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# Anderson County Schools

Every Student, Every Day

Volume 2 Issue 4

## Anderson County Community Connections

### “We Can Change How Smart We Are!”

#### *Changing Growth Mindsets at AES!*

School culture has been a focus at Andersonville Elementary School for several years. Educating the whole child is a philosophy embraced by the staff. Last year, and continuing this year, Andersonville Elementary School launched a school-wide initiative revolving around increasing student motivation and effort by fostering a growth mindset with the students. Fostering a growth mindset is based on the research of Dr. Carol Dweck. Individuals with a growth mindset believe they can change how smart they are through utilizing non-cognitive factors when faced with personal and academic challenges. Students and staff that develop a growth mindset within themselves are able to face personal and academic challenges in a more constructive and effective manner by utilizing non-cognitive factors.

The staff introduced, educated and reinforced non-cognitive factors such as resilience, perseverance, grit, self-control,

respect and responsibility to the students with the intent of impacting student attitudes and academic achievement. The methods and strategies our school utilized throughout the year included; growth mindset mini lessons delivered to all students, six character traits introduced to the school body through special assemblies, character trait videos featuring the staff, teacher “brags” of students during weekly assemblies reinforcing character traits, bulletin boards reflecting growth mindset student work, targeted classroom read alouds reinforcing the character traits, praise to students for effort, consistent growth mindset posters used school wide and home-school connections with parents through newsletters on the growth mindset initiative. The special growth mindset



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character trait assemblies are the heart of the initiative. During these special assemblies the students are provided a definition of the character trait, shown a video clip related to the trait, individual students recognized by teachers providing peer examples of the trait, staff featured videos acting out the trait, and a chant off between students and staff.

In the first year of the initiative, we conducted a survey in the fall and spring. The statements the students responded to were: “Everyone Can Learn New Things,” “Some Kids are Born Smarter Than Others,” and “We Can Change How Smart We Are.” The survey we

used came from a resource written by education consultant and author, Mary Cay Ricci. By the spring, all three survey statements reflected an increase in a growth mindset belief system in student responses. The most significant change was a 10% increase in the belief of the students to the statement, “We Can Change How Smart We Are.” This data provides evidence that the growth mindset initiative is indeed impacting student attitudes, work ethic and how they are approaching academic challenges throughout the school day!

Several other Anderson County elementary schools have contacted Andersonville Elementary School about our growth mindset initiative and are now implementing the concept in their schools as well. In the fall of 2016, Andersonville Elementary School was invited to present at the SCORE (State Collaborative on Reforming Education) Summit Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, where one of the topics we discussed with the audience was the growth mindset initiative.

## AES Becomes First ACS School to Initiate First Book

Andersonville Elementary School (AES) staff members realize education requires a partnership with our students, parents, and community. Recently, AES became the first Anderson County School to initiate the First Book digital library program using the Open eBooks iOS and android app. This corporately funded program provides access to thousands of digital books suitable for elementary school

students through the New York City library and is free of charge to Title I schools.

The identification and login code for every AES student is supplied to his or her parents and provides years of access to the elementary school book collection. Headed by AES staff members, parent meetings, held after school hours, furnish training in the purpose and use of the app. Unlike

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personal devices which can be accessed without an internet connection. The First Book program, using the Open eBooks app, provides one way our AES staff partners

with parents to meet the literary needs of every child every day.

## **Summer Bridge Learning Program**

The Summer Bridge Learning Program is another way AES promotes Parent and Community Involvement. This program helps keep AES students involved in learning activities throughout the summer break.

Parents of student participants purchase, at a significantly reduced price, a summer workbook designed to review state educational standards in language arts, math, science, and social studies. Through this program, parents encourage their children to complete short daily assignments. Data gathered after the first year of this program indicates that most students who complete the program avoided educational regression during the summer break. Several students who were unable to purchase books were provided with books through the generosity of other students and AES supporters.

A special aspect of the Summer Bridge Learning Program involves community partners who provide weekly incentives for students who complete an assigned portion of the workbook. Participation in this aspect of the program is voluntary and designed to support the extra efforts of our students and

their parents. Students who complete the workbook are eligible to win prizes during a drawing held at a special school assembly in the fall. Prizes for the drawing are provided by several community partners and individual supporters of AES.

