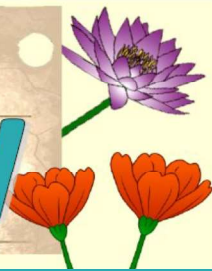




The ACE View



Volume VI, Issue 3

Michael Biondi, Principal

Spring, 2023



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Principal's Voice

Dear Allen Creek Families,
It's a hole in one for Allen Creek School! Congratulations on another successful school year. A shout out to our fifth grade graduating class; you will always be a part of the Allen Creek community. Thank you for your leadership, your voice, and always being your best self and doing your best work. Enjoy the View!

Michael Biondi
Principal



3rd Grade Project/Field Trip

-Susan Hondorf; PTSA

Third Grade students began a 3-year learning experience last week in their classrooms. Powers Farm Market generously donated their time and seeds to each student. They planted well over 100 squash seedlings, with help from Lisa Powers and delivered them to the farm. Each student was able to then plant their very own seedling at Powers, while Mrs. Dehm managed "The Beast" tractor.

In 4th grade, they will return to Powers to harvest their squash and prepare it to be sent to Food Link, the largest food pantry in Monroe County. Then in 5th grade, students will visit Food Link to see how Food Link collects and distributes food to families in need of assistance. This is a unique experience for our students. Thank you again to the Powers family!





Colonial Belle Field Trip

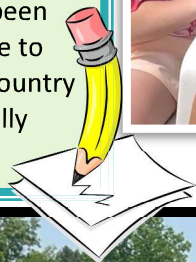
—Alyson Hallett; 4th Grade Teacher

The 4th graders were fortunate to have a beautiful, sunny day for their Erie Canal field trip in May. After studying the Erie Canal in social studies learning about the history of the canal, challenges building the canal, how the canal impacted New York's economy, and the railroad's impact on the canal, 4th graders took a ride on the Colonial Belle touring the towns of Fairport and Pittsford. They especially loved going through Lock 32 in Pittsford and seeing how the water level changes within the lock. Along the ride they learned more about the history of the canal and landmarks you can see while coasting down the canal.

4th Grade Pen Pals

—Alyson Hallett; 4th Grade Teacher

Miss Hallett's 4th grade class FINALLY got to meet their pen pals from Mendon Center after a long year of writing back and forth! The classes alternated writing monthly letters to each other this year sharing their current learnings, family traditions, in addition to their interests and hobbies. We have been planning for months to meet them face to face on our field trip to the Genesee Country Village and Museum. It was so fun finally being able to put a face to a name!



Meteorology in 3rd Grade

-Miss Hallett; 4th Grade Teacher

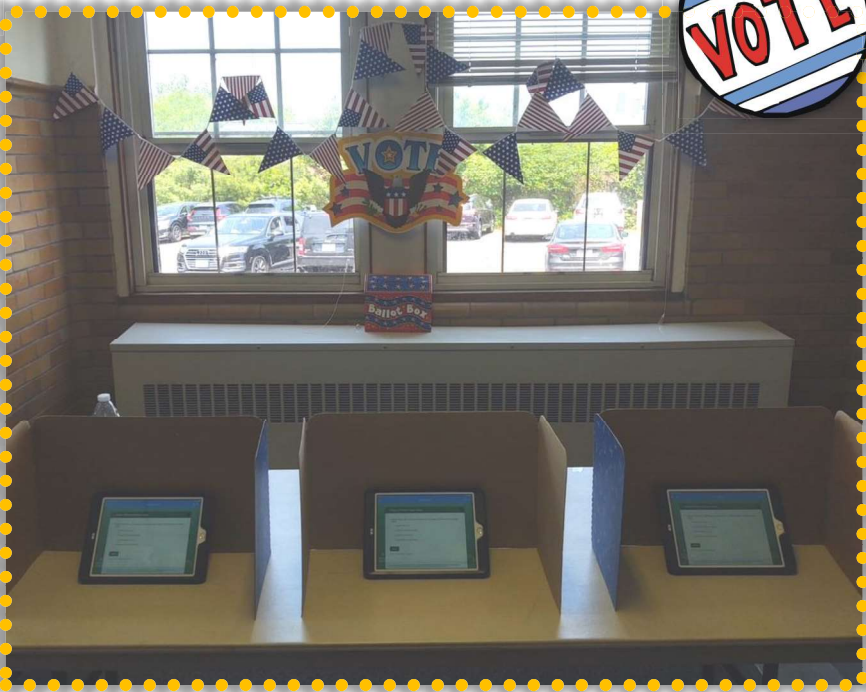
Third grade had a very special guest come to our classroom. Mr. James Gilbert, a meteorologist from Channel 8, taught us about weather forecasting. He shared that meteorologists use lots of math and science skills to do their job. He showed us how the news station produces the weather segments. And we got to see a class photo that he posted the following day on his weather report!



