



# Inside Your Anson County Schools

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## Letter from the Superintendent

Anson County Students, Parents and Community Members:

In this edition of Inside Anson I want to thank each and every person who continues to provide support as we rapidly move through another school term. It seems especially appropriate to thank our stakeholders as we celebrate holidays in our community. Many children have unique needs beyond the regular services public schools provide. As businesses, individuals, non-profit organizations, clubs, and members of the faith community continuously provide instructional support by tutoring, donating school supplies, meals, clothes and yes, toys for Santa to leave on December 25, my heart is touched by the tremendous acts of kindness provided to our students. Children who live in Anson County are truly blessed to have so many adults who are willing to provide resources for them. The entire Anson County Community deserves a pat on the back for so generously caring for our children.

Sadly, some children may still have needs that we are unable to meet through public school services so help from the community continues to be vital, especially during the holidays. As a community, please make announcements at all gatherings such as church services, family reunions, the workplace, etc. The announcements should request that we all keep a special watch over the children in our community during the upcoming holidays to ensure safety. Children need to be monitored at all times.

Adults could plan to spend some special quality time with a child or several children during the holidays. This quality time could involve a visit to the Hampton B. Allen library in Wadesboro or another place that would be special to a child. You may even want to plan a "Historical Ride" by driving a child to see various historical and beautiful landscapes in Anson County. We live in a beautiful area that provides flat lands, hills, rivers, ponds, wildlife and more. Following the trip, sit with the child and help them write a story about the adventure. And, if possible, read with a child every day.

On behalf of the entire Anson County Schools family, I want to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Your dedication to children and your contributions impact the success of Anson County Schools.

Sincerely, Michael H. Freeman, Ed.S.

## LES Students Learn About Using the US Mail

Under the direction of Lilesville Elementary School sixth grade teacher Mrs. Lori Ingram, students have been learning how to compose formal style letters and mail them. Some of the letters have introduced a claim and organized reasons and relevant evidence, supporting the claim.



Students have been writing to local businesses, their principal, and finally to a famous person of their choosing. They are hoping to receive some responses to their letters, possibly even from Cam Newton, Ellen Degeneres or Beyoncé!



## MES Held a Book Fair November 2 to 6

Morven Elementary School held their first Book Fair of the year November 2 through 6. Pictured are three Morven Lions roaring at the Book Fair. Students, staff and families all enjoyed the event!



## WPS Urges Parents and Students to Read

Wadesboro Primary School hosted its first Media Night to promote a positive reading relationship between a child and his/her parent(s). Parents and children came to the library throughout the afternoon and evening to read, take Accelerated Reader tests, complete homework, and model to parents online supplemental instruction and learning. Students were also invited to participate in a Book Swap where they could bring their used books from home and exchange them for other used books.



The message is clear and straightforward when it comes to how parents can help their children learn to read: Read, Read, Read. Read to your children. Read with your children. Listen to your children read. Let your children see you reading. Talk about reading. Make reading a family priority. Reading at home will give your children a tremendous advantage in school. It's that simple.



Three simple rules to remember about reading with your child are:  
1) **Spend Time Reading** Fifteen minutes a night can mean improved learning throughout school and lead to a lifetime of reading enjoyment.  
2) **Make it a Routine** When there is a specific time for family reading a routine will be established and there will be an expectation to read.  
3) **Discuss It** Talking about what is being read before, during and after can boost a child's reading comprehension level. Ask your child questions about what you're reading, especially questions that can't be answered with a simple yes or no. What part of the story did you like best? Why? Did the story end the way you wanted it to? Why or why not? What character did you like best? Stop in the middle of a story and ask, "What do you think will happen next?"



## AES Excelling in Reading

This year Ansonville Elementary School students are reading for information, fun and enjoyment. It doesn't hurt that there are also great incentives in place for our students. Over fifty students participated in the 2015 AES Summer Reading Challenge. Students were required to read a certain number of books throughout their summer vacation and write detailed summaries of each book and turn them at the beginning of the school year. Each student who successfully completed the challenge was treated with an afternoon of ice cream, dancing and dunking booths, where students got to dunk Principal McLaurin and other ELA teachers. Each student also received a Paw-some Reader Lanyard. As they make their new goals they will receive reading pins that they can attach to their lanyards.



AES students are also being highly encouraged to make their individualized Accelerated Reader goals. Forty-five students who made their first AR Goal were treated to an All Star Celebration. They had an afternoon game of staff versus students kickball and snow cones.

We still have two more AR Blocks to complete. AES students are more excited than ever about reading. Their motivation is strong and their drive to be successful is very evident this school year. We can't wait to see our numbers for AR Block II.



## Anson New Tech High School Hosts Career Conference

On Wednesday December 9 Anson New Tech was proud to welcome several members of the community into the school for a Career Conference. Guest speakers from a variety of careers came and spoke to students about what they do for a living and how they got to this point in their lives.

At Anson New Tech a culture of trust, respect and responsibility is instilled in the students so this was modeled, as any conference would be. Students were given brief descriptions of each speaker and had the chance to sign up for the presenter of their choice. During the event students were expected to listen respectfully to the presenters, but also encouraged to ask questions. Students were also seen looking sharp in their presentation wear that day.

Students broke off into their requested groups during the advisory hour. Guests were asked to share where they received their education, what it takes to get where they are, and how they make an impact on this community. The conference was a success in that many students were able to hear from a person in a position that they see themselves later in life.

Schools use moments like these to motivate students to strive for their best in order for the teens to achieve their goals. We want students to have an awareness of the variety of careers that are available to them while also giving them the skills to present themselves as professionals in a conference style setting.

A special thank you to all our speakers: Jeff Boothby of Woodsmen Forestry, Detective Ephraim Davis of the Wadesboro Police Department, Alex Gaddy and Leon Gatewood of HOLLA!, Caroline Goins of Anson County Partnership for Children, retired State Trooper Christopher Hailey, Anson County Magistrate Judge Josh Leviner, Katelynn Parson from Anson County Schools, Holly Stegall of Carolinas HealthCare System Anson and Tommy Wooten of the Ansonia Theatre.

Pictured near right is Dr. Holly Stegall. At far right is Ephraim Davis.