Community partners who supported our Summer Bridge Learning Program included: Andersonville Post Office, Chunky Monkey Ice Cream Shop, Fox Toyota, Junior Achievement, Meadow View Senior Living, Museum of Appalachia, Norris Community Library, Pizza Plus, Ray Varner Ford, Sharp's Hardware, and Valero. We also had generous, anonymous donors who helped provide some end of program prizes. We are thankful for support from anonymous donors and community partners and look forward to a long relationship with them. As the Summer Bridge Learning Program expands, we welcome new community partner relationships and look forward to working with them on behalf of AES students.

The Andersonville Elementary School staff is proud to support initiatives which highlight educational partnerships and focus on EVERY CHILD EVERY DAY... in and out of school.

## Amazing Volunteers at AES

Our great state of TN is known for being the Volunteer State. We have some amazing volunteers at Andersonville Elementary.

Every morning you will find Richard Stretch greeting our students for breakfast and giving a little pep talk before students begin their day. Richard is known as our breakfast buddy. The kids really look forward to seeing him and the staff at AES truly appreciate the love he has for our students. Shiann Richardson is another amazing parent and library helper at our school. Mr. Richardson is employed at Fox Toyota, but on his days off, you will find him at our school library shelving books. He could be spending his time many different ways, but chooses to volunteer at our school. This is not the first time Mr. Richardson has helped out. The bell you see hanging outside, as you enter our school was in much need of repair. That was all that needed to be said, and Mr. Richardson was quick to fix it. Volunteering has been handed down to

some of our 4th grade students. Jayce Horton saw the struggle some Kindergarten students had when it came to tying their shoes. Jayce decided that he would start a shoe tying club and asked for some assistance from his friend, Judson Ayers. Jayce and Judson visited each Kindergarten classroom to discuss the shoe tying club and even made posters. Jayce and Judson would meet before our morning assembly with the Kindergarteners to practice tying shoes. This became such a big hit, the boys requested more help from their 4th grade friends. Once a student mastered the skill of tying their shoes, they got to sign their name on the big shoe poster and received a shoe charm. Deloris Steele who has volunteered at our school for 8 years in one of our Kindergarten classrooms. She is dedicated to working with students, helping them stay in task and offering support and assistance when needed. She is one of our Kindergartens' biggest fans. These are just a few of the amazing things that are taking place at Andersonville Elementary. Every Student Every Day.

## DRESS DRIVE FOR 8TH GRADE FORMAL

The Annual 8th Grade Spring Formal will be held on Friday, May 19 at 205 Main in Clinton.

To fundraise for the formal and reach every girl who would like to go, we had a Dress Drive in March. We asked anyone who had any gently worn formal/bridesmaid dresses to donate to the CMS Dress Drive.

In April, we will have appointments for girls to come try on formal dresses that they can rent for \$5-10 dollars!

For more information, please contact Mrs. Brittany Roland ([broland@acs.ac](mailto:broland@acs.ac)).



# Ice Bears in Dutch Valley



On Wednesday, March 15, 2017, the students of Dutch Valley Elementary were treated to a big surprise! The Knoxville Ice Bears visited DVES and held a pep rally giving away t-shirts, posters, autographs and even having a puck shoot out with some of the students. The students even got to meet the Ice Bears Mascot, Chilly Bear. This was made possible when First grade teacher, Connie Lundy,

