

# Andes Central School Mountaineer News



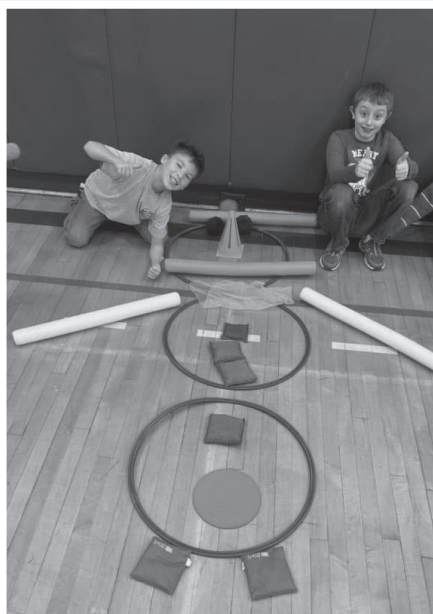
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Andes, New York 13731

## SNOW much fun. . .



## . . .and plenty of learning, too!





## Superintendent's Message

What a cold winter it has been! But as usual, there is much warmth and sunshine emanating from the school to keep us feeling light-hearted and cheerful, and that is one of the joys of working in a school like Andes.

It's hard to believe we are already halfway through our Ski Friday schedule! We've enjoyed quite a bit of snow this winter up at Plattekill Mountain, making it a particularly terrific ski and snowboard season. As in years past, our students gain skills and confidence out on the slopes and certainly learn a number of life skills that carry them well beyond their days here at ACS...patience, taking turns, sharing their skills, supporting their friends...all lessons that will serve them well throughout their lives. We are grateful to Mrs. Sharon Tucker, who organizes the program, as well as all the support from our teachers and ACS parents. It's a community endeavor and well worth the effort!

It's a pleasure to give you an update on our middle and high school tech programs. Mr. Towsley is in his second year here at ACS and is doing wonderful work with our students. Our 5/6th grade tech class has just completed modeling their 1/2" = 1'-0" Scale bedroom assignment. Their models were constructed of cardboard and miscellaneous materials to produce a miniature replica of a bedroom they designed. A couple students modeled some of their furniture in Sketchup and used the 3d printer to print their designs. Mr. Towsley would like to have these students help him finish up the DIY laser cutter project and run some tests! Our 7/8th grade tech classes just completed a "shop improvement" project where they chose an area of the shop that could be improved and devised a solution to the perceived problem. They are now in the planning phases of a personal woodworking project. The high school tech class is taking a break from building a full-scale trebuchet until the weather improves and is currently learning the fundamentals of electronics and microcontrollers using tinkercad. Mr. Towsley plans for the students to use their new skills to create a modular synthesizer. The woodworking classes have been working diligently on cigar boxes that will be converted into cigar box guitars. Students that are finished with theirs have been helping Mr. Towsley with little projects around the shop.

We are so pleased to have reinvigorated the tech program here at Andes Central School!

Our highly regarded teacher, Robin White, continues to offer some very engaging STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) opportunities. She currently works with our 4th, 5th and 6th grade students. Just this week, the 4th graders were testing to see if objects are an insulator or conductor. This was a lesson in the Electricity Unit on what a conductor and an insulator are. The students set up a simple series circuit, then unconnected part of it to test different items to see if they did or didn't conduct electricity. Items included: paper, rubber bands, aluminum foil, keys, nails, pom poms, felt, material, marbles, paper clips, copper wires, coins, magnets, crayons, metal brads, wooden blocks, unifix cubes, erasers, rocks, screws, metal

rings, hooks, popsicle sticks, plastic and wooden balls, faux fur, and corks. They also had the opportunity to test items around the classroom. First came the predictions, then the testing, then putting their conclusions together in a short paragraph. They were also working in small teams, which is an important 21st century skill! They are about ¾ done with their electricity unit at this point, so they know what makes electricity and also what a series and parallel circuit is, not to mention what static electricity is. They also used online simulations at <https://phet.colorado.edu/> (a really fun site if you want to check it out!) as part of a webquest the class completed. Their previous unit was Magnetism...the two really go together! Thank you, Mrs White, for inspiring our young students.

