

# Eagle Feathers

PTA Newsletter for Aspen Elementary School  
([www.aspen.alpineschools.org](http://www.aspen.alpineschools.org)) Sept 2016

## Principal's Message

To the wonderful families of Aspen Elementary,

I am excited to have the opportunity to get to know your families and serve your children. After just two weeks, I have been impressed with the dedicated staff and the warm welcome of parents and students.

It may be helpful to have a little background about the new guy coming in to your school. I was a latecomer to the world of education. After spending 12 years with Safeway/Vons grocery stores, I felt that I wanted something a bit more challenging to fill my days. With the support of my wife, Kristie, I decided to go back to school. I left my job and moved to Orem to attend Utah Valley Community College. Yes, it was that long time ago!

After earning my degree from UVCC, I entered the Weber State Elementary Education program. I graduated in 1996 with a degree in elementary education and an emphasis in science content.

I was hired by Dr. Mike Pratt the Saturday before school started that year as a 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Valley View Elementary and worked with Mr. Davies. Over the years, I have taught 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, 4<sup>th</sup> grade, 4th grade specialties, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade science, and a 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> core class. During my year as a 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade core teacher, I was convinced to explore administration. I applied to BYU's Leadership Preparation Program and was accepted. During my masters program, I interned at Lone Peak High School, Lakeridge Jr. High, and Santaquin Elementary. After graduation, I was assigned to Suncrest Elementary. I spent the last eight years at Suncrest Elementary before receiving my new assignment to Aspen Elementary.

I look forward to serving your children. I hope you will feel free to stop and visit with me as I begin to get better acquainted with the children, staff, and families at Aspen Elementary.

Mr. Freeman





If you are ever feeling a desire to help at any point this year, please let me know! The PTA has several activities throughout the year and would love any additional assistance. Thank you to those who have already signed up to volunteer! We appreciate each and every one of you.

-Brooke Bergin-

[mrsbergin@yahoo.com](mailto:mrsbergin@yahoo.com)

September 26-30 will be Kindness Week at Aspen Elementary! This is sponsored by our GALAXY program--which stands for Growing America's Leaders & eXcelerating Youth. There are 14 sixth graders who have been selected to be a part of this program and they will be involved with leadership activities and training throughout the year. Our first big activity will be sponsoring Kindness Week. During this week we will have jars in each classroom, along with some blank note cards. Students will be encouraged to catch others in acts of kindness and then write their name or action down on the card. We will then ask each teacher to pull 3 notes at the end of each day and recognize those who are working hard to be kind. We hope that you will encourage your children to participate and also discuss at home the benefits of kindness. Thanks for your support!

We're excited to announce Aspen Elementary's 4th annual **Battle of the Books!** Battle of the Books is a voluntary reading incentive program for students in grades 3-6. The purpose is simply to encourage students to read good books and have fun while competing with peers.

Interested students will be part of a team of 3rd-4th and 5th-6th grade students. Each team will read from the specified book list for that grade. In March, teams will come together for a game-show style competition tournament with other teams within the school, where they will work as a team to answer questions about the books from their list. The winning 5th-6th grade team will then go on to compete in the district level competition at the end of March.

All the books on the reading lists are available in the school library. Parents, encourage your children to start reading them soon! The more books a student has read on their list, the better they and their team will perform in the competitions. Mrs. Kennard, the school librarian, will be talking with the students soon about Battle of the Books, and sign-up forms will be made available by October, but anybody can begin reading whenever they'd like!

Follow these links to find the book lists for your child according to grade:

3-4 graders: <http://www.battleofthebooks.org/book-list/medium-20-book-list-3-4-grades-2016-17.php>

5-6 graders: <http://www.battleofthebooks.org/book-list/medium-20-book-list-5-6-grades-2016-17.php>

**BATTLE OF  
THE BOOKS**



# FALL FESTIVAL, PUMPKIN PARADE AND GIFT BASKET AUCTION Monday, October 3



We are excited to be hosting our fifth annual **Fall Festival and Pumpkin Parade**, including our **Silent Gift Basket Auction!** It will be held Monday, October 3, 2016 from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. (basket auction and hay ride will be open starting at 5:45). Take a tour of the amazing classroom pumpkin displays and enjoy entertainment from our faculty and student performing groups! Hayrides, face painting, a concessions stand, and many other Halloween surprises are also in store.

Another highlight of this evening will be our annual Silent Gift Basket Auction. Baskets will be available to view at 5:45, and bidding will run until 7:30. Each classroom will donate a basket with a specific theme. Classroom themes are listed below, and a list of suggested items will be coming home soon. Donation boxes will be placed in each classroom, and items will be picked up on Friday, September 23. We have a lot of great auction items already coming in, so join us that night and prepare to take home some amazing deals! We're also introducing a new and improved process for paying for and picking up baskets that night. If you're a winner, we promise to get you out in a jiffy.

We are also asking for a **\$1 optional donation** per child to help purchase pumpkins. Please send donations to school in an envelope marked "Pumpkin Parade." We look forward to seeing you and your family at this fun (and FREE) annual event! If you have questions, please contact Jodi Cloward @ 801-472-5591 / [jodicloward@yahoo.com](mailto:jodicloward@yahoo.com) or Kari Woolf @ 801-376-5339 / [kariwoolf@yahoo.com](mailto:kariwoolf@yahoo.com).

## **FALL FESTIVAL BASKET AUCTION CLASSROOM THEMES (please consider donating a new, unused item that relates to your class basket theme):**

Rockhill - We All Scream for Ice Cream  
Horelica - Crayola  
Merrill - Things that Go  
Carter / Johnson - Lego Fun  
Cottrell - Cupcake Wars  
Andrus - Dress Up  
Ray - Book Lovers  
Christensen / Garcia - Crafts and Building  
Bowles - Halloween Is Here  
Smart / Jensen - The Great Outdoors  
Kelly - Chocolate Lovers

Broadhead - Car Care  
Jespersen - Utah Pride (items symbolizing or made in Utah)  
McManus - Fiesta Time  
Hale - Sports and Fitness  
Mortensen - Pokemon Mania  
Vanisi - Italian Cooking  
Horn - Cleaning Supplies





### **Star Tutoring Achievement for Reading (STAR)**

One of the most pressing challenges schools face is that of ensuring that all children become competent readers. Young children who experience problems in reading quickly fall behind their more skilled classmates. This gap in reading skills can emerge as early as first grade, and proves to be pervasive over time. The long-term negative impact of poor reading skills can be enormous.

Student Tutoring Achievement for Reading (STAR) is designed to be used in one-on-one tutoring with adult volunteers or paraprofessionals as reading practice, not intervention. Lessons enhance classroom instruction in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary. Students benefit from increased reading time, targeted practice, and a rewarding reading experience.

Please join us in the Success of our students by volunteering one or two hours of your time twice a week. Please sign up at the entrance of our School or in the Office.

Thank you for your caring support! If you have any questions, please email me at [tmatau@alpinedistrict.org](mailto:tmatau@alpinedistrict.org).