

Ashe County Schools

WEEKLY UPDATE



The BRES team earned the top spot in the Middle School Battle of the Books on March 17. See more about the competition and winners on the following pages.

THROUGH
28
MARCH



Important Upcoming Dates

- ✓ **March 31** - MVES Kindergarten Screening
- ✓ **April 2** - WWES Kindergarten Screening
- ✓ **April 3** - Middle School Battle of the Books Competition, Hickory
 - BRES Spring Fest
 - BETA Club Induction & Open Mic Night, AEC, 6:00 p.m.
- ✓ **April 7** - BOE Meeting - Arts Council 3:30 p.m.
- ✓ **April 10** - BRES Kindergarten Screening
 - WWES Art Night & Spring Carnival, 5:30-8:00 p.m.





Impactful Collaboration

Exciting things are happening in western North Carolina! Administrators from 17 GEAR UP Appalachian school districts gathered in Boone for the National Postsecondary Strategy Institute Convening, where they collaborated on strategies for student success. We're proud of the strong representation from Ashe County Middle, Ashe County High, and Ashe Early College, and a special shout-out to Jamie Little, our Director of Student Services, who presented on resilient leadership.

Our Superintendent, Dr. Eisa Cox, recently joined NC school leaders in Raleigh to meet with lawmakers and discuss ways to enhance education in our communities, always with a focus on what's best for students and families.

From March 13-16, educators from across the state participated in the East-West NC Teacher Exchange, sharing stories and building support networks. Special shoutout to our Ashe County teachers who attended:

- BRES: Allie Shoemake, Courtney Binder
- WWES: Christina Worley, Martie Latham
- ACMS: Gina Calhoun, Jill Gambill, Teresa Hughes, Kaci Jones



Congratulations!



Cynthia Harless, MVES Assistant Principal, and **Mitchell Reedy**, BRES Principal, have been accepted into Appalachian State University's Doctor of Educational Leadership program! Their dedication to education and leadership is truly inspiring.



Battle of the Books Winners



CONGRATULATIONS to all our incredible Battle of the Books participants! On St. Patrick's Day, teams showcased their knowledge and dedication, competing in multiple intense rounds.

Shoutout to our Elementary champions: Mountain View Elementary! Team members Elias B., Gabriel S., Isaac H., Raelyn S., Mason J., Mario R., and Siddh S. celebrated with Colleen Dixon (MVES Media Coordinator) and Dr. Eisa Cox (ACS Superintendent).



Congrats also to our Middle School champions from Blue Ridge Elementary: Trethan B., Stella L., Elizabeth B., Ella M., Liam F., Matthew M., Maxwell F., Abbigale R., and Kayleigh H., pictured with Alisha Broce (BRES Media Coordinator), Dr. Eisa Cox, and Carla Williams (BRES AIG Teacher).

Elementary team competed in regionals on March 27th. Middle school competes on April 3rd!



BRES Celebrates 30 Years



BRES held its 30 Years of Learning Celebration on March 13. Along with enjoying food and music, attendees had an amazing time reminiscing and celebrating the school's history. The nostalgic event featured a timeline showcasing the school's journey and highlighted students, staff and memorable moments. Memorabilia from both Riverview and Lansing Schools – the two schools that came together to form Blue Ridge – was on display! Another incredible exhibit was a “quilt” made up of 30 years’ worth of yearbook covers!

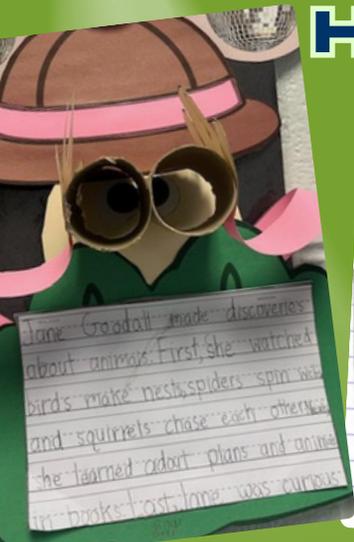
THANK YOU to everyone who put their time, thought, and effort into making this event a memorable part of Blue Ridge’s history.



SEE MORE GREAT PICS ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE



HIGHLIGHTS OF LEARNING



**Kindergartners
rocked this
Three Little Pigs
assignment!**



Shared Narrative Story Map

Characters	Setting
Once upon a time there was a big pig.	He lives on Maple Hill Farm. It is a hot Summer day.
Problem: The pig is too hot!	
Response to the problem: The pig swears in the pond.	Response to the problem: The pig swims in the pond.
Resolution: The pig rolls in the mud.	