One of the fun things that happens in February for sports fans everywhere is the Super Bowl. This year, ACS had its own take on the game. We had our very own "Souper Bowl." Cans of soup were collected and placed in the appropriate team box for whatever team the donor was rooting for. At the time of press, the competition was still underway...Stay tuned for our pick for this year's winner! All cans of soup will be donated in support of our local food pantry.

I met with the South Kortright Athletic Director, Bob Van Valkenburgh, along with our own AD, Megan Shelton, last spring. I asked Bob about having some games scheduled at ACS. He let me know he would work on it, and that it was possible to schedule some modified level games. With the help of Megan and PE teacher Corra Nocella, we recently held two middle school basketball games, one for the boys team and one for the girls. It was terrific to have some games once again held on our own campus! We look forward to a few modified soccer games next season. It is a great feeling for our students to compete on their home turf.

The ACS National Honor Society is currently working on a fundraiser for the Malala fund. The fund is a not-for-profit organization started by Malala Yousafzai, Nobel Prize Laureate. As a child, Malala was shot and injured by the Taliban due to her advocacy for the right of all girls to have an education. Today, the fund invests in organizations in support of girls going to school and having opportunities to reach their full potential. Senior, Emma Robson, learned as a young girl about Malala. It inspired her to ask her classmates to help her fundraise for this very important cause. As a dedicated student who excels in academics, it is no surprise that Emma would care so deeply about the work of the fund and doing what she could to help girls everywhere learn and lead. We are proud of all our NHS students, advised by Ed McGee, for the fine work they do all year at ACS.

I hope you have enjoyed hearing about some of the things going on at Andes Central School highlighted in this newsletter. The snow falling and the quiet hush of the mountains and evergreens is what makes Andes beautiful this time of year. The setting for our school could not be more lovely. I hope too that you have enjoyed the winter landscape and season with your families.

Wishing you all the best as we look toward spring,

—Dr. Brigid Collins, Andes School Superintendent

# Classroom News

## EARLY LEARNING CENTER

Wow! Time is going quickly. I can't believe we are halfway through the year! We have been motoring through all kinds of fun units: Hibernation, Forest Animals, Holidays Around the World (always a favorite), Winter, Snowflakes, and just recently finishing up Polar Regions. With every new unit comes tons of exploration through our sensory bins. The winter and polar bins have been extra "cool". We have been building shelters for animals that live in the cold regions, using all kinds of STEM materials. It's so satisfying to watch the children explore the materials and explain how they will use them to achieve their desired results. We have mixed and measured ingredients to create fake snow that is cool to the touch. "Snow" much fun to play with! The students used little shovels and pails to make snow forts, and they used

small vehicles to "plow" roads for cars to get by. They were even able to make snowmen! We learned that snowflakes are actually clear, but, because they are faceted, some edges are raised. So, when the light shines on them and they pile on top of each other, this makes them appear white. Some other fun activities included painting with forks to create a polar bear, mixing ingredients for gingerbread scented playdough, and painting mittens using a crayon resist technique. I would have to say the most interesting to the students was a quick experiment we conducted on how penguins stay dry in the frigid waters of Antarctica.

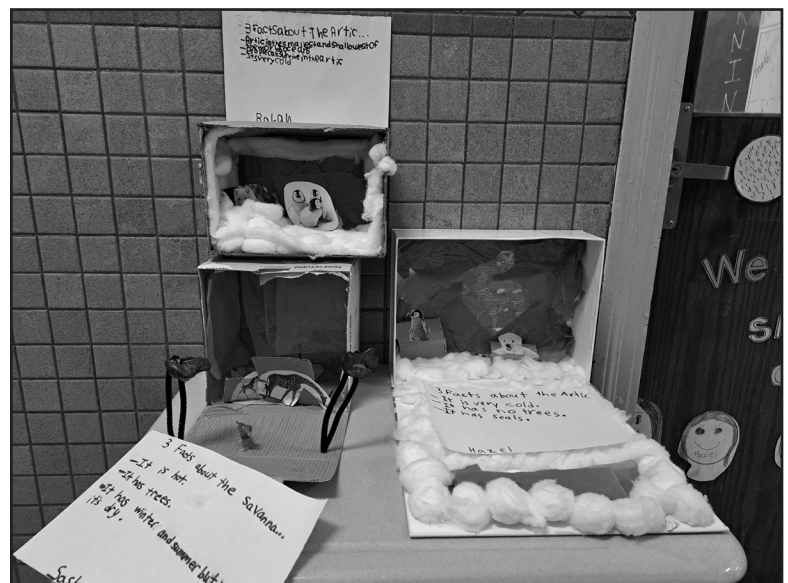
Of course we have been working on our math, literacy, and social skills all the while. When you have such interesting topics, it definitely makes learning fun!

