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Mr. Sandberg checks out some great jewelry at the ACES Holiday Bazaar.



Time for Turkey

by Zuzanna Szulc

The first Thanksgiving occurred in 1621, when the Pilgrims shared a feast with friendly Indians, and gave thanks for all they had. Since that day Thanksgiving is celebrated all over the country on the last Thursday of November.

There's a lot that goes on to prepare for such a scrumptious feast, and at our school it wasn't any

different! ACES was busy planning feasts, parties, activities and more for Thanksgiving. Students spread the giving spirit and set plates on the table for their many yummy feasts.

The week before Thanksgiving Day was full of feasts. Kindergarten, second grade, fourth grade, and fifth grade held Thanksgiving feasts filled with great food, and friends. There were smiles

on all of the kid's faces during these fun events.

During the Kindergarten feast, the whole grade gathered in the cafeteria. Some of the students put together a play about the first Thanksgiving. Everyone was laughing and having fun. Some kids even brought their parents to the feast. **Jackie Arias** says that she loved seeing her parents. (*cont. on p. 5*)

ACES Holiday Shopping Bazaar

by Jackie Whaley

The Holiday Shopping Bazaar was held on Wednesday December 9 at the Rec. Center. There were several booths set up featuring specialty items including clothes, jewelry, books, leather products, hair accessories, and more.

Niza Aizenman owns a unique leather company called *Jack and Jane* which features painted

leather goods. "I choose to start this company because of my kids and to show the other side of leather," she explained. **Raquel Schachter** owns the *Schokolad Chocolate Factory*, which sells hand made European chocolates. "Our motto is top quality at affordable prices," she says. **Phyllis Barensten** sold *Kudu Klips* at the bazaar. What's special about the Kudu

Klip is that almost all the profits go to orphaned children in Africa.

These are just some of the many beautiful items sold at the bazaar. Shoppers were also able to enter a raffle, and part of the proceeds from the bazaar went towards ACES. It truly was a successful event.

Writing and Reading with Mr. Wright



By Isabella Maia

A lot of new teachers come to ACES every year. They are always treated very well and are respected. Our teachers come from so many different places.

One of our newest teachers is **Ms. Wright**. She is from Miami, Florida. She has been a teacher for four years, and says that she gets joy from seeing her students learning.

Ms. Wright tells us that she was inspired by her parents to become a teacher. “My mom said that teaching is a great opportunity,” she said. Ms. Wright also told us she actually wanted to be a pharmacist. She chose teaching because when she was younger, she loved teaching dance, and “it just came naturally.”

“My favorite aspect of teaching is making it enjoyable,” she says. Ms.

Wright will definitely help you discover some new writing skills, and develop a greater joy of reading. If you see her in the hallways, wish her good luck at ACES.

Donations to the Nation

By Isabella Maia

For three years now, ACES has helped kids who don't have food, water, or a roof over their heads. This year isn't any different, and for the annual Thanksgiving Food Drive, held November 6th through the 20th, students donated enough canned food items to fill approximately 20 boxes! All the donations were given to Food for the Poor.

Food for the Poor is the number one international relief and development charity in the USA feeding 2 million poor every day. Their relief programs and projects help children and the poorest of the poor by

providing food, housing, health care, education, water projects, and emergency relief in the Caribbean and Latin America.



A First Place Photographer at ACES

by Zuanna Szulc

Have you ever entered a photography contest? If you have you probably know that it is difficult to win one. You must have contrast, individualism and a sense of design.

Sixth-grader **Andres Preschel** won first place in a National Geographic photo contest for the United States and Canada. “I can’t believe I won!” he says.

While visiting his family on vacation he took a picture of a grasshopper on his uncle’s grill. The picture was very unique and used what is called “depth of field” which made the

grasshopper clearer than the background. The photo is so detailed, a drop of water near the grasshopper’s mouth can even be seen clearly!

Andres took over a hundred pictures with his camera, but he chose the grasshopper picture for the contest. “It was my mom’s idea to enter the photo-contest,” he tells us.

Andres received two prizes for winning first place. He was awarded a “thousand piece puzzle and a pet-cam.”

If you see Andres in the halls, congratulate him on his success. Who knows, maybe someday you can win a photography contest!



Andres Preschel’s award-winning photo.

Playing Our Way into the Basketball Season

by Marissa Lichy

It’s that time again – basketball season has begun and the ACES girls and boys traveling basketball teams are in full swing. Each team is made up of 12 players. The girls team includes sixth graders **Gefen Elias, Briana Jean-Baptiste, Rachel Eshet,** and **Noa Eltaresy,** seventh graders **Bailey Miller, Arina Chalienko, Allondra Quintero, Katherine Escalante,** and **Sabrina Henrice** and eighth graders **Jackie Whaley, Shani Taoz,** and

Stefanie Rozhko.

