

Andes Central School Mountaineer News



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ANDES, NEW YORK 13731

BACK *to* SCHOOL

*Welcoming students back with balloons, bubbles, noisemakers, and lots of positive energy!
The rainy day didn't dampen anyone's spirit.*



SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

On November 7, ACS welcomed Katy Barber-Graves as our Interim School Superintendent.

Katy (Catherine) Barber-Graves has been a resident of Delaware County since childhood, growing up in Hobart, NY and a proud alumna of South Kortright Central School District. She brings over 34 years of education experience to the position of Interim Superintendent of Andes CSD, including two decades of both school building and district administrative leadership. This is coupled with her lifelong passion for children and educational leadership.

Katy most recently spent the last four months as the Interim Superintendent of South Kortright CSD supporting the Board of Education and school community during the completion of their Superintendent search and supporting the new Superintendent as he was welcomed into the District. Prior to her retirement from school leadership, Katy spent her last six years as the Superintendent of Sag Harbor Union Free School District, located on the



east end of Long Island. Her other leadership roles over the years have included Superintendent of Stamford Central School, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction of Windham-Ashland-Jewett Central School, Elementary Principal of Otego Elementary, and Assistant Principal and Placement Coordinator of the Northern Catskills Occupational Center with ONC BOCES. Katy began her years in education as the Home Economics and Health teacher for Jefferson Central School. Throughout her time in educational leadership, her guiding philosophy has always been to “do what’s best for children, fair for adults, and what the community can sustain.”

Katy and her husband, Glenn Graves, live in Stamford, NY where they enjoy frequent visits from their four adult children, grandchildren, and large family. Katy is honored to be serving the Andes School Community and looking forward to meeting all the students, families, staff and community in the coming weeks.

ANDES CENTRAL SCHOOL WELCOMES NEW STAFF MEMBERS!



Jennifer Andersen
Long Term Substitute
Teacher Gym



Belle Bourke
3/4 Grade Long Term
Substitute Teacher



Mary Colfer
Part Time Nurse



Suzanne Gladstone
Part Time Nurse



Susie Little
Long Term Substitute
Teacher for Music



Olivia Post
Guidance Counselor



Megan Shelton
Speech Therapist



Krystal Hernandez
Reading Teacher



Laurynn Weaver
Teacher's Aide

CLASSROOM NEWS

PK/KINDERGARTEN

This combined class has been hard at work. It has been a big adjustment for many of the students as this their first time in a school setting. I can tell you that they are doing great in their new role as learners. Each day begins with getting unpacked, ordering lunch, reviewing the date on the calendar, and checking to see how many days until day 100! We then move over to the area by the rocking chair where we check in to track how everyone is feeling on our feelings chart and to see if we can help each other feel better if someone is having a difficult morning for some reason. After that, we read a piece of literature, sometimes fiction and sometimes nonfiction. Those stories are used as a way to connect students to types of writing, parts of books, punctuation, voice, real vs. make believe elements, authors and illustrators, and more.

The next part of our morning involves some whole group instruction in reading and also some individual differentiated instruction. The ELA block is split, so while I meet with the Kindergarten class, the PreK class is working at their own level on the eSpark program on the computer which meets each of them exactly where they are in reading. Ms. Laurynn Weaver, our classroom assistant, monitors them so I can teach the other whole group. When the timer goes off, we switch and I meet with the whole PreK group while the Kindergarten group goes on eSpark. It works out well.

Later on in the morning, after art or music and a snack break, we have been working on holding a pencil correctly and letter formation. The students have been learning letters by forming them with puzzle pieces, making them with playdough, sky writing them, and also practicing on paper. Many catchy songs help to solidify the proper sequence. The class favorite is a song called “Where Do You Start Your Letters?”. . . at the top!

The math section of our day is split again into the two groups. I meet to do some whole group teaching at the Kindergarten level, while the PreK groups goes back to eSpark to work on math that meets them at their specific level. When the timer goes off, we switch again and I meet to teach the PreK, while the Kindergarten group goes on eSpark at their level.

Science and social studies topics are visited through classroom newspapers each week. They are linked to the internet and extra information, videos, and games are available to supplement the newspaper that goes home. Mystery Science is everyone’s favorite part of the week. Each week we get to



vote on what science mystery we want to learn about next week. Since students in the entire country vote as well, we don’t always get the topic we picked, but they are all very intriguing! Learning to vote is in itself a learning experience.

It was very exciting to watch the transformation of our Monarch caterpillars into the chrysalis and then emerging into beautiful butterflies! We let them go in the gardens in front of the school.

A special thanks to Tim Fairbairn, who donated pumpkins and gourds to our class again this year. Thank you also to Skip Parcell, who allowed me to “plant” the pumpkins and gourds in his front yard. We walked up to his house one sunny afternoon to “pick” them and bring them back to the school in the wagon.

This group is a fun group. They definitely are lively and making great progress!