—Mrs. Lisa Valkovich



## SECOND GRADE

Our second graders said farewell to Mrs. Mertz in December as she has decided to take some time away from teaching to be home with her children. We are excited to have Mrs. Megan Gray taking over the class and continuing the fun and learning. Students have been studying about America's founders in social studies and are beginning to learn about money in math. They just completed a unit on habitats in science by doing research on a selected habitat and creating a diorama to represent it. The latest module for ELA was about weather and how it affects us. They learned about seasons, bird migration, the water cycle, and extreme weather. Experimenting with a rain cloud in a jar will be an exciting way to wrap up this module. Until next time, stay warm!



### THIRD & FOURTH GRADE

WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA IN THE 3RD & 4TH GRADE CLASSROOM? In our classroom, we learn through the process of inquiry. This winter we have explored two 'big idea' questions, or inquiries, in our language arts and social studies classes.

"When we least expect it, life sets us a challenge to test our courage and willingness to change." That quote by Paulo Coelho is how we began one of our two big inquiry questions during the middle part of the school year. Our reading and language arts theme is Rise to the Occasion. We are exploring many genres to try to answer the question, "What does it take to meet a challenge?" It seems it can take a LOT! We read non-fiction about hurricane hunters and the science of hurricanes. Then, we explored historical fiction set in 1930s New Orleans, a story about a young boy organizing a 'jazz music party' in his neighborhood to raise money for his family's rent. Next, we went to ancient Greece and read a modern twist on the Greek story about Atalanta who tries to forge her own independent path in life. Finally, we explored a work of autobiographical fiction in the form of a diary written by a young Mexican girl who is immigrating to California. We also connect our own life experiences to what we're reading. For this unit, we discussed and wrote about how we--or people we know-- have had to rise to the occasion to meet a challenge.

Our second inquiry or 'big idea' question this winter is a continuation of our innovation theme. We went deep into research on the Industrial Revolution to identify key innovations, such as the steam engine, railroad, textile mill, and assembly line, and how they changed daily life. Our question is "How does innovation impact society?" We are answering that question by learning about children as young as the 4th graders who were working in textile mills, as well as the 'men who built America' and the trans-continental railroad. The students are so thoughtful--you might like to be a fly on the wall as they discuss positives (jobs! faster transportation of people and 'stuff'!) and negatives (kids working and sometimes getting hurt instead of going to school, or the pollution caused by factories and steam engines). We are looking forward to projects developing our own ideas and innovations this spring. In the meantime, we keep asking BIG and EXCELLENT questions!

—Mrs. Mary Pelletier



## MRS. WHITE'S CLASSES

In science class, we have been studying magnetism and electricity, always popular topics. Many hands-on investigations took place in class, including experiments on the strength of magnets, what magnets will stick to, what a circuit is, the difference between parallel and series circuits, what conductors and insulators are, and what makes electricity in general. Several scavenger hunts rounded things out, not to mention some very interesting videos. Our young scientists were very busy this quarter! In addition, the 5th grade class created cool quiz boards about electricity, a fun project for all. The winners of our latest STEM Challenge (how long can you keep a marble in motion on a handmade roller coaster?) included Saul and Xzavier for first place, Christopher and Thalia for second place, and Jase and Lillian for third place. Well done, young scientists!