Noa Eltaresy told us her love of sports is what inspired her to join the team. Rachel Eshet said “this is my first year on the team and I am excited to join.” Stephanie told us “I am hoping to win and work with my team.” Shani Taoz says she is looking forward to “playing against other teams.” This is Shani’s second year playing, while Allondra Quintero is new to the team.

On this year’s boys team there are eighth grad-

ers **Alex Perzek, Darius John,** and **Donovan Vazquez** who tells us “I am looking forward to going to the championship.” The seventh graders are **Victor Pires, Alan Buenos,** and **Justin Friedman** who was inspired by “the love of the game.” Also on the team are **Juan Jimenez,** and **Isaac Rosenheim** who was “inspired to join because last year I did not make it to the team.” The sixth grade players include **Dean Vaknin,** and **Max Youtie** who says “I am
(cont. on p. 4)



Garden Day is Coming Our Way

By Isabella Maia

The garden is blooming, and students are planting. Soon the ACES garden will be growing with beautiful plants, vegetables, and flowers. Eventually the students are going to be researching garden topics and will “teach” their topics to each other. Students have also brought seeds, such as squash, cucumbers, sunflowers, and corn to plant in the garden. **Cesar Bringas** brought four Yuka branches to plant in the garden.

Samantha Viner and **Dimitri Lampru** tell us that they are most looking forward to planting tomatoes. **Fernando Yaffe** says that he is most looking forward to cutting weeds and getting rid of bad organisms for the garden.

The garden is growing and developing every day, but it started from scratch. In order to prepare the soil the students removed weeds and added organic material to improve the soil quality. After that students will be planting their

seeds. Once the seeds are planted, the students will have to maintain the garden by watering and weeding, but best of all they’ll soon see the results of all their hard work; a beautiful, blooming, brightly colored garden!



If you look closely you can see the butterfly pattern!

Basketball *(cont. from p. 3)*

looking forward to playing against other schools.”

The coaches that made this all possible are **Coach Natvig** who coaches the girls team, and **Coach Goldberg** who works with the boys team. Coach Krumrie also assists both teams by being the referee during the games. Coach Natvig says “I am hoping that the girls have fun and improve their basketball skills.” Mr. Goldberg hopes to help the team “reach their goals, and do the best they can during the games.”

On Monday, December 7th, the teams played in their first game against the North Broward Bears girls

and boys teams. It was a great start to the season!



The ACES Boys Traveling Basketball team.

*Girl’s team photo to be published in next issue.

Thanksgiving *(cont. from p. 1)*

The second grade feast was very busy as well. It was held in the classrooms. All of the second-graders agreed that the food was very delicious! Just like it must have been during the First Thanksgiving!

The fourth grade feast was filled with spirit! **Anthony Powell** says, "During Thanksgiving, I sit back, relax, and say what I'm thankful for." His classmates agreed with

Anthony.

The fifth grade cultural feast brought all sorts of different types of foods together. **Skyler Stein** said that she mostly loved eating food from all kinds of different cultures.

All of the feasts were busy with excitement and fun. Everyone enjoyed the food, the spirit, and saying "thanks" to everyone.



Student Government Homeroom Reps

By Zuzanna Szulc

The ACES Student Government Association now includes homeroom representatives. Each homeroom has elected a homeroom representative to represent each middle school class.

"Each homeroom nominates and elects a representative to attend meetings on the homeroom's behalf. The representative is supposed to bring the homeroom's concerns and suggestions to each monthly meeting to discuss in an open forum," **Mr. Ostrick** explains.

Daniela Lampru, representing **Ms. Lombardi's** class, said that she is a good speaker. "I definitely will achieve high goals,"

says **Victoria Braga**, representing **Ms. Card's** class. In **Ms. Engard's** class, **Romi Zachar** told us, "I think I will achieve making the school more enjoyable." **Maritza Benenson**, the representative in **Mr. Amador's** class, says that she has always wanted her voice heard.

All of the homeroom representatives were elected because each class knew that they would be perfect for the job. If you ever have any questions or suggestions on how to make ACES even better, feel free to let your homeroom representative know.



(Top row L to R): Miguel Gonzalez, Alek Perczek, Max Panay, Sebastian Weiznauer, Nathaniel Brakha. **(Bottom row L to R):** Luis Pineros, Alexia Barandiaran, Rodrigo Villegas, Victoria Braga, Daniella Lampru, Maritza Benenson, Romi Zachar, Alexandra Khoudari, Destinee Gutierrez, Florencia Dadone. **Not shown:** Stefanie Rozhko,

Veteran's Day at ACES

by Melody Manzur

Veterans Day is a special day created to remember and honor our fellow veterans and their services to our country. This year,

Veterans Day was celebrated on November 11th. In the days preceding Veterans Day many ACES students and teachers learned about the importance of this special day by par-



ticipating in several events and activities.

