

African Road Elementary School
600 S. Benita Boulevard
Vestal, NY 13850
607-757-2311

May 2019

ARE Newsletter

PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

Dear African Road Families,

Happy May everyone!

May is filled with many fun events as we wrap up our school year. I encourage you to check our May calendar and bring your children to these wonderful events. Don't forget to come to the Ice Cream Social on Tuesday, May 21, as well as cast your vote on our Vestal School Budget, the very same evening.

Kindergarten UPDATE

If you have a kindergarten-aged child or know of a family that has a child eligible to attend kindergarten this Fall, **please make sure you have registered your child** for enrollment. It is important that we have as accurate an enrollment number as possible as we move forward with the orientation (May 13) and screening process. **Kindergarten Screening will take place June 4, 5 and 6 for students entering Kindergarten in the Fall 2019.**

On May 13, ARE will be celebrating Police Appreciation Week by having our School Resource Officers and some of our local police officers teach our students about the positive impact police officers have on our community. We will have each grade level rotating through stations in our gym, auditorium and be given a tour of a police car. We will also be collecting donations to our local Vestal Police and making care packages police officers can have with them in their cars.

ARE Field Day

On June 13, we will be taking a school wide field trip to Arnold Park. Permission slips will be going home soon. We would love for families to join us at the park for lunch and activities. The ARE Building Planning Team is busy planning activities for the students, and **Jared Campbell** will be joining us at the park to sing and dance with our students as he talks about kindness.

Thank you for supporting our wonderful school!

Mrs. Meghan Stenta
Principal



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PRINCIPAL'S NEWS CONT'D

Student placement for the 2019-2020 school year:

I very much appreciate your awareness of and cooperation with the Vestal Central School District's practices regarding parent requests for student placement for the 2019-2020 school year.

The establishment of classroom rosters is a complex process. It involves professional dialogue between African Road staff on a wide variety of factors, including achievement data collected over the course of the previous year(s). These factors include, but are not limited to (in no particular order), the:

- balancing of gender in any one classroom.
- balancing of students' abilities and needs across multiple developmental, social and academic areas.
- design of student groupings to maximize effective instructional practices being implemented by staff (balanced literacy, cooperative learning, technology integration, assessment structures, etc.).
- design of student groupings to maximize the use of support staff including academic intervention service providers, special education providers and paraprofessionals.

Given these considerations, we are unable to accept parent requests for a specific teacher. It is the principal's responsibility to finalize all classroom rosters. If there are extenuating circumstances that would be necessary to know in placing your child, please submit this information in writing to me by **May 22, 2019**. Written information will be reviewed and shared with relevant staff members during the placement process.

Classroom assignments will be mailed home in mid-August. Please understand that factors such as an enrollment shift in the summer or staff changes could result in a change in your child's class assignment prior to the opening of school.

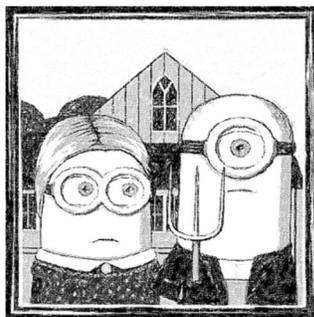
Please accept my sincere thanks for all your feedback and support this year. I'm honored to be a part of the tradition of excellence here in Vestal, and I am looking forward to the start of another great school year.

Sincerely,

Meghan Stenta
ARE Principal

ART

2018-2019 VSCD District Art Show



https://society6.com/product/minion-gothis_print

At Vestal High School, May 8-30

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Happy May!

As we begin to wind down the year, there has been so much that our students have done, learned and experienced. It really has been a great year, and I look forward to finishing off the year strong!

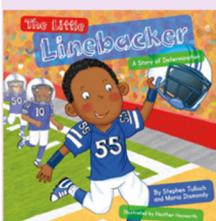
Student Council:



Our student council students have been so amazing this year! The last project they did was the assembly we had on April 12, right before Spring Break. Third-, fourth- and fifth-grade Student Council members coordinated another amazing assembly to demonstrate our Hive Topics for the months of April, May and June. I speak for myself (and many others) when I say that I truly enjoy watching the students put on the skits. They laugh, they learn and, most of all, they inspire others. Great job!

Thank you to everyone who donated food for our friends at Vestal Middle School! We really helped them out with their Vacation Power Packs program. Mr. Herman, a VMS teacher in charge of the Vacation Power Packs program, was very appreciative of all that we did. Thank you again to everyone involved!

Our next project will be for the little furry pets in our lives. We will be hosting our Pet Drive again, near the end of May, beginning of June. We will be meeting soon to put all the details together of this year's initiative. Stay tuned for more information!



International Baccalaureate (IB) Learner Profile:

Our IB Learner Profile for the month of May is **BALANCED**. When you are balanced, you balance different parts of your life (mind, body and emotions). You are interested and involved in many different things and understand that taking care of yourself is important. At our assembly on April 12, Kelly Jiminez and Gurleen Kaur (Mrs. Jones' Gr. 5) read our new Book of the Season, "The Little Linebacker: A Story of Determination," by Maria Dismundy and



Stephen Tulloch, to the entire school. The book represents being balanced because the main character knew that he wanted to be more than a football player when he grew up. He also knew that he wanted to inspire people and learn from many different significant adults in his life as a young boy. For more information on the IB Learner Profiles, or for IB information in general, visit www.ibo.org.