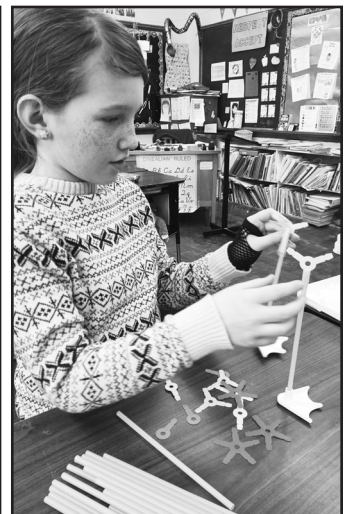
Sixth grade math topics have covered percent, decimals, operations with fractions, and unit rate. The class is now learning about algebra, a very challenging topic for them, but they are working hard and will be ready for 7th grade math in no time. The class is still practicing their math skills on

the First in Math website, and we should get information about the qualifying assessment soon for the statewide competition. This would determine who can travel to Albany in the spring in order to compete against other schools across New York State. I have high hopes for our 4th-6th graders!

The fifth graders are continuing to work hard in Language Arts class and are enjoying books such as *The Egypt Game*, *Riding Freedom*, and *Magic Tree House: Christmas in Camelot*. During January and February, we have been practicing various writing skills including how to write a more interesting story, as well as including good dialog and sensory descriptions. We are also continuing to refine many literary skills and spelling rules, while reviewing how to write a proper paragraph and essay. The class recently completed their friendly letters to the Delaware Historical society, and we are looking forward to hearing back from them about what life was like for kids in Delaware County in the 1850s. The new Into Reading program continues to provide an interesting and challenging curriculum for our students in grades K-6.

Stay well all, and have a wonderful spring break!

—Mrs. Robin White





MRS. BACON'S BITS

How can a journey be more important than the destination? That's the Essential Question that the 6th graders explored in Module 4. But, first, they finished up writing their own Hero's Journey stories. What creative and fun stories they turned out to be! In this new module, we sailed across an ocean through an excerpt from *The Wanderer* by Sharon Creech, followed Sacajawea on a grand expedition through the wilderness, and took a midnight ride with Paul Revere. For homework, we read *Savvy*, a whimsical adventure about a 13-year old girl named Mibs who goes on an unexpected trip of self-discovery. As we journeyed through each of our texts, we discussed what the characters learned about themselves and their world...proving that the journey can be more important than the destination. Of course, we are always learning great new vocabulary (using context clues to figure out words we don't know), practicing our grammar skills, and improving our reading comprehension skills. As a wrap-up to our *Designing the Future* module, students wrote argumentative essays making a case for the invention or innovation they could not live without.

Before Christmas break, my 7/8 English students explored the pros and cons of a controlled society through their reading of *The Giver*. They then wrote an argumentative essay about whether having a "perfect" society- free from sickness, poverty, and war - would be worth losing their freedom of choice, individuality, and feelings. There were some great debates and good arguments for both sides. After Christmas, we moved on to our new unit on *Working Conditions* where we will be

exploring what working conditions are, why they matter, and how they affect workers. We kicked off our unit by taking an in-depth look at a speech by Cesar Chavez that argued that the United Farm Workers union was the driving force in improving the lives of the farm workers and empowering the Latino community. The students determined the central ideas of the text, considered how Chavez developed these ideas, examined the text to see how each section supported the claim, and analyzed the rhetorical strategies he used in his speech. We also began to look at how consumers, workers, government, and businesses affect working conditions and can be agents of change. This will continue to be a focus of our study as we read the historical fiction novel, *Lyddie*, about a young girl who worked in the Lowell Mills during the Industrial Revolution. This is a more complex text, and we will be doing close reads in class that will allow students to collaborate in text-based discussions and analyze specific passages. They will also be gathering evidence as they read in order to write a character analysis essay and an argumentative essay. Some of this will be challenging, but I know they are up for the challenge!

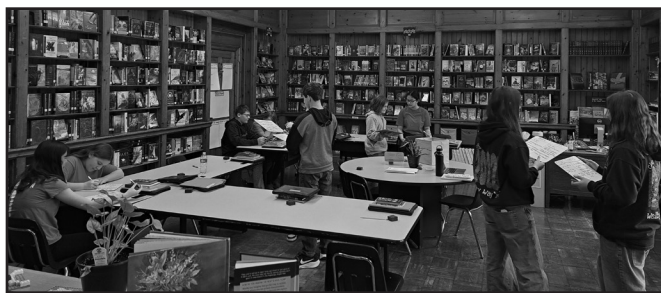
The Freshman Seminar class has continued to work through *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens*. Habit 3 taught us to Put First Things First. We talked about the difference between important and urgent things and looked at how we spend our time, identifying whether we are more of a Procrastinator, Yes Person, Time-waster, or Prioritizer...

and, of course, looking at strategies that will help us be more of a Prioritizer. Habit 4 moved us from the “Private Victory” half to the “Public Victory” half of the habits and taught us how to Think Win-Win. This means we can look at life as more cooperative rather than competitive and know that our success does not have to come at the expense of others. We will continue to look at habits that will help us build healthy relationships and be more effective.

