



# January 2018

## WELCOME BACK AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We are excited and hopeful to see what God has planned for our school this year. We're grateful to partner with you in educating children of the next generation. We are giving them not only a strong academic knowledge, but also with the Word of God.

When educating a child, it is easy to be reminded that we are all children of God when we trust in Jesus. When Jesus died on the cross for us, He made a way for us to be called God's children. Just by accepting Jesus as your Savior, you become a child of God!

*"But to all who believed Him [Jesus] and accepted Him, He gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn– not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God." John 1:12-13 NLT*

Even as adults, we are children of God– sons and daughters who are loved by God, our Father in Heaven. No matter where you are in life, or what circumstances surround you in this moment, you have a Heavenly Father who loves you, believes in you, and wants you to know Him. Remember, you are a valuable and priceless child of the King!

## ALL SCHOOL INFO AND REMINDERS

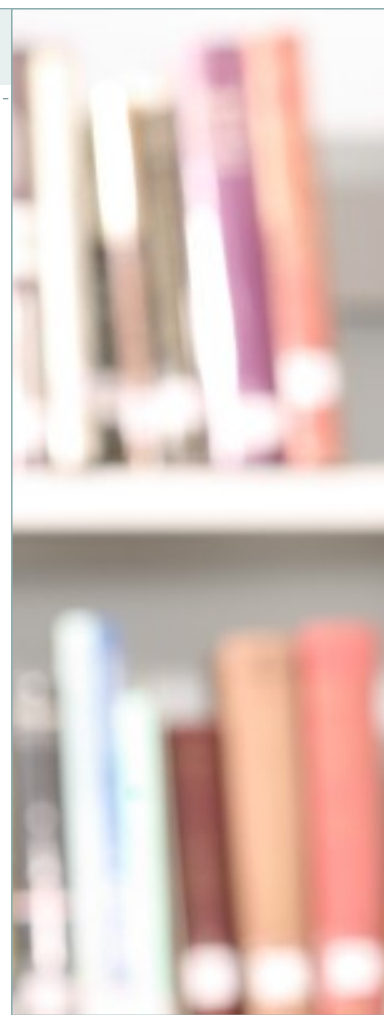
**Thank you for your generosity!** In December, our school raised \$582.22 to send financial aide to ALYN Hospital and the A21 Campaign! We are grateful for your giving into these ministries that are reaching into lives with the hope of Jesus.

**Snow Day Policy** Thank you for your cooperation with the snow days we've had already this month! As cold weather continues, we encourage you to keep an eye on your local news stations to watch for school closings. Our school policy calls for us to follow Akron Public Schools on snow days. On cold days, we will remain open.

**Martin Luther King Jr. Day** Our school will be closed on Monday, January 15 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Classes will resume on Tuesday, January 16.

**Updated Address, Phone Number and Contact Information** If you have a new address or phone number, please inform the office so that we can update your paperwork.

**Box Tops** Don't forget to turn in your box tops to the office! We appreciate your support to raise money for our school.



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Reminders.....1
- All School Info.....1
- Grade School Reminders.....2
- Upcoming Events.....2
- Fine Arts Updates.....2-3



## GRADE SCHOOL REMINDERS

**End of Grading Period, Report Cards** On January 19, the second grading period ends. Report cards will be sent home on Monday, January 29. Conferences are not required to receive your student's report card unless the classroom teacher requests to meet. Also, if you would like to meet with your student's teacher for a conference, feel free to call the office or reach out to your student's teacher. Report cards should be signed and returned the next day, or by the date your student's teacher assigns for her class. Thank you for your cooperation with this!

**Recess and Outdoor Play** For our grade school students only, we have outdoor recess any day that is warmer than 25 degrees. In order for your student to stay warm and dry, we ask that you send your student in a warm coat and snow boots. This will keep their feet and body dry and warm. Also, we recommend that your student has gloves and a warm hat.

On days with rain or low temperatures below 25 degrees, we do have indoor recess in our building. However, this will not be every day as we believe children benefit from fresh air with space to run and play! Thank you for your cooperation with this.

*“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.”  
-William Butler Yeates*

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY LOUISE!

**Louise Sobolewski** This month, we celebrate Louise Sobolewski on January 10! Mrs. Sobolewski teaches our Fifth and Sixth Grade Class in the Grade School. She is known for creating opportunity and challenge beyond the standard expectations to foster a learning environment where children can expound the boundaries of their understanding! From science experiments to book reports, Louise gives of herself to teach our students. Thank you Louise for all that you do! Happy Birthday!

If you see Mrs. Sobolewski, be sure to thank her and wish her a happy birthday!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Eggstravaganza 2018!