—Mrs. Jennifer Finkle

CLASSROOM NEWS

FIRST AND SECOND GRADE

We have had a busy start to the year so far. We have been reading a ton and doing a lot of fun projects and activities. One of our highlights was our first field trip this year to see “Aladdin” at Proctors Theater! Thanks to Mrs. Tucker for setting it all up. We loved it! We also had a great time with the Pre-K and Kindergarten students during our Halloween Parade.

In social studies, we have been learning all about our government and how to be a good citizen. We have been learning about our basic rights as citizens and how we can be responsible citizens.

In science, we have been practicing being safe scientists through many different experiments and activities. We

learned which cookies are the most or least buoyant and that permanent markers are not really permanent. We also did an interesting experiment on chemical reactions and learned that grape juice turns baking soda green. In our current unit, we started learning all about the three states of matter. We have many more fun experiments and activities to come!

To prepare ourselves for the busy year of writing, we have been working on our basic sentence structure and writing skills. In our first writing unit, we will be writing stories about a time in our lives when we were really hurt. They are coming along great!

It has been a great start to the school year!

—Ms. Morgan Sullivan

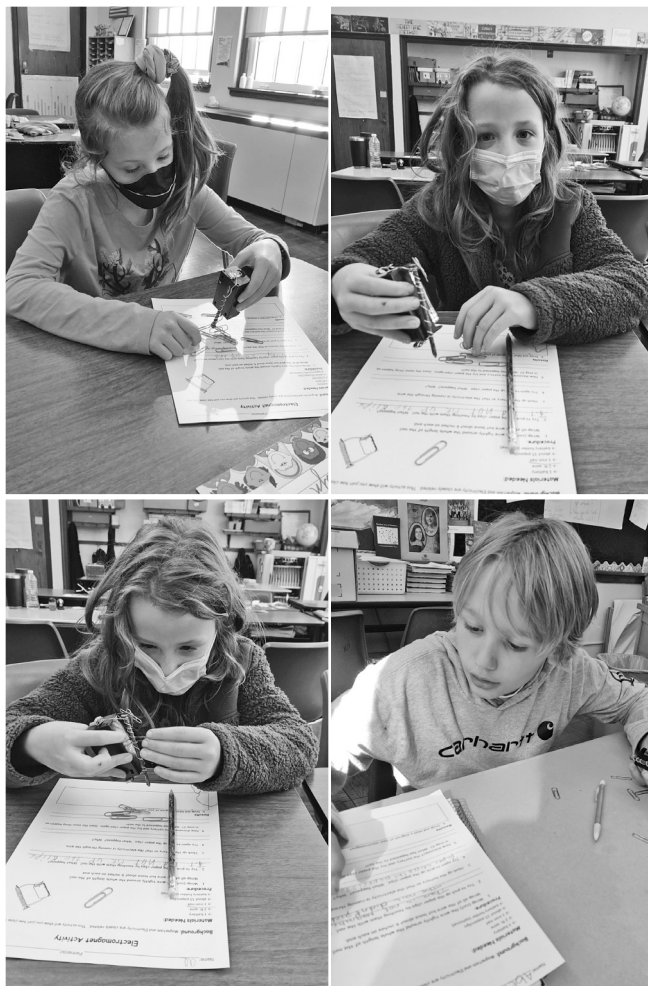
THIRD AND FOURTH GRADE SCIENCE

Both third and fourth grade started out the year in science class reviewing what the six simple machines are. We completed a fun set of projects from the NYS Ag in the Classroom website, including a bunch of hands-on investigations. Then we made a paper model of each machine that we learned about. The class learned some fun trivia such as: your teeth are actually a type of wedge and a screw is actually a twirled inclined plane. Cool!

Third grade science class is now completing a unit on weather, including an investigation on how weather data is gathered. We made anemometers and wind vanes! We will also be researching different types of weather and how they are formed, as well as a review of the water cycle. Also on the agenda is studying different climates around the world, as well as representing weather/climate data in charts and tables.

Fourth grade science class is delving into magnets and electricity. So far, we have seen that magnets can either push or pull and different qualities can affect their strength. We have experimented on the items that are attracted to magnets, and we even saw a demonstration on how we can “see” the invisible force that creates magnetic fields. The class made electromagnets and studied how to make them stronger or weaker. They also learned what makes a complete circuit and what the difference is between a series and parallel circuit. We will soon be finding out what other sources of energy there are on Earth and how we can use fuel to produce energy for people to use in their daily lives.

—Mrs. Robin White



CLASSROOM NEWS



FIFTH AND SIXTH GRADE

The ACS fifth and sixth graders have jumped right into the new school year this fall with a great deal of enthusiasm. Math classes are moving along with topics such as place value, multiplying and dividing fractions, operations with decimals, and order of operations (PEMDAS). The students are working hard, as always, and I am pleased with their progress.