Second Grade Project Based Learning

-Mrs. Ferrara; 2nd Grade Teacher

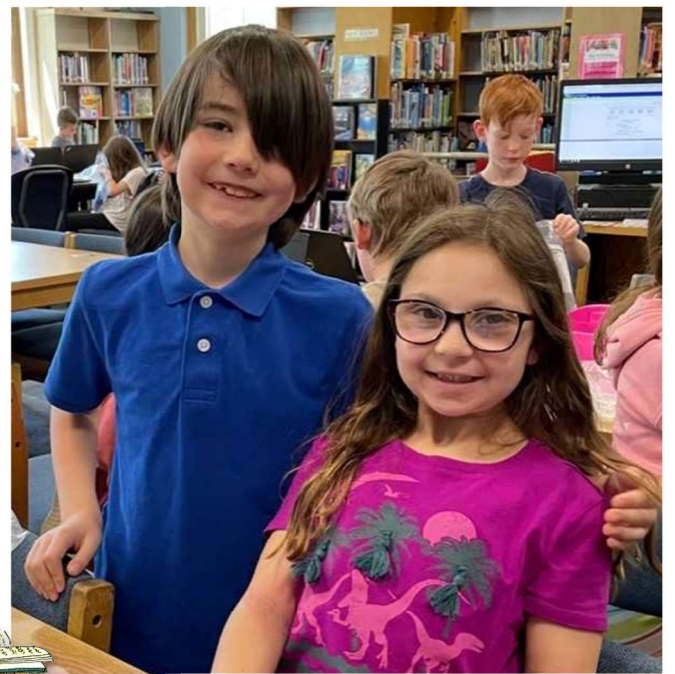
In May, Allen Creek second graders participated in a Project Based Learning (PBL) activity, connecting them with the Village of Pittsford. Pittsford mayor, Alysa Plummer, sent a video message specifically to Pittsford's second graders. She asked students to contribute their ideas towards generating an official Village of Pittsford slogan. Students became busy learning about and recognizing various commercial and town slogans. They worked with partners and then in small groups brainstorming short, positive, and catchy phrases that reminded them of their life in Pittsford. Slogans were then shared with the large group. The top students generated slogans will soon be presented to the second graders for a vote. The selected slogan will then be shared with Mayor Plummer for her to present to the town board. Keep your eyes and ears open in the community to find out the results of that town board presentation!



Library Research Projects

—Karen Wilson; library

One of the core components of our library curriculum is research. All grade levels have been putting the skills they've learned throughout the year into action with inquiry projects in the library. Kindergarteners have been learning about giant pandas, first graders are learning about an animal of their choice, second graders are researching pets, third graders are studying topics they have strong opinions about, fourth graders are researching a topic of their choice, and fifth graders are learning about national parks. Ask your child to tell you more about the research they've been doing in the library!





Therapy Dog

-Karen Wilson; library

Meet Neena, one of our ACE therapy dogs! Neena is an 11 year old golden retriever. Her wonderful owner, Joan Kaiser, has been volunteering her time to bring Neena in once a week. Our first graders have been having a great time reading to her in the library. Neena loves hearing the stories and spending time with the kids!





