

ACES Newsletter

15 Park South Blvd, Arden, NC 28704

aces.buncombeschools.org

T: 828-654-1810

Here's some news about what's going on at ACES.....

From Mrs. Montgomery

News from Mrs. Montgomery

As we approach the end of the second quarter, I would like to take the opportunity to say thank you for your support thus far this school year! We have such an awesome group of students and a wonderful staff who are dedicated to providing a high-quality education to your children. I am impressed with the leadership skills your children are developing from leading the morning announcements, greeting classroom guests, answering the class phone, and many more. I would like to encourage each of you to seek opportunities to increase your involvement in our school be it volunteering in the classroom; tutoring students in reading and/or math; attending parent education nights, participating in school wide events; attending parent and student-led conferences; and/or serving on our PTO. Opportunities for involvement are endless! I would like to remind you that teachers have a great deal of material to cover and every minute of the day is utilized for instruction. Daily attendance is imperative to assure our children make progress, achieve growth, and are best prepared for the next grade level. Please make sure your children arrive on time to school each day and that they do not sign out early unless there is an emergency, an appointment, or they become ill. Valuable instruction time is lost when your child either arrives late to school or is signed out early. If a child is tardy or signs out early ten minutes a day for ten days, your child has missed one hundred minutes of valuable instruction time. Drop off time is 7:15 a.m. each morning



Upcoming Events

Dining Out for ACES: March 23 at Cantina Louie. All Day

March 27: Spring Pictures

Spring Break: April 4-12

April 13: PTO Meeting in Media Center 6:00

April 18: Scholastic Chess Tournament

April 23: Dining Out for ACES at Blaze Pizza

April 24: Volunteer Appreciation Tea

April 27: Boosterthon Pep Rally and Kick-off

April 30: Early Release and Leadership Day

May 8: Boosterthon Fun Run

May 25: Memorial Day. No School.

and our bus dismissal time is 2:25 p.m. Please remember to have your car tag displayed in the windshield until your child is safely in the car. Please also remember our car rider line is a cell-phone free zone once you arrive on our campus. We appreciate your cooperation with these and all other procedures.



Winter has arrived! Encouraging your children to wear their warm jackets, hats and gloves each day to school is imperative during these extremely cold temperatures. We also want them to stay warm since we go outside if the temperature is above 32 degrees. Numerous coats and jackets end up in our lost and found area so if your child has misplaced his/hers, please have them check this area. We will be donating any unclaimed items to one of the local charities at the end of March.

Kindergarten

What an exciting and fun month February was for Kindergarteners! We were so excited to go to the theater to see the Pout-Pout Fish last month. We will also celebrated Valentine's Day and begin learning about our past presidents. In March we will discuss dental health and the importance of properly caring for our teeth. The students are showing growth in mid-year assessments. We are so incredibly proud of them and I know you will be too! I am so grateful for such wonderful students. Thank you for all your support.

1st Grade

Greetings from the moon! This quarter we have been learning about the day and night sky focusing on the moon and the phases of the moon. We've also been reading biographies about MLK, George Washington, Abraham Lincoln and Dr. Seuss. Using facts they learned, the students composed opinion writing pieces to explain why they think these people are important to our history. In math, the students learned about time, fractions, adding three addend problems, and using combinations of 10 to help solve addition and subtraction problems. Please keep reading with your child and working the combinations of 10. We are looking forward to the 4th nine weeks!

2nd Grade

In math we have continued working on our skills of adding and subtracting within 1,000 with efficient strategies and working with comparison problems. We are beginning our unit on measurement and working towards using standard units of measurement. In reading we have been learning about historical figures such as Martin Luther King Jr, Ruby Bridges, Rosa Parks and more. We have been identifying character traits about each of these people and how characters respond to challenges in the story. We are also working on our next writing, opinion! In social studies we have been connecting to reading with timelines of historical figures, of our day, and of our lives. In science we finished up our study of matter and have moved on to studying sound energy and how we are able to hear the world around us!

3rd Grade

Third grade has had another busy nine weeks! We just completed a unit in area and perimeter, and are still continuing to work on our multiplication facts. We have been learning how to examine a text and use context clues to figure out words we are not sure about. In social studies we have been learning what role we play in our community and how we can have a voice in decision making.

4th Grade

Making friends All Over the World in Ms. Doña's class.

