ASHEVILLE CITY SCHOOLS
Learn. Discover. Thrive.

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COUGAR CALL! Friday, February 14th

Marilee Woodard <marilee.woodard@acsgmail.net> Fri, Feb 14, 2025 at 12:01 PM
To: ACS ALL-STAFF <acsall-staff@acsgmail.net>



Happy Valentines Day Cougars! There are so many wonderful things happening in Asheville City Schools. From staff and educators engaging students in challenging and culturally relevant material, to our students demonstrating leadership and creativity, we're proud of our community's commitment to the promise and value of public education.

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Board of Education Regular Session

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH

The ACS Board of Education held a Regular Session on Monday, February 10th. Teachers, staff, and community members were recognized for their accomplishments and made their voices heard during public comment. The next ACS board meeting will be a Special Called Open Meeting on Tuesday, February 18th beginning at 5:00PM. The purpose of this meeting is to review the budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

Remember, you can subscribe for board updates via diligent or by clicking on the links below!



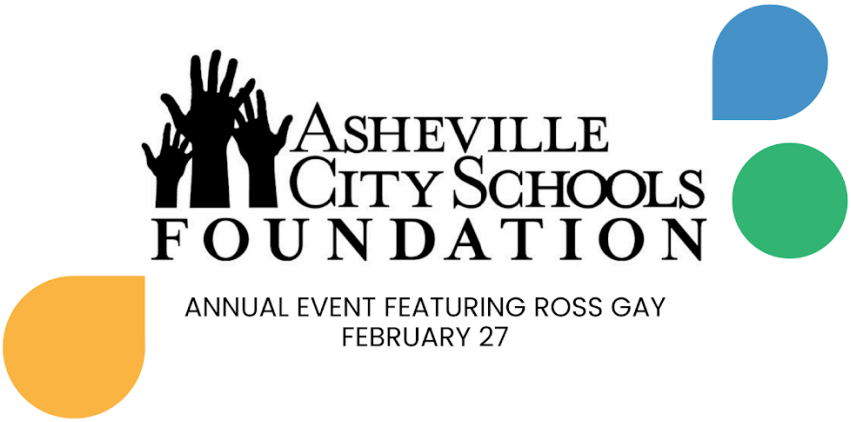
February is Love the Bus month, a time for Asheville City Schools to celebrate the incredible contributions of our bus drivers and transportation team! These dedicated individuals are often the first and last school employees our students see, playing a vital role in ensuring a safe and positive start and end to their learning journey. They navigate our city streets with skill and care, getting our children to and from school, extracurricular activities, and everything in between. Join us this month in showing our appreciation for their hard work and commitment to our students.



Black Excellence at Ira B. Jones Elementary

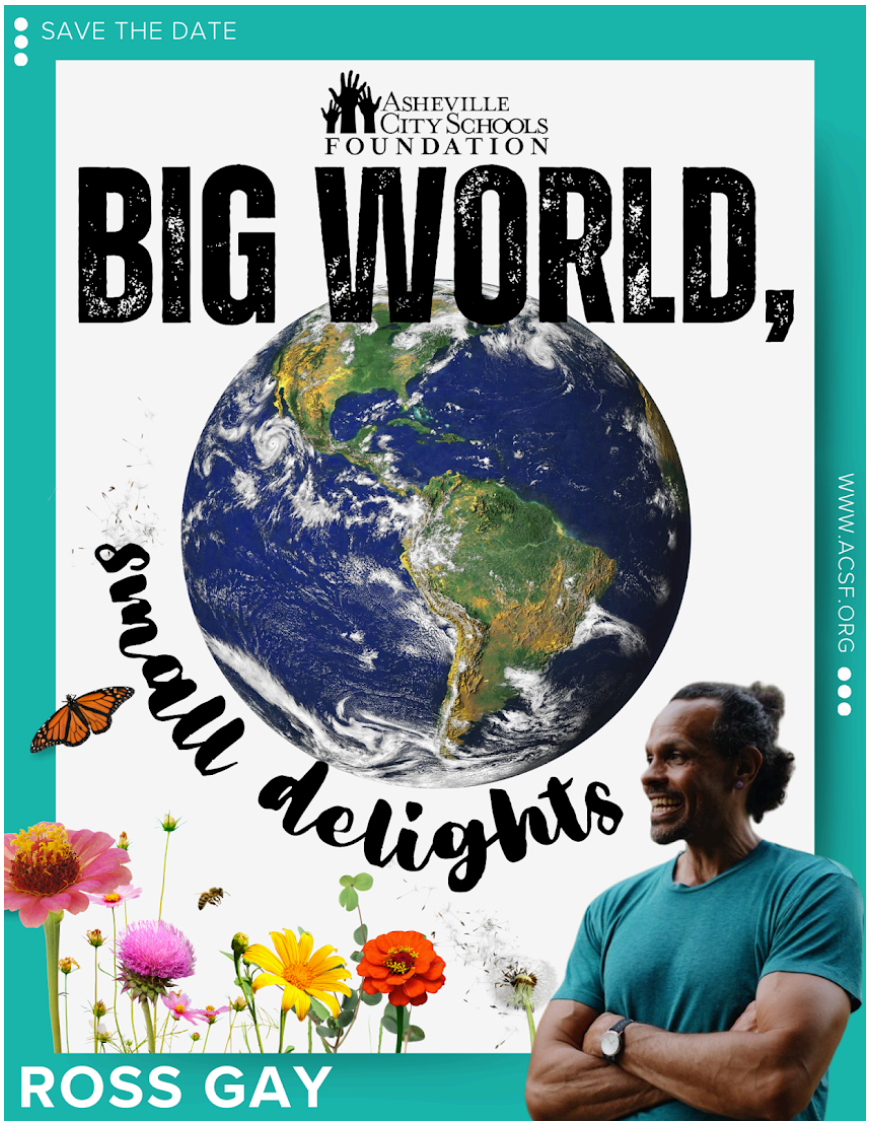
Ira B. Jones Elementary celebrated Black History Month with it's Black Excellence Scholar Event! Student presentations and performances, whether music, dance, or spoken word, brought to life the stories and legacies of important Black figures. Adding another layer of depth, the art showcases displayed student-created pieces depicting historical Black figures alongside prominent local leaders, connecting the past to the present. The ongoing impact of Black excellence within the Asheville community shone as well with an art showcase by Shirley Whitside, performances by the Delta House Jazz Band, Bishop-Elect DL McDay, and Johnnie Hayes' Majorettes and Drum Corps. These artistic tributes served as a powerful reminder of the contributions of Black individuals to our shared history and culture.