A Note from the Nurse

-Maria Hartman; School Nurse Teacher

Health Office Reminders:

Now that warmer weather is upon us, please remember the following helpful health tips:

1. Stay hydrated; please send your child to school with a water bottle every day
2. Apply sunblock prior to the school day
3. Where weather appropriate clothing and safe shoes for outdoor recess

Refer to the Tick Prevention Brochure that was sent via email (<https://www.health.ny.gov/publications/2813.pdf>)

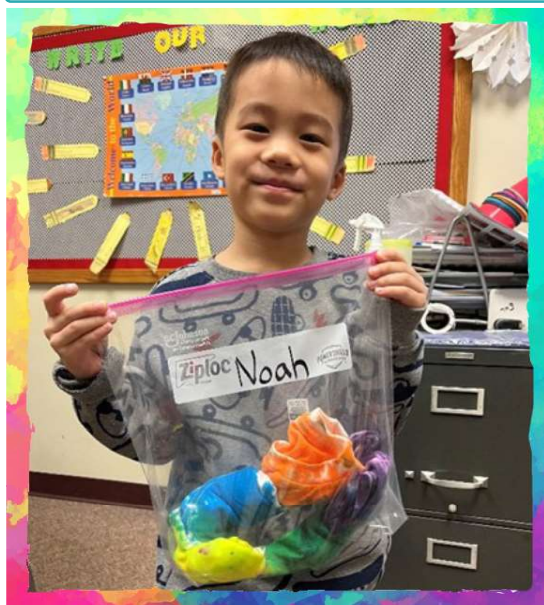
Enjoy the sunshine and stay active ☺



Happy Holi

-Emily Odhiambo; ENL Teacher

The English Language Learners celebrated the onset of spring with a special Holi experience. After reading and discussing Chitra Soundar's book Holi Hai!, we learned about the Indian and Hindu tradition of throwing colors and decided to tie-die shirts. Each student chose a size, then designed, and colored their shirts. Don't they look great? Happy spring and Holi Hai!





Fifth grade rhythm stick routine (above)



Second grade performing "Over the Meadow" (below)



Scenes from the Music Room- Rhythm Stick Routine
-Lori Ianniello; Music Teacher



Dramatizing
Star Wars
"Imperial
March"!



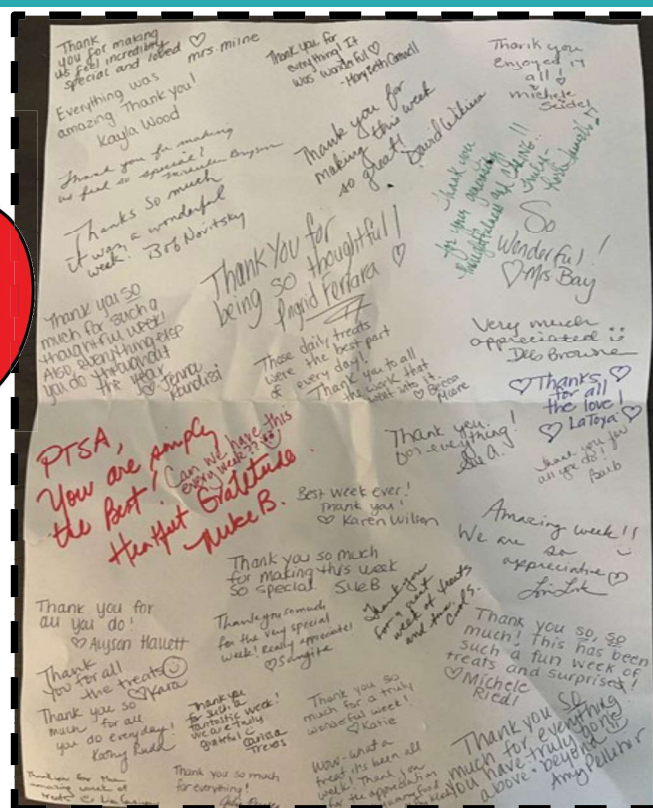
ACE 5th Grades attend the Rochester Philharmonic Concert at Kodak Hall in Eastman Theatre (above)

Teacher and Staff Appreciation

-Cory Herrema; PTSA

In the last VIEW we shared the many ways that we honored our teachers and staff through your generous donations and we received amazing feedback and an incredible thank you!

Thank you again for making the week so special!



Spring Celebration

-Susan McCoy; PTSA

The PGA couldn't stop our Spring Celebration at ACE on May 18th! The classrooms were flooded with families enjoying a tour of the classroom and school with their children. Teachers worked hard to display work and learning done throughout the year. The book fair was open and ready for business as children picked out old favorites and new finds. Special thanks to your PTSA for providing a delicious ice cream treat out on our playground. It was a beautiful evening with lots to celebrate!

