



Volunteers & Partners in Action

Making a Difference for APS!

January 2018

January is National Mentoring Month and Arlington Public Schools (APS) is excited to share several volunteer mentoring programs in our schools. While we recognize mentors during the month of January, we appreciate and celebrate them throughout the year. National Mentoring Month is a campaign held to promote youth mentoring in the United States. APS is thankful for the many mentors that support our students, administrators and programs. Let's take a look at just a few of the mentoring programs in our schools.

Arlington Science Focus and CNA

CNA is community non-profit in its second year of mentoring students at Arlington Science Focus. They currently have sixteen mentors that work with fourth and fifth graders. The purpose of the program is to provide a consistent and caring relationship with an adult. Students are selected by their teachers and paired with professional men and women working at CNA. Eliana, a two-year participant, said being in the program is one of the most memorable things of her time at ASFS. She has enjoyed outings to the park and lunch discussions about drawing and making clothing with her CNA mentor. When asked about her first-year experience as a mentor in our program, Anu wrote, "The ASFS mentoring program has been a truly meaningful experience for me as I have had the pleasure of interacting with a smart, inquisitive, motivated and a kind young lady. Our meetings have allowed me to provide additional insight to her on topics related to classroom learning but also to encourage her personal growth in other areas such as extracurricular activities and skill building. I hope that my mentee is able to depend on me as a resource for anything that is on her mind and our relationship continues to grow as the school year goes on."

Henry's Shining Stars

Shining Stars is a mentoring program at **Patrick Henry Elementary School**. Identified students are paired with participating Henry faculty members. It is the expectation that mentors meet with their Shining Star weekly for about 20 minutes. This could be lunch, before or after school, etc. In addition to these meetings they have Shining Stars after school activities that they organize every other month. In the past, some of those activities have included outings for bowling, ice skating, movies, picnics and pumpkin painting.



Mary Begley, Principal at Arlington Science Focus, signing partnership agreement with CNA rep.



Henry students at a Shining Star's outing.



Carlin Springs

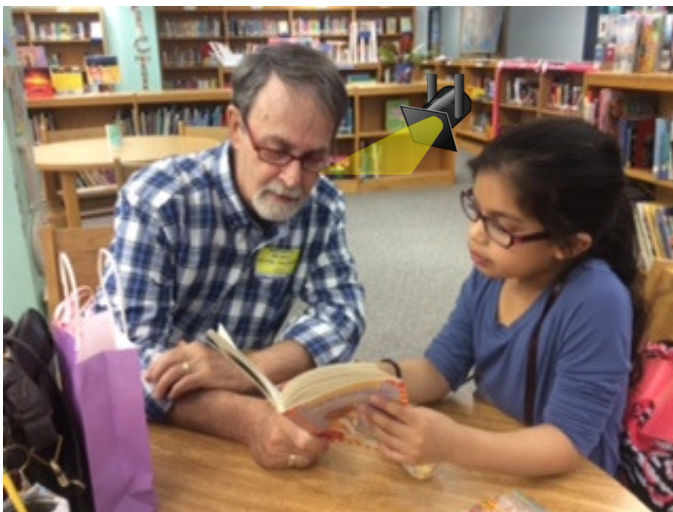
Every Tuesday, 12 Kenmore students, Teen Trendsetters, come to Carlin Springs E.S. to meet with first and second grade students.

Teen Trendsetters is a program that matches teen mentors with elementary students to help boost reading skills, reading scores and confidence in learning. This program allows our students to improve their reading skills while developing a lifelong love of reading. The students are allowed to take home 12 books during the school year to build a home library. Students in the program typically achieve a full grade level of progress.



Arlington Science Focus students are always thankful for their volunteers.

Oakridge



Oakridge Reading Club mentor Jim Brown helps Camilla Enriquez twice a week to practice and strengthen her reading skills.

The **Oakridge Reading Club** provides mentors to practice reading, fluency, and comprehension with students in grades 3 - 5. These volunteer mentors meet with students twice a week in the library creating a small book club. "I like that you get to read the type of book you want to," says 4th grader Jimena Reyes-

Amaya. "My reading buddy is nice and funny. He always brings a dictionary so if I don't know a word, we can look it up in the dictionary. That helped me become a better reader so I can get through the big words."



Ashlawn volunteer, Jennifer Cron-Hepler, listening to a student read.



Ron Lapitan helping Yorktown students with their Service Learning Project.

Meet Our Volunteer of the Month, Candi Meyer

Candi Meyer has been volunteering at **Arlington Traditional Elementary School** Library for three years. She helps in the library by shelving the many, many books that students return each week. She is such a joy to work with and ATS staff and students are very lucky to have her! In addition to helping in the Library, Candi volunteers with the ATS PTA and assists with various events held throughout the school year.



Candi Meyer, Volunteer of the Month, helps in the library at ATS.