Thank you Principal Cobb, for your outstanding leadership and to the staff, students and community leaders who made this event an incredible success.



Have you gotten your Ross Gay tickets yet?

You don't want to miss the Asheville City Schools Foundation's Annual Event and Student Art Contest! Click the link below to read more about Ross Gay and get your tickets today!



Click here to get your tickets!



School Resource Officer Appreciation

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15th

February 15th is School Resource Officer Appreciation Day! Asheville City Schools thanks its SROs for keeping our schools safe, supporting students, staff, and families, and building vital relationships that help them protect and serve the community. Their presence provides a sense of security and fosters a positive learning environment for all. We appreciate their dedication and commitment to our students' well-being.



Chinese Lunar New Year Celebrations

Lucy S. Herring Elementary and Asheville High School celebrated the Lunar New Year with exciting and enriching cultural experiences! Lucy S. Herring students were treated to a mesmerizing Lion Dance performance by Dragon Phoenix of Asheville, complete with Tai Chi demonstrations, traditional drumming, and interactive Chinese language call and response activities. Asheville High students in Ms. Liang's Chinese classes enjoyed hands-on calligraphy lessons and a delicious celebratory lunch at Red Ginger in downtown Asheville. These events highlight Asheville City Schools' commitment to diverse language learning environments and our support of local businesses. Happy Year of the Snake!



Educators Exceeding Growth!

Our Curriculum and Instruction Team recognized teachers whose students had excelled in academic growth the previous year on their Early Literacy and mClass scores. The team went to each of our schools and dropped off certificates and a small gift to celebrate their teaching achievements. We are so proud these educators and their students' academic growth!

CONGRATULATIONS EDUCATORS!

Mallory Ciesla, *Claxton*
Laurie Joens, *Claxton*
Laura Dower, *Claxton*
Sarah Ballard, *Hall Fletcher*
Margaret Ciesla, *Hall Fletcher*
Marianne Simmons, *Hall Fletcher*
Shenekia McDaniels, *Ira B. Jones*
Leigh Smith, *Isaac Dickson*
Mairead Smitka, *Isaac Dickson*
Pricilla Greene, *Lucy S. Herring*
Cynthia Watkins, *Lucy S. Herring*



Thank you, Culinary Arts Students!

Students in Ms. Monson's Culinary Arts and Hospitality Class, 'Groundhogs', a student-led cafe enterprise, served a delicious breakfast and lunch to ACS staff on Wednesday and Thursday this week. From cooking to delivery, students served meals with a smile across campus. We are so proud of our aspiring Cougar Chefs and can't wait to place our next lunch order!



Meet the Human Resources Team

Meet the dedicated team that keeps Asheville City Schools running smoothly: our Human Resources department! From hiring and onboarding talented educators and staff, to managing benefits and ensuring compliance, the HR team plays a vital role in supporting every member of our ACS family. They're the go-to resource for employees, working behind the scenes to foster a positive and supportive work environment. We're grateful for their hard work and commitment to our district!

Thanks for reading, Cougars! We hope you have a wonderful weekend and happy Valentines Day!



Our Promise

YOU BELONG *HERE*

CHALLENGING AND *RELEVANT*

EVERY SECOND *COUNTS*