



Afton Elementary Newsletter

September 2023

The Wyoming State Board of Education along with Marzano Research has identified Afton Elementary as a “positive outlier,” i.e., a school that outperforms other similar schools based on student demographics. The research group identified 10 such schools in Wyoming that they will be studying. This group will be conducting a case study on our school during the month of September to learn more about what helps our school perform well under the state's model. The case study will include meeting with teachers and school leadership personnel. We will also be inviting a few parents to participate in a 45-minute focus group with other community members, and school board members at the end of the month. We are proud of our tradition of success at Afton Elementary and very thankful for the great teachers and families who partner in educating our awesome kids. Here's to the start of a great school year!

Notes For Students

If your child needs a note please call before 2:00. If you call after 2:00 there is no guarantee that your child will get the message. It is extremely busy this time of day.

Coming Events

- Sept. 1.....No School
- Sept. 4.....Labor Day, No School
- Sept. 12....Author Mac Barnett visits
- Sept. 15....No School
- Sept 18-22...SVHS Homecoming Week

New Faces



Morgan Call - Morgan and her husband Dallin have three children AnnaMae(5), Levi(3), and Evalynn(5 months). They enjoy camping, fishing, hiking, and working together. Morgan and her husband Dallin both graduated from UWYO in 2020. Since then Morgan has held a variety of jobs in education ranging from Behavior Support to P.E. to 4th grade. She is so excited to be here teaching kindergarten. Early Childhood Education is her passion!



Shelly Bagley - Shelly and her husband Kellen have four children Abby(13), Bowen(11), Kyson(9), and Lincoln(7). They have moved back to the district after teaching in Saudi Arabia for 7 years. Shelly loves being outside and reading. Shelly is teaching kindergarten



Ashley Lancaster - Ashley is teaching 2nd grade. She moved her from Pinedale after twelve years of teaching at SCSD#1. She has two kids Oakley and Bear. They love to be outside; hiking, walking, skiing, and exploring. Ashley loves to read and do pilates.



Bryanna Pickens - Bryanna and her husband have been married for eleven years and have five children together. They moved here from Colorado almost ten years ago. She enjoys camping, hiking, and just spending time with her family. Bryanna is working as a Special Ed. Aide.



Stephanie Sloan - Stephanie has five kids. She is from Salt Lake City and has lived here for ten years. She loves to travel, visit family, hike and swim. She is also a healthy habits coach on the side. Stephanie is a Title 1 Aide.



Stormi Miller - Stormi and her husband have four boys, twelve, nine, and twins that are eight. She loves to read, do diamond painting, and puzzles. She grew up here in Star Valley and graduated from Star Valley High School in 2009. Stormi works in the kitchen.



Susan Kertesz - Susan is an ELL Aide. She lives in Smoot. She loves learning and children! She was a Dental Hygienist for thirty years. She is a published children's author and has written many stories. She is a composer and writes music. She has two CD's. She loves doing all kinds of things with her hands, playing piano, guitar, sewing, knitting, crocheting, quilling, and quilting. She loves water! Ponds, lakes, streams and especially the ocean. Susan especially enjoys helping children learn!

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. We will begin after Labor Day.

In Math, we will begin with teaching simple procedures based on our math program. How to use and put away our math mats and using the math shelf. As the month progresses, ask your Kindergartener about these prurient math tools that they will use all year long. Numbers to 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. This means we check the picture, look at all the parts of the word, and do a double check. 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.

2nd Grade - Second grade is off to a great start this year! We have been learning about the moon and planets for the past few weeks and we are learning how to be second graders. In September we will be making Galaxy T-shirts that we will be wearing on Fridays throughout the year. We will also have some special guests from our community coming to teach us some important things we should know about where our food comes from and how to be a good friend.

Second grade is a time of great growth in reading and writing. Please help by reading with and to your child each day.