The Eggstravaganza is an annual event hosted by Akron First Assembly to celebrate the Resurrection season! Through this month, we are collecting candy (no chocolate), and small trinket toys that fit inside of Easter eggs. We are asking for each family to donate one bag of prewrapped candy that we can use to bless our community with. Thank you in advance for your support and generosity!

### Pancake and Pajama Day!

On February 1, students will celebrate Groundhog Day as a school! Students can wear pajamas for the whole day and will eat a pancake breakfast here at school. No slippers should be worn by students— they may wear tennis shoes!

### February Focus *Black History Month*

As the month of February approaches, we want to inform you that each classroom will be celebrating Black History month in hands on and academic ways. Each classroom will lead their celebrations differently— for more information about what your student's teacher is planning, we encourage you to reach out and connect with them.

## MUSIC & MOVEMENT

Mrs. Lucas has been keeping our students moving with the music! Not only are students being encouraged to creatively express themselves through movement, they are building core strength and coordination in many physical ways.

Also, an overwhelming thank you to all of you parents for your attentiveness to the dress code! There has been one hundred percent participation in the correct clothing for students coming to class. As a reminder, students should be wearing a white shirt and black comfortable pants (jogging pants, sweat pants, leggings). They should also be wearing socks.

Our preschool students are learning basic movement and direction. They are exploring different ways to stretch, bend, and stay in motion! Not only is this a great outlet for students to move in creative ways, they are also being exposed to rhythm and time in their motion.

In the grade school, students are learning movement in routines and following steps that push the boundaries of their flexibility and strength. They are advancing in control and coordination of their bodies while learning sensitivity to rhythm. We will have an in class observation day coming in February if you are interested in stopping by to see your student in action!

## AKRON FIRST ACADEMY & PRESCHOOL

Akron First Academy and Preschool is always open to new students and families. We are honored to teach your students, and would be honored to teach the friends of you family!

If you know of families with children who are infants through sixth grade, there is a place for them at our school. With our groundbreaking arts initiative, we want to share these opportunities with our community. Anyone who is interested in enrolling their students can take a tour of our school and meet our staff. They can call our main office, or stop in to visit the office.

Akron First Academy & Preschool  
1175 West Market Street  
Akron, OH 44313  
(330) 836-1436  
Www.Afaps.org

## STUDENTS ON STRINGS

What a wonderful experience we've been having with Miss Teddi Swope in violin and cello lessons! We are so encouraged by the progress we've seen in our students' playing in the last month.

As we begin the new year, we are anticipating our preschool students taking their instruments home soon. We are working with them to learn care for their instrument well when they're not at school. They are continuing to learn posture, which includes holding the violin properly and standing properly to play the violin. In addition, they have begun learning how to pluck their strings with their fingers to expose students to the sounds that their violins can make. These foundations are essential for later technique and skill. As the students demonstrate a solid understanding of these basic pieces, we will be able to send the violins home. Further

communication will be sent home as students are deemed ready to take home their instrument.

Our primary grade school students, Kindergarten through second grade, are also working diligently to learn technique with their violins. They are also learning the names of strings and how to pluck them in patterns. The sequencing of these notes is preparing them for learning songs and melodies.

Our secondary grade school students, third through sixth grade, have developed great sequencing and patterning with notes in plucking fashion. They will continue integrating the bow into playing their cellos slowly but surely.

We have been so impressed by all of our student's who are playing stringed instruments!

## VISUAL ART: THE CREATIVE CORNER

As we continue through the year, Miss Dominique will be teaching all pre-school and grade school art classes. We're excited to see what our students create as we continue learning fundamentals of art.

In all classes, we will be teaching fundamentals of drawing. Not only is this a skill that transfers to all other modes of art, but it expands a student's ability to think create in abstract ways. Students will be learning not only how to draw still life and moving objects, but they will also learn about well known sketch artists. They will also learn historical value of sketching and drawing.

We are inviting and encouraging parents to allow students to draw freely and expressively at home. We want students to be expressive and creative. We are doing all we can to encourage creative thinking and providing resources that open the boundaries of their comprehension!

## KEYBOARDING

Keyboarding has begun again! Mrs. Lauri Jarvis is continuing to teach our students how to sight read music, and interact with all of the parts of the piano. Our students have retained so much information through the holiday break! It was very impressive to have them come to class and remember so much!

In our preschool classes, students are continuing to interact with the basic elements of the keyboard. They are learning the different keys, and are building dexterity and coordination in playing them. They are learning rhymes and jingles as they play to build retention and multi-sensory processing through their playing. The students are having great fun in their classes!

In the grade school, students are continuing to practice their notes and continue to learn songs. As they learn the names of keys, they are also sightreading music on the spot demonstrating an understanding and retention of note names and finger positions.

Moving forward, students are continuing to build their sequencing skills and coordination while playing notes. We're excited to see them continue blossoming in playing and reading music!