Science has already started with a bang for the fifth and sixth graders. We began our year with a study of the universe in fifth grade and ecology in sixth grade. Fifth graders learned about our eight planets and how far they are away from the Sun. They also studied different constellations and discussed what makes a star appear bright or dim in the night sky. Then we made a model of the phases of the moon with Oreo cookies...yum! The class enjoyed eating up all of the leftover cookies, that's for sure. The sixth graders have been studying what constitutes the living and nonliving parts of our world, and we are completing a fun interactive notebook project about ecosystems in class while learning about animal and plant adaptations with several outside activities from the Project Learning Tree series on outdoor education.

In technology class, we have been completing a unit on agriculture, which has included working with Mr. McGee in the ACS greenhouse. We are zeroing in on "Animals in Agriculture", and students have compared domestic and wild animals by doing research and creating a poster to show what they have learned. They have also experienced some virtual field trips to local farms via YouTube, all in New York State, from apiaries to sheep farms to cow/goat dairies. To round out the unit, the class is researching careers that involve working with animals and are each making a PowerPoint presentation to share with the class.

We are once again continuing the "Put Ups" program in class, which spotlights positive and caring behaviors that our students display each day. Our board is covered with close to a hundred Put Up slips already, and the reports of sincere and thoughtful acts of kindness come pouring in each day. Way to go fifth and sixth graders! We are very proud of our wonderful students here at Andes Central School.

Have a safe and enjoyable holiday season everyone!

—Mrs. Robin White

MRS. BACON'S BITS

Fifth grade ELA began the year with a mini author study on Andrew Clements. First, we read *Frindle*. We followed that up with biographical articles about the author and informational articles about how words are added to the dictionary. The students even created new words of their own, designed t-shirts to promote their word, and wrote persuasive letters to Merriam-Webster about why their word should be included in the dictionary. The students decided they wanted to make it into a contest, so we put together a panel of judges from outside of our classroom to select the top three words based on the usefulness of their word and the persuasiveness of their letter. Congratulations to *Charlie*, *Landon*, and *Kiara* for having their words selected to go into our ACS Frindle Dictionary! Our second Andrew Clements book was *No Talking*, which got us thinking about teamwork, how we communicate, and the importance of tolerance. We even did some research about Gandhi, the motivation behind the No Talking contest in the book. There was even an attempt by some of the students to have their own No Talking contest. It didn't last very long!

My sixth grade group is small but lively. We have had an exciting time adventuring with Percy Jackson in *The Lightning Thief*, comparing his quest to traditional myths to see how they all share common elements and follow the pattern of a hero's journey. They had a lot of fun making predictions about how Percy's prophecy was going to be fulfilled and were quite surprised by how some things turned out. They enjoyed the novel so much, they have decided to read the second novel in the series, *Sea of Monsters*, while using what they have learned to write their own hero's journey. So, we are off and running on our next quest! They will also be comparing and contrasting the movie version of *The Lightning Thief* to the novel.

English 7/8 traveled to Africa to follow the trek of Salva in *A Long Walk to Water*, based on the true story of one of the Lost Boys of South Sudan. We explored cultural similarities and differences between us and the characters living in Africa,

as well as between the Dinka and Nuer tribes of South Sudan. Through several informational articles, we learned about the history, traditions, and conflicts between the Dinka and the Nuer and the bigger conflict of the Sudanese Civil War. The dual narrative format of the novel was perfect for teaching juxtaposition and author's purpose. Most of all, Salva's resilience, determination, and desire to bring about change was inspiring for all of us. We wrapped up the unit by writing a literary analysis essay about one of the main themes of the novel, how individuals are able to survive in challenging environments in remarkable ways. Students impressed me with the empathy and insight they displayed throughout the entire unit.

All of the ELA classes have been busy writing about what they have been reading using *The Writing Revolution*, which follows the Hochman Method, giving the students the tools they need to become proficient writers. So far, we have practiced identifying sentences and fragments, sentence types, conjunctions, summary sentences, and single-paragraph outlines (SPO). The students are learning to build great sentences and paragraphs while showing their understanding of what they are reading.

Library classes (PK-4) began the year by reading *Shelf Elf* books to learn about the library and how to care for books. Then, we moved into a fascinating bat unit. We enjoyed reading fictional books, such as *Stellaluna*, *Bat's Lullaby*, *Bats at the Beach*, and *Bats at the Library*. We paired these with some nonfiction books about bats, as well as a study kit from BOCES media library that included a mounted bat and other hands-on bat artifacts for them to explore. We even had bat puppets to make it even more fun!

I love being able to work with the students across so many grade levels and watching them grow and learn over the years. Wishing for happy and healthy holidays for all of you!

—Mrs. Grace Bacon



MRS. BACON'S BITS



*A belated (but very fun!) trip to Little Pond for last year's English 7/8 group in honor of reading *Touching Spirit Bear**

ACS ATHLETICS

The fall soccer season was a huge success for our Andes Central School student athletes. On the varsity level, both sophomore *Shane Edwards* and junior *Christina Chakar* had stellar seasons and were productive parts of two championship Andes/South Kortright varsity soccer seasons. First, the Andes/SK boys' varsity soccer team led the Delaware League with a 16-0-2 overall record and went undefeated in the league at 7-0-1. In addition to the regular season championship, the boys defeated rival Margaretville 2-0 in the semi-finals of the NYSPHSAA Section IV Boys' Soccer Class D Tournament. They faced Southern Cayuga in the final and tied 4-4 but didn't advance to the regionals due to a close loss in a penalty shootout.

