



Volunteers & Partners in Action

Making a Difference for APS!

November 2017

This time of the year we all try to reflect on the things in our lives for which we should be grateful. Here in Arlington Public Schools one of those things is the remarkable number of robust partnerships that enhance our school and our students' learning experiences. There are many organizations and individuals that work with our students on a regular basis. These relationships have developed not only to support our academics, but also to recognize and meet the needs of the whole child.

Let's reflect on "A Week in the Life of APS." Here you will read about a treasure trove of partnerships - people, organizations and activities - to be thankful for.

Monday:

Through a partnership with Arlington **Meals On Wheels**, Randolph 5th graders had the opportunity to perform community service as they delivered meals to homebound senior citizens. They learned about empathy, kindness and cooperation as they brightened the day for several of our most vulnerable neighbors. **Arlington Soccer Association** and **Educational Theater Company** provided after school enrichment for more than 60 students, grades K-5, teaching about team work, determination, creativity and having fun.

Tuesday:

Abingdon's first grade team was motivated by a core group of dedicated Book Buddies volunteers to transform the program into the all new **Abingdon Reading Buddies** program. Volunteers come twice a week after school and spend 45 minutes with students. Students read to their Reading Buddies, write about their favorite character or connection to the books they read, and use sentence stems to complete sentences. Each time they meet, Reading Buddies reads a story to the students, talk about the events in the story, and ask them comprehension questions. We are so grateful for our volunteers for ensuring that our emerging readers have the support they need!

Wednesday:

Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) continues to serve our students every Wednesday by providing them with a bag of groceries. They also provided turkeys on Wednesday for eligible students to enjoy a turkey this Thanksgiving.

We are very grateful for their generosity and for supporting the ACHS students!

Thursday:

Arlington Science Focus (ASF) 2nd graders will give back to their community by bagging food for the homeless in partnership with **Arlington Street People's Assistance Network (ASPAN)**. Each month a different grade level from ASF will participate in this rewarding project. This month, Principal, Mary Begley, challenged each of us to complete one kind gesture each day for the next 30 days. This is just one way to spread kindness to those in need.



Hoffman-Boston VPI feast of foods



Drew students thankful for the Thanksgiving celebration.



Randolph students thankful for their volunteers and mentors.



Friday:

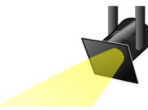
Through the tireless efforts of volunteer sponsors from the **Kiwanis Club** of Arlington, Washington-Lee students have bettered their school and community since 1972. One of the longest-running clubs at W-L, the Kiwanis helps support Key Clubbers in small projects each meeting, such as greenkeeping or collecting trash around the school to learn about stewardship, or in large projects, such as District-wide and national initiatives such as Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF. In the past years, students have also participated in local and national conventions, such as D-CON, where they learn leadership and service skills that will last them a lifetime. Thank you to the Kiwanis for your continued support .

So much to be grateful for. Thank you all of our volunteers and partners for your continued support. If you are interested in partnering or volunteering with APS, please contact Dawn Smith, Communications Coordinator: Volunteers, Partnerships, and Special Events at 703-228-2581. #APSiThankful



Pilgrims at Drew

Partner Spotlight



For the past several years, a group of men from the Mount Olive Baptist Church have been mentoring fourth and fifth grade boys at Hoffman-Boston Elementary. They call themselves the Character Club! They meet on Thursday afternoons after school to talk about character values and other topics the boys want to discuss. Their meetings include time playing basketball together, field trips and other activities to

encourage, motivate and support the boys. Emily Spellman, a fourth grade teacher, saw positive results in her students last year. “The boys were excited about sharing their academic successes with their mentors. They took more pride in who they were and what they were doing. It gave an outside connection.” Hoffman-Boston would specifically like to thank Jeffrey Eskridge, Bernard Jones, Walter Smith, Michael Thomas and Frank Wilson for their time and dedication to mentoring our students.

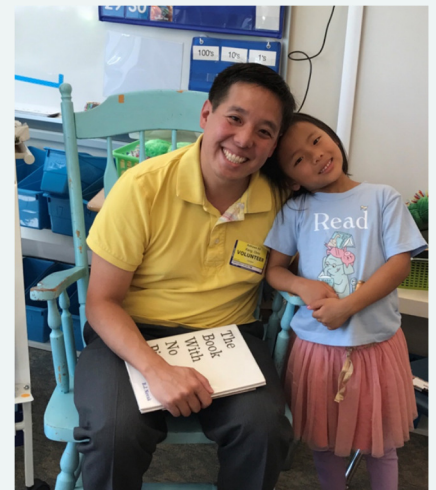
Meet Volunteer of the Month, Christopher Kang

Christopher Kang, our November Volunteer of the Month, works with Mrs. Ferogh’s Kindergarten classroom. He helps run math rotations every Friday and volunteers for the Kindergarten travel days and nature walks. Thank you for your time, Christopher! Mrs. Ferogh says, “he always has a smile and a kind word for every child he meets!”

#APSiThankful



Key Kindergarteners celebrating



Mr. Kang with Ashlawn student