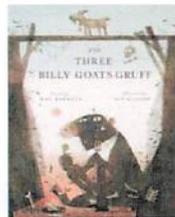
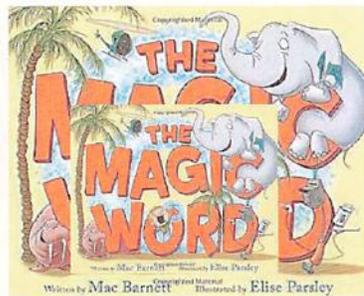
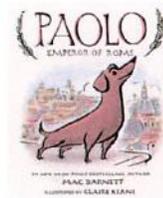
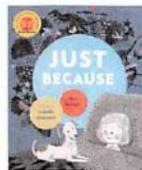
3rd Grade - Our focus this year in 3rd grade is to focus on the positive. One of the ways that we are doing this is through our classy ticket program. Every time a student is spotted doing good (saying thank you, helping others, being polite, being respectful, working with others, etc.), they are given 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



Mac Barnett is a *New York Times*-bestselling author of stories for children. His work has been translated into more than 30 languages and sold more than 4 million copies worldwide. Mac's books have won many prizes, including two Caldecott Honors, three *New York Times*/New York Public Library Best Illustrated Awards, three E.B. White Read Aloud Awards, the *Boston Globe-Horn Book Award*, Germany's Jugendliteraturpreis, China's Chen Bochui International Children's Literature Award, The Netherlands' Silver Griffel, and Italy's Premio Orbil. Mac lives in Oakland, California.

Mac Barnett

will be visiting
Our School On
September 12th



Families,

Author, Mac Barnett will be visiting our school on September the 12th. Your student has the **option** of purchasing one of his books prior to his visit. The books will be signed by the author and delivered to your student's teacher after Mac's visit. Please indicate on the back of this paper if you have special instructions for the inscription. All books will be available for purchase in the school library while supplies last.

The discounted prices and titles are listed below. Please return orders to Mrs. Merritt by Friday, September the 8th.



Quantity

<i>Three Billy Goats Gruff (HC)</i>	\$12.00	_____
<i>Triangle</i>	\$5.00	_____
<i>Leo: A Ghost Story</i>	\$5.00	_____
<i>How This Book Was Made</i>	\$5.00	_____
<i>Mac Undercover</i>	\$8.00	_____
<i>Mac B: Kid Spy</i>	\$5.00	_____
<i>The Impossible Crime</i>	\$8.00	_____
<i>Top Secret Smackdown</i>	\$8.00	_____
<i>Mac Cracks the Code</i>	\$8.00	_____

(Cash or Check paid to AES Please)

Total: _____

Student Name _____

Teacher Name _____



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
September 2023 Breakfast Afton, Etna, Osmond, Thayne				
4 Labor Day No School	5 Breakfast Pizza -or- Cocoa Cherry Bar Raspberry Yogurt --Served With-- Watermelon Craisins Diced Pear Cup	6 Vanilla Waffle -or- Matey's Cereal String Cheese --Served With-- Applesauce Cup Orange Juice	7 Biscuit and Gravy -or- Campfire Smore's Bar Raspberry Yogurt --Served With-- Zee Zee Dried Fruit Fresh Orange	1 No School
11 Breakfast Burrito -or- Campfire Smore's Bar Strawberry Banana Yogurt --Served With-- Watermelon Craisins Applesauce Cup	12 Mini Cinnis -or- Matey's Cereal String Cheese --Served With-- Cherry Mixed Fruit Cup Orange Juice	13 Choco Chip Muffin -or- Cocoa Cherry Bar Strawberry Banana Yogurt --Served With-- Zee Zee Dried Fruit Diced Peach Cup	14 Pancake on a Stick -or- Cinnamon Toaster Cereal String Cheese --Served With-- Mandarin Orange Cup Fruit Blend Juice	15 No School
18 Apple Frudel -or- Cocoa Cherry Bar Cherry Vanilla Yogurt --Served With-- Watermelon Craisins Pineapple Tidbits Cup	19 Egg & Cheese Muffin -or- Matey's Cereal String Cheese --Served With-- Applesauce Cup Orange Juice	20 Mini Strawberry Bagel -or- Campfire Smore's Bar Cherry Vanilla Yogurt --Served With-- Zee Zee Dried Fruit Mandarin Orange Cup	21 Yogurt Parfait -or- Cinnamon Toaster Cereal String Cheese --Served With-- Diced Peach Cup Apple Juice	22 Donut Holes -or- Matey's Cereal String Cheese --Served With-- Cherry Mixed Fruit Cup Golden Delicious Apple
25 Banana Bread -or- Campfire Smore's Bar Cherry Vanilla Yogurt --Served With-- Diced Pear Cup Watermelon Craisins	26 Ham, Egg, & Cheese Quesadilla -or- Matey's Cereal String Cheese --Served With-- Tropical Fruit Cup Orange Juice	27 Blueberry Muffin -or- Cocoa Cherry Bar Cherry Vanilla Yogurt --Served With-- Fresh Orange Zee Zee Dried Fruit	28 Mini Apple Bites -or- Cinnamon Toaster Cereal String Cheese --Served With-- Pineapple Tidbits Cup Fruit Blend Juice	29 Breakfast Pizza -or- Cocoa Cherry Bar Cherry Vanilla Yogurt --Served With-- Watermelon Craisins Granny Smith Apple

