



## Anson High and Middle School Students Career in Sports Day

On Friday, March 6 seventy-three students from Anson High School and Anson Middle School traveled to Charlotte to participate in the Spring Career in Sports Day with the Charlotte Hornets professional basketball team.

Students were greeted by Hornets staff and guided to arena seating for the speaker panel portion of the event. The event was moderated by Mr. Steve Martin, Broadcast Coordinator and Television Play by Play. The speaker panel included Josh Kramer, Vice President, Marketing and Brand Strategy; Rhonda Curry, Vice President of Human Resources; Sean O'Connor, Senior Manager of Group Sales; and Kyle Caddell, Vice President of Corporate Partnerships. Each of the senior level administrators, along with the moderator, shared their road to success with their education, experiences and prior employment that led them to their current position. They also spoke about the responsibilities and duties of their current position.

Sean O'Connor also shared general tips to students to have a positive attitude in all endeavors and to make yourself stand out to an employer by going above and beyond expected duties. He also shared to students the wisdom of following your passion, how it will not feel like a job.

Following the speaker panel, students were able to watch pre-game warm ups with the players and Honeybee rehearsal. The highlight of the event concluded with cheering on the Hornets at the 7 p.m. game versus the Toronto Raptors. The students enjoyed the experience and look forward to returning in the future.

## PPES Scholastic Book Fair

Peachland-Polkton Elementary School held its annual Scholastic Book Fair from Thursday, March 5 until Friday, March 13. The fair began during Parent Conferences on March 5 and was opened to the parents and community during the school's Media Night which was held on Wednesday, March 11.

Pictured at right is Dylan Kiser, PPES Under the Sea Book Fair mascot.



## PPES Read Across America Day

Peachland-Polkton Elementary School celebrated Read Across America on Monday, March 2. Ms. Krista Herold, PPES NCAE school representative, organized the event which included students eating green eggs and ham in the cafeteria for breakfast and community guest readers.

Ms. Herold is pictured below with guest readers and her kindergarten class.



## AES Fifth Grade Class Wins Classworks Contest

Ms. Preslar's fifth grade math class at Ansonville Elementary School submitted a classroom video and summary to the Classworks in Action Contest. Submissions were to be either a short video and/or photo showing "Classworks in Action" by demonstrating how Classworks is making a difference when used in the classroom.

Ms. Preslar's class submitted the following summary and won a \$200 Amazon gift card. "Classworks has made learning fun for my students. They are mastering standards quickly by utilizing Classworks at school and at home on a daily basis. The thing I love most about the program is how it allows me to assign instruction and activities based on each child's individual needs. This is true differentiation at its best. Since using the program my school has shown growth on End of Grade tests, and more importantly every student gets a chance to feel successful in their own way. They are motivated to learn and feel so proud every time they earn a badge. Our students love Classworks!"

Ms. Preslar used the \$200 to buy math resources for her students to utilize during math class.

View the video at [www.classworks.com/uploads/CIA\\_November\\_Combined.pdf](http://www.classworks.com/uploads/CIA_November_Combined.pdf).



## Anson Middle School Hosts its First Science Fair

On Thursday, February 5 parents, staff and faculty and other community members of Anson Middle School attended the school's first annual Science Fair. The fair consisted of nearly 70 tri-fold displays featuring scientific research, student-built models and experimentation conducted by AMS's seventh grade students in areas of Biology, Physical Science, Earth Science and Technology.

The first fair in several years began from an initial request and collaboration between seventh grade science teacher Ms. Tammy Horne and Anson Middle School's administration with the help of local DPI instructional coach, Mrs. Brewington. The premise behind the fair was to allow students to acquire, strengthen and apply their understanding of the scientific method to investigate, explore and experiment with a science-related topic of their choice.

Initial preparations for the February Science Fair presentation began in November 2014 with the seventh grade science teachers reviewing expectations, guidelines, etc. with students. Students learned that their final

project submission must include a research paper, a 3-D model and a project board that explains the topic, procedures, data and outcome of their investigation and experimentation of the topic of their choice. A grading criteria rubric was also discussed and given to students so that they would know how their final projects would be evaluated.

During the three months that followed, students worked either individually or in small collaborative learning groups to conduct their research, conduct multiple trials of their experimentation, observe and record their data, and create and produce their projects in a research paper and presentation board. Students were given time in class and in the school library to conduct research, type their research papers and create and design their presentation boards. The remainder of the preparation was done at home.

In early February, when students submitted their final projects, the projects were then set up for display in the resource room (the auditorium) within the primary building on Anson Middle School's campus. A panel of several teachers critiqued a pre-selected number of projects within a pre-assigned science-field using the grading criteria rubric developed by the seventh grade science teachers. Students were evaluated on the quality of information they provided in the background information about the topic, cited resources, an essential question with its hypothesis, procedures that were taken, observation and data collection, and a conclusion. Additional evaluative criteria include original thought, creativity, evidence of multiple trials, presence of illustrations, charts and/or graphs, and how easily the experimentation could be duplicated from available information. Each one of those areas was given allotted points. Students could earn up to five points for how much of the criteria was met or addressed. Winners were selected based upon the total points students earned on the rubrics.

In each category awards included honorable mention, third place, second place and first place. Anson Middle School's categorical and overall winners were announced in a school-based ceremony where students were recognized and were given a certificate and/or ribbon for their accomplishments. The winners include: Gavin Jones (1st place), Kayli Wilson (2nd place), Thomas Buckingham (3rd place), Caleb Henry and Mason Martin (honorable mention) in the area of technology; Avery Owens (1st place), Riley Terry (2nd place), Jessie Medlin (3rd place), and Jada Hammonds (honorable mention) in the field of Earth Science; Caroline Thacker (1st place) Akela Martin and Brianna McCollum (2nd place), Adaejianna Hamilton and Amyie Baucom (3rd place), and Dillon Whitlock, Wesley Lear, Jannah Lindsey and Brianna Williams (honorable mentions) in the field of Life Sciences; Kaitlyn Carpenter (1st place), Rieley Pope and Kurstin Hartsell (2nd place), Tyler Gathings (3rd place) and Abigail Ward, Elizabeth Thomas, Amber Walsh, Madison Seppelt, Kaylee Lomax, Erin McIntyre, Norma Castrejon and Daquarius Allen (honorable mentions) in the area of Physical Science.

From the previously mentioned winners, three overall winners were then selected to represent Anson Middle School at the Regional Science Fair which was held at Pembroke University on Saturday, February 21. These three overall winners included Gavin Jones, Carolina Thacker and Kali Wilson. At the regional fair Gavin Jones was awarded First Place Overall. He will be one of approximately 20 middle school students across the state of North Carolina to participate in the state's Science Fair, which will be held at Meredith College in Raleigh on March 27 and 28.

The Anson Middle School community is proud of the accomplishments of its students. Congratulations to all the winners.

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