

MONDAY MESSENGER

Volume 29, April 7, 2014



American Renaissance School

Pretty Work:

-To the staff members who shared at last week's staff meeting: Donna, Jennifer, Gin, Amy, Robin.

-Jessica for planning PD for the staff meeting.

-Ricky Thomas for wading in the water to help fix another leak.

-Kathleen for taking care of our building and getting her nice shoes wet.

-All the staff members who attended the Open House for new families.

- All the renewal teachers for their time and attention to completing the necessary paperwork and turning it in promptly.

- Laura Smith for sharing PD resources with Jessica.

- Kate Czerwinski and Tracy Turner for their enthusiasm about their positions next year and utilizing Mrs. Duncan to help them begin looking for resources.

- Cheryl Pierce for closing out another successful year with the PBIS store.

- Tracy Roberts, Beth Odom, and Beverly Brown for supporting a student in a creative way that is a huge help to his family.

-Cheryl Pierce, Kathy Shipman, Tina Farewell for helping with the PBIS store.

-Cathy Berkley for some awesome work with blended learning and differentiated instruction.

-Doug Griffith for an incredible lesson on wars' effects on culture, incorporating technology, music and Social Studies.

-Sandy Smith for organizing our awesome Blue Out.



-The students and staff who worked at the Annual Fund calling center this past Thursday and Sunday.



-All of the board, staff, and parents who have contributed to this year's Annual Fund.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Beverly Brown



Beverly has the patience of Job! She is such a warm and caring "mom" to our staff and the students she serves. She is a phenomenal cook, who is keeping us all filled with yummy treats this year! She has a passion for her students that goes above and beyond the classroom. She is willing to jump in and do anything at all that is asked of her with no complaints. She has been a wonderful addition to ARS!

Beverly is patient and loving. She would give you the shirt off her back. Always goes above and beyond for our students and ARS. Great cook. Loving mother and wife.

Oh, what can I say about BB, except that she is Wonderful!! She is one of the most caring people I have ever met! BB has wanted to work with children her whole life and after being laid off from her position in a manufacturing plant years ago, she went to MCC and then opened what would become the first 5 Star rated Home Day Care facility in Iredell County. It was called Busy B's Preschool and was a fabulous place for little ones to grow and learn. BB has had her share of challenges and she has handled them gracefully and with great Faith. BB closed her preschool a couple of years ago and accepted a job as a TA at Shepherd Elementary School. After just one year, her position was taken as ISS made their budget cuts, but that's okay, because that's when WE Got Her!! She has done an outstanding job in our Adaptive Learning Classroom and is also helping out in our kindergarten classes as well! BB is very proud of her family` her husband David, her son Brannen (who will be getting married in September) and her daughter Katie (a freshman at South). Oh, and did I mention she introduced me to my husband??? Lots of reasons to love Beverly!!

Alan Roseboro



Mr. Roseboro is a GREAT assistant with a special student and is always helpful to all ARS students and staff. He always has "good morning" at the beginning of the day! He has a HUGE sense of humor which keeps the students entertained. I have decided he has "history" museum in his home....he always brings in items to

share with the class that pertain to the topic we are studying. He has a ready smile and a willingness to help in any area. We think he may be writing an "ARS NOVEL" with all of his note taking. He has promised that if it is published names will be changed :) He is team player and takes the best care of our students!

Alan can take on so many roles and does it with a smile. His care and concern for our students is huge. He is a great family man! He is an avid bowler who likes to recruit us into joining him in the sport. He has become a pro at board games but is a good sport when his students come out on top! Our students are lucky to have him with us!

I am so glad to have Alan back on staff this year! He takes his job as his student's "Bodyguard" very seriously and does it very well. Alan takes meticulous notes about his student's activities throughout the day that are filled with much needed information and a lot of humor. Alan relocated to Statesville from New York to help his Mom as she grows older. He visits his children who still live in NY as often as he can. Alan does a great job in After School as well. He is especially good at getting the kids engaged in games and activities. Alan has worked with children and young adults with special needs most of his career While in NY, he worked at residential facilities for kids with mental health needs.

Musings and Meanderings

“Eighth Seed vs. Seventh Seed in Championship Game”

Tomorrow night’s NCAA Basketball Championship game will mark the first time two teams seeded as low as 7th and 8th have met in a title game. And despite their low seedings, both teams have proven to be outstanding in the tournament, and both have knocked off at least one #1 seed along the way. Kentucky starts five freshmen while UConn has a more veteran team with less talent. The contrasts are obvious yet they are both at the same place, and the only two teams left with a chance at the championship.

At the beginning of the tournament, hardly anyone would have picked either of these two teams to make the title game, much less both of them. The experts seemed to favor the higher seeded teams with all of the ESPN experts picking Michigan State. Several others picked Florida, Michigan, Arizona, Wichita State, Louisville, and Wisconsin. Their predictions were based on the season’s results to that point as well as on the match-ups in the brackets. And they were all wrong!

