



GRIFFIN CHRONICLE

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The greatest skill that any person can have is the ability to read well. It is the foundation of all other subjects and understanding our world and how to make it better. The more literate a society, the better the society can analyze needed information to make it as strong as possible. An educated citizenry as the defender of democracy was the foundation of Thomas Jefferson's education philosophy.

Being an avid reader, I have tried to help students enjoy reading, as well as provide parents with tips to use to create a fun, team approach to reading. One great website for reading is Reading Rockets (www.readingrockets.org).

One of their featured blog experts is Dr. Timothy Shanahan. He is a Distinguished Professor Emeritus at the University of Illinois at Chicago, where he was Founding Director of the UIC Center for Literacy. His blog post from September 9, 2015, "[11 Ways Parents Can Help Their Children Read](#)," has some great tips such as, "Teaching reading will only help. Sometimes, parents are told early teaching is harmful, but it isn't true. You simply can't introduce literacy too early."

This would be a great article for the holiday downtime to keep children reading for fun.

Our AAU Board and PTO: The Parent's Voice

I want to express my thanks and gratitude for two organizations that are the parent's voice here at Athlos Academy of Utah, the AAU Governing Board and the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). Both are invaluable to helping the school improve its culture and learning, as well as providing students, parents and staff with wonderful activities and support.

The governing board provides oversight, guidance, and direction for the success of the school. They meet on the third Wednesday of every month at 6:30pm (except for December),

so please accept my invitation to join us. Please contact Bethany Zeyer, Board Chair, at bzeyer@athlosutah.org, for information on supporting the board.

The PTO provides our school with wonderful activities and opportunities to volunteer. We have had great activities, including the last fundraiser, The Greatest Showman. But they need your help as both members and volunteers. To sign up, please contact Maddie Purser, the PTO President, at maddiepurser@gmail.com.

Character Trait Highlighted: Courage

In 2005, I chaperoned a group of students for People to People Student Ambassadors through Southern Europe. Near the end of the trip, the students were tired and many of them were resistant to trying new things, especially those things that might be physically demanding. After much complaining from the group, a very

wise 15-year-old said, "When you step out of your comfort zone, your comfort zone becomes that much bigger." This stopped the whining, and the group tried a number of new things with a brand new perspective. Courage sometimes is the willingness to step out of one's comfort zone, even just a little.

THIS WEEK'S ISSUE:

1 Director's Note

2 Announcements

3 Upcoming Events & Review

4 Staff Spotlight

UPCOMING EVENTS AND REVIEW

LOOKING AHEAD

NOV 19	Boys' Basketball vs. Summit Independence at Home
NOV 21-23	Thanksgiving Break—No School
NOV 21	Board Meeting 6:30PM
NOV 26	Boys' Basketball at Providence Hall
NOV 28	Boys' Basketball vs Maeser Prep at Home
NOV 29	Crazy Chemworks-After School Program
NOV 30	Festival of Trees AAU Performance
DEC 3	Boys' Basketball vs. Renaissance Academy at Home
DEC 3-14	Food Drive

THE GREATEST SHOWMAN PTO FUNDRAISER | NOV 8

The fundraiser was a great success with around 400 people attending and approximately \$7,000 raised for activities and events at the school. Thank you for your support, and please consider joining the PTO to help with more successful activities.

MATH NIGHT | NOV 15



Math Night also was a big success with dozens of families coming to the school for an evening of math fun and games. Thank you to all the staff who helped

and classes who created decorations and activities for this event. The winner of the quilt was the Siddiqui family!

THANKSGIVING BREAK | NOV 21-23

The school will be closed from Wednesday, Nov. 21 to Friday, Nov. 23.

The very first national Thanksgiving celebration was proclaimed by President George Washington on Nov. 26, 1789. In 1863, President Lincoln called for Thanksgiving to be observed annually in every state on the last Thursday of November. On Dec 26, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a proclamation that officially changed Thanksgiving from the last Thursday of the month to the 4th Thursday, which remains today.

The oldest Thanksgiving parade is the Dunkin' Donuts Parade in Philadelphia, formerly known as the Gimbel's Thanksgiving Parade.

On average, a person will consume between 3,000-4,500 calories in a typical Thanksgiving dinner; 50 million pumpkin pies will be eaten across the United States; 736 million pounds of turkey will be eaten; 40 million green bean casseroles are made each year; 47 million Americans will travel 50 miles or more for family dinner; 151 million people will shop over the Thanksgiving weekend spending an average of \$320 per person; and \$11.1 billion will be spent shopping online.

We hope that you have a wonderful holiday. Enjoy time with your families!

STAFF SPOTLIGHT: MS. HARRIS

I graduated from Westminster College with a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a minor in psychology. I have worked in education in one form or another for the past 14 years. I hold a current Level 2 Educator License for the state of Utah and am pursuing a master's degree in educational leadership. I love the Athlos Three Pillars of Performance approach to teaching the whole child. During the 2016-17 year while teaching 5th grade at Athlos Academy of Utah, I was the recipient of Herriman City's Outstanding Teacher of the Year award. I love all of our Performance Character traits, but especially energy/zest and integrity. I believe with those traits in practice learning can be much more fun and meaningful. I look forward to supporting and serving our teachers and students every day as an instructional coach.

