

MONDAY MESSENGER

Volume 16, December 9, 2013



American Renaissance School

Leadership at its core is a moral act. Moral is doing what is good, not simply avoiding hurdles or solving problems.

Pretty Work To:

-RAP for planning for, organizing and working tirelessly to present our families with a great holiday event. The Polar Express was lots of fun for everyone thanks to you! All Aboard, The Polar Express....

-Jennifer Solis and the many middle school students who volunteered to support the Polar Express event. You helped make the event possible!

-Kate Czerswinski, Missy McClare and Jessica Duncan for attending the School Data Team training last week. Thanks for being our Data Divas and helping us consider ways to continue to improve!

-Adrian Reece for a textbook-perfect behavior correction in the front lobby area

last week. She stopped the offending student, described the inappropriate behavior, then the appropriate behavior, then a practice---outstanding!

-Towanda Jackson and Kim Smyth for their professional collaboration, including peer observations and co-planning!

-Amanda Moore and Kelly Peck for redesigning the school website that will launch after the holidays!

-Lisa Hardig for always seeking out community resources to integrate within the curriculum and to support our students!

-Mike and Sandy Gross for fixing our school laminator!

-Kathy Shipman for working so hard and doing a fantastic job getting our MAP testing completed!

Beverly Brown, Jan Lackey, and Sandy Durham for helping in the ARS capture and release program for birds!



"Ours is Hard Work, but it's Good Work!"

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Linda Johnson



Linda is very passionate about her love of reading. She spends countless hours preparing lessons, graphing data and trying new methods for her students. She is an understanding educator and relates well with her students. Linda is a wonderful mother and grandmother. She is truly devoted to the people in her life.

One of the things I like most about Linda Johnson is her genuine kindness and goodness. She is not one to get caught up in negative talk or to waste time on unproductive activities. And when she says something, it is usually something that needs to be said and that others need to hear.

Our students who need help with reading are very fortunate to have her on their side and by their sides!

Linda is a devoted mother and grandmother and enjoys spending time with her family and friends. I love to hear her share stories about her grandson Tanner and see her face glow with pride as she celebrates each developmental milestone he achieves. She enjoys paddling and often has her kayak on top of her car at school in anticipation of her next adventure. She is an avid coffee drinker and is always sporting the largest coffee mug she can find. As a coworker, she is dependable and trustworthy and is quick to offer assistance when help is needed. One of her most admirable traits is her positive approach with kids as she encourages and motivates them to do their best and share their accomplishments. She has a special place in her heart for children that struggle with reading and works to develop individual plans to guide them on the road to becoming successful readers. Linda is a valuable part of the exceptional children's team and I feel fortunate to have her as a friend and coworker.

Susie Munday



I have had the pleasure of knowing Susie Munday for over a decade and throughout the years, she has remained the same... true blue, sincere, and true to herself.

She is where she needs to be... teaching! She began as a parent and as an associate when the school started and because of her eagerness and gifts she possess has worked her way up the ladder to her own classroom!

Susie is beyond creative. She is a natural problem solver and someone you want to get things done! She is always thinking of others, always genuinely checking in on how people are, and looks for the positive side of every situation.

Susie is always on the move... you can see her running around Statesville at her church, going to Michael's for art supplies that she pays out of her own money to add a little extra to the students' projects, heading down 77 South to workout at her favorite gym, or heading to college as she is a full-time career woman/full-time student! We are lucky to have Susie here at ARS.

She is someone who truly comes to work each day happy and wants to be here! She is truly grateful for all the blessings that come her way each day and wouldn't it be wonderful if all people could celebrate the littlest things that come our way in life, as Susie does!



Musings and Meanderings

Play Big

"There is no passion to be found playing small - in settling for a life that is less than the one you are capable of living."

~ [Nelson Mandela \(1918-2013\)](#)

The quote above by the recently deceased Nelson Mandela is a great reminder that we only find our potential when we live a life that reflects our capabilities. In doing so, we may accomplish achievements and influence others beyond what we might imagine.

Mandela's simple dream to live as a citizen in a country where all citizens receive equal rights was only realized due to his unwavering desire to see it become a reality. This commitment and the actions to he took to support his commitment resulted in him spending 27 years of his life in prison doing hard labor. However, after his release from his long imprisonment, he was able to become the first Black president in his beloved country of South Africa, an accomplishment that still seems improbable if not impossible.

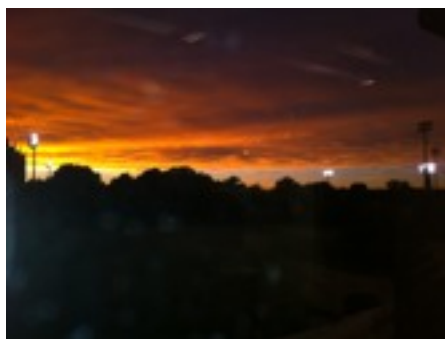
Let Mr. Mandela's example be a reminder and an inspiration for us to play big in our lives and to commit our energies and talents to big ideas. We are fortunate to have that opportunity every day in the work we do. Let our actions reflect our capabilities!

