

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

May 2024

## ARE Newsletter

### PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

Dear ARE Families,  
Happy May!

Our Book of the Season for May and June is *The Girl Who Never Made Mistakes: A Growth Mindset Books for Kids to Promote Self-Esteem* by Mark Pett and Gary Rubinstein. You can listen to the book here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3gAUhGmDAig>

Our IB Learner Profiles for May and June are: Reflective and Knowledgeable. Students will be learning about how these Learner Profiles apply to the book of the season and to the world. We had some fifth-grade student council members perform skits about each hive topic at our assembly this past month.

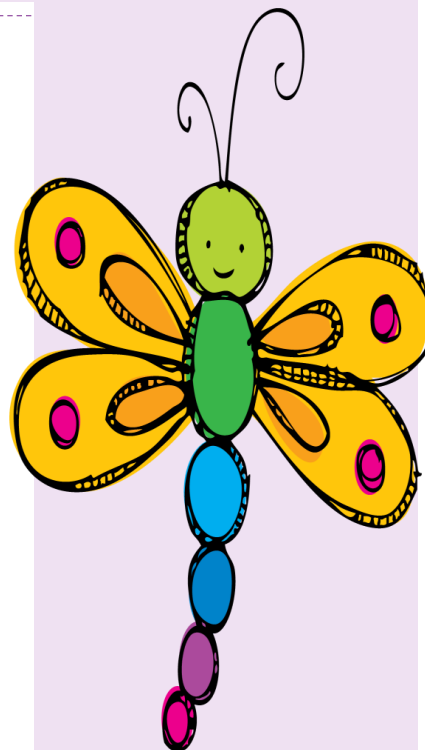
We are looking forward to seeing our ARE families on Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup> for our Open House.

ARE is celebrating Mental Health Awareness Day by participating in an activity day on Thursday, May 25<sup>th</sup>. Students in grades K-5 will participate in 6 different stations relating to mental health. Thank you to our PTA for supporting this day!

Finally, please see the message on the next page about student placement requests for next year. I have included a message that communicates the district's policy regarding requests for a particular class.

**Have a wonderful month of May and Happy Mother's Day!**

**Meghan Stenta**  
Principal



#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From the Principal.....	2
Counseling Corner.....	3
Lockheed Martin.....	4
Band.....	5
Talent Show.....	5
1st Grade.....	6
3rd Grade.....	7
Open House.....	8
PTA.....	9
Math Club.....	10
Book Fair.....	11
May Calendar.....	12
June Calendar.....	13

Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow  
We ARE African Road Elementary



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

### Elementary Student Placement for 2023-24

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 2023-2024 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 25, 2023**. Written information will be reviewed and shared with relevant staff members during the placement process.

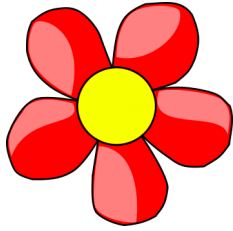
Classroom assignments will be mailed home in mid-August. Please understand that factors such as an enrollment shift in the summer or staff changes could result in a change in your child's class assignment prior to the opening of school.

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.

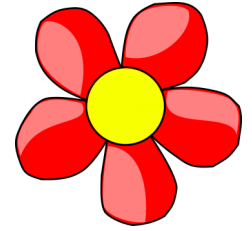
Sincerely,

Meghan Stenta

ARE Principal



Mrs. Pittari's  
COUNSELING CORNER



CLASSROOM LESSONS:

**For K-2 :** Second Step lessons are still being taught weekly in all these classrooms. We are now finishing up Unit 4 which is Problem Solving! We have moved right along this year and the last unit will take us up until sometime in May, where I will be talking about Mental Health!

**ALL GRADES:** At the end of April, and beginning of May, I am in the classrooms teaching about personal safety and abuse prevention skills. The lessons are developmentally appropriate per grade level and the topics include stranger-danger, how to say “no”, and how to keep their body safe. These lessons will take place in one 45-minute lesson. As school counselors, we are mandated by New York State Commissioner’s Regulations to provide this instruction as per Erin’s Law. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

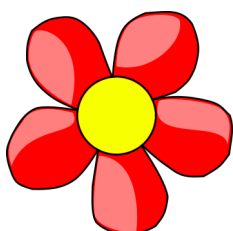
MAY 30TH IS OUR MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY!

Students will rotate through different stations where they will learn about different ways to help improve their mental health! It’s a great way to learn that our mental health is just as important, if not more, than our physical health! Plenty of fun activities planned such as yoga and a nature walk!