On the girl's side, *Christina Chakar* was named Delaware League second team ALL-STAR with a stellar season at the all-important sweeper position. The girl's finished the sea-

son in a tie with Windham-Ashland-Jewett as the Delaware League Co-Champions and advanced to the NYSPHSAA Section IV Girls' Soccer Class D Tournament as the number 11 seed, eventually falling to Cherry Valley-Springfield.

I would also like to acknowledge our modified girls' soccer student athletes. They are freshman *Gabriellah Bene*, freshman *Lilly Temple*, eighth grader *Faith Sass*, and seventh grader *Laney Mondore*. These are our future stars, and we are very excited to see them grow into passionate and resolute student athletes.

Thank you to all the coaches, parents, guardians, transportation personnel, and staff members who support our student athletes and allow them to develop and thrive both on and off the field.

~Mr. Marcello Reale, Athletic Director



ART SHOWCASE

Pre K/Kindergartens have settled into the art room routine nicely. We usually start with a little “Tucker Time Yoga”, learn some interesting facts about an artist, and then have fun experimenting with different art mediums. Second through fourth grades are working on creating individual books that will walk the reader through different artist-inspired paintings/illustrations. The fifth graders were lucky to spend one of the beautiful fall days doing a drawing of the school building, along with also learning about different artists and art materials. The sixth graders made some paper mache masks and are enjoying working in their art journals. High School Art and Yearbook have been working on some self-directed projects. All in all, it has been a great start to a year that is already flying by. I would like to invite any parents to come into the art room to share their artistic talents/knowledge with our students. Please feel free to reach out to me at stucker@andescentralschool.org with any questions or ideas.

On a different note...the ski season is right around the corner, paperwork was sent home a few weeks ago, please remember to sign up!

Peace and Creativity from
—~Ms. Sharon Tucker



Putting some finishing touches on their drawings of the school



MUSIC MINUTES

It has been a privilege to come back and sing with the children of Andes Central School! In music classes PreK-6, we have explored rhythm, practiced reading notes, and are working on reading music. And sing! We have done lots of singing! In fourth grade Band, we are working on learning the keyboard and how important it is to follow the music as individuals to make it sound good all together! Elementary Band and Junior High Band are really just Chorus. They have tolerated me well and sing quite happily most of the time! They are all going to sound great at the Veteran’s Day/Senior Citizen Christmas Brunch on December 8 and the winter concert on December 13! Thanks again, Andes!.

—Mrs. Susie Little

C R O P

The CROP After School Program is in full swing. There are 28 students who participate various days of the week from 3-5 p.m. During that time, students do many things. They are provided with snacks right at the beginning and then transition into homework time. After 30 minutes+ of homework and some recreation time, students participate in activities provided by our activity leaders (school staff) or outside partners. Our partners this year continue to provide us with quality experiences different from those provided by staff. We are happy to be able to have on-site programming again this year for most of our sessions.

The success of the CROP program is directly linked to the amazing staff that work so hard each day. There are two full-time activity leaders, four high school students, amazing subs, and helpful assistants who dedicate their time to the program each day, which makes my job as the coordinator much easier.

Lisa Valkavich is the leader of the K-4 group. Fall was a great time to focus on STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) themes. There was nature walking, lessons on leaf exploration and coloration, what makes a deciduous tree, and leaf rubbings. Halloween allowed for fun with spiders and scarecrows. There have been many social emotional lessons (SEL) this year as well. Students have been getting to know

their friends better, connecting to their own feelings, and practicing kindness. Our friends from the Hanford Mills Museum came in and facilitated a team building activity as well. The photo shows the K-4 group in the beginning stages of mask design with another one of our partners, Roxbury Arts Group.

Grace Bacon is the leader of the 5-8 group. Her activities span many subjects, some of which are student selected. The students in Mrs. Bacon's 5-8th grade group started off the year by participating in some team building activities and also group planning some service learning activities and other interests they would like to pursue this year. The 5-8 group went "batty" several times this fall. They were comparing bat wings, classifying bats, and creating bat puppets to use in a reader's theater. Batty STEM stations were one of their favorite days, especially working with partners to design and build their own set of bat wings. Echolocation was the topic explored as students played a game trying to figure out which bug was talking. Videos from World Book Discover showcased bats in their natural settings.

The CROP local foods Thanksgiving dinner was postponed due to sickness at the school. We are hoping to be able to get together at Christmas time.

—Mrs. Jennifer Finkle



GUIDANCE NEWS

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Social emotional learning is a crucial skill in a child's development. Social-emotional learning is an educational method that aims to foster social and emotional skills within the school curriculum. SEL is also referred to as "socio-emotional learning", "social and emotional learning", or "social-emotional literacy". Social-emotional lessons are taught to students in grades PK-6 on alternating days.