Picture this at ARS

Diorama



The Bridge to Ms. Conine



Evening Comes Early These Days



Friends on a weekend PLC outing



"A Day Which Live in Infamy"

On December 7, 1941, Japanese forces attacked US naval forces at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. Although Japan had been engaged in hostilities, the attack came as a complete surprise on that Sunday morning as troops and local citizens went about their day as usual. Following the attack, President Franklin Roosevelt would deliver his "Infamy" speech indicating the US's entry into World War II.

Although that famous "day in infamy" happened 72 years ago, it reminds us that our lives can change in an instant and often without warning. As the world around us changes so quickly in the digital age and as so many events around the world occur outside of our control, let's remember to do all we can to control the things in our lives that we can, especially those things that matter.

One thing we can control that really matters, is the way we interact with and treat each other every day. As we work hard to make a positive difference in the lives of students and families at ARS, let's support each other in that effort. Let's make every day a famous day at ARS!



Resources, Articles, etc.

Testing Information-

Goal analyses for the end-of-grade/end-of-course tests are now available and have been provided to each school district testing/accountability director.

Also, for your information, released test forms are found at the following link <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/testing/releasedforms>

In addition, test specifications are located at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/>

News from LEARN NC-

Registration is open for spring online courses! Hone your teaching skills by taking a professional development course from LEARN NC. LEARN NC is offering a full slate of Carolina Online Teacher (COLT) courses as well as courses in cultural awareness, ESL, literacy across the curriculum, and more! Educators completing COLT courses will receive 2.0 – 3.0 Technology CEUs for renewal credit, while the America on the World Stage series offers subject-area CEUs for Social Studies. Check back often to see new additions to the [course schedule](#). LEARN NC will be adding new courses developed by LEARN NC partners.

Boxtops Online-

<http://www.boxtops4education.com/Marketplace/BrowseStores>

Professional Opportunities-

Duke TIP Summer Employment Opportunities
Duke TIP is seeking instructors and teaching assistance for their summer residential program, **CRISIS** (Creative Resolutions of Impending Situations with Intelligent Solutions). Through problem-based learning, CRISIS will build leadership and teamwork skills by asking students to assume the role of a professional on a research team, collaborating with team members to solve a community crisis. The crisis that will be addressed in the 2014 summer program is a potential influenza pandemic. For more information on the employment opportunities [click here](#).

READS for Summer Learning
READS for Summer Learning at the Harvard Graduate School of Education is currently recruiting for experienced educators and Spanish interpreters in North Carolina to work with READS and their partner, Communities in Schools of North Carolina, as lead educators at family night events. READS (Reading Enhances Achievement During the

Summer) for Summer Learning is a US Department of Education-supported research project being implemented in elementary schools across multiple public school districts in North Carolina. READS aims to improve reading comprehension by fostering children's engagement with books over the summer, supported by classroom lessons and parent participation in school-based events.

To learn more about the READS Certified Educators position, [click here](#).

To learn more about the Spanish Interpreter position, [click here](#).

Pearson Seeks Teacher Educators and Accomplished Teachers

Pearson is in need of Teacher Educators and Accomplished Teachers to score edTPA! edTPA is designed for the profession by the profession, edTPA was developed by teachers and teacher educators from across the nation, in collaboration with faculty and staff from Stanford University, to support candidate learning and preparation program growth and renewal. Aligned with the Common Core State Standards and InTASC Standards, edTPA assesses teaching that promotes student learning in diverse contexts.

edTPA is a subject-specific assessment of pedagogy, available in 27 teaching fields, that requires pre-service candidates to document and demonstrate that they can plan, teach, and assess major learning outcomes within their field of expertise.

Pearson is hiring teacher educators and accomplished teachers to score edTPA from a secure, private location such as home or office. Qualified candidates will complete training, pass a qualification and then score edTPA assessments. Scoring training includes about 20 hours of self-paced online modules and interactive web-based sessions, once qualified, scoring will begin. The system is available for online-training and scoring 6am - 11:59pm CST seven days a week.

The position requires a part-time commitment, in addition to the following:

- Expertise in the subject matter or developmental level of the teaching field (degree and/or professional experience)

- Teaching experience in that field (or teaching methods or supervising student teachers in that field)

- Experience mentoring or supervising beginning teachers

Scoring is currently underway and Pearson would greatly appreciate your time to submit an application to participate.

Please [click here](#) to apply.

Resources, Articles, etc.