Miss Doña's class has recently done some Mystery Skypes with different places in the world like Guatemala and Illinois. We have also received some Mystery letters #MysteryPenpal from Spain and we are going to do some Flipgrids with Spain and Guatemala.

During the Mystery Skypes we try to find out where the people that we are skyping with live. If you are the first to find out where they live, you win. You may only ask yes or no questions. There are jobs that we get and the jobs that we get help keep the game rolling smoothly. We each have a job to make this process go smoothly. The jobs are Greeter, Questioner, Filters, Answerer, Runners, Think Tank Leaders, Google mappers, Map moguls, Lead Thinker and Photographer. Everyone gets at least one job but usually two because there are a lot of jobs that need to be filled.

The kids in Guatemala were in third grade and we spoke Spanish with them. The kids in Illinois were in fourth grade and we spoke with them in English. The kids in Illinois guessed where we lived first but we were first to guess where the Guatemalan kids lived.

After playing this game, we used a reflection sheet to record what we learned, make suggestions for improvement and compare and contrast our countries and schools.

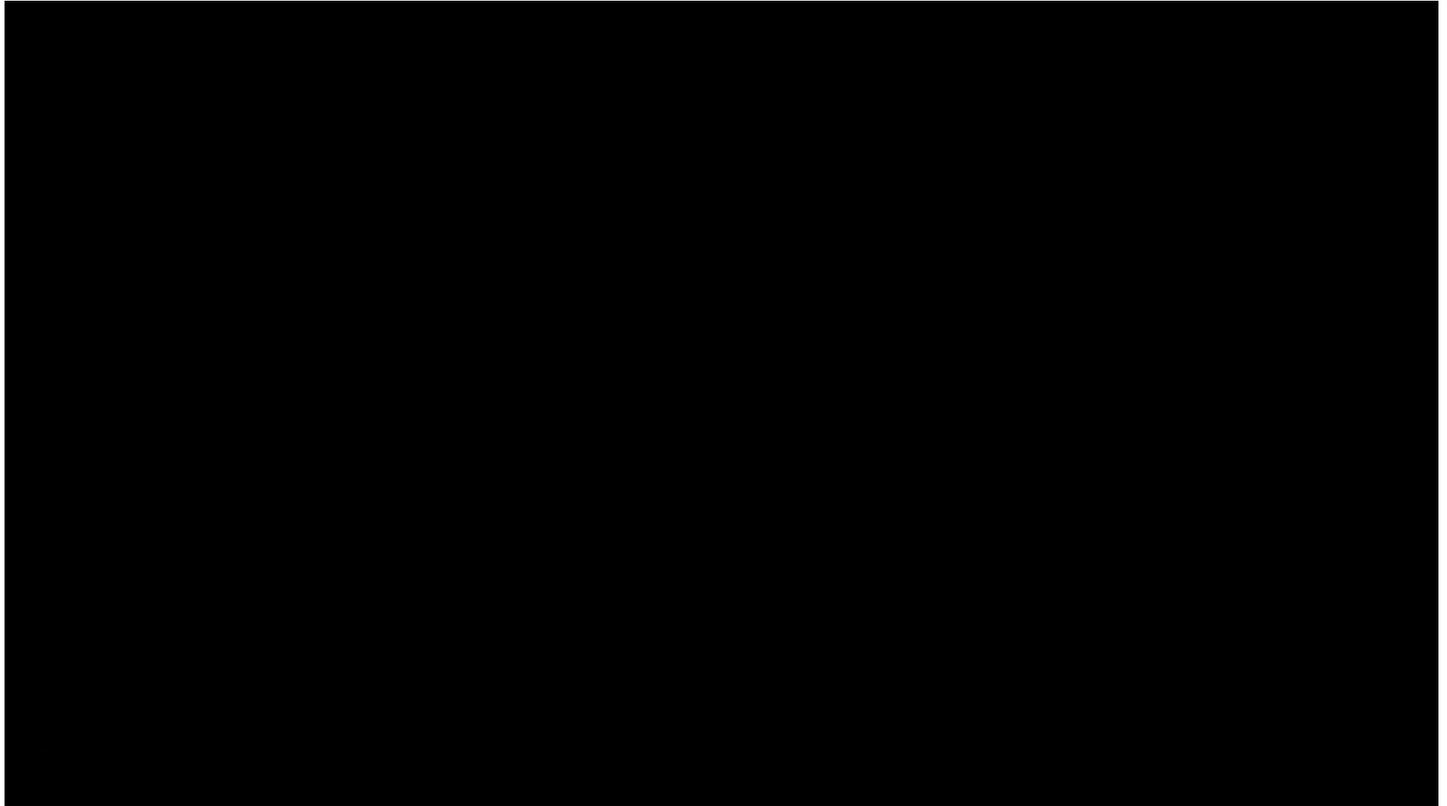
It was fun learning about the countries or states where the kids in Guatemala and Illinois are and how they shared their history.