The K-2 library groups kicked off December with one of my favorite wintry stories, *The Mitten* by Jan Brett. We learned some facts about this wonderful author/illustrator and enjoyed retelling the story with cutouts of the animals and the mitten. This was the first of a few Jan Brett books that we have enjoyed. Her illustrations are always a delight and her wintry themes were just right for December and January. It also meant being able to bring out my cuddly cute hedgehog puppet. Third and fourth graders have continued to learn how to navigate the online library catalog, learning the different parts of library records, what call numbers are, and how that corresponds to the book’s location in the library. They also had the opportunity to write book reviews to post on our library catalog. Fifth and sixth graders have worked on dictionary skills, finding resources using both the library catalog and databases, and learning about different fiction genres and what makes them unique.

No chance for winter blues here with all this learning and fun!

—Mrs. Grace Bacon



## SPANISH

Spanish students took part in the November Spirit Meet. The Spanish 1 class took part by talking about the history of chocolate. Then, for December, they were busy researching and working on a project on the Christmas traditions in Latin American countries. They also had a lot of fun making salt dough Christmas ornaments. During the December Spirit Meet, students took part and talked about the History of Poinsettias and afterwards they sang a Christmas song called “Esta Noche es Noche Buena” (Tonight is Christmas Eve). Students taking part did a wonderful job. After the Christmas break, they came back to school for the New Year with a lot of enthusiasm, and they talked about their “metas” (goals) for the New Year.

—Ms. Veronica Heesh



With 80% of our K-6 students (plus several 7th & 8th graders) regularly attending CROP, it is a busy place indeed. Besides our regular schedule of snack, homework help, recess time, and fun, enriching activities planned by our activity leaders, we have also had some special visits with our outside partners. Always something cool going on!

We had a couple of family involvement activities back in December that gave us a chance to not only fellowship with our CROP friends and families, but also give back to our community. First, we held our CROP Family Thanksgiving dinner on December 5th. Laurie Little and our cafeteria staff helped out by cooking the turkey for us, the 5-8 group (with the help of Mrs. Finkle) helped to prepare the stuffing and gravy, and families who attended brought the rest of the feast to share. Special thank yous to Jen Andersen, Megan Shelton, Dori Buerge, and Dennis Fickeria Sr. for lending the extra helping hands to make our dinner so delightful. Our younger groups made Thanksgiving themed placemats to decorate the tables, and we all enjoyed the delicious food and time together. A couple weeks later, our 5-8 group was cooking once again...this time to prepare meals to deliver to the senior citizens in our community. Our younger groups helped make the cards and string the snowflake ornaments (designed & created by our 5-8 group using the 3D printer) that were given with the meals. Delivering Christmas meals has been a long-standing tradition at ACS that always blesses both the givers and receivers. Thanks to the help of Laurie Little, the cafeteria staff, Jen Finkle, Megan Shelton, and all of the families who volunteered to deliver the meals, we were able to bless 70 wonderful seniors with our Christmas meals. We are proud of the hard work our CROP students put in to give back to their community, and we are very grateful to all who were willing to lend a helping hand to make this happen. We could not have done it without all of you!

Besides the prep and cooking that the students participated in for our two special dinners, groups participated in other holiday-themed activities for December. The K-2 group learned about the importance of celebrations and festivities in different cultures and looked at how December holidays are celebrated around the world. They also had some fun learning about snow and candy canes. Mrs. B, our K-2 activity leader, regularly plans SEL (social emotional learning) activities, teaching the group to set and work toward goals, take pride in their work, follow rules, and take turns. Our 3-4 group learned about binary code and created coding ornaments. They also, along with the 5-8 group, did some science experiments with candy canes and used their problem solving skills to solve a candy cane crime. The 5-8 group also spent a few days working on their personal FITT plan to work on their physical fitness, then a snowball icebreaker helped them work on their emotional health.