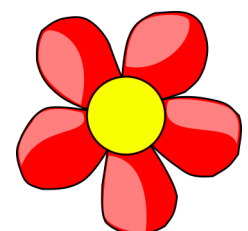
FOR 5TH GRADE FAMILIES AND STUDENTS:

I can’t believe we are already talking about the end of the year! It’s time to prepare them for their next big adventure: the middle school! Coming up in May and June, I will be doing lunch bunches with 5th graders about what a middle school day looks like, learning how to read a schedule, what they looking forward to most and doing a middle school tour. I will also be introducing locks, and how to unlock their lockers! Lockers are a big deal for incoming 6th graders! If you have one laying around let them practice! Lots of exciting things coming our 5th graders’ way!



Have a wonderful May!

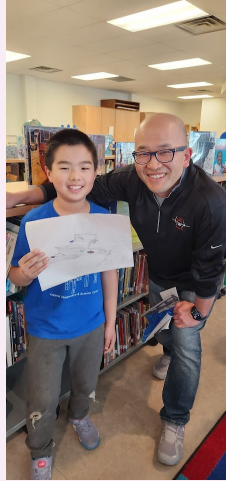
Mrs. Pittari





# LOCKHEED MARTIN

On Friday, April 26, Lockheed Martin joined African Road Elementary's 3rd, 4th & 5th graders for a Lego WeDo event. Lockheed engineer's helped students use LEGO bricks and software to learn how to program and code a robot.



## BAND / CHORUS

### 5th Grade Band Important Concert Information



**What:** This concert will include the ARE 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Band and ARE 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus

**When:** Thursday, May 9, 2024, at 5:30 PM - \*Please note that this is different than the time on the district calendar. Mrs. Stenta asked that we move the concert to 5:30 PM.\*

- Band students must be at Vestal Middle School, in the band room (139) by 5:00 PM
- This concert is prior to the ARE Open House.

**Where:** Vestal Middle School Auditorium

**Dress:** Please wear something that you would wear for a dressy occasion.

We look forward to seeing you there!

If you have any questions, please email Denise Lacey-Corcoran at [dmcorcoran@vestal.k12.ny.us](mailto:dmcorcoran@vestal.k12.ny.us)

## TALENT SHOW

# A.R.E. Talent Show

The A.R.E. Talent Show will be happening on **Friday, May 17, 2024 at 6:30 pm**. Second through fifth Grade students will be able to audition on **Friday, May 10, 2023** after school approximately 3:20-5:30 pm. Please be prepared to pick up students following their auditions. Please provide a note for students staying after school for the auditions, stating that they will be picked up (not taking the bus or walking home).

Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> Grade students are welcome to perform in a group dance with their grade. The dance will be worked on in their General Music Classes. We are looking forward to showcasing their many talents!

Mrs. Graham



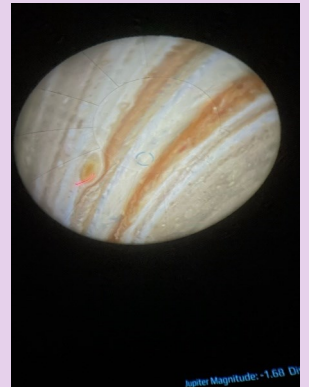


# 1ST GRADE

In April, the first graders from A.R.E. visited Kopernik Observatory to explore light. This visit was an extension of our classroom learning about light and sound. We visited 3 stations where students explored light and shadows and had the opportunity to create their own shadows using lego towers. Students used their creativity to turn tracings of their shadows into anything they could imagine. We investigated with mirrors and light beams, redirecting and bouncing light off of objects. Lastly, we explored an indoor planetarium and learned more about the stars, constellations and even got a quick look at their telescope that they use to look at the sun. A big thanks to Kopernik for an informative and fun way to learn all about light.



Mrs. Dilmore, Ms. Ferraccioli & Mrs. Leicht





## 3RD GRADE



Student's in Mrs. Bogart's class headed outside on Earth Day for a wood's clean up.

Here are some facts about Earth Day:

**1. Around 27,000 trees are cut down each day**

The world has over 3.04 trillion trees in the world. However, 27,000 of them are cut down daily to make toilet paper. This translates to about 9.8 million trees annually. One single recycled edition of the New York Times newspaper could save 75,000 tree

**2. Humans use only 1% of all available water**

About 71% of the earth is water. The oceans hold approximately 96.5% of this water and the ice caps hold about 2%. The remaining water exists in rivers, ponds, glaciers, ice caps, lakes, as water vapor and our taps, among other water bodies. Only 1% of the earth's water is safe for human consumption.