TERRIFIC!



Great Evidence 100

Introduction Topic: I have learned about Galileo's curiosity through "Starry Messenger" and "Galileo's Starry Night". Galileo has learned about space, so he can tell people what he learned and find out more about space.

Topic Statement: Galileo learned about space when he painted his telescope of the sky.

Evidence: If it could see far on Earth, it got into the heavens as well. Who knew what the moon might look like up close. What Galileo saw astonished him.



The Odyssey Essay

The Odyssey is Greek Mythology including characters that go through many hardships. The Odyssey is a monomyth. The different stages and archetypes that help develop the plot of the story. There are many stages in monomyths to help organize the text, there are also archetypes like the herald or ally, working with the stages.

The archetypes in The Odyssey are represented by their role in the different stages, the hero transformed to show that everyone has room to grow spiritually, mentally, and physically, even heroes. On page 114 it tells us that Poseidon is the shadow. Poseidon is the shadow because he pines for revenge on Odysseus and will not let the grudge go. On page 138 it tells us that Athena is the herald and shapeshifter mixed. Athena is a herald and shapeshifter because she is a sage trying to help Odysseus to succeed. These archetypes help build problems and solutions, archetypes play important roles in monomyths and stories.

The stages of The Odyssey help influence the plot. On page 134 it gives us an example of stage 6, test, allies, and enemies. This even is when Odysseus meets King Alcinous and he realizes that he has people that he can trust and depend on. On page 70 it is an example of stage 4, meeting with the mentor. This is when Hermes helped Odysseus's problem with Circe turning his men into pigs. The stages and archetypes work together to help define each one.

The Odyssey and Ramayana: Divine Loophole differ from each other by lots of ways, yet have stuff in common. In the Odyssey the stages jump around in different orders while Ramayana: Divine Loophole goes in an orderly order. The Odysseus stages don't go in order it could go like stage 1, then stage 4, then back to stage 2. Odysseus and Rama respond differently to situations. Though they both transformed by the end of the story, at first Rama was an inexperienced warrior and impatient, while Odysseus was cunning and boastful, they both in the end grew mentally. Even though The Odyssey and Ramayana: Divine Loophole are the same genre, authors can choose to organize the story differently, but have great stories.

The Odyssey is built from the stages and archetypes forming the plot of the story. This book diverges from the expectations in a good way, its okay not to always go by the rules when writing a monomyth, by diverging from the expectations it creates new problems, stages, and characters.

Creature Features

CLICK to View Book

Written and Illustrated By
Miss Cara's Class

I was in a plane, I was happy? The pilot passed out because he WAS scared of the spider on the window and the plane WAS falling and got stuck in a tree. I escaped from the plane and I WAS looking for a shelter. I WAS looking for food I landed in the Appalachian mountains. I WAS also looking for food. I saw a bear I was standing still because if I don't the bear will attack. I was so scared like a person. If it attacks I will die. The bear was sleeping so I WAS running. The bear WAS so close to catch me but he did not catch me. I slept and a lot of mosquitoes bit me and I screamed "man" I was sad like my mom. It smells like porcupine. I learned to be in the woods. The problem is that I did not see my dad!

SHINING BRIGHT

Kindergartners: Learning and understanding elements of a narrative and how they work together to create a cohesive story

1st graders: Writing top-notch informational summaries that tell and show how animals use their features to survive

2nd graders: Crafting informative paragraphs about how westward expansion brought social and environmental changes to Native Americans and early settlers

3rd graders: Producing amazing multi-paragraph essays and presentations showing off their knowledge of Apollo 11 and the solar system

4th graders: Composing incredible, original survival stories that describe being lost on a mountain and relying on their own survival skills

5th graders: Drafting insightful essays highlighting the importance and values of the Nez Perce people, showing respect for history

6th graders: Taking on the monomyth, crafting their own hero journeys and producing Odyssey essays showcasing creativity and knowledge

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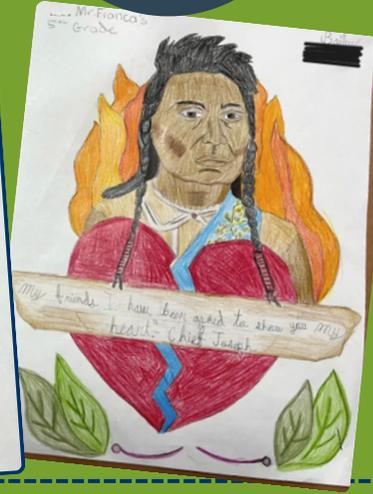
It's Too Late Now...

