anniversary. They have five sons. The oldest two are in college, one is on a mission Sierra Leone, one is a junior in high school and the youngest is just starting middle school this year. Cindy enjoys spending time with her family, road trips, hiking, camping, gardening, cooking, music, reading and learning new things. She is excited to be working at Afton Elementary.



Kathryn Burgess - Kathryn is a Title 1 aide. Kathryn and her husband moved back to Star Valley in 2007. They have four amazing children. Damien is a senior, Jocelyn is a sophomore, Maggie is a 7th grader and Liam is a 3rd grader here at Afton Elementary. They love living in Star Valley and she is excited to follow this new path working here at the school!



Taygan Ashley - Taygan is a title 1 aide. Taygan went to kindergarten at Afton Elementary and her teacher was Mrs. Grover. She moved away after kindergarten to Pinedale and moved back to Star Valley her freshman year. She got her CNA license and then graduated from Swift Creek High School this year. Taygan loves to be outside with her dogs, camping and traveling with family.

Learning Update

Kindergarten - There are a lot of puns surrounding the first few months of Kindergarten. One pun is that Kindergarten in September is like herding cats, although this is usually spot on, we have some amazing “cats” this year! We will continue to work on learning all the different routines and procedures and providing a lot of support and practice!

In ELA, we will begin the 26 Letters in 26 Days. This method is where we introduce a letter each day, along with the Zoo Phonic animal action/sound that represents the letters. We will work on writing our name the “kindergarten way” and build our fine motor muscles through various tasks. Writing begins with an illustration unit where the children practice drawing shapes to create simple pictures. We are forming small groups in preparation for our core reading program: Reading Mastery.

In Math, we will begin with teaching simple procedures based on our math program. How to use and put away our math mats and use the math shelf. As the month progresses, ask your Kindergartener about the various math tools that they will use all year long. Numbers to 0-5 will be our first mathematical focus for this month. Counting objects out, writing, comparing, and recognizing numbers 0-5.

1st Grade - We are so excited to get this year started! Reading: To begin our year we will be working on building good habits as readers. We will drop our bad habits, and work on creating good habits. We will also be starting Reading Mastery and working on our decoding skills. Writing: Our first writing unit will be Personal Narratives. Our students love to tell stories, and we love to hear them. They will write small moments and learn to use their voice in these narratives. We will also be working hard on spelling and grammar. As we work on our writing skills, we will also be working hard on our handwriting to form our letters correctly. Math: The first math unit we will be working on is numbers to 10. The goals of this chapter are to lead students to more efficient counting strategies with one-to-one correspondence, to read and write numbers in numerals and words, to compare the number of objects in two or more sets as well as to order numbers in ascending and descending orders.

2nd Grade - We are already working hard to learn new things in 2nd grade. We have started our home reading and math facts calendar. Please try to put in a few minutes of math facts practice each night along with nightly reading. It makes a tremendous difference in your student's ability to master our 2nd grade math standards. This fall we will be going to Canyon View Park on Fridays to learn from members in our community. We will start the month learning with the Game Warden and SV Search and Rescue. We will also be making our 2nd grade t-shirts during the month of September. Watch for more information if you would like to volunteer to help with that project. Thank you for supporting us in our learning!

3rd Grade - We love to focus on the positive things that we see our students doing. Our classy ticket program helps us recognize all those good things we see. Every time a student is spotted doing good (saying thank you, helping others, being polite, being respectful, working with others, etc.), they are given a ticket. Many tickets are given out each day! Prizes and parties will happen throughout the year to celebrate all these amazing students who are working hard to be positive, classy kids. We are learning names, procedures, rules, and games—and having fun getting to know each other. Please note that we are hosting a Parent Night on September 4th at 6:00 p.m. in the gym. This will be to go over 3rd grade procedures, homework, etc. It should be about 30 minutes. We encourage you to attend.

AFTON ELEMENTARY'S MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS



MRS. ERICKSON

SCHOOL COUNSELOR

- Focus on academic, personal development, and social emotional learning
- Provide individual and group counseling
- Often have a master's degree in counseling or a related field

WE BOTH

- Support student overall mental and behavioral health, well-being, and academics
- Support students' ability to learn and teachers' ability to teach
- Collaborate with teachers, parents, and other school staff to help students succeed
- Provide counseling, but school psychologists often have a more clinical approach while counselors focus more on emotional and academic concerns
- Implement school-wide programs (e.g., anti-bullying, character education)
- Address issues such as behavior problems, social skills, and emotional challenges
- Conduct assessments and create academic and behavioral intervention plans
- Offer specialized interventions and therapeutic support for emotional/behavioral issues
- Focus on improving student outcomes and overall school environment
- Help with crisis prevention and response
- Support students with disabilities or special needs

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST

- Focus on psychological assessments, educational classifications, and treatment
- Provide psychological evaluations for learning disabilities, ADHD, and other issues
- Often have a doctoral/specialist degree in psychology (Ph.D., Psy.D., or EdS)




