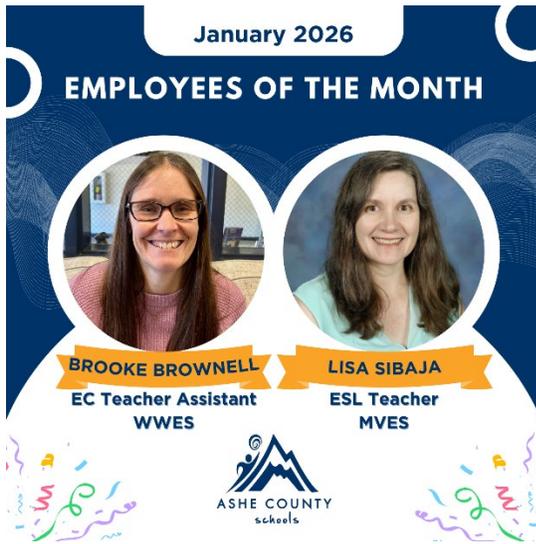


Ashe County Schools Honors January Employees of the Month



Ashe County Schools proudly recognizes two outstanding educators as our January Employees of the Month: **Mrs. Brooke Brownell**, Exceptional Children Teacher Assistant at Westwood Elementary School, and **Mrs. Lisa Sibaja**, ESL Teacher at Mountain View Elementary School.

Chosen by their colleagues, Brooke and Lisa exemplify the heart of our schools through their compassion, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to student success. Their work underscores the vital role that Exceptional Children and ESL educators play in supporting diverse learners and strengthening school communities.

Through her dedication to students with exceptional needs, Brooke creates a supportive and nurturing environment where learners feel valued and encouraged to grow. Lisa’s work bridges language and cultural barriers, fostering trust, understanding, and strong connections between home and school.

The words shared by their peers reflect the impact they make each day:

Brooke Brownell — EC Teacher Assistant, Westwood Elementary School

“Brooke has made a huge impact with my students, and she is so conscientious and caring. She goes above and beyond to help the students and teachers at Westwood.”

“Brooke loves her job—it shows in how she takes such good care of the students in her classroom. She is engaging, kind, and professional.”

Lisa Sibaja — ESL Teacher, Mountain View Elementary School

“I am nominating Lisa for Employee of the Month because she consistently goes above and beyond for our Spanish-speaking families. She ensures their needs are met—from transportation support to clear communication—so families feel welcomed, valued, and truly part of our school community.”

“Lisa helps parents understand what is happening in the classroom and reassures them that their children are learning, supported, and cared for every day. Her dedication makes a meaningful difference for our students and families.”

We sincerely thank **Mrs. Brownell** and **Mrs. Sibaja** for the care, energy, and commitment they bring to Ashe County Schools. Their passion not only supports students and families but also strengthens our entire district. We are grateful to have such exceptional team members serving our schools every day.