1st Grade Art Ambassador

-Susan Hondorf; PTSA

On Friday, May 30th first graders participated in their last art ambassador lesson for the year. This popular program is fully funded and run by your PTSA. Each grade level is a little different but beloved by both students and staff. This is a great opportunity for families to volunteer and get their hands dirty.

In first grade, we studied the life and works of Picasso. Children then created their own self-portrait influenced by cubism and abstract art. The final products were extraordinary! Thank you to all volunteers for all your help!



ASEP (After-School Enrichment) Corner

-Andi Popp; ASEP Chair

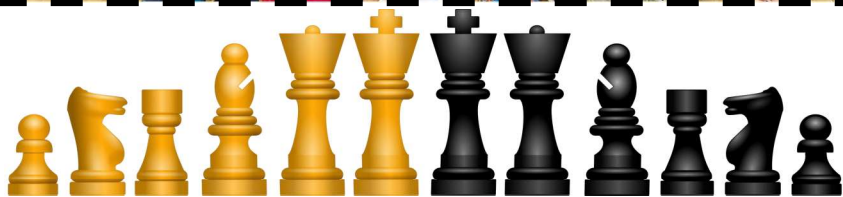
Before you check out what our students have been up to this spring, I want to take a moment to thank all the adults, from volunteers to chairs to instructors, who have helped our PTSA After School Enrichment Program (ASEP) continue to grow this year. To those of you who jump in to do whatever is asked—e.g. standing over the icy sink washing out dirty brushes, strapping on the ghostbuster backpack to vacuum up glitter, guarding the banana snacks from shenanigans—and comeback for more every time, thank you! I also need to give a special shout out to Tegan Rathfelder, ASEP Co-chair, who works behind the scenes to create all the program spreadsheets. With over 25 different clubs offered this year, that is A LOT of spreadsheets! I also want to thank Mrs. Bock, Mrs. Reynolds, and all the teachers who make sure students get to where they need to be at the end of the school day. I'm grateful for our custodians Carol, Kong and Phone as well. Finally, I appreciate those students who bring their energy and excitement to our after school community!



Pittsford Elementary

Interscholastic Chess Tournament

Allen Creek hosted students from all five Pittsford elementary schools for an interscholastic chess tournament in March, taking advantage of the Tuesday half-day for hours of play. The Rochester Chess Center awarded prizes for top players in each grade, top players in each section (K-2 and 3-5), and top school teams in each section and overall K-5. Allen Creek took home the top trophy as "Tournament K-5 Champion," with many of our students also earning individual medals and trophies. This friendly competition was also just fun: One participant reported that it was the most fun he had EVER had! Thank you to Wegmans for donating cupcakes to our snack spread, and an even bigger thank you to Valentina Zanardi and Silas Patel, ACE Chess Club Co-chairs, for pulling off what we hope is the first of many annual tournaments!



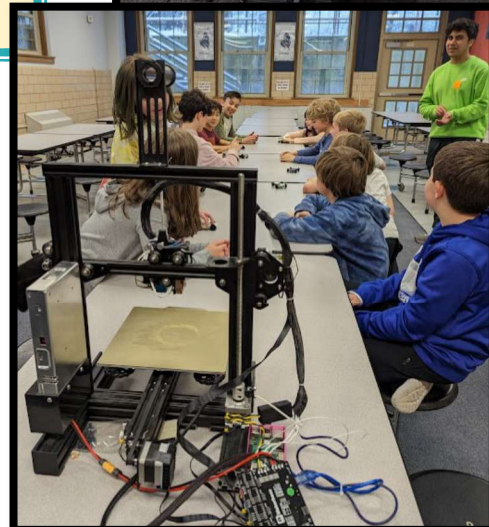
Art Club

ACE's student artists produced some fantastic pieces this spring. Surrealist Rene Magritte's *The Return* and Eric Carle's *Nonsense Show* served as inspiration for our first K-2 project. Students created tissue paper nighttime skies that became the backdrops for daytime-colored bird silhouettes. Early finishers used pattern blocks to create a variety of birds or gorgeous original mosaics. We switched gears with more realistic looking bowls of alphabet soup for a second project. Sid Hoff's alphabet doodles had students creating more ABC-inspired art, too. Students in grade 3-5 focused on portraits, from egg-carton animal faces to 3-D paper sculpture self-portraits to Roy Lichtenstein-esque pop art faces. We also played with poses and body language as we "sculpted" foil action figures inspired by Alberto Giacometti. Thank you to volunteer instructor Lindsay Lau who made a second K-2 section possible and to all the adult volunteers who helped each week!