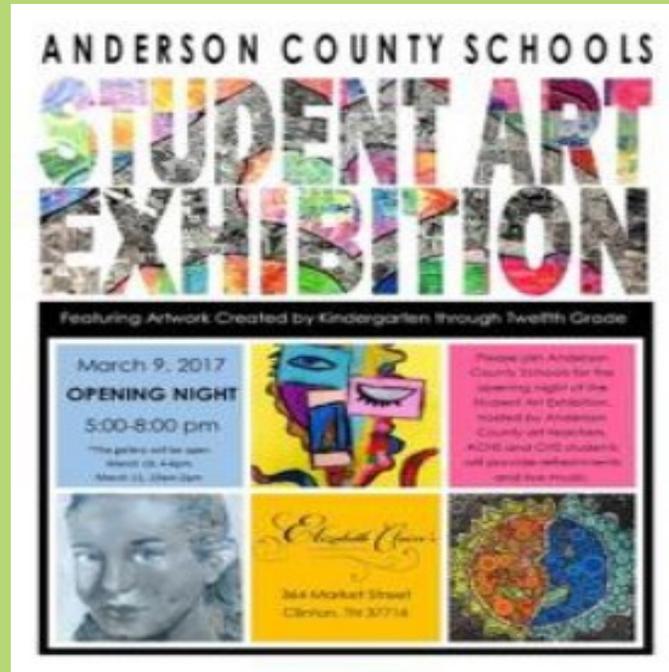


won a puck shoot out on teacher appreciation night held in February at one of the Ice Bears home games. Mrs. Lundy beat out several other teachers from various counties and won the program for the student at DVES.

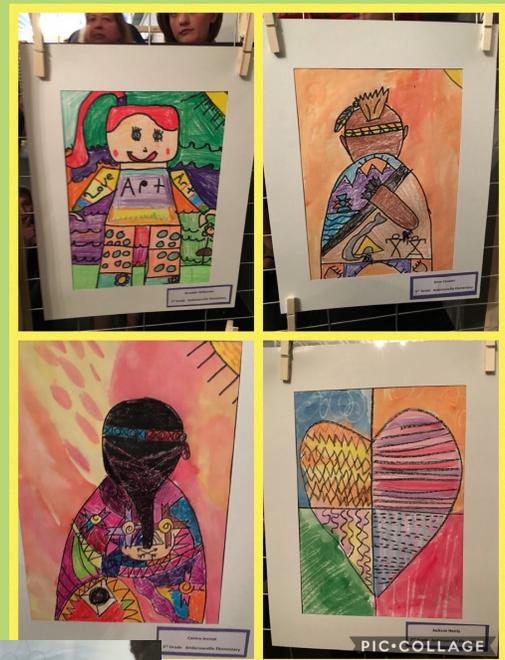
# ACS STUDENT ART EXHIBITION: A SUCCESS

A huge event packed downtown Clinton on Thursday, March 9th. It was Opening Night of the 1st Annual Anderson County Schools Student Art Exhibition, which was held at Elizabeth Claire's on Market Street.

Folks lined up down the block to get in and see some of the wonderful art projects, across different mediums, including painting and sculpture, made by students from every school in all grade levels.



Andersonville Student Art



Awesome group of Art Teachers!



Dressed for the event!

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Student Art continued from Page 6



The crowd gathers!

DVES Students at the Show with their art



Clinton Middle School Student Art

## NWES Students Honored in Nashville

Norwood Elementary School Students served on the Senate Floor on



March 30th as Student Pages. It was such an exciting experience for these students. After working on the Senate Floor, the students were honored by Lt. Gov. Randy McNally.

The learning experience continued with a tour of the Capitol and the Tennessee Museum. A trip of a lifetime for these students. Congratulations students for a job well done.



## Innovation Academy: A Hidden Gem

**Innovation Academy** is Anderson County Schools' online program for high school students. There are three different programs in Innovation Academy. The first program is Bridge Academy, where students who are behind can earn credits to catch up and graduate with their cohort. The second program is Opportunity Credits. Students in Opportunity Credits can either complete Credit Recovery to earn credit for a course they previously failed, or take a class which doesn't fit into their schedule on campus. The third program is the Anderson County Online Learning Academy, or ACOLA. These students are home-based learners and work on their curriculum at home with the supervision of our certified teachers. ACOLA students may take all classes online, or may participate in on-campus classes. ACOLA students have taken on-campus classes such as ROTC, band, digital arts, cosmetology, culinary arts, and welding. ACOLA staff, students and parents have a class meeting bi-monthly. Students Anna, Caitlyn, Shelby, Bryce, and Dawson are shown at the April meeting. Jared Forgety of the Life Development Center led the students in team-building exercises which stressed cooperation and working together.



