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# Anderson County Schools

Every Student, Every Day

Volume 1 Issue 3

## Anderson County Community Connections

### Teachers Learning New Strategies



Anderson County's New Teacher Institute is a support group for newly hired teachers within our district. We meet each quarter to provide

support with everything from classroom management to teaching strategies. This is the fifth year of this program and we have seen great results! ACS has a 75 percent retention rate for new teachers which is well above the 50 percent national average retention rate. Last year, two of our previous new teachers were chosen as Teacher of the Year for ACS! This year we are proud to have new 60 teachers in our program!

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### AC Board of Education Receives UTrust Award

The Anderson County Board of Education has received an Award for having the best School Employee Appreciation Program in East Tennessee. Anderson County Director of Schools Dr. Tim Parrott accepted the award presented by Utrust at a dinner at the Tennessee Titan's (Nissan) Stadium in Nashville on Saturday, November 5.

All schools in Anderson County participate in the program that encourages students to recognize and express appreciation to school employees who do things to make students' lives better every day. The award includes \$100 for each participating school.

In each school a student A-Team (A for Appreciation), plans and leads activities to honor each school employee on one of eight theme based appreciation days. To honor employees, students write notes of appreciation, perform skits, announcements and popular songs with rewritten lyrics, and make signs, cards and other decorations. They often provide tokens of appreciation but the emphasis is on sincere expressions of appreciation.

A G-Force (G for Gratitude), consisting of two

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students in each classroom, seeks to change the culture of the school by encouraging fellow students to express appreciation to employees throughout the year, not just on appreciation days.

"Anderson County Schools have a fantastic appreciation program," according to trust administrator Dr. Dan Tollett. "They recognize that appreciation is a basic skill, every bit as important to the success of students as any subject taught in school. Their appreciation days are so much fun for employees and students."

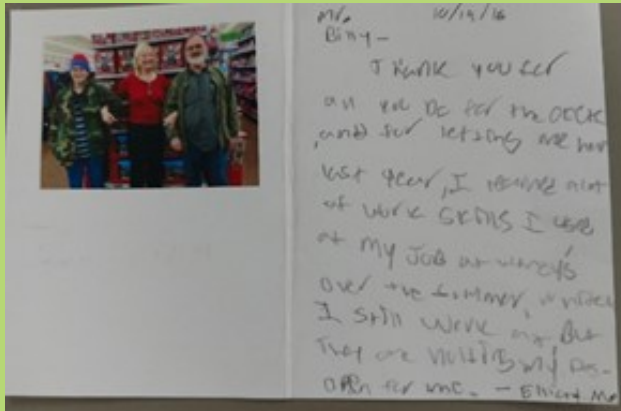
Dr. Parrott said, "We value every Anderson County School employee and we want our students to realize that each

employee has an important responsibility in making our schools run efficiently. He continued, "We think it's important both for our students to develop the habit of expressing appreciation and for our employees to feel appreciated. We may not always be able to pay our employees what they are worth but we can make certain that they know that they're greatly appreciated."



## CUSTODIAN APPRECIATION IN ANDERSON COUNTY SCHOOLS (UTrust)

### ACCTC



### CLINTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

The highlight of the week was the custodian appreciation ceremony held in the CMS school auditorium.

Student presenting a card to ACCTC custodian



It was a BIG surprise to our special team of dedicated workers! Students and teachers welcomed them to a standing ovation, and then cheered as they were presented with their "great pumpkins" of treats, and their Charlie Brown tie-dye t-shirts made just for them!

CMS students made "Charlie Brown" style tie-dye t-shirts in art class

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Three Anderson County Middle School Social Studies Teachers have been selected by the state to help review potential Social Studies questions for the upcoming state test. This is a huge honor to have teachers representing our district at the state level. These teachers include: Michael Hopper-LCMS, Chris Enix-LCMS, and Jenny Taylor-NMS. They will travel to Nashville to work with teachers from around the state to best select questions that align to Tennessee academic standards.

