Ashe County Schools

WEEKLY UPDATE

ASHE COUNTY schools



These athletes were among those who participated in Ashe County Schools' Special Olympics on April 24.

WEEK ENDING **10 MAY**

Important Upcoming Dates

- **May 20 -**
  8:00 am Groundbreaking Turf/Track at
  2:00 pm Joint BOE/Commissioner meeting
- **May 16** - ACHS Senior Picnic
  ACMS Talent Show, 2:00 p.m.
- **May 17**- ACHS Heart of a Husky Free
  Heart Screening and Physicals
- **May 19** - ACHS Spring Sports Awards
- **May 21**- AEC Senior Awards & Scholarship Presentation, Poe Hall, 8:30 a.m.; 11th Grade Awards, Messer Hall, 1:00 p.m.; **Best of the Best Dinner** at Timber Rivers, 6:00 p.m.
- **May 27** - Memorial Day Holiday
- **May 30** - Last Day of School, Early Release
- **May 31** - 2pm AEC High School & 7pm ACHS Graduation, Project Graduation following

Commitment to Excellence



Congratulations to Ashe County Middle School Principal **Dr. Susan Mochen** for successfully completing the North Carolina Principals and Assistant Principals' Association (NCPAPA) Distinguished Leaders in Practice program! This intensive year-long initiative aims to cultivate exceptional leadership qualities in school administrators.

"Dr. Susan Mochen's completion of the NCPAPA Distinguished Leaders in Practice program exemplifies her commitment to excellence in educational leadership. Her dedication to professional growth and her participation in this innovative initiative highlight her capacity to inspire positive change within our school community. We are very proud of her leadership."

- ACS Superintendent Dr. Eisa Cox

The DLP initiative employs a non-traditional professional development model. Participants examine the meaning and application of school leadership through a problem-based approach delivered via a series of face-to-face, regional, cohort-based sessions, supplemented by online activities. Throughout the experience, practicing North Carolina principals are coached using a continuous improvement model. Participating principals are provided with models of exemplary school leadership, which allows them to study the behaviors, attitudes, and competencies that define a distinguished school leader.

Dr. Mochen, alongside her fellow principals from various corners of the state, diligently participated in in-person workshops and engaged in online coursework and coaching sessions throughout the program.

Staff Shout Outs

Congratulations to **Courtney Eller**, ACS Elementary STEM Innovator, who has been selected as one of the North Carolina state-level finalists for the 2024 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. She was selected by state coordinators from a field of outstanding candidates for this prestigious award.



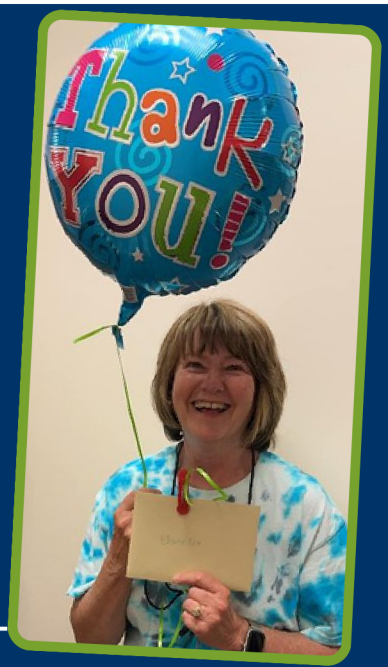
Eller is pictured with Superintendent Dr. Eisa Cox.

As a finalist, Eller's application will be reviewed by the National Science Foundation's national selection committee. The White House will announce the upcoming results of the national selection process. State-level finalists in both mathematics and science will be invited to attend a meeting of the State Board of Education on September 5, 2024, where State Board Members and the State Superintendent will recognize and honor them publicly. As a state finalist, Eller will also be honored during an awards ceremony at the North Carolina Science Teachers Association's 2024 Professional Development Institute in November in Winston-Salem.

We ♥ our Administrative Professionals!



In April, we celebrated ACS administrative professionals, whose tireless efforts, positive attitude, and attention to detail help our schools run efficiently. Your work does not go unnoticed. **We couldn't do it without you!**



Well-Deserved Recognition

On April 29, the ACS Educational Office Professionals (EOP) held their annual breakfast, hosted by Sweet & Savory in West Jefferson. During the event, several individuals were recognized for going above and beyond. Thank you to each one, as well as ACS directors and principals for their dedication and hard work every day.

Administrator of the Year - Westwood Elementary Principal Scott Grubb





EOP of the Year - Central Support Services Accounting Specialist Tonya Greer





Thank you, administrators, for your $500-plus EOP donation!