"I only ask the government to be treated as all other men are treated," Chief Joseph said. He was the leader of the Nez Perce tribe. They were moved from their home in the Wallowa Valley, Oregon (the land of wandering waters). The Nez Perce tribe fought for their freedom but sadly lost. The Nez Perce tribe fought for their freedom having to leave their sacred land. Chief Joseph's "Lincoln Hall Speech" conveys his belief that all people should be equal.

"Good words do not pay for my dead people." Chief Joseph believed that broken promises led to his dead people. His belief was that the Nez Perce should have been treated like the white settlers. The same rights, the same privileges, the same government. We are all the same people, the Nez Perce were treated like animals. If they were treated fairly, there would not have been war.

"The Great Spirit Chief who rules above will smile upon this land, and send rain to wash out the bloody spots made by brothers' hands from the face of the earth," Chief Joseph said. The government kept on moving the Nez Perce. Farther, and farther away from their home. That's not right. Their home, Wallowa, was sacred to them. They had a very deep connection with the land and with the Great Spirit Chief. The government should not have moved them to reservations.

"My Friends, I have been asked to show you my heart." That's what he said. Still we did not listen. So, Chief Joseph died. On September 21, 1904. He died of a broken heart. His speech didn't work, but it could have if we listened, but it's too late now...



SHINING BRIGHT

7th Graders: Mastering the structure of informative paragraphs with fantastic work based on the book, Code Talker. This includes identifying key elements like topic sentences, evidence, elaboration, and conclusions.

8th Graders: Immersing themselves in the novels, The Crossover and All is Quiet on the Western Front, while exploring poetics and the power of storytelling. Crafting portfolios, with three unique poems about significant life experiences: list poems, abstract noun poems, and found material poems inspired by WW1.

Jobs, Stress, and Tears
 May 6, 2024
 The one about school
 Why aren't you going to work?
 Straight home
 And I go to school normal

May 20, 2024
 She's got the job she had
 I'm worried about her
 She's spending by her future
 But what a great future

May 27, 2024
 She found Samantha's Purse
 Finally, she had joy
 But there's ALWAYS a downside
 It's never like what

August 20, 2024
 She got the job
 She's so happy on a child with candy
 But she

August 23, 2024
 It's hard but it has to be done
 My friend and her family getting confused
 "I wish you knew that job"
 Tears all around, I've never seen them cry

September 15, 2024
 The happy birthday that wasn't so happy
 We search for the house I don't want
 We sell the house I want
 Why did they choose her?
 Why do I have to suffer?

September 20, 2024
 A new house on the market
 We chat their immediately
 My assignments piling up
 And my teacher, yikes of me?
 If only she knew

October 24, 2024
 We've moved our shift
 Trying to enjoy the best of school
 I've been through A LOT
 Before I can say goodbye
 They kick us from school
 Because THEY want a middle
 Definitely NOT a top 1000 school

Metamorphosis
 (met-uh-mor-fuh-sis) verb
 A striking alteration in
 appearance, character, or
 circumstances
 As in: During the movie I realized
 my friendships and while bit will
 undergo a metamorphosis
 As in: The metamorphosis seems like
 an empty canvas with so much
 potential
 As in: I wonder how this
 metamorphosis is affecting the
 people who used to surround
 me

New Life
 The day has finally come
 The day from my last dream
 The first day of school
 I've watched enough TV to know
 This can go extremely good or extremely bad
 I quietly learned lots of people will talk to you
 You're new, you're interesting, you're special
 Unfortunately, I just like social skills of a scare rat
 Sooooo, if you don't talk you can't mess up
 But I CAN'T be the worst quiet kid
 I HATE THIS!!!
 All I want to do is go back to what was perfect
 The people who loved me NO MATTER what
 The life when I used to sleep smiling
 Not the life where I cry myself to sleep constantly
 2 months later, everyone stops caring
 But 2 months won't make me forget IN YEARS
 I want to go back more than ever
 "We can't hold on to the past" says mom
 All I want is to be happy, the past was perfect
 Finally, it SWIMS to create a new life
 Especially when the one I had was so good
 I have a feeling the future will be great
 I'm just wishing for when that day comes
 And who will be there with me?
 There's only one way to find out

Four Reasons
 To Like a Song
 By: Abby

#4. He is a beat waiting to drop.