MR. MADSEN

September 2024

Afton, Etna, Osmond, Thyane

Breakfast

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 Labor Day No School	3 Ham & Egg Bagel -or- Cocoa Cherry Bar Strawberry Banana Yogurt --Served With-- Watermelon Craisins Applesauce Cup	4 Pumpkin Bread -or- Matey's Cereal String Cheese --Served With-- Cherry Mixed Fruit Cup Apple Juice	5 Yogurt Parfait -or- Campfire Smore's Bar Strawberry Banana Yogurt --Served With-- Zee Zee Dried Fruit Diced Peach Cup	6 French Toast Sticks -or- Cinnamon Toaster Cereal String Cheese --Served With-- Mandarin Orange Cup Fruit Blend Juice
9 Breakfast Pizza -or- Cocoa Cherry Bar Strawberry Banana Yogurt --Served With-- Watermelon Craisins Diced Pear Cup	10 Vanilla Waffle -or- Matey's Cereal String Cheese --Served With-- Applesauce Cup Orange Juice	11 Biscuit and Gravy -or- Campfire Smore's Bar Strawberry Banana Yogurt --Served With-- Zee Zee Dried Fruit Fresh Orange	12 Donut Holes -or- Cinnamon Toaster Cereal String Cheese --Served With-- Pineapple Tidbits Cup Apple Juice	13
16 Breakfast Burrito -or- Campfire Smore's Bar Strawberry Banana Yogurt --Served With-- Watermelon Craisins Applesauce Cup	17 Mini Cinnis -or- Matey's Cereal String Cheese --Served With-- Cherry Mixed Fruit Cup Orange Juice	18 Choco Chip Muffin -or- Cocoa Cherry Bar Strawberry Banana Yogurt --Served With-- Zee Zee Dried Fruit Diced Peach Cup	19 Pancake on a Stick -or- Cinnamon Toaster Cereal String Cheese --Served With-- Mandarin Orange Cup Fruit Blend Juice	20
23 Apple Frudel -or- Cocoa Cherry Bar Strawberry Banana Yogurt --Served With-- Watermelon Craisins Pineapple Tidbits Cup	24 Egg & Cheese Muffin -or- Matey's Cereal String Cheese --Served With-- Applesauce Cup Orange Juice	25 Mini Strawberry Bagel -or- Campfire Smore's Bar Strawberry Banana Yogurt --Served With-- Zee Zee Dried Fruit Mandarin Orange Cup	26 Yogurt Parfait -or- Cinnamon Toaster Cereal String Cheese --Served With-- Diced Peach Cup Apple Juice	27 Maple Iced Little John -or- Cocoa Cherry Bar Strawberry Banana Yogurt --Served With-- Red Variety Apple Zee Zee Dried Fruit
30 Banana Bread -or- Campfire Smore's Bar Strawberry Banana Yogurt --Served With-- Diced Pear Cup Watermelon Craisins				

Please include a 1/2 cup fruit with your breakfast

[Milk Variety Served Daily:](#)

[View Milk Nutritionals](#)

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September 2024

Labor Day
No School

Afton and Thayne

Lunch

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3	Golden Crispy Chicken Fillet Hamburger Bun Fruit Cocktail California Blend Veggies Cucumbers	Spaghetti Sauce w/Meat Spaghetti Pasta Warm Breadstick Diced Peaches w/Juice Baby Carrots Green Peas	Oven Baked Cheese Tomato Soup Raspberry/Lemon Sidekick Broccoli Florettes Cauliflower Florettes	6 Nacho Meat Tortilla Chips Nacho Cheese Sauce Diced Peas Romaine/Green Leaf Salad Grape Tomatoes Black Beans Chocolate Chip Cookie
9	Vanilla Waffle Scrambled Eggs Fresh Orange Cauliflower Florettes Hash Brown Patties	10 Boneless Chicken Wings Mac & Cheese Applesauce Cup Romaine/Green Leaf Salad Grape Tomatoes	11 BBQ Chicken Teriyaki Brown Rice Warm Roll Golden Delicious Apple Broccoli Florettes Baby Carrots	13 Bean and Cheese Burrito Kiwi Sweet Corn Celery Sticks Black Beans
16	Beef Patty Hamburger Bun Fresh Orange Seasoned Waffle Fries Cauliflower Florettes Lettuce	17 Pepperoni Ripper Diced Peaches w/Juice Celery Sticks Steamed Carrots	18 Homemade Chicken Noodle Soup Warm Breadstick Diced Peas Cauliflower Florettes Red Pepper Strips	20 Sloppy Joe Hamburger Bun Red Grapes Broccoli Florettes Pork and Beans Ice Cream Sandwich
23	Egg Patty Sausage Patty French Toast Sticks Fresh Orange Power Punch Juice Hash Brown Patties	24 Fish & Star Nuggets Diced Peas Creamy Coleslaw Crinkle Fries Sugar Cookie	25 Beefy Rotini Bake Warm Breadstick Diced Peas Cauliflower Florettes Baby Carrots	27 Mini Corndogs Watermelon Grape Tomatoes Pork and Beans Cucumber Slices
30	Pork Rib Pattie Hoagie Bun Fresh Orange Steamed Broccoli Cauliflower Florettes Chewy Chocolate Cookie	Menus are subject to change due to supply chain issues. Thank you for your patience and understanding!		

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