Fifteen years ago, ACHS Data Coordinator Michelle Kitson was the recipient of the annual EOP Scholarship for graduating seniors. This year, she presented the scholarship to her daughter, ACHS student Lana Kitson.







“Best of” 2024 Winners

While *all* our ACS teachers and support staff are the BEST, these were voted by their peers for going above and beyond this year.

Blue Ridge Elementary

Teacher of the Year – 2nd Grade Teacher Jada Mast
Beginning Teacher of the Year – 5th Grade Teacher Courtney Binder
Classified Staff of the Year – Custodian Cindy Pugh
Support Staff of the Year – Nurse Laura Branch

Mountain View Elementary

Teacher of the Year – 2nd Grade Teacher Jessica Lyalls
Beginning Teacher of the Year – 6th Grade Teacher Jennifer Blevins
Classified Staff of the Year – Receptionist Jodie Lemly
Support Staff of the Year – Technician Michelle Keith

Westwood Elementary

Teacher of the Year – Kindergarten Teacher Jessica Dotson
Classified Staff of the Year – Custodian Daniel Higgins
Support Staff of the Year – Media Specialist Mandy Keziah

Ashe County Middle

Teacher of the Year – 8th Grade Science & Social Studies Teacher Brett Lewis
Beginning Teacher of the Year – 7th Grade Math Teacher Andy Cerillo
Classified Staff of the Year – Custodian Jerry Goodman
Support Staff of the Year – Assistant Principal Sherrie Hines

Ashe County High

Teacher of the Year – Spanish Teacher Marta Pacheco
Beginning Teacher of the Year – Band Director Parker Dula
Classified Staff of the Year – Custodian Tim Walton
Support Staff of the Year – School Counselor Kelly Fletcher

Ashe Early College

Teacher of the Year – Math Teacher Jim Ashley
Classified Staff of the Year – Administrative Assistant Stacey Jenkins
Support Staff of the Year – School Counselor Jessica Yates





#WINNING

Congratulations to **Brian Hampton**, ACHS Athletic Director/Assistant Principal/Head Football Coach! He was presented the Athletic Director of Excellence Award from the North Carolina Athletic Directors Association. We’re so grateful for everything you do for ACHS athletics, Coach. **#AsheProud #HuskyPride**

More Reasons to Celebrate

National School Principals Day, Afterschool Professionals Appreciation Week, School Lunch Hero Day, and School Nurses Appreciation Day gave us opportunities to say THANK YOU to even more amazing people who are vitally important to the success of ACS students.



Awesome Afterschool Professionals



School Nurses Rock!

Thank you, ACS nursing professionals, for caring for the entire school population and playing an essential role in keeping all students in school, healthy, safe and ready to learn.