January brought some wintry themed activities to our younger groups, learning about snowflakes and snow. The 3-4 created some beautiful snowflakes to adorn our CROP bulletin board in the cafeteria to show that we are all unique...just like snowflakes. Each group also spent a couple of days on Lunar New Year activities. The K-2 group kicked off the new year with SEL activities dealing with positive affirmations, empathy, and uniqueness. They also did some fun activities to practice listening and communication skills, as well as patience and focus. LEGO and STEM activities were a hit with the 3-4 group, and they even got to make butter with Mrs. Andersen! Ms. Nocella, our 5-8 activity leader, had a variety of fun activities for January with paper airplane challenges, sign language activities, and learning about human anatomy through an escape room activity and creating their own moveable hand using paper, straws, and string. Lots of fun and plenty of learning!

It has been wonderful to continue our weekly public library visits with Miss Carol, weather and health permitting. The students have a great time walking up to the library, hearing stories, and doing fun activities. All of our groups have also enjoyed a couple of visits from Hanford Mills Museum, learning about happy little trees and having a STEM-a-palooza. Some families have chosen to participate in Cooperative Extension's Restaurant Recreations (made healthy) program. This is a free virtual culinary and nutrition series for families. We have 12 families (15 students) joining in the fun this year. They will participate in a total of eight sessions on Tuesday nights from January 7th through March 4th. Each week, the families receive the food for that week's recipe, along with a free cooking utensil. They sign into the virtual session with Amy from Cooperative Extension for a nutrition lesson and then everybody cooks a yummy meal together. So far, they have made Olive Garden's Pasta Fagioli, Taco Bell Power Bowls, McDonald's Snack Wraps, Baked Egg Rolls, and Four Cheese Mac & Cheese. We have some amazing little chefs in our group!

We would also like to give a special shout out to Mrs. Lisa Valkavich for all of the time and energy that she has put in as an activity leader at our CROP program. She has been an integral part of our program for several years. Due to other commitments, she has had to cut back to only one per week at CROP for the time being, and she will be sorely missed on the other days. Thank you, Mrs. Valkavich!



**BOARD GAMES & LEGOS WITH FRIENDS WHEN WE CAN'T GET OUTSIDE OR USE THE GYM**



**CELEBRATING OUR CROP THANKSGIVING DINNER**



**HANFORD MILLS**



## WORKING HARD TO PREPARE MEALS FOR OUR SENIOR CITIZENS!



## MUSIC MOMENTS

We wrapped up our Winter Concert in December and are gearing up for a fun Spring!

A select group of students will be participating in the All-County Festival on March 15. Congrats to Junior High Chorus participants **Darbey Mondore, Charlie Orio, Emily McGowan, Liem Sass, and Laney Mondore**; High School Jazz Choir participants **Faith Sass** and **Gabby Bene**; and Elementary Band members **Lindsey Kiley, Addy Moore, and Lucy Moore**! Also, in March, we will be holding our ACS Talent show followed by a Spring Concert in May.

In lower elementary, we have been exploring the instruments of the orchestra and will move on to learning about music from around the world. In upper elementary, the students have begun instrumental lessons and are learning about notation and creating their own music compositions. The High School Band is now in full swing and is working hard on music for our Spring Concert.

### SAVE THE DATES:

- Talent Show—March 26
- Spring Concert—May 15

Please come out and support our talented students!

—Mrs. Yasmin Reshamwala

## ACS ATHLETICS

The winter basketball season has been successful so far for our Andes Central School student athletes. At the varsity level, junior **Gabriellah Bene**, is in the middle of a successful season. The Andes/SK girls varsity basketball team is leading the Delaware League with a 13-1 overall record, and is currently undefeated in the league at 3-0.



This year, for the first time ever, ACS merged with SK for game day cheerleading at the Varsity level. Senior **Emma Robson**, cheered for the SK/Andes boys and girls JV and Varsity basketball teams!