Anderson County Middle School Teams attended the Dream It –Do It Competition Kick-off on Friday October 21. This is a wonderful

partnership created by the Anderson County Chamber of Commerce to connect Industry and Education in Anderson County! Each middle school team works with an industry using a Go-Pro camera to create a video that best represents the company. The videos are posted online for people to view and vote for the best production. Each member of the winning team will receive a GoPro camera from Consolidated Nuclear Systems, the management team for Y-12. The industries involved include Aisin, Clayton Homes, Eagle Bend Manufacturing, Protomet, Techmer PM, and SL Tennessee. These companies have opened their doors to include our students in this awesome opportunity to learn about employment prospects within our county!

## **Mock Election – Head Start/ Preschool**

Students at Anderson County Head Start/ Preschool participated in a project-based learning experience based on the presidential election. Students experienced concept development, vocabulary development, and thinking/ problem solving skills related to the process of campaigning, voting and the election. Having the students as candidates allowed three - and four-year old students to learn about the foundational content around elections apart from the distraction of national politics. News stations WATE and WBIR were on campus and captured children working in small groups to prepare campaign materials and working on ballots. Candidates worked with teachers in small groups to develop their platform for their party. A teacher incorporated literacy and conducted a small-group literacy activity. Children responded when the journalist asked questions. A few independently approached them and shared

work samples. The journalists appeared impressed and seemed to enjoy their time experiencing school readiness first hand. Our teachers and students demonstrated child-centered, project-based academic rigor at the preschool level.

Teacher Courtney Bass's idea for a learning project around an election was very effective. She and Gina Huckaby provided project - based learning experiences targeting concept development, vocabulary development, and thinking/problem solving related to the processes of election and voting. Having the students as candidates allowed three- and four-year old students to learn about the foundational content around elections apart from the distraction of national politics.

Whitney Good, multimedia journalist from WATE was in the classroom with the students during the mock-election for close to 50 minutes.



Clinton High School  
Choral Concert  
held in October

## National Honor Society Induction Ceremony at Clinton High School

The following students were recently inducted into the National Honor Society at Clinton High School: John Agee, Claudia Bible, Brynn Biddle, Lyndsey



Beeson, Caleb Brown, Sarah Cardall, Megan Childs, Andrew Coleman, Marissa Collis, Bayley Daniels, Ahmadre Darrisaw, Hope Disney, Destiny Erick, Rachel Farler, Samuel Garrett, Kendall Gregory, Eva Hankins, Tammi Harman, Robert Herrell, Laura Hileman, Mackenzie Howard, Jessica Jernigan, Samantha Johnson, Heather Jordan, Jessica Jordan, Joseph Keathley, McKenzie Keaton, Elizabeth Knight, Aleigha Kunellis, Bryson Light, Andrew Lowe, Samantha Mack, Elizabeth Martzin, Savannah Meade, Ashley Murray, Makayla Nance, Jonathan Neal, Zach Nichols, Sofia Olvera, Georgia Pietrzak, Donovan Pinto, Jacey Queener, Ciara Riedlinger, Kristi Sandberg, Emma Schrider, Francisco Sustaita, Matthew Tolson, Christopher Webb, Alexandria Whitaker, D'Shan Williams, Kinsley Williams, and Jake Winter.

## Students Attend The International Festival at UT Knoxville

128 French, German and Spanish students from Clinton High School attended the International Festival hosted by the International House at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville on Friday September 30, 2016. While there students had the opportunity to meet natives from all the cultures represented, to eat foods such as Bratwurst and Pretzels from Germany, watch dancers perform Flamenco and Salsa from Spain, to participate in activities like "Tinkling Dancing" from Singapore, to reenact Kendo battles from Japan, to listen to music and sing songs from these cultures and to see Clinton High alum participating in the college life first hand. Countries represented included but were not limited to Germany, France, Singapore, Japan, Korea, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Italy, China, India, Egypt, Thailand and Russia. This visit was made possible by Gear-Up and Angela Merryman.



A CHS Dancer poses with Flamenco dancers who performed at the International Festival

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Students participate in a game native to Singapore called "Tinkling".



Students and teacher, Amy Graham, enjoy some down time in the University Center after enjoying the sights of the festival.

Students enjoy watching a presentation of traditional Japanese Kendo fighting.



