ASHEVILLE CITY SCHOOLS
Learn. Discover. Thrive.

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Cougar Call 10/18/2024

Kimberly Dechant <kimberly.dechant@acsgmail.net> Fri, Oct 18, 2024 at 6:14 PM
To: ACS ALL-STAFF <acsall-staff@ashevillecityschools.net>



Happy Friday, Cougars! There are so many amazing things happening across our district in the wake of Hurricane Helene. It has been truly inspiring to see our Cougar Crew come together. Students, staff, families, community partners, and volunteers from both near and far have all pitched in to play a vital role in our community's recovery so first and foremost, THANK YOU!



Reopening Update: Message from Dr. Fehrman



Asheville City Schools Post-Helene Reopening Plans



We are excited to announce that all Asheville City Schools will reopen on October 28th! Let's connect and kick off school reopening with an All-staff Cookout on Wednesday, October 23rd, at Asheville High. Staff please RSVP at the link below. If parents or families would like to sign up to support the cookout, please click the link here. We hope to see you there, Cougars!

When schools reopen on October 28th, we will start with a shortened instructional day with the hope to return to a full instructional day as early as Wednesday, October 30th. Shortened Elementary hours will be from 9:00am -1:00pm and Secondary hours will be from 10:00am - 2:00pm. Please stay tuned for more updates on scheduling and sanitary guidelines. Thank you for your continued support as we work around the clock to get our students back in schools!

Staff Cookout RSVP



Community Resource Center

Asheville City Schools spared no time in responding to Hurricane Helene. Our Community Resource Center at William Randolph Campus has been a hub of love and support and has received thousands of donations from both near and far. We've had countless members of our community, students, staff and families, come through our doors to gather and donate supplies. Thank you to all our volunteers and donors for their immense generosity and support. Our Community Resource Center is open for supply donations and distribution Monday through Friday, from 12:00pm to 5:00pm. We are currently in need of the following supplies: toilet paper, paper plates, paper towels, bleach, laundry detergent, new socks (children and adult sizes), new underwear (children and adult sizes), women's deodorant, shampoo and conditioner, batteries (AA and AAA), large reusable bags, and mops.

If you would like to sign up for a volunteer shift, please click the link below.

Community Resource Center Volunteer Form



Celebrating Principal Recognition Month

This month is Principal Recognition Month! Our amazing principals work tirelessly to put students, staff, and families first and we want to celebrate all their efforts that truly make our Cougar Community one-of-a-kind. If you want to thank your principal or give them a cougar crew shout out to share on social media, please fill out the form below. We want to show them as much love possible!

Cougar Crew Principal Shout Out!



Bridge for Learning!

Our first week of Bridge for Learning at Issac Dickson Elementary was nothing short of spectacular! Students connected with their friends and teachers, participated in arts and crafts, reading and learning, and fun outdoor activities. There was also a book drive so students could pick a book of their choice to take home and read. Over 400 students attended, over 50 high school students volunteered, and over 150 staff and adult volunteers were present. We could not be prouder of our Cougar Crew for working hard and coming together to provide these amazing experiences for our students. When we work together, we can accomplish more than we thought possible because we are a Cougar Crew!



Supporting Our Cougar Crew

We know many of our staff have experienced immense loss and devastation due to Hurricane Helene and we want you to know that we are here for you. If we have learned anything during this time it is that we are stronger together which is why we have developed a Cougar Crew Support System. Dr. Dickerson will be working directly with principals to assess staff needs and provide resources. Please communicate with your principal how we can best support you during this time. Please also reach out to your fellow staff members who are sharing resources.

The City of Asheville is hosting a candlelight vigil in honor of those we've lost on Tuesday, October 22nd, at 6:00pm at Pack Square Park.

On Thursday, October 24th, we are hosting an 'After the Storm: Naming our Grief and Loss' circle-up at William Randolph Campus Thursday, October 24th, at 2:00pm to process, connect, and show support for one another.

We are holding our entire community in our hearts and we will heal together.



School Site Water and Supply Distribution

In the wake of Hurricane Helene, we are proud that our school sites have served as community resource centers and command centers for first responders and relief organizations. Our football field at Asheville High has been used as a helicopter landing pad to transport critical medical supplies to hard-to-reach areas. Asheville Middle School has provided daily water and food distribution as well as provided free WiFi and charging stations for our community. Asheville Middle School has also served as the home base for the New York Incident Management Team who have been working around the clock to enhance recovery efforts. Lucy S. Herring Elementary has had a non-potable water station fill up, Hall Fletcher Elementary has served as a food and water distribution center, and Isaac Dickson, after housing Team Rubicon, has opened its doors for Bridge for Learning activities this week. It is clear that our schools are not only spaces for learning and thriving, but are essential pillars of our community. We are proud to have utilized our school sites to serve Western North Carolina's recovery.



We Love Student Volunteers!

Cougars are stronger together! Our amazing students have shown up in the wake of Hurricane Helene to volunteer their time, energy, and resources to support our community and we could not be more proud. Their continued demonstration of care, kindness, and generosity is what being a Cougar is all about.



College Application Assistance

A bright future awaits! On October 10th, staff members hosted a College Admissions and Assistance Work Session at our Community Resource Center for seniors who are applying for college. So many students attended along with community parters, parents, volunteers, and alumni. We were able to support our seniors in completing their residency forms, college essays, Common App requirements, and FAFSA forms. Thank you to all the staff members who continued to show up for our seniors as they take the next steps in realizing their future goals.



Puppet Show and Cookout

On Saturday, October 12, My Brothers Keeper from Charlotte NC, cooked hamburgers and hotdogs for our community and also donated a truckload of supplies and winter clothing for our resource center! Asheville Creative Arts also provided K-5 students with arts and craft experiences and an exciting puppet show that demonstrated the power of community resilience in the wake of a flood. We know that these powerful arts-integration experiences help our students to process and understand the world around them and we are inspired by their creativity and resilience.



Parade and Butterfly Release at Lucy S. Herring

On October 9th, Street Creature Puppets and joined up with Story Time, organized by Lucy S. Herring parents to lead students on an uplifting and colorful parade! As a part of the parade, students and families gathered in the school garden where Farmer Jordan released the last of the monarch butterflies who students had watched transform until the monarch emerged from it's chrysalis and was set free!

Thanks to Street Creature Puppets and Lucy S. Herring staff, families and students for bringing light and love to our community and reminding us of the power of transformation.

Stay tuned for more updates and remember, when we work together we can accomplish anything!

Our Promise


YOU BELONG HERE
CHALLENGING AND RELEVANT
EVERY SECOND COUNTS