We also have several students representing ACS at the modified level. On the boy's side, we have **Kingston Bottoms, Liem Sass, and Charlie Orio**. On the girl's side, we have **Darbey Mondore** and **Emily McGowan**. For the first time in eight years, ACS brought modified basketball games back to our home gym. The SK/Andes modified boys played Hunter-Tannersville in our ACS gym on January 27th and won 35-29 in a super close game. The SK/Andes modified girls played Roxbury/Gilboa-Conesville on February 3rd in our ACS gym, and suffered a heartbreaking 26-18 loss. It was wonderful to see the athletes, families, ACS staff and students, and community members in our beautiful gym again. Congratulations to our newest student athletes on their modified season.

Thank you to the coaches, parents, guardians, transportation staff, and teaching staff who support our student athletes in and out of the classroom. It is especially appreciated when you travel in the cold and snowy winter weather to support our athletes. We have several students participating in our upcoming spring sports season across the modified and Varsity levels. Please come out to support our Andes tennis team, and support our merged Andes/SK baseball/softball teams, along with the Andes/SK/Charlotte Valley track and field team!

—Mrs. Megan Shelton, Athletic Director



## ART SHOWCASE

Learning to enjoy the process of creating can be such an amazing part of each of our journeys. If you can embrace creativity, you can find a certain peace of mind, a certain way to tune out the negative, a certain way to find happiness within, but it only happens when we give ourselves permission to not expect perfection. If our art turns out to be amazing, celebrate that. If we had fun but the end product is so-so, celebrate the process and learn what you might do differently next time.

No matter what, enjoy the journey, enjoy creating just because. In this new year of 2025, may you create your own peace of mind, may happiness find its way into your soul, and may you be blessed with the strength you need to accomplish any goals that you have in mind. Peace and Love. . .

—Ms. Sharon Tucker



## PE/HEALTH

Health 10 has been learning about first aid and emergencies. First aid is the immediate care provided to an injured or ill person to preserve life and prevent the condition from worsening. It's essential to prioritize safety for both the rescuer and the victim. Understanding the basics of first aid, including how to address different types of injuries and emergencies, can make a significant difference in critical situations.

The students have learned about the chain of survival, burns, wounds, shock, dislocations, fractures, concussions, fainting, the Heimlich Maneuver, and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). Students learned how to properly assess and give CPR to adults, children, and infants and also what to do if you are trained and certified and what can be done if you are not trained and certified. Finally, students learned how to use an automated external defibrillator (AED).

—Ms. Corra Nocella



## Q2 Honor Roll

*Congratulations to all of the students who made the Honor Roll, High Honor Roll, and Superintendent List for the second quarter!*

### 5TH-8TH GRADE

#### SUPERINTENDENT'S HONORS

*Landon Colfer (7th)*

*Lindsey Kiley (6th)*

*Adelaine Moore (6th)*

*Charles Orio (7th)*

*Abel J. Weaver (8th)*

#### HIGH HONORS

*Lillian Achter-Mokay (5th)*

*Brielle Bottoms (8th)*

*Kingston Bottoms (8th)*

*Princess Lykah DePiero (7th)*

*Emily McGowan (7th)*

*Darbey Mondore (7th)*

*Lucinda Moore (6th)*

*Jase Weaver (5th)*

#### HONOR ROLL

*Ben Liddle (7th)*

*Joseph Maxim (7th)*

*Liem Sass (7th)*

*Kiara Weaver (7th)*

### 9TH - 12TH GRADE

#### SUPERINTENDENT'S HONORS

*Maxwell Foote (12th)*

*Matthew Liddle (9th)*

*June Petersen (11th)*

*Emma Robson (12th)*

#### HIGH HONORS

*Gabriellah Bene (11th)*

*Shane Edwards (12th)*

*Erysse Elliot (12th)*

*Christopher Gill (12th)*

*Mason Leal (10th)*

*Lilly Temple (11th)*

*Faith Sass (10th)*

#### HONOR ROLL

*Desmond Adorno (12th)*

*Isis Brannen (12th)*

*Tucker Gardner (10th)*

*Brandon Temming (10th)*

*Jacob Ventimiglia (10th)*

## Chillin' with Friends!

Several of our students and their families went to enjoy the Ice Harvest event at Hanford Mills on Saturday, January 25, and they were pleasantly surprised to find some of their ACS friends there. Looks like it was a super cool time!



