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# Anderson County Schools

Every Student, Every Day

Volume 2 Issue 1

## Anderson County Community Connections

### STATE REPORT CARD

The Tennessee State Department of Education recently released its "Report Card" for school systems across the state and yet again, the Anderson County School district has earned high marks. According to the state report, Anderson County achieved a Level 4 district ranking, which places Anderson County above the state averages in most tested subjects.

The state realigned student and school achievement categories for the 2015-2016 academic year, identifying achievement based upon the following

levels: "mastered", "on track", "approaching", and "below." Anderson County Schools earned the highest scores possible in Science and Social Studies, and ACS students scored above the state level in six out of the nine tested subjects for the 2015-2016 school year.

According to the state report, Anderson County Schools also had fewer students scoring "below" in eight of the nine tested subjects as compared to state averages.

### ACT SCORES

Anderson County Schools has placed a great deal of emphasis on the improvement of ACT scores across the district and the state report card would indicate that the school district's efforts have proven worthwhile. The overall ACT composite score for Anderson

County reported by the state is currently a **20.3**, which is higher than the state average. Additionally, ACT reports reveal that students in Anderson County achieved higher than the state average in all ACT subtests for math, science, reading, and English.

## STUDENT EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

**Josh Overton**, a senior at ACHS, has recently obtained his dual engine and commercial pilot license. Congratulations Josh! Anyone interested in hiring Josh for his services should contact the Secondary Office of Instruction.

**Karen Abercrombie**, a senior at CHS, has been selected to represent Tennessee as a nominee for the National U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. Karen was chosen out of 75 applicants and the selection process was highly selective. Selections for the National U.S. Presidential Scholars Program will be announced in February and winners will receive an all-expense paid trip to Washington D.C. in June 2017.

## RETIREMENT

Congratulations to Mrs. Nancy Harper from Clinton High School who retired from her position as CHS's Attendance secretary. Mrs. Harper has worked on and off with ACS since 1968!

## TESTING DATA

Anderson County's secondary schools scored a level 4 out of 5 this year on the overall composite score.

Congratulations to staff members at all of our secondary schools!

## "WHY TRY?" TRAINING

CMS teachers and staff grew as professionals engaging in "Why Try?" training. It is a program designed to better prepare teachers in building relationships with students. It uses techniques like music, video clips, and collaborative problem solving activities to empower students to take positive control of their learning and the overall school environment. These new strategies will be powerful tools for the staff and students of Clinton Middle! Pictured below: "Why Try?" training participants.



## NORWOOD MIDDLE STUDENTS RECEIVE CHROMEBOOKS

The Norwood community packed the house for the release of Chromebooks to all students! The collaboration between the Anderson County Board of Education and County Commission is paying off. All middle school students and teachers across Anderson County have started 2017 with their brand new Chromebooks. We can't wait to see the wonderful things the kids can do with technology at their fingertips! Pictured is NWMS Principal Dan Jenkins.



## GOOD NEIGHBOR ORGANIZATION

The following letter was received by the principals at Andersonville, Fairview and Norris Elementary School on behalf of the Good Neighbor Fund in appreciation for a food drive held by students. (Photos on page 4)

*Dear Principals, Coordinators, Teachers, and Especially the Students of Andersonville, Fairview and Norris Elementary Schools,*

*The Good Neighbors organization asks you to please accept our heartfelt thanks for holding the most successful food drive ever at your school as part of the recent Good Neighbors Christmas Basket and Angel Tree Project. We were amazed at the results. It took multiple trips to each school to pick up the donations. On behalf of the 130 families that received the "baskets" (really multiple cartons), thank you all very much. All those donated canned good and other items made it possible for Good Neighbors to use its limited funds to purchase additional items from the Second Harvest Food Bank of East Tennessee and other sources. The generosity of the students and their families was truly*

*overwhelming. Any extra donated food that was beyond what we could possibly use, was shared with the Norris Food Pantry and the Community Action Commission based in Clinton.*

*The Good Neighbors team hopes that your school will continue to participate next year. We are counting on you. We are grateful to these news outlets for giving recognition to your school for participating so enthusiastically and generously.*

*If you have any comments or suggestions about this season's project or on ways to make it flow smoother, with less disruption of your educational program, please let us know.*

*Once again, the Good Neighbors Organization Thanks You most sincerely for participating. Bob Gregory, Coordinator*



## Engineering Better Readers In Briceville

### Welcomes Lt. Governor

It is that time of year again—time for Briceville Elementary School’s “Engineering Better Readers” program to kick-off another year of reading to achieve success.