The current focus of the SEL lessons are respect and responsibility. We try to have fun with them and include activities such as game shows, coloring, and more interactive activities!

HIGH SCHOOL

Earlier this school year, the tenth and eleventh graders took the PSAT to help them prepare for the SAT in the future. Our twelfth graders have begun the college application process. The ninth - twelfth graders also went to SUNY Cobleskill's College Information Fair. There were more than 40 colleges and universities present, giving students the opportunity to gather information about the schools and their respective majors. We hope to visit more colleges in the spring!

The eighth graders took a visit to BOCES in mid-November. Students spent approximately 20 minutes in each of the six programs that BOCES offers. It was a good way for them to see the programs and begin to get an idea of whether or not they would be interested in attending.

MENTAL HEALTH

Mental health is extremely important. While it may be hard to reach out and ask for help, know that you are not alone and we are here to help. Here are some mental health and wellness tips that can be helpful:

- Use healthy coping skills to help overcome challenges
- When feeling angry, worried, sad, or troubled, discuss your feelings with a parent, another trusted adult, or a trusted friend
- Get enough rest and sleep (8-10 hours daily)
- Promote positive behaviors such as respect, responsibility, and kindness around you in common areas, such as hallways, cafeterias, locker rooms, and playgrounds
- Prevent negative behaviors such as bullying and harassment
- Utilize breathing exercises, visualization, and other mindfulness activities
- Explore creative outlets, such as music, drawing, or writing



NURSE NEWS

Dear Families,

Welcome back to another school year.

Mrs. Bramley has retired, and we wish her a happy, healthy retirement!

Mary Colfer, RN and Suzanne Gladstone, RN are sharing coverage of the Nurses Office this year.

Please remember to notify us about any health concerns you may have. We should be notified as soon as possible if your child is diagnosed with any communicable disease such as the flu, COVID, strep throat, conjunctivitis (pink eye), concussion, or is unable to participate in gym class. Please keep your child home if they are experiencing a fever, cold symptoms, vomiting or diarrhea, crusty/inflamed eyes, etc.

Flu season has started and symptoms may come on suddenly. Symptoms include fever or chills, body aches, sore throat, headache, feeling very tired, stuffy or runny nose, sore muscles and, especially in children, stomach problems and diarrhea. Unlike a cold, the flu comes on very suddenly. The flu vaccine is recommended for everyone 6 months and older and is the best protection against the flu.

Please be sure your child has fully recovered before returning to school. We know this can be an inconvenience at times, but it may prevent a recurrent illness or the spread of illness to others.

We are stressing good hand washing regularly to prevent the spread of germs. Our custodial staff are working hard to keep our building sanitized!

Please feel free to stop in and say hello to our new nurses!

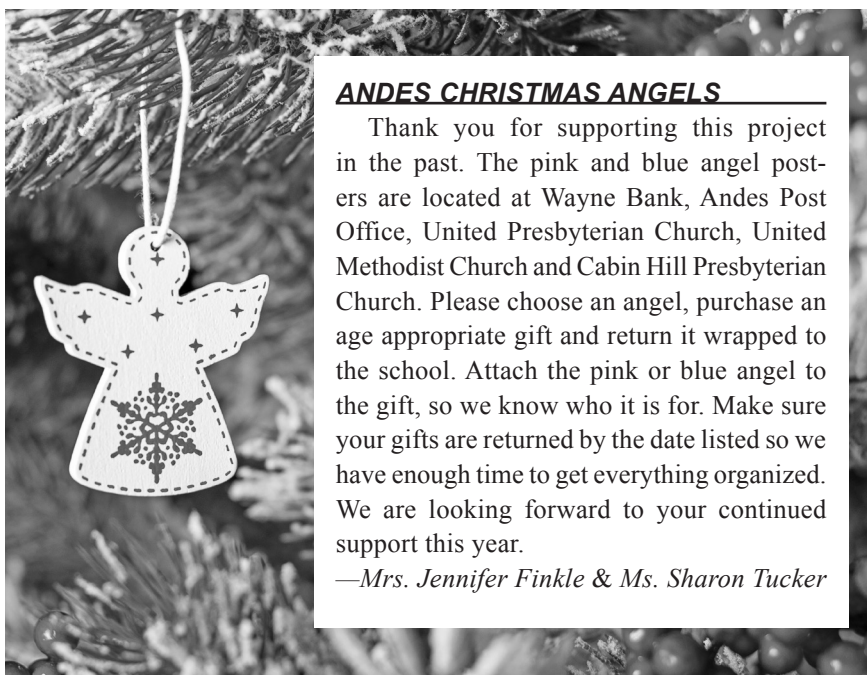
SCHOOL TRIP TO ALADDIN AT PROCTORS THEATRE

We took a school wide trip to Proctors to see *Aladdin* on October 20. We left in the morning on two charter buses, stopped for a buffet lunch on the way, and then enjoyed a fantastic show. After the show, we went to a “meet and greet” session with the actors who played Aladdin and Jasmine, as well as one of the costume designers. We got to ask questions and hear about some of the cool things that go into putting on a great show. A few of us also got to meet Ms. Buerge’s great niece, Melissa Hunter McCann, who played the fortune teller in the performance. The trip was a great success, and a good time was had by all. We would like to thank The O’Connor Foundation, Arts in Ed and ARP for helping make the trip possible...and Mrs. Sharon Tucker for doing the work to put the trip together.



