

Five Anson Teachers are Bright Ideas Grant Winners

For more than 20 years the Bright Ideas education grant program, sponsored by North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives, has expanded learning opportunities in North Carolina classrooms by awarding grants to Tar Heel teachers for innovative, classroom-based projects that would not otherwise be funded.

Pictured here are the 2016 Bright Ideas Grant Winners from Anson County Schools who were recognized at the November board of education meeting. They are Wendy Dagenhart, Lauren Dugan, Justin Jones, Rosanna Teal and Shelly Vetter.

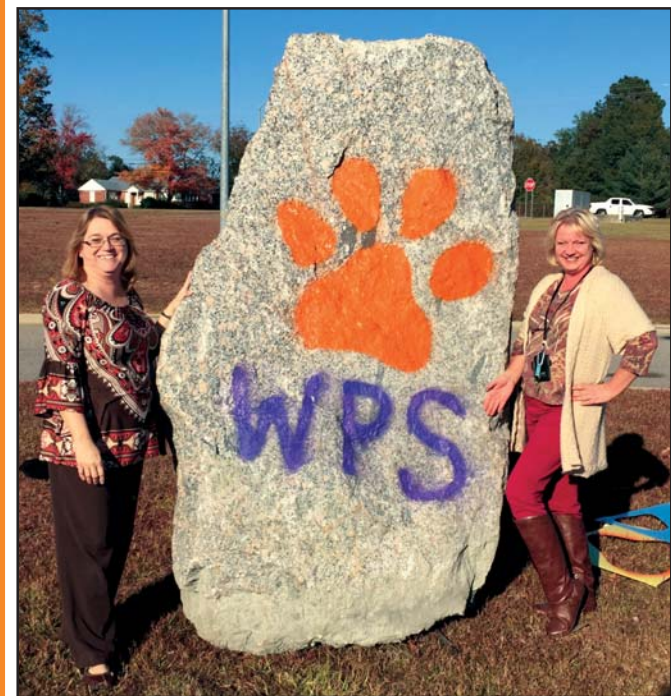
• **Wendy Dagenhart, PPES** - Mrs. Dagenhart plans to use the grant funds to create a Makerspace. A makerspace is a creative space within the media center where students can gather in groups to create, build, invent and explore using a variety of tools and materials such as legos, kinex and stem kits. A makerspace encourages creativity and provides hands-on activities where students can express themselves.

• **Lauren Dugan, LES** - One goal in the classroom is to help equip students for the future by working on skills that will foster independence in the school, home and community. The pre-vocational tasks boxes will provide students with concrete examples and repetition that would develop and strengthen life skills and vocational skills. One task box is an activity where students will assemble wooden cards.

• **Justin Jones, AES** - The bright ideas grant money will be used to allow our students to build a solar generator that will be used for solar energy projects this year and in the future. This year we will be using the generator to power an incubator to hatch chicken eggs. This project will involve students in several grade levels and will allow students to have hands on experience with renewable energy technology, changing forms of energy and life cycles.

• **Rosanna Teal, MES** - The goals of the project are to increase student achievement in the Accelerated Reader (AR) program, as well as the purchase of new books for the media center. The average book age of the media center is 1988. Many books have had to be discarded due to age, unhealthy growth of mildew and damage. New literature will provide the students the opportunity to read popular children's literature that their friends at other schools are reading. The overall effect will lead to an increase in reading proficiency school wide.

• **Shelly Vetter, PPES** - Our project goal is to take stability balls and use them as drums. The balls will be placed on a stand and drum sticks will be used to beat to the rhythm of the music. While doing this, students will incorporate aerobic and muscular strength exercises. More information on this project idea can be found at www.drum.fit.



Wadesboro Primary School's New Spirit Rock

Wadesboro Primary School would like to thank Vulcan Materials Company in Rockingham for their very generous donation of our new spirit rock. All WPS parents are encouraged to sign up to paint the rock!

WPS Students Enjoy Performance at the Ansonia Theatre

On Monday, December 5 students from Wadesboro Primary School who have displayed positive behavior in the classroom were selected to visit the Ansonia Theatre to see a performance by the Bright Star Performing Group called *Christmas Music Around the World*.

At the program students learned about many different cultures and the holidays that they celebrate during the Christmas season.



Science Experiment Fun at WPS

Wadesboro Primary fourth graders conducted a science experiment to learn about different states of matter. Students mixed baking soda (a solid) with vinegar (a liquid) to make carbon dioxide (a gas) to blow up a balloon.

These fourth graders were very impressed with their findings!



Anson County Early College Students Visit College Campuses

Anson Early College's juniors, seniors and super seniors had the opportunity to visit two colleges this semester. Mrs. Jill Edwards and Mrs. Robbie James took approximately 30 students to tour the University of North Carolina at Wilmington on Friday, October 28 and North Carolina State University on Friday, December 2.

Students had an opportunity to meet with students at each school, where they learned about admission requirements, merit based scholarships and program offerings. They also went on walking tours of both campuses given by school ambassadors who pointed out significant buildings, school history and other areas of interest.

Both campus visits have inspired our students to learn more about each school and what they have to offer.



Anson County Early College Students Get the Chance of a Lifetime to Hear a Holocaust Survivor Speak

On Wednesday, November 9 Anson County Early College took their 11th graders to UNC-Charlotte (UNCC) for a college visit and for the commemoration of the 78th Anniversary of Kristallnacht; the night of violence and terror that foreshadowed the Holocaust. Prior to the trip the students learned about the Holocaust and the significance of Kristallnacht to world and American history.

After the school tour the students joined a large group to hear Holocaust survivor Susan Cernyak-Spatz speak about her experiences. Alex Johnson said, "I feel privileged to have met someone who lived and survived through such horrors, and I am grateful for the opportunity to hear her speak. It was a once in a lifetime experience."

Cernyak-Spatz's talk was sponsored by the Center for Holocaust, Genocide & Human Rights Studies and the Department of Global, International & Area Studies, the Department of History, the Department of Languages and Culture Studies, and the Office of International Programs at UNCC. It was a great experience to be able to take Anson County students to hear this presentation and see them be able to relate it back to what they are learning in their history class.

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