This year marks the third year Briceville Elementary School has participated in the “Engineering Better Readers” program, a nationwide program to encourage school-age children to become avid readers at an early age.

The EBR program kick-off this year was on Friday, Jan. 13, in the cafeteria at BES.

Students in all grade levels listened to guest speakers Lt. Governor Randy McNally, Representative John D. Ragan, and Anderson County Mayor Terry Frank talk to them about the importance of reading.

Coal Creek Watershed Foundation Founder and Schnabel Engineer Barry Thacker and his granddaughter Katherine Long—

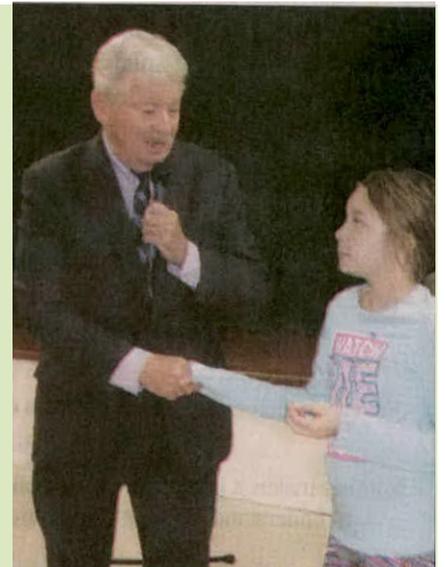
dressed as “time-travelers” Paul Revere and his granddaughter. They entertained students with an American history lesson explaining how reading can be an enjoyable, lifelong pastime.

In his first public appearance since being newly appointed as Lt. Governor last week, Randy McNally made a special appearance to the school to speak to students about what reading can do to help students reach their dreams.

McNally told students that reading impacts every aspect of student’s lives and said becoming an excellent reader would give them the tools to excel in any future pursuits they wish to endeavor.

Tennessee State Representative

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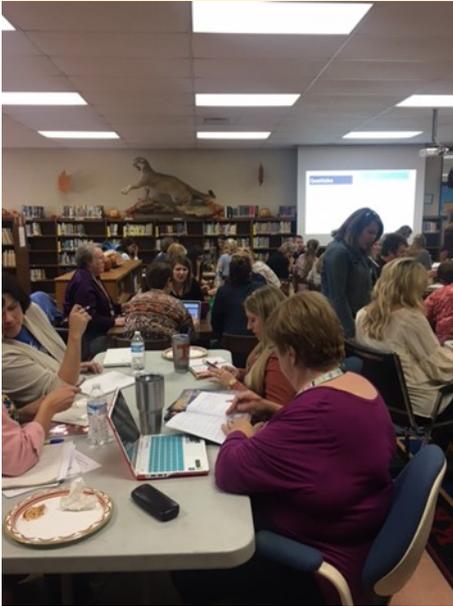


## LCMS STUDENTS VISIT ACCTC

Two groups of students from Lake City Middle School had the opportunity to take a learning field trip to ACCTC December 8 and 9. The Lake City students saw first-hand programs such as carpentry, auto mechanics, machining, agriculture, culinary arts, cosmetology, engineering and more. Lake City plans to continue these

initiatives to provide students a head start on their future and instill a strong work ethic and desire to succeed. The purpose of these trips is to increase student awareness of the myriad of prospects that are available for students at ACCTC, and how the classes provide unique and hands-on learning training to provide students with job ready skill sets to be successful after high school.