Safety Patrol:

Thank you to all of the Safety Patrol students who assisted with our annual Cub's Night Out event on April 11. These students helped our incoming families learn their way around African Road a bit better and enjoyed interacting with the 3- and 4-year-old children who will eventually be coming to kindergarten at African Road. Great job, Safety Patrol!



Above, fifth-grade Safety Patrol students Andrew Lee and Allison Yoon, take part in the events for Cubs Night Out.

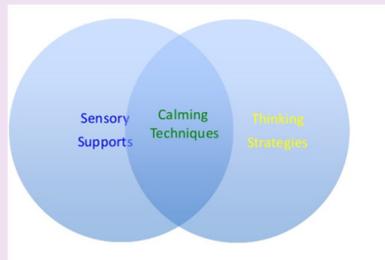


COUNSELOR'S CORNER CONT'D

Classroom Lessons:

We continue working on strategies for students for when they get triggered. A trigger is someone or something that moves us out of the Green zone. We have been learning about mindfulness techniques to use when we are triggered. Mindfulness techniques help us stay present in the present moment and not worry about things that have already happened or are going to happen in the future, like what game will I play at playground? Or what am I having for lunch today? Staying present and being able to focus on your breathing is key to help you stay focused, stay calm and train your brain to stay present! Most recently in grades 1-5, we have been practicing breathing in and breathing out for a two-minute time period. My goal is to increase the time with every class period. This is a small exercise everyone can do at home, at any time of the day, to bring yourself back to the Green zone. Ask your child to show you!

We have also been working on sensory supports to calm us back to Green. Kids have had the opportunity to touch, see and smell things to discover if these would be strategies they could use when triggered. Kindergarten classes have moved on from sensory supports and have learned the thinking strategies and calming techniques from the Zones of Regulation curriculum. We will continue to work on all of the strategies as we move into the home stretch of the curriculum.



Fifth-Grade Parents:

Important upcoming dates for fifth-graders and their families

June 4 - Tours of the Vestal Middle School begin at 9:30 a.m.

Happy Spring!

Ms. Steele

School Counselor



FROM THE READING CORNER

Preventing the Summer Slide

The days are getting longer and the temperatures are beginning to climb. The summer months are approaching, and for most children that means an extended break from school. What will your child do this summer? You've probably already begun to register him/her for summer camps, swimming lessons and team sports. Maybe you're planning a fun family vacation. Whatever you have planned, please remember to include reading in your child's daily routine.

Research clearly shows that students who don't read during the summer can lose up to three months of the reading progress they made during the school year. This loss has a cumulative, long-term effect that can cause students to fall further and further behind their peers in reading achievement. It's important to ensure that your child continues to read, even when school is out. The following resources and articles may be helpful in planning fun activities to encourage your child to continue reading and learning this summer.

Summer Reading Programs:

ARE Summer Reading Challenge – ARE PTA

Summer Reading Club for Children - Vestal Public Library & Broome County Public Library

Barnes & Noble Summer Reading Program

Thanks for a Great Summer! - Scholastic Summer Challenge

Parent Resources:

Preventing the Summer Slide in Reading

(<https://shanahanonliteracy.com/blog/can-we-prevent-the-summer...>)

Seize the Summer: Keep Kids Active & Engaged in Learning

(<http://www.ed.gov/blog/2013/06/seize-the-summer-keep-kids-active-engaged-in-learning/>)

Stop the Summer Brain Drain! (<http://school.familyeducation.com/summer/cognitive-processes/38453.html>)

Stop the Summer Learning Slide (<https://www.additudemag.com/stop-summer-slide-video>)

Summer Reading Loss (<http://www.readingrockets.org/article/summer-reading-loss>)

Three Ways to Stop the Summer Slide

(<https://www.scholastic.com/.../three-ways-to-prevent-summer-slide.html>)

Top 5 Ways to Prevent Rusty Summer Readers

(<http://www.ed.gov/blog/2012/06/top-5-ways-to-prevent-rusty-summer-readers/>)

Topics A-Z: Summer Reading (<http://www.readingrockets.org/atoz/summer-reading>)

Happy Reading!

Wendi Eames
A.R.E. Reading Teacher



CUB'S NIGHT OUT

On Thursday, April 11, ARE held its third annual Cub's Night Out featuring an "In The Wild" theme. This event, sponsored by our PTA, was for our new Kindergartners joining us next year at ARE. Families and future students were able to explore our school and meet ARE staff for a fun-filled evening.



Cub's Night Out!



FOURTH-GRADE HISTORICAL TALK SHOW

The Historical Talk show is an annual event performed by our fourth-graders. The children study a famous figure. And then they create a question-and-answer session to perform in front of family and friends in the ARE auditorium. This years' Historical Talk Show was a hit! The students depicted famous figures from all walks of life. They presented beautifully and taught the audience a lot about these inspiring figures!

Mrs. Keough and Mrs. Wood



May 2019

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1	2	3	4
			<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Grades 3-5 NYS Math Assessment: May 1 & 2 </div>			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		Public Hearing & Board of Education Meeting, 6 pm (CAE)				
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
 Mothers Day	Kindergarten Parent Orientation, 9:30 am	PTA Mtg., 9:15 am Second-Gr Musical, 7 pm		Band/Chorus Concert, 7 pm	Staff Appreciation Luncheon, 11-2 pm	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		Ice Cream Social, 6 pm School Board Meeting,, 7 pm		NO SCHOOL	NO SCHOOL	
						
26	27	28	29	30	31	
	NO SCHOOL					
			<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Grade 4 NYS Science Performance Test </div>			