Menus are subject to change without notice

This institution is an equal opportunity provider

Milk Variety Served Daily:
[View Milk Nutritionals](#)

September

2022-23

Afton, Etna, Osmond, Thayne

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Meal Prices:

Elementary Student Breakfast-\$2.00

Elementary Student Lunch-\$3.00

Adult Breakfast-\$2.75

Adult Lunch-\$4.50



4	Labor Day No School	5	Beef Patty Hamburger Bun Fresh Orange Seasoned Waffle Fries Fresh Cauliflower Lettuce	6	Boneless Chicken Wings Mac & Cheese Watermelon Romaine/Green Leaf Salad Grape Tomatoes	7	BBQ Chicken Teriyaki Brown Rice Warm Roll Golden Delicious Apple Fresh Broccoli Baby Carrots	8	Pigs in a Blanket Mandarin Oranges Pork and Beans Cucumbers
11	Breaded Pork Steak Warm Roll Diced Peaches Mashed Potatoes Celery Sticks Country Gravy	12	Sloppy Joe Hamburger Bun Pineapple Tidbits Green Beans Baby Carrots	13	Homemade Chicken Noodle Soup Shredded Cheese Warm Breadstick Diced Peas Fresh Cauliflower Red Pepper Strips	14	Pepperoni Ripper Red Grapes Romaine/Green Leaf Salad Grape Tomatoes Cucumbers Black Beans Jerri's Chocolate Cake	15	No School
18	Egg Patty Sausage Patty Cinnamon Glaze French Toast Fresh Orange Power Punch Juice Hash Brown Patties	19	Beefy Rotini Bake Warm Breadstick Diced Peas Fresh Cauliflower Baby Carrots	20	Baked Chicken Chimi Strawberry Cup Sweet Corn Fresh Broccoli Black Beans	21	Four Cheese Pizza Watermelon Romaine/Green Leaf Salad Grape Tomatoes Cucumbers	22	Mini Corndogs Diced Peaches Pork and Beans Baby Carrots Celery Sticks
25	Pepperoni Pizza Diced Peaches Romaine/Green Leaf Salad Grape Tomatoes Cucumbers Black Beans	26	Golden Crispy Chicken Tenders Applesauce Cup Emoji Fries Steamed Green Peas Chewy Chocolate Cookie	27	Pork Rib Pattie Hoagie Bun Fresh Pineapple Steamed Broccoli Fresh Cauliflower	28	Chicken Drumstick Warm Roll Fresh Orange Mashed Potatoes Baby Carrots Chicken Gravy	29	Bean and Cheese Burrito Mandarin Oranges Romaine/Green Leaf Salad Grape Tomatoes

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Milk Variety Served Daily:
View Milk Nutritional

Mobile App:

View Menus and Nutrition
Information
right from your phone or
ipad.