## SEND OUR CMS 6TH GRADERS TO OUTER SPACE!

Sixth grade students at Clinton Middle School will be traveling to the US Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, AL, for a 3-day, 2-night adventure filled with learning and fun. The students' endeavor, which includes astronaut training on authentic training simulators, begins May 17, 2017, and continues through May 19, 2017. We have taken the most cost effective option of using the accommodations located within the facility and eating on-site. This is a true camp experience which will provide our students an amazing opportunity and inspire them to be creative members of their generation. Students have the chance to build camaraderie with others while working in teams to conquer tasks and challenges such as the mentioned mock shuttle mission where students work through anomalies to launch and land on the International Space Station in order to make hands-on repairs. The universe standards are difficult to teach in the school building since we are unable to use

as much hands-on learning. With a trip to the US Space and Rocket Center, students have the opportunity to see an actual shuttle, rockets, rovers, robots, experience zero gravity, visit the museum, and enjoy working together while learning about the exploration of our universe.

Unfortunately, our student population is 64 percent economically disadvantaged. We have many students who would like to attend, but they are unable to afford such a trip. The cost of the trip is \$375.00 per student and includes the cost of camp, food, and buses. We are reaching out to see if you might be able to help us achieve our goal with a monetary donation to sponsor our sixth graders who have earned the right to have the experience of a lifetime. If you are interested in donating to this awesome adventure, please email Cristen Holden at [cholden@acs.ac](mailto:cholden@acs.ac).

## **FUEL UP TO PLAY 60 AT CMS**

Fuel Up to Play 60 is a program set up by the NFL and the Dairy Council to promote healthy food choices and at least 60 minutes of physical activity a day. Students at Clinton Middle School are encouraged to join the team! As members of the CMS Hawks FUTP60 team, students are taking a leadership role in changing the attitudes of their peers and getting the community on board with healthy eating and physical activity. The program fosters students taking the lead in organizing activities, polling students and advertising good nutrition and fun ways to add activity to their daily routine. The website FuelUpToPlay60.com offers challenges to keep kids motivated and offers an opportunity for students to share the positive impact they are having in their community. CMS students are hard at work with almost 500 challenges completed and there are plans for an after school healthy cooking class. If you wish to support this effort, we encourage you to log onto the Fuel Up to Play 60 website and create an account. For more information, please contact Candus Claiborne (cclaiborne@acs.ac).

## **CMS: A SHAPE THE STATE MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Physical Education at CMS is getting pumped up! Last school year, our PE teachers applied for a grant through SPARK (Sport, Play, and Active Recreation for Kids), which works to fund middle school PE programs across Tennessee in an initiative known as Shape the State.

CMS has begun receiving thousands of dollars' worth of brand new equipment. A special presentation for the grant will be held during the school day on Monday, November 7th.

## **Kinsa FLUency Thermometers at Norris Elementary**

Kinsa FLUency Thermometers were recently distributed to Norris Elementary students and parents free of charge through a grant received by the AWARE program. The FLUency program is an initiative that enables schools and parents to detect and respond to spreading illness more quickly, keeping kids and classrooms healthier. All families receiving a Kinsa Smart Thermometer are able to join a private group on the Kinsa app to see the overall health of their school, including common symptoms and illnesses going around. The school will

benefit from early detection and increased awareness, leading to fewer sick days.

FLUency  
Thermometer  
distribution at  
NES



## Anderson County High School Band

The Anderson County High School Marching Band, "The Sound of the Herd," concluded its competitive marching season at the Alcoa Marching

Invitational on Saturday, October 29. The ACHS Band competed against 13 other bands in its classification. The students performed at such a

high level that they received trophies for Second Place Drum Major (Annabell Davis), First Place Flags, and the band placed Third in their classification.



The ACHS Band has recently been accepted to perform in an evening parade inside Walt Disney World's Magic Kingdom during Spring Break. This is a very prestigious opportunity for the band to perform at a world showcase and represent the Anderson County community and the State of Tennessee.

## ACHS Spanish Class Learns About Mexican Holidays

At Anderson County High School, students learned about different cultures in Spanish class. Below is a picture of a Spanish class with decorations representing the "Day of the Dead."

The "Day of the Dead" is a Mexican holiday celebrated throughout Mexico. The "Day of the Dead" is acknowledged internationally in many other cultures too. The holiday focuses on gatherings of family and friends to pray for and remember friends and family who have passed away.



