



Friday Letter

April 11, 2008

Dear Members of the ACCS Community,

Next week is our spring break and our staff will be taking a much needed break. I hope that each of you has time to do something outside in the beautiful spring weather. The week that we return is a busy week preparing for our spring Show of Works. This event is scheduled for Thursday, April 24 at 6pm. Please come and show support for your children and their teachers. You will be receiving an invitation in the mail.

As I was walking through the school yesterday I noticed new work hanging in the hallways. Thank you to



all of the teachers who regularly celebrate their students' work by sharing it with the school community. Ms. Kathie's class is proudly displaying their persuasive essays. The fourth graders are learning that

'Persuasion' is all around them. They looked at advertisements, newspapers, magazine ads, and billboards. The students learned different

strategies that people use when trying to persuade. Equipped with these strategies the fourth graders set out on the task to persuade Ms. Kathie and their fellow students to come to their birthday party. The students had to use persuasive strategies to convince everyone that their party was the best. Students teamed up and wrote persuasive essays which were presented to the class. The class then voted on the



most persuasive essay. Congratulations Erica Gourrier-Rhymes and Jayda Jones for your very convincing essay. You take the cake!! Literally .

Birthday Party Essay

By Erica Gourrier-Rhymes and Jayda Jones

Our super sweet 12th Birthday Party is going to be the party of the century! When you come to our party you are going to be pampered like you have never been pampered before.

Each guest will have a relaxing massage. A professional will give you a manicure and a pedicure. A stylist will give you a whole new wardrobe. The boys can relax by taking a hot steaming Jacuzzi.

Wait until you see our terrific grand entrance. We are going to be riding on two amazing elephants. Our handsome host will be Soulja Boy. We will have fireworks shooting out our names.

We will have magnificent goodie baskets. Everyone will get free CD's with the singers autograph on it. We will have a feast of anything you please. There will be all kinds of soda. There will be wonderful candy watches with your picture on the face. The cake will be double stacked so you can have thirds.

There will be wonderful certificates for free bowling for one night only. We will have splendid music performed by Lil Wayne. You can trust us. We will give you V.I.P. passes to go backstage to see the singers. There will be an awesome singer named Kiesha Cole. There will be an excellent performance by Lil Mama, Chris Brown and T-Pain. Then we will have a battle performance.

Don't miss this party! It will be the party of the century!

Ms Kirsten's class just finished writing Greek Myths in her class and masks of Greek gods in their

art class. As part of the 6th graders' study of ancient civilizations, they have recently been learning about ancient Greece. While exploring elements of Greece's history in Social Studies, they have also been exploring aspects of ancient Greek culture in writer's workshop and art. In writer's

workshop students created a character and modeled their writing after the ancient Greek myths that they had been reading and discussing in class.

As part of their myth writing, students worked with partners to co-



author a myth in which there was a problem between their gods that had to be solved.

In art with Miss Molly students created masks to represent the mytho-



logical characters which they created.

Have a restful week off. See you on Monday, April 21.

Mary Theresa

Mary Theresa Streck, Principal

News & Plans from Ms. Augustine's Creative Movement Class...

Get ready for our Spring Performance on Thursday April 24 at 6pm! Miss Hope's class will be performing – "Lollipop"; Miss Jolene's class – "5 Little Monkey's"; Miss Tara's class – "Itsy Bitsy Spider"; Ms. Flores' class – "Surfin' USA"; Mrs. Nguyen's class – "Cupid Shuffle"; Miss Shelley – "I Heard It Through the Grapevine". Integrated Arts Block 1 from the 1st semester will perform 3 song/dance selections of classic Michael Jackson songs and Block 2 will perform 2 songs by the Jackson 5. Second semester Block 1 will be performing "1 2 Step" by Missy Elliot and Ciara and Block 2 "Catch Me If You Can". 3rd grade will sing "Waiting on the World to Change". There will be 2 special performances one by Miss Shelley's girls who choreographed a dance themselves and the other by Miss Elvia and the after school Latin Dance Program. Miss Hope's class made their own lollipops in art class with Miss Helen. They experimented with drip dyes using eye droppers and watching the primary colors mix into secondary colors secondary colors.



Our fabulous PATT committee has been able to secure ACCS a spot in the Flag Day parade Sunday June 8th. So after we finish with our spring performance we will begin work on dance choreography for the parade. We hope that all students grades 2-6 will walk/dance in the parade behind our float, and grades K-1 will sit on the float waving and singing our school community songs. **We will need parents support to make this vision a reality. Please contact Miss Augustine at 274-6312 or akemp@arkcharter.org if you are able to help in anyway. We will need support to create and build the float, chaperone students on the float, chaperone students who will be performing, and ensure that your children participate by bringing them to this event. It would be amazing if we were able to come out in numbers the day of the parade to show ourselves to this community.**

Maude Baum from *eba Creative Learning* in Albany, NY will be collaborating with Miss Augustine, Miss Jacqui, Miss Helen, Miss Molly and Ms. Klem to integrate art, music and movement in the 3rd grade social studies curriculum. *eba* is well known and recognized as partners in creative education and has worked with the Ark for about 20 years. You can check out their web site at www.eba-arts.org and find out all about them and their work. Eileen Rea, ACCS Curriculum Coordinator, is on *eba*'s Board of Directors. This opportunity has been funded by a grant from the New York Council on the Arts (NYSCA). We will use this year as a planning year and next year we will implement the program. In the picture you see Ms. Baum doing a workshop with the 3rd grade, introducing this new curriculum to them.



The 4-6th Graders performed at NYSSMA to celebrate music schools month on March 28th. Integrated Arts Block performed a total of 7 dance numbers as well as 1 chorus number. They were wonderful. They exceeded Miss Jacqui's and Miss Augustine's expectations. A very special thank you to all who helped make that performance a success. Special thanks to Mr. Steve and Mr. Walon who transported and set up our musical equipment, Mrs. Wojtowicz for videotaping the performance and Ms. Petra for the photos.

April 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
13	14	15 NO SCHOOL — SPRING BREAK	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 Grade 6 visit to Doyle Middle School 6pm Spring Performance	25	26
27	28	29 Grade 4 NYS Science Test	30	May 1	2	3
		Terra Nova Testing Grades K-3				
		Grades 5 & 6 Camp Chingachgook Trip				
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		Terra Nova Testing Grades 4-6				

Buddy Reading in Ms. Delkis' 1st Grade

In our school, students have assigned reading partners in 4th grade with whom they share a common interest in literature. Buddy Reading is held each week for 30 minutes in the classrooms.



The older buddy help the younger buddy read and discuss books that will help them reach the 1000 book benchmark by the time they graduate from the Ark Community Charter School. Reading Partnerships in Room 19 is an experience that takes place over time.



Each pair has been together since the beginning of the school year. The 4th and 1st graders meet every Fridays to read shared books together. Each week the first graders look forward to reading new books with their buddy reader.



NOMINATING BALLOT for ACCS PARENT REPRESENTATIVE

I nominate _____
to be the Parent Representative to the Ark Board of Trustees for the 2008-09 school year.

Date: _____ Parent Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____