## Elementary News...

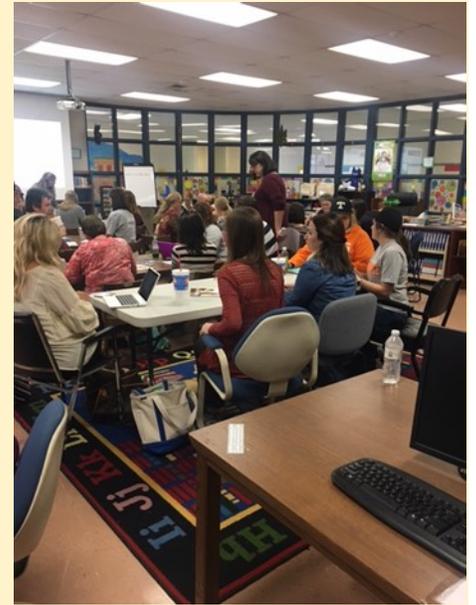


During December PLC, elementary teachers from across the district gathered at **Claxton Elementary** and participated in the first “Read to be Ready” training on the Interactive Read Aloud. District-

wide academic coaches led the grade level trainings. Each teacher in the district was

asked to develop and implement a week long unit of study using the strategies they learned during their training. These lessons will be added to

a district website and share with all teachers across the district.



For students at **Briceville Elementary School**, Christmas came a little early this year. Santa, along with his



helpers from Clayton Homes and Masonic Lodge in Briceville passed out treats and gifts to all the students. It was an awesome time for students and staff.



Crystal Lodge, in efforts to promote reading at **Andersonville Elementary**, has created a system for students to share books with other students when school is not in session. They have provided a primary and intermediate book depository for all students and community members to use located at the front of their building. We are so proud of AES for finding extra ways to encourage reading!!

John D. Ragan was also a guest speaker. Ragan shared with students his own personal struggles with reading when he was a child learning how to read, and explained how he did not let dyslexia get in the way of his dreams to become an engineer, fighter pilot, and state representative.

Anderson County Mayor Terry Frank talked to students about the difference between intellect and knowledge, and told students reading builds knowledge.

The objective of the EBR program, BES educators explained, is for students to read books and pass comprehension tests. Students are then awarded for passing the tests and reading the books. The more books they read, the more students can

earn through the program.

Students save their “points” to purchase prizes which range from Xboxes, Playstations, tablets, iPods, Legos, scooters to Nerf balls.

The program is part of a Schnabel Engineering funding endeavor designed to encourage students to become avid readers with a lifelong interest in reading and learning.



## School Board Appreciation

The Anderson County School Board on January 12 recognized this month’s winners of the board’s “Above and Beyond” awards at the Anderson County School Board meeting.



**Tenured Teachers: Amanda Chamblee, Stephanie Christian, Rhonda Cross, Mike Holdan, Sherry Bundy, Bobbie Grant, Rachel Jones, Kristy Phillips, Heather McCulley, and Nick Corrigan**



**Angela England,**  
School Nurse



**Carol Smith, Dutch Valley**  
Elementary School  
education assistant



**Robin Minch, CHS**  
bookkeeper

**Tonya Roldan,**  
Briceville  
Elementary School  
Secretary



## **CMS Receives Educational Alliance Grant**

One Stop Market, through their Exxon/Mobile distributor Downey Oil Company, presents \$500 to Clinton Middle School. Pictured are Downey Oil representatives Cole Carruthers and Brandon Spears, CMS teachers Nichole Patallano and Bryan Freeman, CMS principal RaeAnn Owens, and One Stop Market owner Mark Vineyard.



## **Fountains Donated by SL Tennessee**

A water bottle refilling station was recently installed at Anderson County High School courtesy of SL Tennessee. SL Tennessee also installed fountains at Clinton High School and Campbell County High School. The fountains cost approximately \$1,300 each. Pictured are members of the ACHS

Environmental Club and members of the Junior Achievement class (recently taught by Steven Brooks of SL TN) along with club sponsor Dr. Lori Price and Scott Laska, Plant Manager of SL Tennessee, pictured on the right. Mr. Laska credited Price with bringing the need for the fountains to the attention of his company following completion of the JA class.

