



### Anson County Students Learn About Charity with the Toys for Tots Service Project

For the 2014 year, over 4,000 students and children ages 0-18 received age appropriate toys and gifts for Christmas through Toys for Tots in our county. Anson County School District staff, parents and students were instrumental in assisting many of our own families with Christmas support through these fundraising efforts. Several schools collected and filled multiple boxes to support this project. No toy was too big or too small. Anson New Tech High School students even volunteered to help with sorting and bagging, and received service hours in return. The student volunteer hours were effective in helping the Toys for Tots staff fulfill all orders before Christmas. Anson County Schools collected around 20 boxes of toys for children in Anson County!

### AIG Department Hosts Citizenship Camp for Rising Third and Fourth Grade Students

The AIG Department hosted their first Citizenship Camp July 21-23, 2014 for rising 3rd and 4th grade students. The camp was supervised by Mary Trexler and Nancy Williams, ACS county AIG teachers. Eighteen 3rd and 4th grade students attended the three-day camp, along with five middle school and high school volunteers. These volunteers included Katelyn Stovall, Brooke Stovall, Hunter Williams, Ethan Emrich and Morgan Emrich.

Campers created PowerPoints and displays on citizenship, participated in citizenship-centered math activities, played the local board game Ansonian Adventures, and learned about local government during the camp.

Students enjoyed playing Ansonian Adventures - learning about local businesses and economics during the game. Students also enjoyed creating citizenship art projects using math word problems that dictated the finale. All students created PowerPoints on the word citizenship including pictures, transitions, sounds and animations. Campers shared their PowerPoints with each other on the last day, sharing information learned throughout the camp.

Guest speakers for the camp included Steve Adams (Anson County Board of Elections), Lisa Davis (Anson County Board of Education), Michael Freeman (Anson County Schools Superintendent), Lynn Edwards (Anson County Chamber of Commerce), Lawrence Gatewood (Former Anson County Manager), and Barbara and Weaver Thomas (Court House).

Lisa Davis and Michael Freeman shared information about the Board of Education and how it works for the betterment of students. Students were able to share concerns and asked many questions about academics in Anson County and even shared positive feedback regarding our school system.

Steve Adams informed the students on the process of voting for local government and the current elections. He answered many questions regarding politics and how local officials are working for the citizens of Anson County.

Lynn Edwards joined the campers on Tuesday, sharing information on how the board game Ansonian Adventures was created by the Chamber of Commerce. She helped students set the games up and participated as students played during camp.

Barbara and Weaver Thomas escorted students to the courtroom where they held a mock trial. Students were able to be jurors, judge, defense attorneys, prosecutors, bailiffs, clerk of court, defendant and witnesses throughout the trial. Students enjoyed voting as a jury, deciding their classmate's fate in the proceedings.

Lawrence Gatewood showed students the County Commissioners board room, sharing information on how commissioners run the local government. He also shared census information with the students, including Anson County population, North Carolina population, local geography, and commissioner meeting rules and regulations.

Overall, the AIG department feels that this camp was a success. We hope to continue to host this event in the future. We will continue to strive to help students to become more aware of what Anson County has to offer, in order to help them to become better citizens.

### Student Experiences at Science Enrichment Camps

The Rotary Planetarium and Science Center began the summer with Science Enrichment Camps, sponsored by the Anson County Schools AIG Department.

Third and fourth grade students attending camp had the opportunity to dissect sharks and conduct hands-on activities on matter. The last day of camp concluded with a field trip to Sciworks in Winston Salem and to Mrs. Hanes Moravian Cookie Factory where students watched cookies being made and sampling the types of cookies produced.

The fifth and sixth grade science enrichment students dissected cats and learned about anatomical comparisons to humans, as well as experiments on force, motion and heat transfer. Their last day of camp was a trip to the Greensboro Science Center and Aquarium.

The Rotary Planetarium's sponsored science summer camps are well underway with a mass of field trips during the first week of camp on energy. A trip to Pee Dee Electric's new solar farm and their peaking plant gave students a better understanding of energy production in Anson County. Trips were also taken to Harris Nuclear Plant close to Raleigh and the park next door to the plant to take on some survival techniques in the woods. The final day of camp concluded with a trip to Lucky Clay Farms in Norwood to learn about renewable resources such as solar and wind power, as well as tilapia and hydroponic farming.

The second week of camp was Doctor Week. Students participated in a large amount of dissecting - a cow eyeball, sheep brain, sheep heart, pig kidney and a fetal pig. Students also learned how to do CPR. The weekly field trip was the Carolina Simulation Center next to CMC-Main where students assumed the role of nurses and doctors in various situations such as the operating room, patient room and the technology room where students could operate ultrasound machines and laparoscopic equipment. Students also visited our local hospital, Carolinas Healthcare-Anson, to obtain an idea of what type of medical services are available in Anson County.

The last week of camp was CSI Week. Students have a high interest in this area due to the popularity of television shows like CSI, Criminal Minds and Forensic Files. Various cases were solved during the week by using fingerprint samples and forensic facial identification. Students traveled to Fayetteville Methodist University in Fayetteville to participate in a workshop conducted by their Forensic Science Department. The university has an extensive Forensic Science Department and offers many different type of degree programs in this field. Students also went to the local law enforcement offices to see how crimes are solved at the local level.

After a very busy summer of camps, all fifth graders in Anson County will once again come to the planetarium several times during the year to concentrate on their units of study in science and conduct hands-on science activities such as rat dissections, frog dissections and model rocketry.



### Anson County Schools Raise Over \$18,000 for Relay for Life!

The fight against cancer is something that touches everyone. We aren't just fighting one type of cancer, we're fighting for every birthday threatened by every cancer in every community.

We are extremely proud of Anson County Schools and the tireless efforts of all our students, staff and community who worked together to raise \$18,302.35 for Anson County Relay for Life! The current county total raised for Relay for Life is \$30,844.19. Way to go Anson County!

Pictured below is part of the Anson County Schools Relay for Life Team who participated in the Relay for Life walk event on Friday, May 8, 2015.



### Summer of Surprises Program

For two weeks, sixty rising third and fourth grade students in Summer of Surprises 2015 were involved in small group, hands-on activities and field trips that focused on the study of our environment. To learn about the importance of the rainforests, students, assisted by Mrs. Shauntae Britt, used recycled materials to build their own terrariums, enjoyed a tasting party of foods from the rainforest, and watched *Fern Gully, the Last Rainforest* to see how destroying a rainforest affects everyone.

As an introduction to the field trip to Hiddenite Emerald Mine, students learned about geodes and were able to crack open their own. At Hiddenite Emerald Mine students found gems in the sluicing troughs as well as in the creek.

Pee Dee Electric's Todd Moore and

Anne Edwards discussed electricity safety, as well as their new Solar Energy Plant. Students used recycled materials (pizza boxes) to create their own solar ovens, and cooked s'mores in them!

Aimee Colf presented about the new recycling centers around Anson County and then assisted students in taking paper pulp and making recycled paper. After drying, students had paper they could write on!

A field trip to Schiele Museum gave a focus on ecosystems, the water cycle, rocks, minerals, and the solar system. Small group activities focused on the river basins of North Carolina, pollution, excavation, as well as math activities such as tangrams and radial symmetry.

Of course environmental songs, art activities, and Enviro Bingo were hits as well. Summer of Surprises 2015 was a huge success!

