

NO Limits



Summer 2010

Dates to Remember...

August 16:

Uniform fitting and pick-up @ AHES, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

September 6:

Labor Day (No School)

September 7:

First day of school

September 9:

Rosh Hashanah (No School)

September 21:

"Dads Take Your Child to School" day

October 2010:

AHES Ribbon Cutting Ceremony (date to be announced)

COUNTDOWN TO OUR "home"-coming!

We are now **just two months** from our move back to our new and improved Arbor Hill Elementary School building! Please review the information sent home with your children and on the back of this newsletter for more details about fall learning in our new AHES!

A Sneak Peek at AHES!

This fall, students and staff will return to a new and improved Arbor Hill Elementary. On Monday and Tuesday, June 14 and 15, the school's teachers and students had the opportunity to visit the school and see what their new "home" base looks like after its two-year renovation project.

When students return to school at Arbor Hill Elementary on September 7, they will learn in a modernized facility with new computers in every classroom, walls and doors surrounding every classroom (as opposed to learning in open classrooms), new computer and science labs, a new heating and cooling system and a brand-new gym floor.

Also in September, students will be able to walk to their school across a new pedestrian bridge that will span Manning Boulevard and link the school to Skyline Apartments and Lark Street.



"Ooh!" "Aah!" and "Wow!" were some of the comments made by AHES students as they toured their "new" school.

Students in Mrs. Weglowski's second grade class (below) were impressed by the cubbies, fresh carpeting and sparkling new bathrooms.

Meanwhile, fourth graders in Mrs. Fuller's class (left), who attended the school prior to its renovation, were impressed with the new classroom spaces and brand new gymnasium floor, which bears the school's eagle mascot.



Multiplication Rules!

Club helps students learn important math skills

Throughout this school year, some of the youngest students at AHES have been tackling (and mastering!) challenging multiplication facts they'll need for future math learning. This is a huge accomplishment!

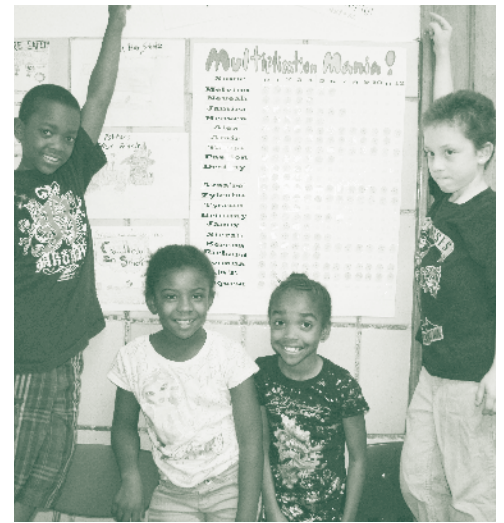
The multiplication club was inspired by Miss L, a teaching assistant at AHES, who noticed that some of the fourth graders she works with were struggling to learn in math because they lacked strong multiplication skills.

Earlier this year, she proposed the idea of starting a club with some of the school's second graders to help "cement" their multiplication skills early on.

"Because they are young, a number of the students struggled at first to learn multiplication," explained Miss L, "but once they got the concept, their learning took off like wildfire."

Now, all of the children who participated with the club this year have a strong knowledge of their multiplication facts up to 12—and a few have also begun working on division skills.

"We have a lot of very smart children here at Arbor Hill," Miss L concluded.



On June 15, second grade students who participated with the AHES Multiplication Club and their teachers celebrated the students' accomplishments through words of praise—and with a well-deserved pizza party!

Pictured here are proud Multiplication Club members Alex Chaput, Yvonna Hay, Amir McFadded and Aja Travis.

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The public library is a great source of books and other reading materials your children will love.

Summer Reading

- Summer is a time for a well-deserved break—but not from reading! Making reading a priority during the summer months is key to helping students be most successful with their studies in all subjects once school is back in session.
- Required summer reading assignments were sent home with students at the end of this school year and are also available at the City of Albany School District Web site at www.albanyschools.org.
- Again this fall, AHES students will participate in the school district's "100 Book Challenge." The goal of this project is to have all students read 100 books each school year. Remember that the books children read in and out of school, along with those you and your child read together, count toward this goal. Help your children keep a list of the books they read over the summer and have them return this, with your signature, to their teachers in the fall.
- "Literacy Links" is a summer program designed to provide intensive reading help for children who were in grades 1, 2 or 3 this school year. This program runs July 12 - August 6, from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. each day. For more information about this program. Call the main office at 462-7166.
- This summer, children can earn prizes for the books they read and attend fun activities at Albany's public libraries, including the city's new Arbor Hill/West Hill branch located at 148 Henry Johnson Boulevard.