#3. When he is on the court, he is line notes dancing across the music sheet.

#2. He is like the allurement of relatable lyrics.

#1. BUT MOST OF ALL, He is the vocals holding everything together, yet breaking apart on the inside.

Four Reasons
 Josh Bell is like a Wildfire

4. He can be everywhere at any time.

3. The "Flame" of success pushes him forward.

2. He acts out randomly without warning.

But most of all,

1. He get fueled with so many problems and he just get under control to the point that he doesn't care.

Analysis

1. Josh is quick and he is really smart. This is seen in "Josh's (11) words" Josh is playing and is breaking ankles.

2. Josh, as a 7th grader can date and he always looks forward to winning. In the last sentence of "Josh's Play by Play" (61-68) he sees himself and JB with a good future.

3. Out of rage, Josh acts out at anytime and it is dangerous. This is shown when Josh angrily played his game in "BeSore" (133-134).

4. Josh has so many problems that it builds up and pressure him to do things wrong. He says in "Mom, since you asked, I'll tell you why I'm so angry" (140).

Battle Fatigue Paragraph

Several young marines in Joseph Bruchac's, Code Talker experienced Battle fatigue this is a disorder that leaves two people with a scar even though only one scar is visible. The main character, Ned Begay says, "When we must fight other humans, injure and kill them, we also injure a part of ourselves" (Bruchac 161). Battle fatigue is not a physical scar, instead it is a mental and emotional scar. When the soldiers see something as traumatic as death and killing it is scarring and it stays with the soldiers. After going to war these soldiers have this trauma and they may have some things that trigger them. These soldiers were very young and have to grow up with this mental scar. Many of the characters in Code Talker had to deal with the death of many soldiers this led to very painful battle fatigue.

Destruction of Youth+ Possibility

250,000 boys under the age of 18
 Could not resist the pressure from society
 Wanting adventure
 Wanting to show their loyalty
 Wanting to do their patriotic duty
 And to avoid the sense of shame
 Avoiding the bitter criticism
 Avoiding grim home conditions
 Avoiding insults from the press
 For some it took more courage not to volunteer
 And with no law to protect them
 They fell into social pressure
 And by making the right moral choice
 They'll learn the true meaning of fear
 Gun placed in their hands
 They're placed on a battle field
 Scared
 They're hurled into a place of maiming and death
 Mom, I don't like the trenches
 Cold, mud, wet clothes, rats
 And the smell of death
 Because citizens demanded revenge
 Teens suffered
 Teens died
 Suffered from shock
 Survived but the bloodshed he witnessed
 To avoid the bitter criticism
 Destruction of youth and possibility

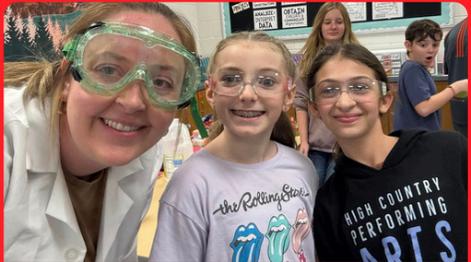
In the book Code Talker by Joseph Bruchac's, it says how the Marines had Battle Fatigue, a sickness, from killing people or seeing people killed in battle and how it kills the soul of the person who killed the enemies. Battle Fatigue affected Marines since they had many difficulties in war. "When we must fight other humans, injure and kill them, we also injure part of ourselves" (Fatigue 161). Some or many of the soldiers that were in war were not physically wounded, but they were mentally wounded by the heartbreaking scenes they had witnessed in war. Many of the soldiers were traumatized, not forgetting what happened during the war, what they had to face and replaying the scenes in their mind repeatedly with no end. The wounds were not visible, but they were deep down in their mind. Many of Bruchac's characters dealt with many difficulties and painful emotions during war, dealing with the death of their friends, and the death of their enemies, which lead to the sickness of Battle Fatigue.

EARLY LEARNING CENTER



Pre-K learners celebrated St. Patrick's Day with a creative craft: Leprechaun traps! They were so proud of their awesome work!

