

Summer of Surprises Fun and Learning for Third and Fourth Graders

The theme for Summer of Surprises 2017 was the Study of Our Environment. Rising third and fourth graders studied the water cycle, rainforests, river basins, solar energy and recycling.

Students enjoyed a trip to the Fort Fisher Aquarium. A second field trip took the campers to the Pee Dee Wildlife Refuge where they were able to study watersheds and habitats. A third field trip to Charlotte included a ride on the Lynx train as we discussed mass transit being helpful to our environment. Students then took a virtual field trip as we watched the Imax movie "Amazon Adventure" at Discovery Place.

Guest speakers were Mrs. Aimee Colf from NC Cooperative Extension who taught students how to make recycled paper; Mr. Todd Moore from Pee Dee Electric who spoke about electricity safety; and Mr. Jake Barbee with Brown Creek Soil and Water Conservation who assisted with students building their own terrariums.

Other activities included environmental songs, a rainforest tasting party, a Birds and Worms game to learn how animals use camouflage to survive in nature, and utilizing their measurement skills to create a "Dirt Made My Lunch" snack.

This two week program has been operating for over twenty six years, serving rising third and fourth graders each summer, focusing on hands on activities and field trip adventures.



Science Camps for Fourth Through Seventh Graders

The Wadesboro Rotary Planetarium and Science Center hosted three summer camps this year for Grades 4-7.

The first week of camp consisted of many dissections, including a snake, turtle and frog. Campers visited the School of Veterinary Science at North Carolina State University in Raleigh where they visited with members of the Turtle Rescue Team and their patients. They also met Dr. Skip Severt at Brown Creek Animal Hospital, and took a tour of the facilities.

The second week of science camp was Chemistry Week. During this week Justin Jones, a teacher at Ansonville Elementary, conducted many of the experiments with chemicals that made elephant toothpaste and butane fires in their hands. Campers also visited the Research Triangle Park. There the day started with a trip to the Bayer Corporation's Bee Crop Science Program and concluded with a visit to the community lab at Biogen Corporation where campers conducted an experiment in a true chemistry lab. Biogen manufactures and researches drugs for neurological diseases.

The third week of camp was Crime Scene Investigation week where students were crime lab technicians and investigated staged crime scenes. Campers attended the Methodist University Forensic Science Department's investigation lab for a workshop to conduct activities using various fingerprinting techniques as well as making shoe castings for crime scenes. A mock crime scene was created at the planetarium which proved to be a fun activity for everyone involved. Students also visited the sheriff's department to discuss the department's role in investigating crimes in Anson County.

Science Summer Camps are made possible with additional funding from the Effie Allen Little Foundation and the Wadesboro Rotary Club. On Tuesday and Wednesday, August 9 and 10, rising seventh grade students in the Academically/Intellectually Gifted Program (AIG) at Anson Middle School participated in a hands-on, minds-on summer camp. Students took on the task of reorganizing and rebuilding Wadesboro after a zombie apocalypse.

Topics included creating a budget, organizing government, rebuilding structures, and journalizing the process for historical records.



Anson County Kindergarten Orientation Staggered Entry 2017-2018

Ansonville, Lilesville, Morven, Peachland-Polkton & Wadesboro Primary

Kindergarten is such an exciting year. Children have the opportunity to learn many important things, but it can be a little overwhelming at first. To ensure a successful transition into kindergarten, special small group orientation days will be scheduled the first five days of school (August 28, 29, 30, 31, and September 1). Kindergarten students will attend school on only one of the five orientation days according to their last name. Students may ride the bus to and from school on their orientation day. Regular school hours will be observed. During orientation, kindergarten students will become familiar with their school and start learning daily routines. Teachers will assess children's developmental readiness on a one-on-one basis. The results of this assessment will be used to help teachers better meet the instructional needs of the students during the 2017-2018 school year.

Kindergarten Orientation Schedule:

Monday August 28	Tuesday August 29	Wednesday August 30	Thursday August 31	Friday September 1
Last names that begin with A-E	Last names that begin with F-J	Last names that begin with K-O	Last names that begin with P-Z	Late Enrollees
Monday September 4	Tuesday September 5			
HOLIDAY NO SCHOOL	Kindergarten begins for <u>all</u> students.			



The Wadesboro Rotary Planetarium and Science Center will host a Solar Education Day on Saturday, August 19th from 10AM – 2PM to educate the community about the eclipse on Monday, August 21st which will be a partial viewing in Wadesboro.

- Science demos, animal room visits, planetarium dome presentations, making solar bead bracelets, mineral displays and a visit by the Robowolves Robotic Team from Anson High School will take place during the 4 hour time slot. It is a floating time to accommodate time schedules for families. Free solar eclipse glasses will be given out during the day.
- There will be a display in the old Belks window with information starting August 1st. This will be in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce and the Anson County Historical Society. There will be several large banners scattered around town several weeks before the event.
- Beginning August 7th, free solar eclipse glasses with information sheets will be available around the county. (Chamber of Commerce, the Anson County Historical Society, the Health Department and possibly a few other locations.)
- Public information will be dispersed by Tommy Allen regarding the eclipse and Solar Education Day. Solar eclipse glasses pick up points will be publicized.
- Paper information regarding viewing times, total solar eclipse sites in North and South Carolina will be available during Solar Education Day.
- Tentatively, there will be a marker dedication at 2pm at the John Dunlap house, the scientific site of the 1900 Total Solar Eclipse in Wadesboro sponsored by the Anson Historical Society.
- Sponsors for the Solar Education day are: Anson County Schools, Anson County Historical Society, Anson Chamber of Commerce, Anson Sign Company (donated one of the banners), Braswell Charitable Trust (provided all the eclipse glasses), Pee Dee Electric (provided all the materials for the solar bead bracelets, and Wadesboro Rotary Club

We are in need of several volunteers to help monitor areas of the planetarium on August 19th. We may have 10 people or may have a 1,000. I would like to be prepared so we can manage all the areas of the planetarium.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Anson County Schools' employment opportunities
can be found at www.ansonschools.org
on the homepage under the Employment tab.