SCHOOL CLOSINGS

If school is to be closed due to inclement weather or other emergency, our Alert System will send out a message to parents of all students. It will also be broadcast over the following: WRGB-TV, WDHI, WDLA, WBNG-TV, as well as placed on the school website and school Facebook page.



ANDES CHRISTMAS ANGELS

Thank you for supporting this project in the past. The pink and blue angel posters are located at Wayne Bank, Andes Post Office, United Presbyterian Church, United Methodist Church and Cabin Hill Presbyterian Church. Please choose an angel, purchase an age appropriate gift and return it wrapped to the school. Attach the pink or blue angel to the gift, so we know who it is for. Make sure your gifts are returned by the date listed so we have enough time to get everything organized. We are looking forward to your continued support this year.

—Mrs. Jennifer Finkle & Ms. Sharon Tucker

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

STEVE PAPA

SUNY Delhi featured an article about ACS alumnus Steve Papa in their Summer 2022 issue of Horizons. It is great to read about his various endeavors over the past 30 years, and he offers advice to inspire students to find their passion, take the initiative, and write their own story. The full article can be found at the following link: https://www.delhi.edu/alumni/horizons/pdf/Hrzns22_smmr_fnl_web.pdf

From Delhi to Top of the Tech World

Boston area tech entrepreneur Steve Papa '92 is one of SUNY Delhi's most successful alumni. With degrees from SUNY Delhi, Princeton, and Harvard, and tremendous success in the tech industry under his belt, he still values the educational foundation he received at SUNY Delhi.

When SUNY Delhi alum Steve Papa sold the software company he had founded, Endeca Technologies, to Oracle some years ago, he briefly thought about never working again. But the dynamic business thought leader quickly grew restless and found himself launching, investing in, and mentoring many other business ventures as varied as 5G network development, restaurant software, and 3D printing.

While Papa's varied career stems from his entrepreneurial resourcefulness, which he says is firmly rooted in his childhood spent in rural Upstate New York. "I grew up with four brothers in a cabin up a dirt road in Andes, New York," says Papa, the son of a retired Brooklyn cop. "When the power went out or you got stuck on a rock driving a bulldozer in the woods, you had no choice but to figure out how to solve problems—and you often did that with limited resources. Entrepreneurship is about that same innovation and creativity. Instead of coming up with all the reasons why something won't work, you figure out what will."

When young Steve got his hands on a computer, he taught himself how to program. Aspiring to become a mechanic or an engineer, he forwent his senior year of high school and enrolled in the engineering science program at nearby SUNY Delhi. He was just 16.

Retired SUNY Delhi engineering professor Walter Bray remembers Papa as an all-American kid who stood out for his smarts.

"He was the brightest and most talented student I've ever had—and I've also taught at Cornell and Stanford," Bray recalls. "He would ask questions and immediately get it. He'd fix my computer, work on problems, and study programming. He typed so fast you couldn't see his fingers. I've never had a student in the same league. I thought for sure he'd have a good job and a good life—but what I didn't know is that he also had this business skill and a sense of imagination that would take him so far."

To Papa, Professor Bray was an early mentor who fostered the young student's potential through independent study hours which led to long conversations about scientific discovery and innovation:

"He treated me as a peer," Papa says. "In a bigger university, faculty isn't typically as approachable to students. Having that level of respect from a professor made a big impact on me, and I feel a lot of gratitude for that. I appreciate the time he took to help me in my youth."

Papa spent two semesters at Delhi with a busy schedule, maintaining a 4.0 GPA throughout. He was just shy of achieving his two-year degree when he was accepted into Princeton University for a bachelor's degree in engineering. He later tied up the loose end at Delhi by transferring his Ivy League credits in order to fulfill his associate degree requirements at SUNY Delhi.

"Without the foundation I received at Delhi, I would have been woefully unprepared for Princeton," Papa says. "Taking the time to learn the fundamentals prepares you to take on new challenges instead of spinning your wheels, no matter what you do next. Students shouldn't squander that opportunity. For better or for ill, the value of public education is..."



"Take the initiative and write your own story."

— Steve Papa '92

prefabricated the parts, turning the endeavor into his unofficial first business. Next came selling tuxedos, with all the black-tie events at the prestigious university. Papa and a friend recognized a business opportunity. A classmate loaned them the money to buy a line of designer tuxes, and operating out of a basement they became Princeton's informal go-to supplier.

Earning an MBA from Harvard Business School was a logical next move for the self-starter who went on to combine his tech and business savvy to create and build Endeca. Though Papa's subsequent enterprises encompass multiple industries, their common thread is a focus on working with his colleagues to solve problems and adding value to people and businesses.

