



# Afton Elementary Newsletter

October 2025

## Halloween

Once again we will be having a virtual costume parade for Halloween. It will be on Thursday, Oct. 30. The parade will start at 8:15 am.

Students should arrive at school dressed in their costumes and ready to parade. Students may wear masks for the parade but cannot wear them for the rest of the day. Weapons are not allowed as part of their costumes. Parents and others may view the parade live on [SVINEWS.com](https://www.svinews.com) and Afton Elementary's YouTube page.

**We are excited to welcome award-winning author and illustrator, Shawn Harris** to Afton Elementary on Monday, October 6th. Shawn loves to write and illustrate books for children. His book, *Have You Ever Seen A Flower*, received a Caldecott Honor, while, *The Eyes and the Impossible*, a #1 New York Times bestseller, written by Dave Eggers and illustrated by Shawn, was awarded the John Newbery Medal. Shawn also creates The New York Times bestselling *The First Cat In Space* graphic novel series with his friend, Mac Barnett.



## Coming Events

- Oct. 1.....School Pictures
- Oct. 3.....Fire Safety
- Oct. 6.....Author Visit -  
Shawn Harris
- Oct. 10.....No School
- Oct. 16.....1st Grade Field  
Trip to Pumpkin Patch
- Oct. 17.....No School
- Oct 30.....Halloween  
Costume Parade
- Oct. 30.....1st Grade  
Field Trip to Care  
Center
- Oct. 31.....No School,  
Halloween

## Learning Update

**Kindergarten** - The first weeks of Kindergarten are often called “organized chaos,” but with this amazing group of kids, we like to think of it as *organized magic*! We’re learning our routines step by step, with lots of encouragement, practice, and celebration along the way.



**Language & Literacy** We’re excited to start *26 Letters in 26 Days*! Each day your child will be introduced to a new letter, along with a fun Zoo Phonics animal sound and motion to help it stick. We’re also practicing writing names “the Kindergarten way” and building strong finger muscles through hands-on activities. Our writing journey begins with drawing — learning to use simple shapes to create pictures — before moving into words. Small groups are also starting up to help us get ready for our reading program, *Reading Mastery*.



**Math Moments** In math, we’re beginning with routines: how to use and put away our math materials and tools. Soon, your Kindergartener will be able to show off some of the math items we’ll use all year! This month we’re focusing on numbers 0–5 — recognizing, counting, writing, and comparing them in fun, interactive ways.

**1st Grade** - Our first graders have been working hard this first month of school. Way to go, kiddos! Here’s what we’re working on:

Writing:

- Still focusing on capitalization, punctuation, and types of sentences
- Continuing handwriting practice to build confidence and neatness
- Transitioning into narrative writing, students will begin writing and sharing their own stories!

Reading:

- Learning digraphs (two letters that make one sound):
  - -ck, -ll, -ss, -zz, -ff, -th (Just learned, will be reviewing)
  - -ch, -wh, -ph, -nk (Will be learning next)
- Growing fluency and accuracy with every new skill

Math:

- Mastering number bonds
- Moving into addition within 10, with lots of strategies for fluency
- Subtraction is right around the corner

October Fun:

- Field trip to the Rexburg Pumpkin Patch
- Pumpkin science
- Safety lessons and seasonal activities

Your support at home makes a huge difference. Thank you for being our partners in learning!

**2nd Grade** - Wow! The first month of school went by so fast! We finished up our AIMS testing in September and were so pleased with how hard the students worked! Second grade is filled with some smart cookies! Last month we introduced our CLASSY program to the students and are encouraging them to be kind and helpful kids, even when no one is watching. We want to build a community of kind, thoughtful students!

Academically, this month we will be learning about place value with 3-digit numbers. We will practice place value, skip counting, and discuss comparing numbers (greater than/less than) to name a few skills. We'll also target basic math fact skills to help with our math fact fluency. In writing we will continue to work on personal narratives. It's fun to watch the students share stories about their experiences. Finally, as always, we will continue to work on building our reading skills. Some of the targeted skills we will be working on are: sh, th, ch, and wh for sounds, with verb tenses and adjectives for grammar. Find a fun fall or spooky book to share together with your student and point out these skills in the book as you see them. Thanks for all you do for your child at home. We appreciate your support!

**3rd Grade** -Third grade had a busy month of September. The students showed they are ready for any challenge that we throw at them. We ended the month with our Star Valley Days celebration at Canyon View Park, where the students did Tie Dye, roping, outdoor games, listened to stories and rode in a Wagon while learning about our communities history. We are so grateful for all of the parents who volunteered and helped put on an enriching and fun day. We ended our first A.R. goal period and celebrated with snow cones outside. We are thankful to all of the families who support your students while they are developing their love for reading. October will be a month where we focus on multiplication strategies, end our narrative writing unit, work on recounting stories, and identifying the central message when reading. Students can look forward to a "Winn Dixie" celebration and having the author, Shawn Harris, come to our school. We will celebrate Halloween on Thursday, October 30th. We will continue to talk to your students about being "CLASSY" and we are impressed by what we have seen so far. Thank you for all of your support; everything you are doing at home makes a large impact on your students' learning.