National Board Changes-

National Board Certification Process Changes
 This year, 2013-14, will be the last year for the current National Board process. To apply under the current process, candidates must do so by December 31, 2013. Starting in 2014-15, the certification process will take place over a three year time period. Anyone beginning the process in 2014-15 will be notified if they have achieved National Board certification in November/December 2017. This will affect the 12% salary differential as it will take three years to receive the pay increase instead of the possible one year as it stands now.

The new process will be based on four components:

Component One (phased in: 2014-15) will be the assessment piece, which will be completed at an assessment center and will have no more than 6 open-ended questions

Component Two (phased in: 2014-15) will focus on using data to meet students' needs by setting goals for them. This will include an analysis of student work similar to previous entries

Component Three (phased in: 2015-16) will focus on classroom pedagogy and will include a video analysis.

Component Four (phased in: 2016-17) will focus on the teacher as a reflective practitioner.

Candidates will pay only for the component(s) that they are working on at the time. Cost will be between \$450 and \$500 per component with a total of no more than \$2000. The state will continue the loan program.

Candidates will have three years to complete all components and two years to do retakes if needed, and the renewal process will remain the same for now. Starting in 2017-18, all four components will be available for candidates at one time, and candidates can choose how many they want to complete at one time and can

complete in as few as one but not more than three years.

The NB Standards, the Five Core propositions, and the Architecture of Accomplished Teaching will not change. NB Certification remains performance-based and peer-reviews, with the same emphasis on content knowledge and commitment to student learning.

In the past, Take One! scores have been bankable toward certification. The forthcoming revisions will make the assessment process different enough that scores received for Take One! cannot be applied to the revised certification process. This means the 2013-14 candidate cycle is the last opportunity for Take One! scores to be applied to National Board Certification.

For more information, [click here](#). Additional information will be released by National Board in the spring, and PENC will keep you up to date on information as it becomes available.

To view the 2013 Guide to National Board Certification, [click here](#).

If you are currently working on your National Board Certification, do be sure to check out our [National Board Scholarship!](#)



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Resources, Articles, ETC.

[Behind the Headline: Art Makes You Smart : Education Next](#)



Shared by

[Education Next](#)



[educationnext.org](#) - On Top of the New Art Makes You Smart 11/24/13 | New York Times Behind the Headline The Educational Value of Field Trips Winter 2014 | Education Next In the New York Times, Brian Kisida, Jay Greene...

[3 TED Talks For Teachers In Need Of Inspiration - Edudemic - Edudemic](#)



Shared by

[Eric Sheninger](#)



[edudemic.com](#) - Sometimes it is important to take the time to examine how we work and how we can do better. Professional development is somewhat about that, but I'm talking more about personal development. We're a...

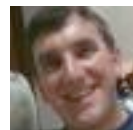
[Free Technology for Teachers: Sanderling - Your Field Journal of Professional Development](#)



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[Eric Sheninger](#)

[Blended Learning 2.0: A Visual Guide For Teachers - Edudemic - Edudemic](#)



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Resources, Articles, Blog Posts, etc. ut vehicula nunc mattis pede

By Trenez Pruca

[Teaching Common Core Through Integrated History and Language Arts - Getting Smart by Courtney Hanes - CCSS, common core, engchat, histchat, Language Arts](#)



Shared by

Tom Vander Ark

gettingsmart.com - The eLearning Strategies Symposium in Costa Mesa, Ca. is here. I am looking forward to attending, learning, and presenting! Colleague Dave Dillon and I will be conducting our workshop, Teaching Com...

[Teacher Resources, Lesson Plans & Educational Worksheets Aligned to Common Core State Standards - Share My Lesson](#)



Shared by

JackieGerstein Ed.D.

sharemylesson.com - Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom's resources have generated 6,477 views "Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom" tells the inspirational story of one of the greatest leaders of our time, Nelson Mandela. From h...

[Q&A: Why School Leaders Should Embrace Social Networking - Digital Education - Education Week](#)



Shared by

Education Week

blogs.edweek.org - Eric Sheninger, the principal of New Milford High School in Bergen County, N.J, is known for his forward-thinking approaches when it comes to social networking and education. He has his own web sit...

[Critical thinking hallmark of Common Core class](#)



Shared by

Fordham Institute

bigstory.ap.org - MIDDLETOWN, Del. (AP) — Remembering the plot of a short story is no longer good enough in teacher Amy Lawson's fifth-grade classroom. Today's students are being asked to think more critically. For ...

[8 Ways To Unlock The Power Of Your Interactive Whiteboard - Edudemic - Edudemic](#)



Shared by

David Britten

edudemic.com - Interactive whiteboards are a great classroom tool. Many teachers use them to project and capture images – basically as a high tech, connected chalkboard. While definitely useful in these ways, the...

[NC has fewer teachers and more students :: WRAL.com](#)



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John Robinson



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