4th Grade Stem Club

Our high school STEM instructor Feroze Ali returned for a final lesson on 3-D printing this March. Feroze impressed students with his personal 3-D printer that he refurbished after purchasing it second-hand. He discussed examples of 3-D printed items, from chicken nuggets to homes, and student Eddie Popp played a 3-D printed electric guitar he built with his dad, showcasing another application for the technology. Each fourth grader then received a kit of 3-D printed model car parts to assemble. Students personalized their kit cars and shared their designs. Thank you to the high school students and adult volunteers who helped each month!



Creative Movement and Latin Dance

Students in grades K-2 learned dance movements choreographed to various genres of Latin music in this new club offering. The choreography included use of various props such as batons, scarves, and ribbon wands. Students learned some Spanish, too! Shouts of “izquierda” and “derecha” had students moving left and right on command; synchronous counting all the way up to 20 echoed in the gym. Instructors Jessica Pereyra and Carlos Chediak’s joyful energy was infectious with both the children and adult volunteers. A big thank you to Doria Rocchio, Marty Coddington, and Sarah Ozimek, who co-chaired this club, and to the adult volunteers who happily grooved right along with the kids each week!



Yoga Club

Heidi Kaufman from PeaceFull Kids returned this May for four-weeks of yoga adventures with students in grades K-5. The classes combined traditional yoga poses with music, games, and movement and guided students to a place of quiet and relaxation at the end of their busy school days. Our flexible participants creatively made contact on the mat given limited body parts (“one hand, one knee, one foot” or “only your bum”—cue giggles!), transitioned through a sun salutation, mindfully inhaled and exhaled with a breathing ball, and contorted themselves into eagles, triangles, trees and more. A big thank you to Yoga Club Co-chairs Laura Linder and Doria Rocchio and the adult volunteers who rolled out their mats and practiced yoga along with our kids each week!



Lego Club

We had three sections of Lego Club this spring! Parent instructor John Roberts led our club for students in grades 3-5. Students eagerly worked on challenges, from tallest towers to foods to scenes for mini-figure mash-ups and more. John invited a Lego master builder one week to share some of his own creations and provide tips and tricks. Participants also got to screen some of Pure Imagination Studios' work for Lego. (This is John's company!) They recently made a Lego-themed music video for country music star Chris Stapleton. Students got movie and music video poster swag and got to see how a favorite toy can translate into a future career! John's gold star system and weekly prizes became legendary—something we adopted for our K-2 students who didn't go home empty handed. Blind-bag mini figures were fan favorites with grades K-5. While John set the bar high, Seana Rozo, Sarah Baker, and Kate Nearpass did an equally fantastic job with our two sections of Lego Club for grades K-2. Students partook in more creative challenges, mixing in team builds, themed builds, and free builds for four more weeks of fun. The MPR was transformed into a buffet of bricks! Thank you to the adult helpers who sorted through bin-fulls of bricks each week to find the perfect piece for our student builders to complete their visions and who sacrificed fingernails to break down all those creations at the end of each club!