## NMS Teacher to Serve on Science and Social Studies State Panel

We are pleased to announce that Jennifer Taylor, 6th Grade Teacher at Norris Middle School has been selected by the state to serve on the June 2017 Science and Social Studies Item Content Reviewer. She was selected from over 300 other teachers across the state to participate. We are so proud of her for representing the teachers of Anderson County! Go Jennifer!



## Lake City Spelling Bee Winner

Pictured is Alyssa Brown, the winner of the spelling bee



at Lake City Elementary School. She, along with Taylor Kuriger, represented the school in the Anderson County Spelling Bee held on March 28th.

# Coal Creek Festival and Community Meeting at LCES

Here are pictures of the Coal Creek Festival and Community Meeting on March 14th at Lake City Middle School. Those who attended were able to enjoy free food and history booths like the one to the right about Coal Creek artist Catherine Wiley.



Mr. Barry Thacker was there in costume to do a presentation on Coal Creek History



The picture above is of the booth demonstrating the Shoot Out at the Coal Creek Train Depot.



Mr. Thacker also awarded the Eisteddfod Chair to the winning choir who represented the Nantyglo Mining Camp. They were actually some students from Mrs. Lawson's and Mr. Williams' class at Lake City Elementary, Those students are pictured below.

In addition to the fun facts about Coal Creek each booth featured a game. Above is a fishing game at the Fraterville Mine Disaster Booth.



# Clinton High School RoboDragons Compete in 5th FIRST Robotics Competition

Clinton High School Engineering Teacher Ben Barrington and his RoboDragons competed again this year in the FIRST Robotics Smoky Mountains Regional Competition at the Thompson Boling Arena in Knoxville, TN. This was their fifth year of competitions. The students are given their project on January 6th at the competition Kickoff. The students work hard to complete their robot by



February 21st at which time they must package their robot for the competition.

There are strict guidelines about the size of the robot, how much can be spent and what materials are allowed to be used. Each student plays a vital role and gains a great perspective of engineering and team work.

The theme this year was Stronghold in which each team worked with an ally to try to breach the opponents castle while still defending their own castle.

Thank you Mr. Barrington and all the sponsors for helping make this an awesome learning experience!

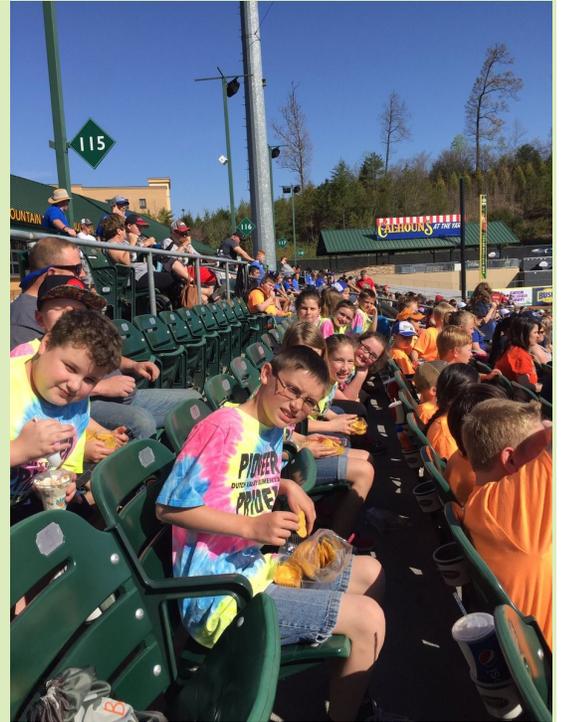
## MISCELLANEOUS HAPPENINGS AT AC SCHOOLS



The Anderson County Teacher of the Year Banquet was held at First Baptist Church's Family Life Center on April 11 and had a huge crowd as they honored classroom excellence.



Fourth and Fifth grade students from Dutch Valley Elementary School were rewarded with a trip to see the Smokies Baseball team in action on April 13. They had an awesome time at the event.



Anderson County Teachers attended the Google Summit and learned from the best Google instructors.