## The Great Llama Race



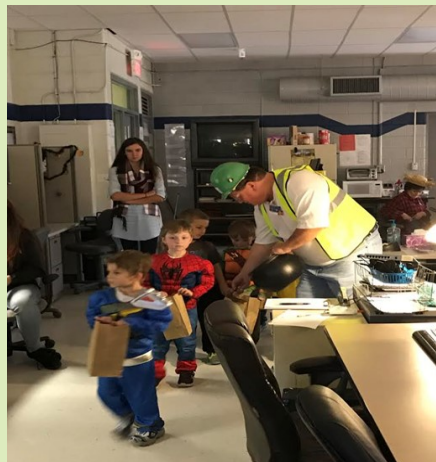
Sparkles the Llama with Clinton High School staff member Sgt. Kumes and his family at the third annual Great Llama Race held in Knoxville in October.

## Love and Logic Training

Forty-eight teachers representing all sixteen schools in Anderson County are participating in Love and Logic training at Clinton High School once a month for the rest of the school year. "Love and Logic is a philosophy of raising and teaching children which allows adults to be happier, empowered, and more skilled in the interactions with children. Love allows children to grow through their mistakes. Logic allows children to live with the consequences of their choices. Love and Logic is a way of working with children that puts parents and teachers back in control, teaches children to be responsible, and prepares young people to live in the real world, with its many choices and consequences." This training was offered to teachers several years ago and has helped many of our teachers improve classroom management and discipline. We have been able to offer this training to teachers who have not received the training as a recipient of the Project AWARE grant.

## Innovation Academy

Pictured below is a Halloween celebration sponsored by students from the Innovation Academy. The staff and students provided this "trick-or-treat" event in the classroom for students from Anderson County School's Head Start program. The staff and students from the Innovation Academy said, *"It was so much fun to provide this opportunity to our younger students in Anderson County!"*



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Custodian Appreciation bulletin boards and Posters made by students were posted throughout the hallways at CMS.



CMS Students honoring and serving their custodians!



## Culinary Arts - CHS

At Clinton High School, Mrs. Graham (French & German teacher) teamed up with Mrs. Hall (CTE Culinary Arts teacher) to allow the culinary arts classes to learn about French and German culture and cuisine. They prepared authentic French and German meals which they shared. A tasty and informative cross disciplinary project!





## **SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

Former Lake City Elementary School student, Dalton Mitchell was honored at the University of Tennessee versus Alabama football game as the Student Coach for the Day! He was recognized in one of his classes and spent time in the locker room before the game, ran through the “T” with the team and was on the sidelines during the game!



## **Special Olympics - CMS**

Clinton Middle School Special Olympic students had never played Bocce Ball until their teams decided to compete this year. Bocce Ball sets were purchased and practice followed. The teams worked hard every day for over a month to learn the game and students were hooked! Team 2), Seth Steward, Zach Motsinger, Caleb Gallardo and Kane Taylor won silver medals after competing in back-to-back games. The remaining members, team 1) Hunter Mason, Colby Tucker, Sarah Chamblee, and Jadelynn HOLETON; team 2)Donielle Stricklin, Naomi Roberts, Candace Huggins, and Lauren Hatmaker; team 3) Blake Poland, Carlton Crumpley, Shawn Hooks, and Robert Johnson; team 4) Johnny Braswell, Austin Carroll, T.J. Morgan and Jonathan Lane; team 5) Jamie Turner, Will Johnson, Elizabeth Chandler, and Olivia Langford; and team 6) Tim Neeley, Jonathan Machleit, Taylor Steakley, and Nykayla Williams won bronze medals in Bocce Ball competition.

Congratulations to our athletes and thank you to our Peer Buddies!

## **DATA – Did you know?**

- High School students in Anderson County have over an 87 percent rate for registering for TN Promise versus only 73 percent for the State of TN.
- When asked if they feel that graduating seniors are academically ready for college:
  - 89 percent of high school teachers think that their seniors were ready for college.
  - 26 percent of college educators felt that their incoming freshman were ready for college

To ensure every secondary student in Anderson County Schools is college and/or career ready, we are placing a heavy emphasis on preparing students for the ACT as well as for career opportunities after graduation.

- On Thursday, November 3 all 10<sup>th</sup> grade students took the Pre-ACT. This is the ACT’s sophomore’s version of the ACT.
- Some students in CTE career clusters have the opportunity to work on site while in high school for companies like Northrop Grumman, SL Tennessee and Clayton Homes.