



Volunteers & Partners: *Making a Difference for APS!*

February 2017

National Mentoring Month is an annual recognition observed in January to celebrate mentoring programs and the mentors who have made a positive impact on young lives. Here in Arlington Public Schools (APS) we have numerous mentoring programs and mentors that meet that standard. Take a look below to read how these programs and mentors have been instrumental in supporting APS Strategic Goal #5: Meeting the Needs of the Whole Child.

Wakefield High School: The Wakefield **Leading Empowering Nurturing Students** (LENS) Program was designed to help freshman boys and girls experience transition to high school. Their goal has been to foster resiliency; build relationships; promote leadership and effective communication; and develop study habits, organization, and critical thinking skills. The program has 10 mentors and 90 students. Program activities are focused on nurturing the “whole student” by incorporating academic, social, emotional, and community service projects.

Abingdon: The **Cardinal Kids Mentoring Program** matches students with staff members. The goals of the program are to build school connections, support academic success, increase self-esteem, and have fun. Mentors from the previous school year are encouraged to continue with their mentee throughout the student’s time at Abingdon. The Cardinal Kids leadership solicits recommendations from teachers and staff to target students who would benefit most from the program.

Randolph & Hoffman-Boston Elementary School: **Space of Her Own (SOHO)** is an art-focused mentoring program geared toward at-risk 5th grade girls. SOHO matches up 12 pairs of mentors/pre-teen girls for weekly meetings and activities. Participants build relationships, develop a sense of confidence, self-worth, empowerment, and become part of a caring and supportive community that encourages them to do their best and reach their potential. The culminating project for the yearlong program is the renovation of each girl’s bedroom. With the help of parents and SOHO coordinators, the mentor secretly completes the redecoration using many objects that they created throughout the year. The big reveal is exciting and a moving moment that is known to bring tears to many who have the privilege to see it. Watch now!

<https://www.apsva.us/volunteers-partnerships/partners-in-action/partners-action-archive/>



LENS students on the way to see ‘Hidden Figures’



Cardinal Kids Mentoring Program Bulletin Board



Space of Her Own mentors with mentees



MORE MENTORING HIGHLIGHTS...

Sara Downes is a Community In Schools volunteer at Arlington Community High School (ACHS)

For the past few years she has volunteered through AFAC and is an excellent math tutor. Sara goes the extra mile to ensure that students assigned to her have a good understanding of Algebra and Geometry. She works one-on-one with her students twice a week for at least an hour. Just recently while rigorously working with a math student, she learned that the student had passed their SOL with her help.

"We are very thankful to have Sara at ACHS! She is amazing."

~ Lourdes Sanchez, V&P Liaison

Jane Powell is a volunteer/mentor at Arlington Community High School (ACHS).

She goes above and beyond to work with her students, whether it is tutoring or mentoring. She brings a lot of energy and is very passionate about helping students succeed. Jane's skills, flexibility, and commitment to help student's succeed beyond high school have made her a remarkable volunteer at ACHS.

"Mrs. Powell has helped me in so many ways. She has given me advice on writing, applying for scholarships, and finding opportunities for my future."

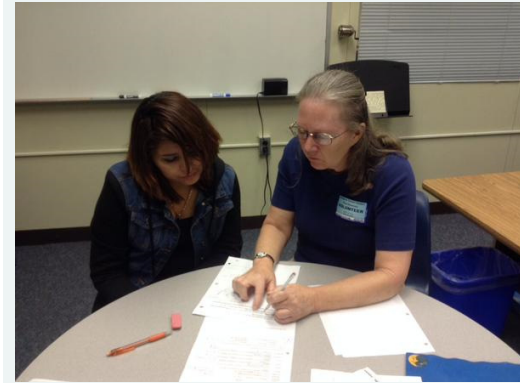
~ Veronica Olivera—ACHS Key Club Pres.

For more information about the mentoring programs listed in this newsletter please contact Dawn Smith at dawn.smith@apsva.us.

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

The Volunteer of the Month celebrates the actions and commitment of volunteers who work hard to enrich our students' academic experiences.

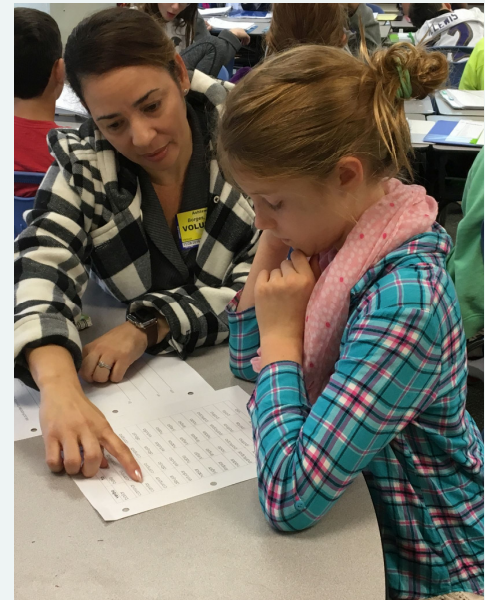
Yamelis Virgili Borgess has been a wonderful volunteer at Ashlawn Elementary School. This is her first year volunteering at Ashlawn and her first year working with Sra Armengol. She has been a huge asset to our FLES program, especially at the 5th grade level. Ms. Borges has been providing individual attention to first year Spanish students with an enthusiastic, caring and patient attitude. She also works with one of Ashlawn's Kindergarten classes, assisting them with "traveling" to all seven continents! This involves teaching them about cultures, languages, people, and places all over the world. Ms. Borges is an exquisite volunteer who always does anything that is asked of her; the children love her, and she always has a smile on her face. Ashlawn is so lucky to have her!



Sara Downes working 1-on-1 with ACHS student



Jane Powell pictured with ACHS students



Yamelis Virgili Borgess working with Ashlawn student