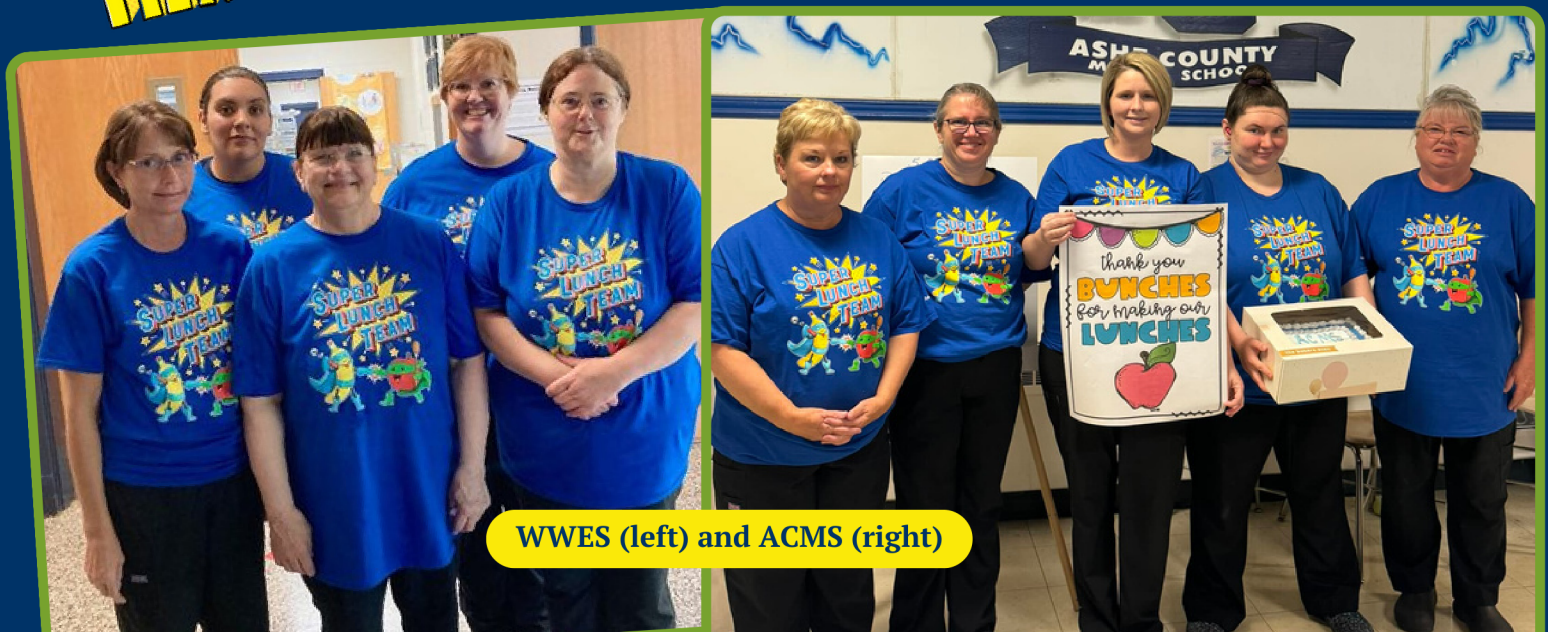







SCHOOL LUNCH HERO DAY

These are just some of our hardworking cafeteria professionals, who power young minds and bodies with nutritious food each day — helping students harness the power to focus and succeed. Thank you, to each one.



WWES (left) and ACMS (right)



TEACHER APPRECIATION HIGHLIGHTS IN NEXT NEWSLETTER





LETRS Update

A special shout out to everyone who played a role in the ELA adoption process this year, putting time and effort into this significant decision for our students and school system.

The LETRS Weekly News linked below announces the **winning K-8 ELA Textbook Curriculum,** as well as other resources for finishing out Units 4 and 8. All modules and coursework must be complete by the June 3rd PD training sessions.

LETRS newsletter

thank you all, for every ounce of energy and love you put into teaching and student learning each day. I am so thankful for each of you and the opportunity to work with such a fine group of educators every day. ❤

- Casey Smith
ACS K-5 Curriculum Coordinator

Special Olympics

ACS celebrated our Special Olympic athletes in April, and the games were fun for all. Teachers, family, friends and ACS staffers cheered participants on — every one of them is a winner! #AsheProud
(Photos courtesy of Jodi Grubb. Click below for more great pics.)
















More Photos HERE

School Highlights - AELC

Teachers and students are busier than ever as the school year winds down. Families of our youngest students at Ashe Early Learning Center joined in for a fun activity. They helped create shirts for the school's Letterland Celebration, coming up on May 29!



















School Highlights - BRES





Ms. Wilson's Math Flex 4th graders participated in a Math Scavenger Hunt. They raced to find the problems hidden around the room and be the first to solve them!

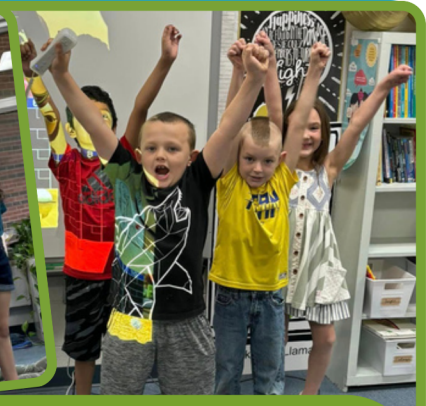




Kindergarten classes taught each other about shapes!







Students who had excellent attendance in the third quarter participated in a Wii Sports party. They all had a great time bowling, golfing, and playing tennis! The adults had fun, too!



Mrs. Roten's 3rd grade class won the monthly attendance award and enjoyed playing lots of different games.



Fun with Earth Day Projects











School Highlights - MVES

Annual Olympic Games May Day Play Day

















Students were busy with various STEM projects, including creations made using Tinkercad on iPads and 3D printers, making “flying machines” and more.



Lei’d back on Luau Day



Congrats to this 5 MILLION-word reader!



Mateo Mitchell, USA Olympic bobsled medalist, spoke to students.



Students also enjoyed a Dancing Drum presentation.