BRES



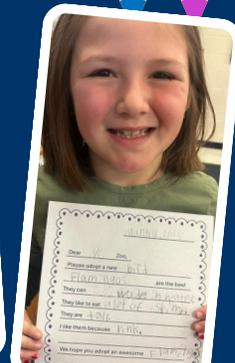
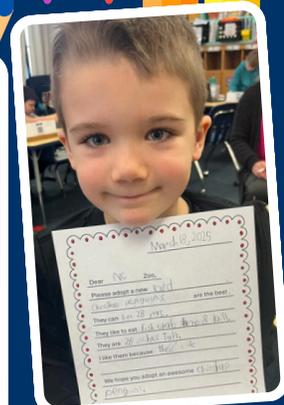
BRES has a new kiln, thanks to the PTSO and an Endowment Fund Grant. Students' art was showcased at local galleries. For St. Patrick's Day, 1st graders found a golden surprise — their faces say it all! They also gave a big, warm welcome to Deputy Aldridge, new SRO. And thanks to Domino's of Jefferson, 3rd graders enjoyed a tasty fraction lesson, while 5th grade scientists had a blast exploring physical and chemical reactions.

MIVES



Students and families had a blast at Duke Energy Science Night, diving into hands-on STEM activities like magnetic painting and Brain Flake building! Thanks to the North Carolina Science Festival, Duke Energy, and Morehead Planetarium & Science Center for helping to make the event possible!

WIVES



Third graders had a blast on a learning adventure to Grandfather Mountain! First grade researched animals and wrote letters to the zoo, asking them to adopt their favorites. And look at their hydroponic strawberry garden that's producing delicious fruit to enjoy! The Math Counts team performed exceptionally in their competition. Congrats to them and to the team's top scorer, Quinton G.



6
Exciting Careers

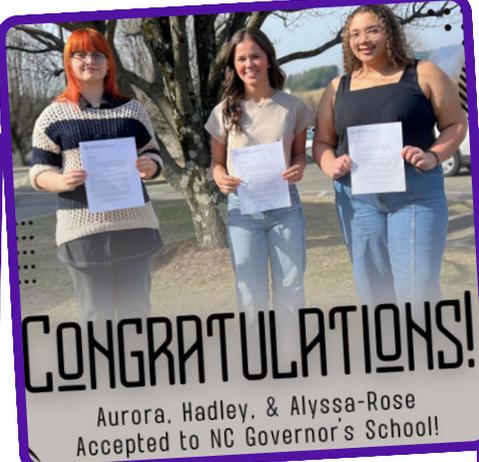
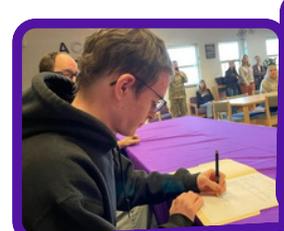
JOB SHADOWING
Valuable Insights
Hands-on Experience

ACMS



Spring sports are in full swing. these great photos by Doug Goss show the grit and determination of the Bulldogs track and field athletes. ACMS Pathfinders have displayed hard work, dedication and commitment in their inaugural job shadowing program. Thanks to each business that made this program a resounding success! Literacy Night was a fun event with everything from food and music to a wax museum, history trivia and more. Click above for highlights.

ACHS



#ASHEPROUD



WINTER SPORTS BANQUET

Senior, Andrew R., signed to serve in the U.S. Army! With the support of his parents, ACHS JROTC instructor Lt. Col. Wes Young (Ret. U.S. Army), Staff Sgt. Austin Shelton, and others, Andrew is taking a big step toward "being all that he can be." Juniors Aurora (Visual Art), Hadley (Dance), and Alyssa-Rose (English) on their acceptance into the prestigious North Carolina Governor's School program this summer! Athletes from basketball to swimming, indoor track, cheerleading, and wrestling were awarded for their standout performances. Click here for more.



Abby S. named 2024-25 first-team, all-district player by NC Basketball Coaches Assoc.



Calling all Ashe County High School Huskies Softball Alumni!

Get ready to slide into the upcoming softball game on April 1st, where we're honoring YOU—the players who've made our team legendary! As a former player, you get in FREE!

Want to be part of the action? Simply [CLICK HERE](#) and complete the form.

Huge thanks to the ACHS marketing class for knocking this promotion out of the park!



ASHE COUNTY SOFTBALL

ALUMNI Night

April 1st, 2025 | 6:00 PM



JOIN US!

Ashe County vs Watauga

AEC



Ashe Early College students celebrated in style at their Paris-themed prom! The stunning Summit on Cross Mountain provided the perfect backdrop for these lovely young people to shine.