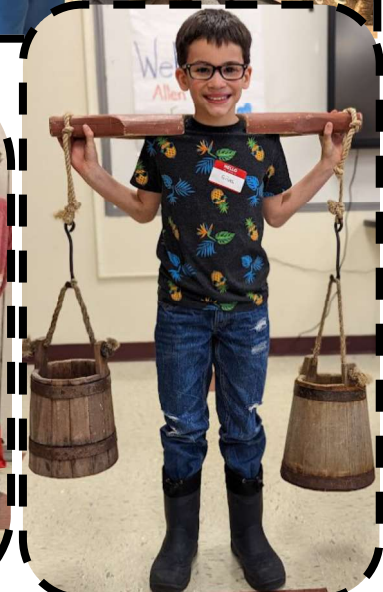
St. Patrick's Day STEAM

'Twas the night before St. Patrick's Day, and 36 hopeful children used their STEAM skills in hopes that the luck of the Irish would soon come their way! Students in grades K-2 designed elaborate leprechaun traps working with a variety of recycled materials and craft supplies. Their sneaky plans included welcoming signs, alluring rainbows, pots of gold, trap doors, slippery slides and more. I wonder how many heard their jingle bell alarms ring the next day?! Thank you to the many adult volunteers who made a cafeteria full of makers feel manageable!



Sap, Syrup & Sugar w/ GCV&M's Moveable Museum

Students explored the sweet history and science behind maple sugar and syrup production from early America to present-day commercial production with a visit from the Genesee Country Village and Museum during March's sugaring season. Museum educator Julie Lane taught students how to identify maple trees and introduced them to new vocabulary like "spile" and "firkin." Participants modeled a yoke and got to try their hand at "tapping" a tree with a bit brace hand drill and hammer. The lesson on how sap is turned into syrup and sugar was extra sweet since students enjoyed samples of both at the end of the class. Thank you to the adult volunteers who made it possible to offer two sessions.



Musical Theatre Club



The halls were alive with *The Sound of Music*! This club was an opportunity for students with all levels of experience to enjoy the elements of musical theater, including audition prep, theater games, singing, movement/dance, and scene work. Participants in grades 3-5 worked with instructor Laura Jean Diekmann on two scenes and two songs ("Do-Re-Mi" and "So Long, Farewell") from the musical, which they performed at a showcase on Allen Creek's stage for family and friends after their last class! Thank you to Musical Theatre Chair Susan McCoy and the adult volunteers who backed this performance!



Arts & Sciences: Rocks & Minerals Club

Science Club met Art Club in this after-school program mash-up. Week one, RMSC instructor Mark Almakinder defined what makes a mineral versus a rock and then reviewed the three kinds of rocks—igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary—with our student scientists in grades 3-5. During a hands-on lesson, students were given a collection of minerals and asked to identify the specimens using their observations about color, luster, streak test, and hardness. Even without actual diamonds for a full Mohs hardness scale test, students successfully identified their samples! The second week students closely observed geodes before creating their own warm or cool colored versions with construction paper, washable Crayola markers, Sharpies, tempera paint sticks, and watercolors paints. Colorful tube confetti "crystals" added a wonderful finishing touch to our agate-like art. Thank you to the adult volunteers—you rock!



Aerial Arts of Rochester

The circus stopped at Allen Creek! Six aerialists from Aerial Arts of Rochester took over gym classes for the last two days in May. Students challenged themselves during 40-minute workshops split between tumbling and hooping, with each class tailored to the grade level. Tumbling included a mix of the bear crawl, crab walk, pencil rolls, front rolls, back rolls, cart wheels, and handstands. Mr. Biondi even challenged himself to a backbend! Students paired up for partner acro-poses, too. They also learned new hula hoop tricks beyond just twirling it around their waists. They spun it on their arms, necks, and legs. They tossed them with partners. They learned to "walk the dog," used them like jump ropes, created hopscotch courses, and worked together to pass the hoops around a circle while holding hands. When asked by Mr. McAlpin and Mr. Novitsky if they surprised themselves with something new they were able to do, many students raised their hand at the end of the classes. After working on tumbling and hooping skills, students got to see these elements taken to the next level when the aerialist performed for them at two assemblies. The performers dangled 20 feet in the air from various apparatuses, including aerial silks, a hammock, a trapeze, and a sphere, showing off strength, flexibility, and artistry. Students cheered in delight as they were treated to routines filled with choreographed flips, spins, and drops. Thank you to Will D'Ovidio and Coaches Paxton, Miranda, Frances, Jess and Alexa from Aerial Arts of Rochester for a magical two days and to PTSA for funding this cultural arts enrichment opportunity! If any of your children want to run away with the circus, you may be able to convince them to settle for a summer camp at Aerial Arts of Rochester instead!