We are also doing Flipgrid with kids in Spain and the kids in Guatemala. We received Mystery letters this week and found out that they came from our teacher Mrs. Doña's old school in Spain (CEIP El Olmo School). Now we are preparing short videos about our country and our favorite books to share with them.

Video Flipgrid is like Skype but you just don't facetime in real time. This is a perfect way to communicate with other countries that have different time zones. It is six hours ahead in Spain. We make a video which they will watch and then they will make another video as a response.

In conclusion, the best part is that we made some new friends in the United States of America and on the other side of the world. It is like travelling around the world while you are making new friends, learning about other cultures and speaking different languages. We have also learned a lot about geography and how to use a map properly.

By Jack Basl, Allur Gilliam and Matias Pedemonte.



STEM Lab

We have been doing some fun projects in the lab and the students have had some wonderful ideas. They are learning to synergize in their teams as they create their projects together.

Kindergarten learned about measuring and mixing while they made play dough.

First grade learned about the properties of rocks and made a cave for a bear to hibernate in.

Second grade explored liquids and solids to make a substance that had both qualities. (Oobleck)

Third grade discovered the challenge of keeping chocolate from melting.

Fourth grade used magnets in a challenge about force and motion.

We are currently making projects which involve making a marble run or a marble maze in K, 1st, 3rd and 4th using gravity, friction and motion.

2nd is also learning about sound and vibration and are making team xylophones.

Music

Third quarter in the ACES music room has been full of exciting projects. Fourth graders began their new unit on recorders. Students have learned how to play BAG notes on their recorders. We've learned how to play some fun tunes which include titles like, "Walk Like a Mummy," "I Wish I Was a Chicken," "AAA," and the standard classic, "Hot Cross Buns."

Third graders have been delving in depth with their studies on American music genres. We have been learning about how blues and jazz came to be and some of the great composers of these genres. Third graders have also been learning how to read music notation and play musical scores on the Orff xylophones.

Our younger Avery's Creek musicians have enjoyed a wide variety of musical folk songs from around the world. Along with enjoying these time-tested classics, we have enjoyed the movement activities and games that accompany these wonderful songs. This quarter the class favorites have been, "Obwisana," "Doggie Doggie Where's Your Bone?" and "In a Cabin in the Woods."

-Ms. Melody

Art

Hello Avery's Creek Family.

In art class, all classes K-4th grade recently completed our unit in clay. Kindergarten and 1st grade made Water Pool Pet Rocks. In 2nd, 3rd and 4th grades, the students were free to create whatever they could dream up with only size limitations. As Einstein said,

"Imagination is more important than knowledge." All 610 creations were slow fired in our new kiln for 17 hours. After cooling, the students glazed their masterpieces. If there was an available space, a marble was placed on the work to create a water pool, (as glass melts at 1400 degrees) and all were fired again for 6 hours on fast glaze.

I hope you enjoy the beautiful pieces of art. We will be working in clay again this year and I'm excited to see their new creations.

Ernest Lloyd Wince, Art Specialist



Media Center

The year is flying by fast in the media center. It's hard to believe that we are in our 4th quarter. We have been busy in the media center and finished off 3rd quarter with the Spring Book Fair.

Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd graders spent the last month participating in the NC Children's Book Award Project. We read and discussed the 10 nominees over the last month and now the students are voting for their favorite books. I will be sending their votes onto the state level where they will be counted along with votes from other students in NC. The nominee with the most votes will win this year's NC Children's Book Award.

3rd grade researched an important person, a place or an animal and created a Chatterpix using iPads in the media center. Chatterpix is a cool app which allows the student to record a script and make a photograph speak. The class was able to see others presentations on a Padlet that was sent to teachers.

4th grade has been working on poetry in the media center. They wrote Haikus and created pop-up art to go with them. They also created black-out poetry using some discarded library books.

And finally, our Elementary Battle of the Books Team competed in the District Competition on March 11th at UNC-Asheville. It was a fun day and everyone had a great time seeing a college campus.