"If I can eliminate things that unnecessarily create burden or waste, I feel good about that," Papa says. "I care about making things accessible and helping people save money and time—things that matter."

Now married with a young daughter, Papa is raising his family outside of the greater Boston metropolitan area to allow for the same freedom and discovery he enjoyed in his youth.

"I used to feel envy for the students who seemed to have all the opportunities growing up. At some point, I started to feel bad for them because they were doing things that someone else told them to do rather than being motivated by their own interests. The self-reliance instilled while growing up in the Catskills not only taught me to be resourceful, it also gave me great motivation to pursue the things I found interesting. It was a defining experience."

One of Steve Papa's business projects is a restaurant point-of-sale company, Toast Inc. Its software and hardware are utilized in thousands of locations around the nation (including Bluestone Pub and Restaurant at The College Golf Course at Delhi). At a client conference earlier in February, Papa spoke to restaurateurs about how not to get caught up in the excitement of success but to take their businesses to the next level. He also met with SUNY Delhi representatives (pictured here with Senior Advancement Officer Paul Hanks).



JADE LITAKER

Alumna Jade Litaker, class of 2013, recently was cast in "Pretty Woman: the Musical" at Proctors Theatre. Jade played the best friend named Kit, a leading role in this new musical rendition, a part she'd only rehearsed twice before performing. Several other alumni, as well as former and current staff members, were able to spend time with Jade and enjoy the show! Bravo, Jade!



QUARTER 1 HIGHLIGHTS

Congratulations to all of the students who made the Honor Roll, High Honor Roll, and Superintendent List for the first quarter!

5th - 8th Grade

SUPERINTENDENT'S HONORS

Landon Colfer (5th)
Brooklyn Maroney (6th)
Charles Orio (5th)
Abel J Weaver (6th)

HIGH HONORS

Indio Adams-Maendel (5th)
Patrick James Chakar (5th)
Princess Lykah DePierro (5th)
Benjamin Liddle (5th)
Matthew Liddle (7th)
Emily McGowan (5th)
Darbey Mondore (5th)
Faith Sass (8th)
Liem Sass (5th)
Gage Temming (5th)
Kiara Weaver (5th)

HONOR ROLL

Duncan Foster-Allen (7th)
Tucker Gardner (8th)
Mason Leal (8th)
Joseph Maxim (6th)
Laney Mondore (7th)
Brandon Temming (7th)
Jacob Ventimiglia (8th)
Jesse Wright-Bourke (8th)

9th - 12th Grade

SUPERINTENDENT'S HONORS

Rylee Burton (12th)
Christina Chakar (11th)
Katherine Edelson (12th)
Erysse Elliott (10th)
Emma Robson (10th)
Lilly Temple (9th)

HIGH HONORS

Gabriellah Bene (9th)
Isis Brannen (10th)
Shane Edwards (10th)
Vincent Spanburgh III (11th)

HONOR ROLL

Desmond Adorno (10th)
Halie Gardner (11th)
Gavyn Mahon (9th)



QUARTER 1 HIGHLIGHTS

Ag Club

NATIONAL FARMERS DAY CELEBRATION

On October 12, the Ag Club hosted an hors d'oeuvres and dessert reception to celebrate our local farmers and agricultural producers. They also showed "Dairy Farms of Andes", a documentary produced by ACS students in 2009. Thank you to everyone who came out and showed their support on National Farmers Day!!



Thank you to Dawn Maxim for the lovely flowers to beautify our front entrance!



Ag Club also worked with the fifth & sixth graders to help Mr. McGee plant garlic out by the greenhouse.



QUARTER 1 HIGHLIGHTS

Our seniors hard at work on their Senior Project proclamation posters



YOU'RE INVITED!

We will be combining our Andes senior citizens event and our rescheduled Veterans Day event for a holiday BRUNCH on Thursday, December 8, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. for any Andes resident age 55 or older and any of our Andes veterans. This is a way for us to show our appreciation of all of your support through the years, and the entire school looks forward to this day. There will be a Veterans Day presentation and some holiday songs performed by our students. If you would like to attend the brunch, please call the school and leave us your name, so we can be sure and prepare enough food.



VETERANS BRUNCH

Though our Veterans Day celebration had to be postponed due to an uptick in illnesses at the time, we would still like to extend a big THANK YOU to all of our local veterans for their service! We always enjoy being able to honor our hometown veterans in this special way, and so our Veterans Day celebration will now take place during our senior citizen event on December 8.

BOOK FAIR

We held our Scholastic Book Fair September 29 - October 7. Students had a fun time browsing all of the books during school each day, and it was certainly a busy place the night of Open House. Thank you to all who came and purchased books to help our Book Fair be such a success. With the credit we received from the sales, we were able to purchase \$600 in books for the elementary classrooms, resource rooms, and the library! We are so grateful for your support and for helping us get books into the hands of our students.



QUARTER 1 HIGHLIGHTS

HALLOWEEN EXTRAVAGANZA!

