

Monday's Letter
March 15, 2010

Ark Community Charter School

Dear Members of the ACCS Community,

On April 1st we will hold our student selection lottery for the next school year. Please contact the school as soon as possible and before April 1st to submit an admissions application for new students. Would you please help us to fill our kindergartens for next year? Tell your friends and family members about our school and encourage them to fill out an application. We are an amazing learning community and we need your help to get the word out there. Please let us know if you would like admission flyers for your friends and relatives. We have them in the office and would be happy to give them to you.

On Friday, March 19, there is no school for our students so that our faculty can gather for professional development. This year our faculty decided to focus their learning on our writing process. They strengthened our writing standards (rubrics) and aligned them from kindergarten to sixth grade. I am delighted at the high quality writing products coming from our students. I know that the final product is a result of a great deal of hard work: teacher planning, teacher and student high expectations, and student effort. You can see samples of student writing on our school's website. Visit the individual classroom links and see our good work: <http://www.arkcharter.org/kidsstuff.html>.

Mary Theresa

Personal Narratives

Mrs. Wojtowicz's 6th grade class works very hard in writers workshop every Tuesday and Thursday. The students recently focused on expanding their previous knowledge of how to write a personal narrative. Prior to writing their personal narratives, the students used a brainstorming chart to help select an interesting topic. The students were also taught how to use a sensory chart. The sensory chart assisted the students in describing their personal event or experience. The main objectives of the personal narrative pieces was to express a "Voice" that uses words that sound natural. "Voice" allows the audience to stay engaged and grasp an idea of the writer's personality. The other objective was to demonstrate the sequence of the main events in chronological order. Many students met those objectives. Please read some of the wonderful personal narratives written by the 6th graders. Only some are being featured in this newsletter. For more personal narrative pieces, please visit our school website and click on the link **kid's stuff**.



Looney Toons By: Akwe

Have you ever been to Disney World? I have and my experience there was fun. At the time I was about five years old. I went with my cousins, brothers, and sister. I had a great time especially when I went on stage with Looney Toons.

When I first arrived I heard the music they played. The music to me was boring. It was very noisy there. I saw that they had a lot of different rides, such as the Teapot, Splash Mountain, Small World, Ferris Wheel, Dumbo, Thunder Mountain, Mr. Toad's Wild Ride and a lot of others. I smelled the fried foods they were making such as the cheese burgers, fries, fried dough, popcorn and so much more. When I got hungry we ate cheese burgers and fries. We drank fruit punch, while the grown ups and older kids drank soda. There was so much food I can not even say them all.

Later in the day my cousin asked us where we wanted to go next. The younger kids, including me, said we wanted to go to see the Looney Toons show. The older ones went somewhere else with my other cousins. We went over to the Looney Toons show and sat down. Then the characters came down and started to pull kids up on the stage.

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Tweety Bird came and took me on the stage. They wanted us to dance but I was too shy, so I just stood there. Tweety Bird was moving my body trying to get me to dance, but I was still not moving. Then they took us back to our seats and my cousin said she was taking pictures of me.

Afterwards we took pictures with the characters. They gave us lollipops with the Looney Toons on them. My cousins were laughing at me because they thought it was funny that I was just standing there. My cousins were annoying me because there was nothing funny about it. They were probably just jealous because they did not get to go on stage. I am just special that's why I got to go on stage. My first experience on stage I was very nervous. Now, when I get on stage I do my thing. At the Looney Toons show I would not move at all. Now I am the center of attention. Who would have thought when I was a shy five year old that I would love dancing on stage today?

Making Lanyards By: James

Do you like lanyards? Lanyards are really cool, but at first they are hard to do. Once you practice it gets super easy and you can just do it. Learning how to do lanyards now can be a "must" thing to do. I am glad to know how to do lanyards. The learning experience helped me know that if I put my mind to something I can accomplish anything.

When I walked in to the lunchroom one year ago, there I saw a crowd of people and I just had to be nosy. I went to go see what they were doing. I watched Erica and La'Miya teaching people how to do lanyards. Erica was saying that the string could be twisted or done regularly. Then I thought to myself: "That looks like more fun than watching TV."

All of the kids were fighting over the string. I just stood there and waited for them to stop yelling. Then I went to go get my own string and I started to make my own lanyard. I made a couple of mistakes on my first one, but after a while I got the hang of it. Then lunchtime was over and we had to go back upstairs. This experience changed me because it helped me know that if I put my mind to something I can accomplish anything. Now using lanyard is my favorite thing to do. I even taught Daniel how to make one!

My Trip to Myrtle Beach By: Randy

My favorite trip was when I went to Myrtle Beach. When I first found out that I was going to Myrtle Beach I was angry because I wanted to stay with my dad, but I couldn't so I went. I moped and groaned.

When I was in the car on my way to South Carolina my sister and I watched Halloween. I fell asleep for hours. When I woke up I saw horses on a farm. We saw wild dogs. Soon after that we stopped at Bojangles. I think they have the best fries in the world. Their fries have some seasoning on them, as does the chicken. Once you walk in it smells like freshly fried herbs. It was one of the cleanest restaurants I've ever been to.

