



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

March 2017

During the month of February and March, Arlington Public Schools students participated in Black History Month, the African American Heritage Read-In and Read Across America Day. At these events volunteers, community members, and elected officials partnered with APS to bring awareness to the importance of the many achievements and contributions made by African Americans and to encourage students to continue to read.

These members of our Arlington community are essential to our student success. The following highlights illustrate just a few examples of how our community joins together to support our students and the APS instructional program.

McKinley Elementary School celebrated Black History Month with an African American Heritage Read-In where various artifacts were displayed and many books were available for volunteers to read aloud to students. Thank you to some of our guest readers, including County Board member, **Christian Dorsey**, Director of Secondary Education, Tyrone Byrd, and Supervisor of Social Studies, Cathy Hix. Your participation is appreciated.

Students also participated in Read Across America Day, celebrating Dr. Seuss's birthday. Read Across America is an annual reading awareness program that calls for children in every community to celebrate reading on March 2, with the works of the beloved children's author, Dr. Seuss.



APS students dress up to celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday.



County Board member, **Christian Dorsey** reads a favorite book to McKinley students.



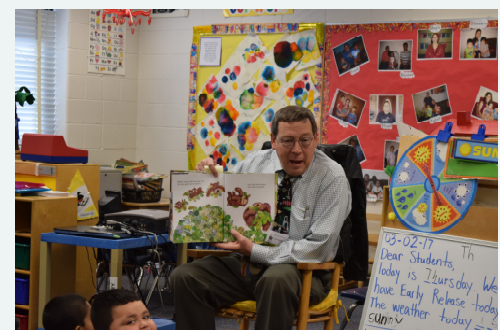
Carlin Springs students ready to read!



Former APS Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, **Connie Skelton** and Principal, **Donna Snyder** celebrated with the *Randolph Star* and *Clifford, The Big Red Dog*.



Long Branch PreK (VPI) students came to school in their pajamas and chose their own Dr. Seuss books to read.



Randolph E.S. hosted several community readers in every classroom. Thanks to School Board Member **Reid Goldstein** (above), just one of many special guests to read to students.



FEATURE STORY

Drew Model School has established an Elite Boys Club for fourth and fifth grade students. The club is sponsored by five African American APS staff members: Robert Hanson, Jesse Williams, Jr., Randy Lott, Vanee Page, and Darrian Mangum. These men saw a need at Drew to mentor the students and stepped up to share their time and wisdom with the students. The boys meet with the men on a weekly basis after school to focus on leadership and character development. Thought-provoking activities and discussions are centered around academics, social skills, effective communication, and conflict resolution. There are approximately 18 committed boys who enjoy participating in this invigorating experience. Thank you to this community team for making a difference in the lives of our students!

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Congratulations to Barrett Elementary School for signing a new Strategic Partnership Agreement with **Arlington Retirement Housing Corporation**. Pre-K students will build background knowledge by participating in a literacy partnership with the neighborhood retirement home. Students are learning that elders in the community are a wealth of support and information, and the elders are reinforcing literacy skills with the students through small group or one-on-one reading at the retirement home. Partner reading is followed by a related activity that focuses on psychomotor/tactile skills. This is another great example of a **#PerfectPartner** we love!.

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

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

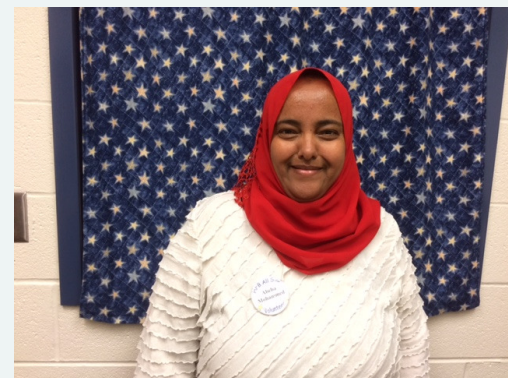
Ms. Adeba Mohammed is a Hoffman-Boston mother who volunteers five days a week and has been active since the fall of 2013. Three mornings each week she helps children get their breakfast and find their way to class, and during the other mornings she helps with administrative projects. Adeba and her family came to the US from Ethiopia in 2008. According to staff, her faithfulness and commitment are extraordinary, so it wasn't a surprise that she offered to help when there was a need.

"Adeba's enthusiasm and her love for others are contagious. She has successfully recruited other volunteers and regularly offers suggestions to improve our volunteer program. She is a wonderful asset to Hoffman-Boston," says Carter Echols, Volunteer and Partner Liaison.

**GET SOCIAL: Share your volunteer experience with us!
Use #APSAwesome so we can highlight it here.**



Thanks to staff members who saw a need at Drew Model School and stepped up to make a difference. (Photo L to R: Jesse Williams, Randy Lott, Vanee Page and Robert Hanson. Not shown: Darrian Mangum)



Ms. Adeba Mohammed, Hoffman-Boston mother who volunteers.