The ACS Halloween Extravaganza, sponsored by the Class of 2026, was a huge success! Our elementary students arrived in a plethora of astounding costumes, including astronauts, scarecrows, dragons, mummies, cheerleaders, witches, and ninjas. We even had Flo from Progressive Insurance make an appearance. The students arrived to see the ACS gymnasium decorated with ghosts, goblins, witches, spiders, and pumpkins. There was also a haunted house which scared and startled the little ones, and even some of the parents were heard shrieking. Other fun activities included pumpkin painting, a costume contest, games, dancing, guessing the candy corn in the jar, refreshments, and a bake sale. A good time was had by all our elementary students and their parents and

guardians. After the elementary festivities, the lights were turned down and the middle and high school students arrived for the Halloween Dance. The music was turned up and our older students had a chance to dance the night away and let loose for a few hours. It was an incredible night, and it was wonderful to see our students enjoy themselves.

I want to thank the class of 2026 which includes *Gabriellah Bene, Gavyn Mahon, and Lilly Temple*. Without their time and hard work, none of this would have been possible. In addition, I would like to thank all the parents, guardians, teachers, and staff members who helped make this wonderful night possible for our student body and the greater Andes community.



QUARTER 1 HIGHLIGHTS

HALLOWEEN PARADE!



Even some of our staff got in on the fun!



S U M M E R C R O P

JUST ADD FUN AT SUMMER CROP!

This past summer, summer CROP went “all in” with students attending full days, from 8-3, Monday-Friday, for four weeks from July 12 through July 23! Our theme this summer was Just Add Fun. We purchased “Just Add...” STEM kits that were full of exciting and fun science experiments and activities just by adding everyday items like fruits & vegetables, eggs, milk, and sugar.

Each day began with swimming lessons at the Andes Town Pool. The lifeguards and water safety instructors were super helpful and encouraging as they worked on getting the kids comfortable in the water, honing their swim strokes, learning water safety skills, and even going off the diving board. Students had the opportunity to test out of their level and receive a Red Cross card. We are so grateful to have the pool and the great lifeguards to be able to provide these important skills for our students. Thanks to some great weather, we also got to go back to the pool in the afternoons to enjoy some free swim time!

After swimming lessons in the morning, students moved on to Exploration Stations and Book Bins. Students enjoyed both fiction and nonfiction books about nutrition, farming, gardens, and other topics connected to our themes for each week. They also had time to explore different stations including Legos, K’nex, and miscellaneous materials to create or construct something that also connected to the themes.

Each group then went off to their own room to work on literacy skills using leveled readers about nutrition, cooking, gardening, chocolate, chickens, eggs, farms, sugar, and ice cream. Students worked on fluency, comprehension, sequencing, phonics, grammar, writing, and research... all while having fun and learning lots of new and interesting facts.

After exercising their brains, it was time for outdoor recess time to exercise their bodies. Students rode bikes, went bowling, played ball games and frisbee, created beautiful sidewalk chalk murals, and much more. Each Wednesday, this time also included a walk to the public library where they took part in the “Oceans of Possibilities” Summer Reading Program. They had a Beach Party with Bobby Curious, met Mini Monsters of the Deep with Betty Boomer, explored The Catskill Sea with Robert and Johanna Titus, and went on a Seven Seas Adventure with Story Laurie. Thank you to the Andes Public Library for a super fun time!

Lunch gave us a little down time before we moved on to our “Just Add...” themed STEM activities. We used fruits and vegetables to create stamp art and electricity. We dyed eggs, excavated our own dinosaur out of a stone egg, and used egg shells to make chalk. For our Just Add Sugar theme,

we made our own sugar body scrub and used sugar to design our own tie-dye shirts. Our Magic Milk, Cosmic Suncatchers, and Plastic Milk experiments were also a big hit for our Just Add Milk theme.

Cooperative Extension visited each week to teach us about nutrition, show us fun ways to build physical activity into our day, and make healthy (and yummy) snacks. Mrs. Tucker worked with us to create beautiful ceramic ice cream sundae dishes, and Ms. Buel worked with us on a fun Summer Song and Drum Circle performance. On our final day together, we auctioned off our ice cream sundae dishes and enjoyed ice cream sundaes with our families and friends while enjoying the students’ performance. It was a very busy, fun-filled, and educational month!



SUMMER CROP



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MISSION STATEMENT

Andes Central School is a small rural school district with a safe environment and a strong sense of community. The mission of the Andes school community, through a positive learning environment, is to produce self-sufficient citizens who are adaptable to changes in society and who possess the self-esteem, motivation and skills to continue individual growth and to ensure that all students meet or exceed high learning standards at the elementary, middle, and high school levels.



Staff Shout Outs

Here at ACS, we have some of the most amazing people on our staff! This year, we created a "Staff Shout-Out" wall so we can "shout" from the rooftops about their awesomeness and what they have done for us (or others). Some have gone above and beyond to help someone out. Others just do special things everyday because it's in their nature. We are very fortunate to have so many great people working at ACS!