**3. 78% of marine mammals are at risk of choking on plastic**

Seventy-eight percent of marine mammals are at risk of accidental deaths, such as getting caught in fishing nets. Plastic bags and other plastic garbage that ends up in the ocean kill over 1,000,000 sea animals every year.

**4. Americans throw away 25 trillion Styrofoam cups every year**

Styrofoam is not biodegradable. Switching to single use options will help cut down on Styrofoam pollution.

Mrs. Bogart



# African Road Elementary

# OPEN HOUSE



**Thursday, May 9, 2024**

**5:30-6:00 pm**      **4th & 5th Grade Chorus**  
**5th Grade Band**  
**Concert in Auditorium**

**6:00-7:00 pm**      **Classroom Visits**  
**\*maps will be provided in**  
**the front entrance**

**7:00-7:30 pm**      **Book Fair Auditorium Lobby**





### Officers

Emily Dabek, President  
Carrie Greenstrom, Vice President  
Christine Petras, Treasurer  
Lucia Esposito, Secretary  
[AfricanRoadPTA@gmail.com](mailto:AfricanRoadPTA@gmail.com)  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/arepta>



JOIN



LEARN



VOLUNTEER

Do you know what the ARE PTA does?  
Do you have an idea for an event? We want to hear from you! Please take a few minutes complete a short survey to help us plan for the future:

[bit.ly/PTAtellus](https://bit.ly/PTAtellus)

### Congratulations PTA Reflections Winners!

ARE students had the opportunity to participate in the PTA Reflections program for the first time this year. The following students were named as winners in the Southeastern Region of the NYS PTA:

- Myra Upreti - Literature**
- Noelle Gonsalves - Visual Arts**

Both students advanced to the state-level competition, where Maya received an Award of Merit for her writing. We are so proud of our students' accomplishments!

The ARE PTA recently sponsored the activities below. THANK YOU to all who volunteered their time or supported financially through a membership or participation in a fundraiser.

- Math Club**
- Science Fair & Glow Art Show**
- Lego Club & Cornell Expo**
- Cubs Night Out**

### Secretary Needed!

Lucia has done a wonderful job serving the ARE PTA as Secretary for the past two years, and we are grateful for all she has done! We are looking for someone to fill this role for the upcoming school year as her term ends. This is a great position to get your feet wet as you learn about PTA and also to meet new people. Please contact us at [AfricanRoadPTA@gmail.com](mailto:AfricanRoadPTA@gmail.com) to learn more!



### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- May 6-10 - Scholastic Book Fair
- Thursday 5/9 - ARE Staff Appreciation Lunch
- Tuesday 6/4 - PTA Meeting & Election 6:30
- Friday 6/14 - Rumble Ponies ARE Family Night 7:05





# BOOK FAIR



Dear Families:

Get ready! The Scholastic Book Fair is coming our way (YAY!). Choosing their own books empowers kids and inspires them on their journey to becoming lifelong readers. AND—as always—every purchase at the Fair benefits our school.

Here's what you need to know about the big event, which will take place:

**Monday, May 6- Friday May 10**

**ARE Auditorium Lobby**

Say goodbye to cash and hello to **eWallet**—your child's digital payment account. Before the Fair, set up eWallet for worry-free, cash-free purchases. Anyone can contribute! Share each child's eWallet so friends and family can add funds and give your kids more books to enjoy.

If you can't make it to the Fair, then **shop at our school's Book Fair online**. All orders ship directly to your home, and shipping is free for book orders over \$25. Every online purchase will also benefit our school.

Visit our Book Fair homepage to learn more and get started with eWallet and online shopping:

**<https://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bf/africanroadelementaryschool1>**

The countdown to more Bookjoy is on! Catch you at the Fair!

<https://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bf/africanroadelementaryschool1>

Happy reading,

**Mrs. Stenta**

Principal

**African Road Elementary**

# May 2024

Sun

Mon



Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 Grades 3- 5 NYS MATH	8	9 Band/Chorus Concert 5:30 pm Open House 6 pm Book Fair 7 pm	10 Talent Show Auditions 3:30 - 5:30 pm	11
12 	13	14 Grade 5— NYS Science Test Board of Education 6 pm	15	16	17 Talent Show 6:30 pm	18
19	20	21	22 Grade 2 Musical 6:30 pm	23	24 NO SCHOOL	25
26	27 NO SCHOOL 	28 Board of Education 6 pm	29	30 Mental Health Awareness Day	31	



# June 2024

Sun

Mon



Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 Board of Education 6 pm	12 Orchestra Concert 7 pm	13 	14 Flag Day Ceremony 9:30 	15
16 	17 5th grade Graduation 9:30 	18 	19 	20	21	22
23	24	25 Board of Education 6 pm	26	27	28	29
30						