Ms. Tasi's 5th grade reading class wrote a story about choosing between accepting a scholarship or fighting for your country in a war. **Blake Feder** said Veteran's Day is important

to him because "it's important to remember why

the veterans sacrificed their lives for us." Many of the students had strong opinions about joining the U.S Armed Forces. **Samuel Beck** said, "I would like to be in the army to help my

country and travel." **Jackson Levine** told us "I wouldn't want to be a soldier because I don't want to die."

Every year the City of Aventura hosts a Veterans Day celebration to honor several of Aven-

tura's veterans. Several ACES students eagerly

participated in the event. The elementary school chorus sang a few songs including "Grand Old Flag", "Yankee Doodle", and "This Land is Your Land." To fifth grader **Bruna Ferreira** Veteran's Day is "about honoring the soldiers." **Ester Gregori**, who is also in fifth grade, said the day is "about remembering brave soldiers for their braveness."

Founding Aventura

by Marissa Lichy

On Sunday November 8th, ACES helped celebrate Founder's Day. This annual event brings the City of Aventura together to celebrate its founding, and ACES makes sure it participates on this exciting day.

The newly elected student government were among the guests on hand. They sold refreshing drinks to help raise money for ACES. SGA President **Jake Norman** said "I think Founders Day is important because it brings Aventura together." Vice-president

Adam Brown says Founder's Day is "a way to bring Aventura together and raise money." According to **Mr. Ostrick**, the student government officials were required to attend the Founder's Day Celebration because "as the student government is trying to spread their name we want to spread ours." In total the ACES Student Government raised \$336.50.

Among the other ACES participants, the school's dance team performed for guests. Sixth grader **Francesca Van-Kravland** said the best part about dancing

at the event was "you get to express your talent." **Salome Herzstein** was dancing along Francesca's side. She told us "my favorite part about Founders Day was learning new dances." Eighth grader **Lindsay Hibbert** enjoyed participating because "I like performing in front of people."

To **Ms. Alm** the best part of Founder's Day is "the whole community comes together to celebrate the founding of Aventura." According to her it is important to celebrate this special day because "[we need] to remember how

lucky we are to live in such a lovely community."

Another highly anticipated event held during Founder's Day was the Aventura Star Competition, which featured kids vying to win the singing competition. Even the ACES art teachers got together and created a mural commemorating the event. All in all this year's Founder's Day was a successful and fun

Ms. Aloupis

by Jackie Whaley

Ms. Aloupis is a new third grade teacher at ACES. She may be a new teacher at our school but Ms. Aloupis has been a member of the ACES family for some time. Last year she worked **Ms. Bruins** and **Ms. Damas**, and earlier this year she filled in for **Ms. Adler**.

This is Ms. Aloupis's first year of teaching. "I

love this school," she tells us. "Working with teachers last year and seeing kids really understand what [they're being taught] really inspired me and I love kids," says Ms. Aloupis. "The reason I like third grade," she continues "is because I feel that it is when kids start to turn into little adults." ACES is happy to have Ms. Aloupis as a teacher.



ACES Volleyball

by Melody Manzur

What's your favorite sport? If it's volleyball, then you're in luck. The ACES Intramural Volleyball team was in full swing this year, providing students the opportunity to recognize their talents and to have fun playing and being with their friends.

We caught up with **Coach Krumrie** and asked if any players stood out this year. He told us "Our team all did [well] and we all have our weaknesses and strengths." **Mr. Bill** told us he enjoys coaching the kids. **Ms. Ziedler** decided to coach because she "played volley ball for six years in high school and it was something I enjoyed playing and my coaches were supportive and I want to do the same for my students." According to

Coach Natvig "my entire team is good. We had a great time winning the game."

Katherine Escalante said she loved being a part of the volleyball team because "it's a great way to have a great time playing."

Gabriela Patino said she loves volleyball because "it's a great experience to socialize and have fun." **Clarrisa Biggot** says "I think it's great to have volleyball games at ACES because it's a wonderful experience for a middle school to have a great time. Our coaches are fun too."

Have you've ever played volleyball? Then you know what a fun experience it is. If you've never played volleyball then you should join a team next year so you can have a great time and make new

friends.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO EVERYONE!

May the New Year bring you much love, peace, and happiness.

Love, The Journalism Team

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