Visiting author Sharon G. Flake

Writer inspires students with her words and writing

This spring, fifth and sixth grade students had the exciting opportunity to attend a talk and book reading along with other City of Albany School District fifth and sixth graders by young adult author Sharon G. Flake.

Ms. Flake, a favorite author of many AHES sixth graders, writes books about hope in difficult places and about young people who overcome challenges through perseverance, the help of good friends and the love of family and caring adults. Appealing to students is how the characters in Ms. Flake's books learn how wonderfully gifted, determined and capable they are.

Dachea Hartfield, a sixth grader in Mrs. Noble's class, enjoyed reading the book "Money Hungry" by Sharon G. Flake.

"[The main character] Raspberry reminds me of myself," said Dachea, who added that she enjoyed listening to Ms. Flake read from her books with so much emotion. "She inspired me to read more books."

Chantel Polk, another sixth grader in Mrs. Noble's class, loves "The Skin I Am In" by Sharon G. Flake because it is so realistic.

"It really tells how kids go through this world," said Chantel. "I liked how her teacher helped [the main character] Maleeka learn to love herself and the skin she is in."

Writing Contest

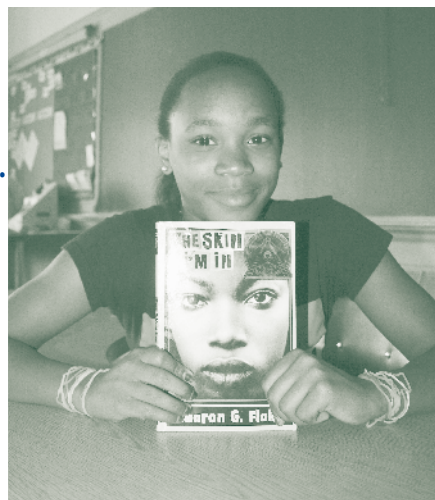
Write from your heart—win a visit from Sharon G. Flake!

This summer, students in grades 5 – 12 are encouraged to write a 500 word essay about how one of Sharon G. Flake's novels, short stories, or poems has affected their lives or changed the way they look at their community.

For more contest details, visit Ms. Flake's Web site at www.sharongflake.com/4u/contests/.



AHES sixth grader Dachea Harfield reads "Money Hungry" by Sharon G. Flake, a book with a main character Dachea relates to.



AHES sixth grader Chantel Polk displays "The Skin I Am In", her favorite book by author Sharon G. Flake. She loves this book because it is so realistic.





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Questions about immunization requirements for school attendance? Call Mrs. Gilchrest, AHES nurse, at 462-7166.

Arbor Hill Elementary School

**141 Western Ave.
Albany, N. Y.
12203**

(518) 462-7166

**Principal
Rosalind
Gaines-Harrell**

**Home-School
Coordinator
Stephon Frost**

**School Nurse
Linda Gilchrest**

**Social Workers
Tricia Brady
Sharon Overton**

**Psychologist
Michael Pelkey**

**After-School
Program
Director
Emily Riegel**

Back-to-School Reminders

School Supplies

There are a number of supplies students will need when they return to school on **September 7**. A list of these items was sent home with students at the end of this school year and is also available at the Walmart store located at 141 Washington Avenue in Albany. Please note that students in grades 3-6 will use supplies that are color-coded to help them learn the organizational skills they need now and in middle and high school.

YMCA Afterschool and Summer Programs

The Arbor Hill YMCA summer camp will be held at Sheridan Preparatory Academy from July 6-August 13. Although this program is currently full for participants, those still interested in registering their children for this program can be placed on a waiting list.

The YMCA afterschool program runs year-round, Monday through Friday from 3:30-6 p.m. A fall registration date for this program will be publicized during the first week of school.

To register for these programs or for more information, call Emily Riegel, site director for the Arbor Hill YMCA afterschool and summer programs, at 365-4014.

Uniforms at AHES this fall

This fall, students and teachers at Arbor Hill Elementary will wear school uniforms. Students/families are encouraged to participate.

Uniform orders can be placed through our vendor Deanalee Campbell at Faith Creative Names, faithshirt@yahoo.com, or by phone at 462-7096 or 364-2849.

Clothing items can also be purchased at stores that sell school uniforms.

The AHES uniform colors are light/powder blue for tops and navy blue for bottoms.

A uniform fitting and pick-up will be held at Arbor Hill Elementary on August 16 from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m.

In addition, a clothing exchange will be established at AHES where students/families can trade gently worn or outgrown uniform items for donated items in larger sizes.

Visit the City School District of Albany Web site, www.albanyschools.org for more news and information about our schools.