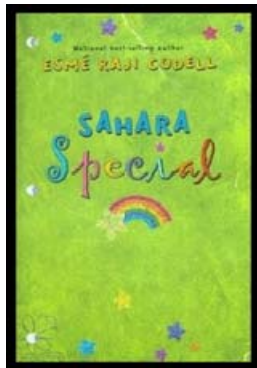
When we finally got there we stayed at this hotel with one "kiddie" pool, one 3-8 feet deep pool, and with one Jacuzzi. The first thing I did was take off my clothes and get in the pool. Then I went in the Jacuzzi. Next, I went in the kiddie pool and played with my little cousins. I dove in the 3-8 feet deep pool. I never wanted to leave the pool.

It changed me because now I love going down south. Going was a wake-up call for me. I would never try to turn down going again.

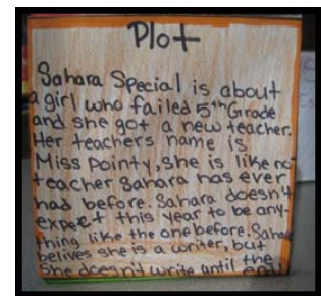
Sahara Special Book Reviews

Sahara Jones has been pulled out of class for sessions with the Special Needs teacher. It seems that Sahara's official school file is filled with her letters to her father, who had left the family, instead of her completed assignments. Sahara is a secretive writer; she fills her journal at home, then rips out the pages and stuffs them on the public library shelves behind the 940s for someone to discover someday. At her

mother's insistence, the girl is taken out of the Special Needs program but is forced to repeat fifth grade. Enter a new teacher, Madame Poitier, who encourages her class to do, to write, to be, as never before.

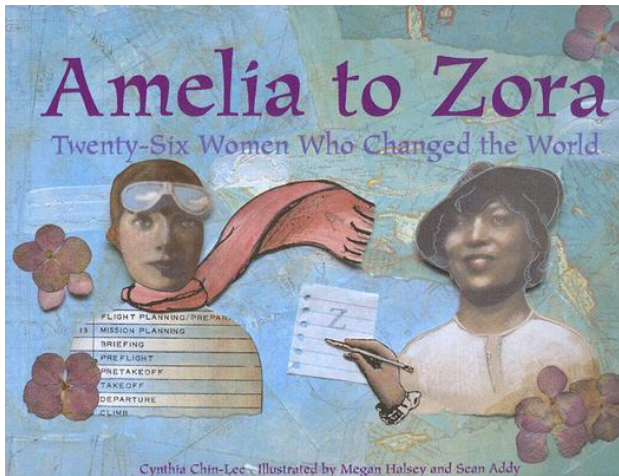


After reading the book *Sahara Special*, by Esme Raji Codell, the sixth graders completed three dimensional book reports called, "Book Cubes." Students were asked to decorate each side and include information such as a plot summary, characters, a scene from the book, and a review out of five stars.



Book of the Month

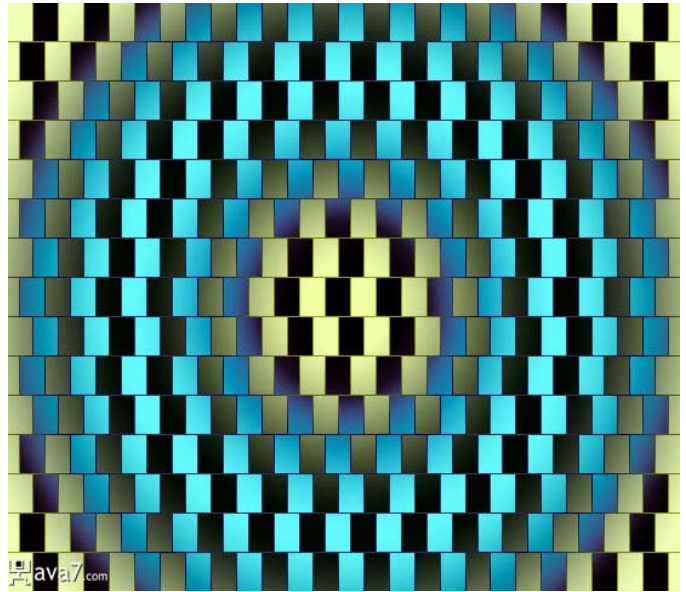
This month is women's month. Lets celebrate smart wonderful women with our school book of the Month:



Maaaad HOT Smart



- 1: Are the horizontal lines parallel?
- 2: Are the blue rectangles waving and moving from the center?



Bring your answer to Ms. Petra for a SMELLY BOOKMARK!



Sign up to give your Advantage Card Points to ACCS!

Our school number is 15879.

For this week, Ms. Kim is serving:

Monday: Hamburgers Tater Tots
Salad Fruit Milk

Tuesday: Ham and Cheese Sandwich
Soup Fruit Milk

Wednesday: Mac and Cheese Green Beans
Fruit Milk

Thursday: Chicken Enchiladas Beans
Fruit Milk

Friday: NO SCHOOL

What's Coming Up at ACCS?

Fri, 3/19		NO SCHOOL—Professional Development Day
Fri, 3/26	8:30am	All School Morning Meeting
Sat, 3/27	10-12pm	Open House for 2010-11 Lottery Get your Kindergarten's applications in now!
Fri, Apr 1		2010-11 BUS APPLICATIONS DUE
	3pm	2010-11 Lottery