School Highlights - WWES

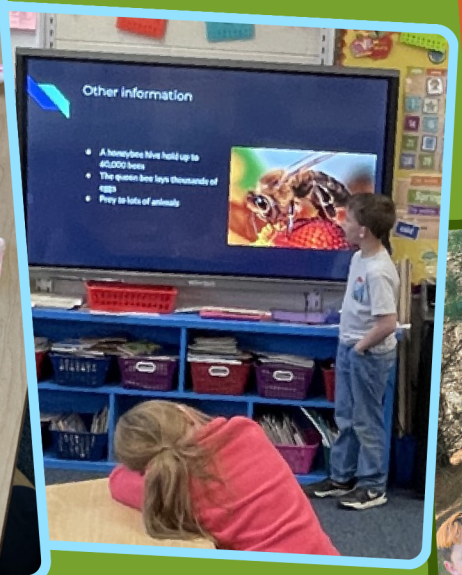




Mrs. Carter's 1st grade class learned about repurposing everyday materials. They had so much fun making bird feeders!







Miss Holly's 2nd graders learned about animals from eggs. They researched animals, turned the research into a non-fiction writing with text features, then created and gave presentations to their classmates. They also made a 3-D model of their animals.





Flamingos

By Quinn

What is pink and that can fly with long legs? A flamingo of course. Read here for more facts about flamingos.

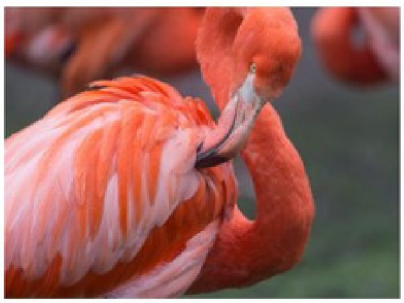
Flamingos are bright pink with a little black on its side. It has a yellow and black beak.

A flamingo's habitat is warm climates. They live in lakes, rivers and marshes.

The diet of a flamingo is very good for them. algae and shrimp. They are prey to other animals. Crocodiles eat flamingos so they are **prey** to them.

The life cycle of a flamingo has three stages. It starts as an egg. Then it is a chick. Then a chick turns into an adult.

A flamingo can fly and are good swimmers. I hope you like flamingos because I do.



This picture shows a flamingo grooming itself.

Earth Day interactive learning



School Highlights - ACMS

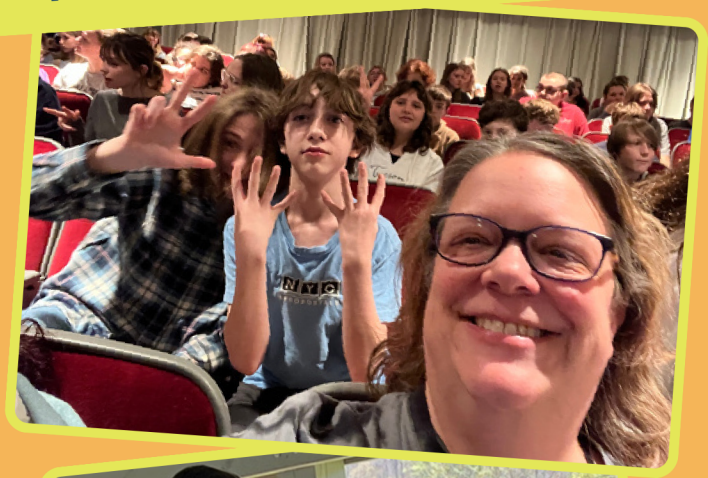


Decorating for and enjoying the Luau Dance!



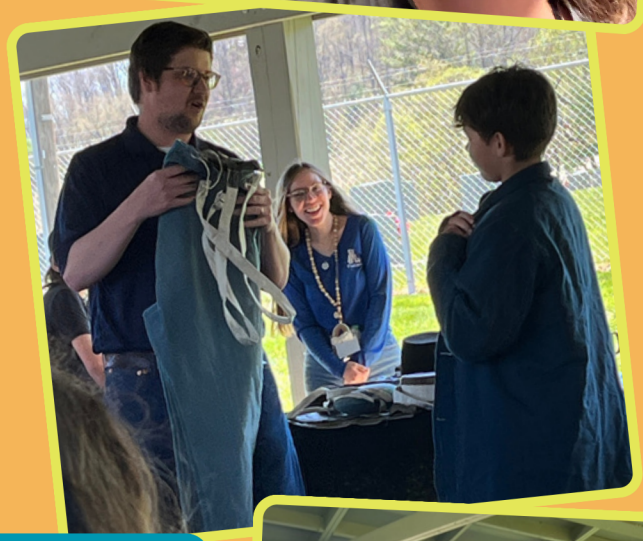


7th graders visited the Schaefer Center at ASU for a performance of Show Way: The Musical. Afterward, the Bulldogs traveled to the West Jefferson park for lunch, an hour of recreation, and a Civil War presentation that included a soldier's uniform, authentic written documents from North Carolina during the period. One was from Thomas N. Crumpler, the namesake of Crumpler, NC.