Sometimes in the education business, we fall victim to our own predictions of student success or failure based on previous results, rather than seeing the potential in every student if only we can get them to work hard to achieve their own successes and if only we can coach and guide them to that goal. In looking at your own students, how many of them have you predicted to score a Level I or II and only hope they will perform better? I have great faith in our teachers and students to pull the upset and to beat the odds, to bust the brackets on their way to great results this year!

March madness: What teachers can learn from great coaches

“Although having skillful players does help, it seems that the skills and attitude of the coach plays an even more significant role in predicting the success of a team,” writes fourth-grade teacher Kevin Parr. In a recent Whole Child Blog post, Parr shares three things educators can learn from coaches to create success in every circumstance they encounter. [Read on.](#)

Worth at least a Thousand Words



Cool people wear VT Stuff...

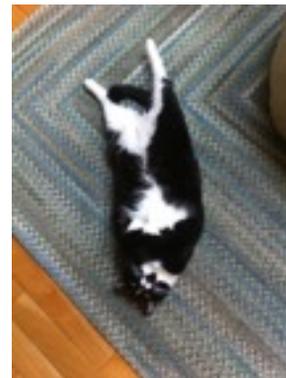


...and purple shirts...



...and 3b tees while drinking DD coffee

Odyssey of the Mind Teams at State



In Your Next Life....



“ARS Artists”

Resources, Articles, Blog Posts, etc.

His first piece of advice is to close your office door and play your favorite song. [Read all seven.](#)



“The older I grow, the more I distrust the familiar doctrine that age brings wisdom.”

-- H.L. Mencken,
American journalist

[Common core exams tie learning to the real world](#)

Some school districts in South Dakota recently rolled out field tests of Smarter Balanced assessments. The exams, aligned with Common Core State Standards, emphasize showing deeper understanding of concepts over fill-in-the-bubble questions and present questions in the context of real life, according to this article. South Dakota is one of about 20 states involved in Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium. [The Rapid City Journal \(S.D.\)](#) (3/30)

[N.J. elementary school aligns curriculum to 7 core values](#)

An elementary school in New Jersey has made character-building part of its curriculum, focusing on seven core values known as the "Super 7." Students and staff are expected to adhere to the values of service, respect, integrity, motivation, compassion, positivity and responsibility. The school's curriculum recently landed in the spotlight as a National Character School finalist. [The Philadelphia Inquirer](#) (3/31)

[Why professional development should include lessons on emotions](#)

Many professional-development programs overlook emotional-intelligence training for educators, suggests transformational leadership coach Elena Aguilar. In this blog post, she writes about the importance of teaching emotional intelligence and building emotional resilience -- the ability to bounce back. She also offers tips for teaching such skills, including the use of a "Feeling Wheel" to help develop appropriate vocabulary. [Education Week Teacher \(tiered subscription model\)/The Art of Coaching Teachers blog](#) (3/29)

[Seven stress-fighting tips for principals](#)

"Sure, the stress becomes easier to manage with time and experience, but it never completely goes away, no matter how competent or passionate we are about our job," writes ASCD EDge community member Ryan Thomas. In a recent blog post, Thomas shares seven tips that can help principals fight stress.

[Some schools change the rules on traditional education models](#)

Some schools are making radical changes to the traditional school model, opting to forgo incremental changes to curriculum and technology. This article shines a light on some of these schools. For example, a middle school in Massachusetts engages students in physical fitness three times a day, while a school in Virginia assigns less homework and takes students on more field trips. [Scholastic Administrator magazine](#) (Spring 2014)

[How connected learning is reshaping today's classrooms](#)

Technology has opened the door to a vast world of information access for students and teachers, high-school teacher and EdTechTeacher instructor Shawn McCusker writes in this blog post. Students in today's connected classrooms can quickly access primary sources online, such as scientific notes, he writes. "In an economy of abundant information, connected students neither need to sit still to access information nor slow themselves to the pace of the teacher or their classmates," McCusker writes. "They are often free to explore and discover -- often at their own pace and on topics of their own choosing." [KQED.org/Mind/Shift blog](#) (3/31)

[Students use math skills to build shelter for homeless](#)

Some students at a Wisconsin high school are using their geometry skills to build a small house for the homeless. The 96-square-foot house will be one of nine structures a local nonprofit will use to provide shelter. The students have used some recycled materials, including floorboards made from old bleachers. "There's a lot of geometry in this: angles, length, area, perimeter," sophomore Patrick Fowler said. [The Capital Times \(Madison, Wis.\)](#) (3/29)

“How much easier it is to be critical than to be correct.”

-- Benjamin Disraeli,
former British prime minister