## Skiing at Plattekill

The Andes Central School Ski/Snowboard Club is a flurry of fun and activity thanks to all the parents, teachers, and community members who put in their time to help make our program possible and successful. We have 84.5% of our student body, PreK-12th grade, participating in our ACS Ski Fridays at Plattekill Mountain Program! This was financially made possible by the generous matching grants from The O'Connor Foundation, The Livestock Foundation, The Andes Hotel, and parent contributions.

A special shout out to Jason Mondore and Adam DeLange for going out of their way to make this program a success. This shout out is also for all of our volunteers who come to help on the mountain. We couldn't do this without you! And, of course, to Plattekill Mountain for helping make our program run smoothly. Much thanks to all!

—Sharon Tucker & Belle Bourke, Ski Club Advisors



## Santa Claus Came to Town!

Thank you to the Andes Fire Department for allowing the Class of 2026 and Class of 2027 to host their Pancake Breakfast with Santa at the fire hall on December 14. We appreciate all of your help with the set up, cooking, and clean-up. You are all so amazing about giving back to our community.

A special thank you to Santa for coming out during such a busy time of the year to be with us! And thank you to all of the community members who came out to support our fundraiser.



*Thank You...*

A special thank you to the Andes Fire Department and all the community members who helped make our Christmas Angels program such a success.

Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

## What a Blessing!



Thank you to the Andes Presbyterian Church who generously donated \$1,000 to our ACS school library. With this money, Mrs. Bacon was able to purchase Bookbins to house the picture books in the library.

Because of their lower height and open bin shelving, these units make browsing for books more accessible and enjoyable for our youngest students, which works perfectly in our newly revamped library space.





# Protecting your **KIDS** on social media

Online social media services aren't new, but many of us are still learning how to use them without getting into trouble – especially children and teens. Use these tips to help your kids safely use any social media service from networking to image posting sites.

**NetSmartz® Workshop**

For more resources visit [NetSmartz.org](http://NetSmartz.org)

A program of the



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## Do you know...



### What they're posting?

Check comments and images for personal information, like phone numbers and addresses, as well as inappropriate and illegal content such as hateful or threatening speech and nudity. Delete anything you think is too much information.



### How they access social media?

Mobile devices, like cell phones and tablets, let children access social media apps away from adult supervision. Children may post content and even share their locations. Review app settings to help them keep information – like their location – private.



### Who they're talking to?

Your child's online contact lists and followers may include people you don't know, or even people your child only knows online. Even if you don't know the contact, make sure you know what images, messages, and other content they're sharing.



### What account settings they're using?

This is where you can control who has access to your child's information. Each social media service has a different setup, so take a look at each one your child uses. Always ask yourself – *what is on the profile and who can see it?*



### Who has access to their information?

Most social media services have ads and applications from 3rd parties, like games and fan pages. If children click on these or add them to their profiles, they are allowing access to their personal information. Have a discussion about what's OK to add and what's not.



### Where to report?

If anyone talks to your child about sex, shares or asks them to share sexual images, or is a victim of sexual exploitation, make a report to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children® at [www.CyberTipline.com](http://www.CyberTipline.com) or 1-800-THE-LOST®.

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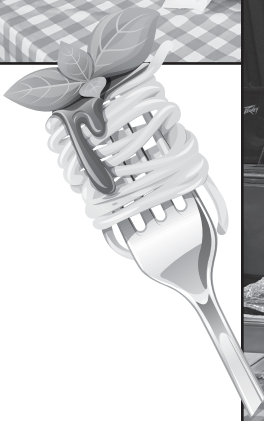
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## Mission Statement

Andes Central School is a small rural school district with a safe environment and a strong sense of community. The mission of the Andes school community, through a positive learning environment, is to produce self-sufficient citizens who are adaptable to changes in society and who possess the self-esteem, motivation and skills to continue individual growth and to ensure that all students meet or exceed high learning standards at the elementary, middle, and high school levels.

## Grazie from the Class of 2027!

The Class of 2027 held their second annual Italian Night Dinner fundraiser on Friday, January 24. Candlelight, Italian music, and plenty of delicious food made for a wonderful evening. We would like to thank ACS staff members who helped us set up and get ready, and parents who cooked and helped out at the fundraiser. And, of course, we would like to thank everyone who came out to support the class and join us for dinner. It was our pleasure to serve you. *Grazie!*



*Pasta*