CONGRATULATIONS, CALEB SCHEFFEY!

He has been selected to participate in the Appalachian STEM Academy at Oak Ridge! This program will be conducted in Knoxville, TN, and will provide the opportunity to conduct a hands-on project while interacting with mentors and peers from across the country.



School Highlights - ACHS & AEC



SENIOR NIGHT for these six players!





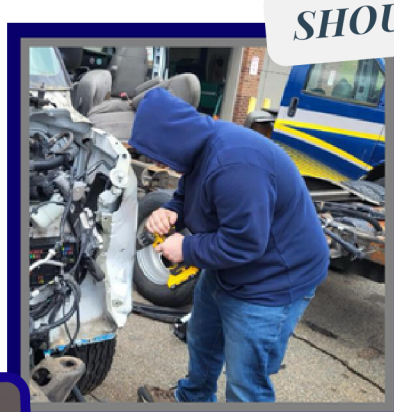
The men and lady Huskies went STRONG this season!

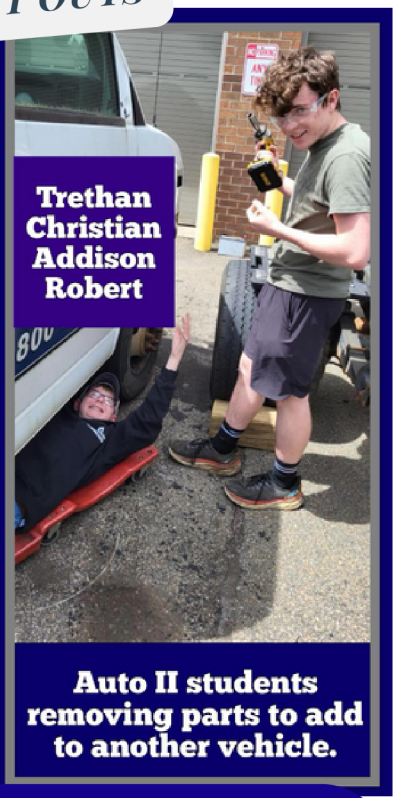
#ASHEPROUD



Congratulations to Andrew M., who won the Northwest Conference 3A tennis singles championship!

CTE SHOUT OUTS





Trethan
Christian
Addison
Robert

Auto II students removing parts to add to another vehicle.



Working on vehicles in the shop parking lot, Auto II class students gained hands-on practice, knowledge and experience in auto mechanics and repair.



CTE Business Classes learned about careers in accounting and other info about the accounting world.

School Highlights - ACHS & AEC



ACHS Senior Bailey R. is enjoying her veterinary internship at Twin Oaks Vet Hospital in Sparta. She is pictured with vet tech coordinator, Megan, and dog, Queso. Bailey will pursue a career as a veterinarian at ETSU next fall.



Senior Andruw W. placed in the top 3 in the state! His project involved his work with his sawmill business. Junior Paige R. placed 4th in the state, with her project involving work with his family's beef cattle farm and Christmas tree farm operations.



CTE Apparel II students created scrap pillows made from their favorite fabric scraps, as well as bags which were made from a simple pattern, and students created their pattern pieces from poster board. They are hard at work on their final projects, and we look forward to seeing what they create next!



Madi W. is a product of the CTE department's Entrepreneurship course. She took initiative to begin her business journey. Visit her West Jefferson store or check out her shop online and on social media: **shopmadisofwj**



School Highlights - ACHS & AEC



Sophomore Addison D. won the Youth Involvement Award of the Year! She has volunteered nearly 500 hours since her freshman year. #Inspiration

AEC students toured Emory and Henry College, learning about programs and scholarships.







Senior Shu K. will graduate with an associate's degree in Science and plans to study biology at UNC Chapel Hill. Congratulations!

#SharingKnowledge



ACHS Career Development Coordinator Dianne Sprague presented at the North Carolina Career Planning Success Summit in Durham about strategies for student success beyond high school.

ASHE COUNTY EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL



Congratulations! 2024 GRADUATES Congratulations!