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Bow making in the Valley!



Students at the Northwestern Regional JDC in Winchester were enriched in their understanding of Native American history in the Commonwealth when guest presenter Alex Medellin of the Cherokee Nation spoke on two different occasions early in October. He presented, then demonstrated, techniques of flint knapping and bow making. Mr. Medellin, whose roots trace maternally through the Cherokee, dressed in authentic Indian attire and demonstrated how arrowheads, or “points,” were knapped from certain kinds of rock. The cross-curricular journey led students through geology, history, and simple physics, as well as providing a cultural glimpse into the proud heritage of Virginia’s first residents. On his second visit, Alex brought tools, bow staves, and bows in different stages of completion. For their part, students were



enthralled at his simple but powerful presentation on Native American culture.

Not only did he teach specific techniques the Virginia Indians used in tool-making, but he also expanded those techniques to include life lessons. For example, Mr. Medellin illustrated the principle of thinking through a decision before acting. “When a rock is hit at a certain angle and a piece is chipped off,” he said, “there is no going back. The point-maker cannot undo a deci-

sion to remove rock.” On his subsequent visit, Alex expanded the lesson and spoke about intentionality and thought in our everyday decisions. As an example, he showed a single growth ring in a stave of wood. The carver, he said, intentionally follows the ring slowly and deliberately as he carves. In the same way, we can take time and think through decisions we make as we follow good paths forward.

Students in World History I and U.S. History were studying the paleo-Indians of Virginia, and the Cherokee and Saponi of Virginia respectively. Mr. Medellin’s presentation fit nicely into their projects and intersected with their classroom experience. Not only those students, but all students and staff wound up in the room as exquisite bow after bow were revealed. Thanks to Alex for giving us a glimpse into a cultural heritage that we all share!

**Article submitted by Tim Arnold -
Social Studies teacher at NRJDC**



Investing at BRJDC



In a collaboration between Mr. Truitt, the math teacher, and Mrs. Crouch, the history teacher, students at Blue Ridge Juvenile Detention learned to become investment masterminds! This lesson combined history, economics, math skills, and life skills. Students were given \$1000 to invest in the stock market in 1920. They followed these investments through the next nine years, all while computing profit and loss and deciding to buy or sell. Different investments were discussed – “Will Kroger keep growing?” “What is going to happen with Mammoth Oil?” “Is the dial telephone really going to revolutionize the telephone industry?” All of the stocks were actually on the Stock Exchange in the 1920s. Of course, we all know about the

Crash and what it did to investments! Many of the students lost everything, but some very smart ones had held money back, so they came out ahead. But what happens when you lose everything? Students were given scenarios for a person in 1928, and they had to figure out a budget. But then, they were given new scenarios, such as salary cuts, displaced family moving in, and losing their savings in a bank closure. With this new information, each person had to calculate a new 1933 budget. This activity brought up many ques-

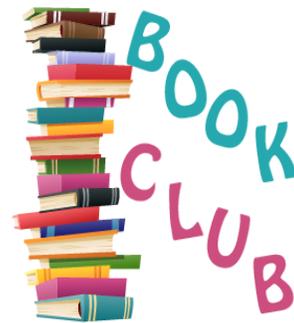
tions about the safety of investing, banking security, as well as having a savings account to help with the unexpected. The students enjoyed the roller coaster of the stock market and expressed an interest in following safe and volatile stocks, just to see if they could predict trends. We may have the next winners on Wall Street in our class!
- **Tomacine M. Crouch,**
M.A.Instructor - Social Studies



Literacy at Chesapeake JDC

Imagine this! A school with no library! Or, more accurately, a beautiful library full of books that can't be used by students. That's what happened to us in Chesapeake due to air quality issues. The detention center closed our library because the air quality was causing respiratory issues and that meant NO access to the stacks in our book collection. So...our students are now benefitting from our creative literacy coach who came up with a solution to

overcome this obstacle by initiating a book club, much like we do with our friends. She started with only a few volunteers in each class and now the majority of our students are participating. They read the assigned book and come together once a week to discuss the book. Titles have included books such as, 'The Other Wes Moore', 'I Beat the Odds' and 'The Outsiders'. Our youngest



student in the building, a sixth grader, told me that he had never done anything like this before and it was really good. Another student told me that the chosen books are those that he can relate to. Kudos to our teacher, Ms. Hiryak, who is working hard to stimulate and encourage reading by finding books relevant to our students' interests.



Authors Andrew Aydin and Kat Spears Visit RJDC

Andrew Aydin is the co-author of the #1 New York Times best-selling graphic memoir series, *March*, which chronicles the life of Congressman and civil rights icon John Lewis. The third book in the series was recently awarded the National Book Award for Young People's Literature by the National Book Foundation. It was also included in the American Library Association's Great Series Club, a reading and discussion program that targets underserved, troubled teen populations. Our facility's CPP (Community Placement Program) residents were participants in this initiative, so they were thrilled to meet the award-winning author, receive signed copies of the book, and interact with him on his book and life.

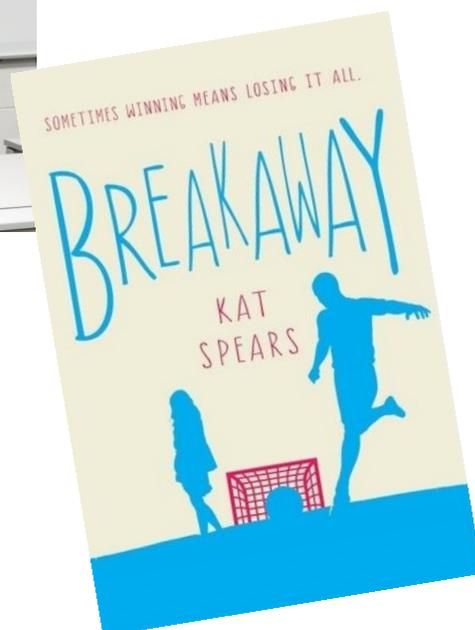
In Mr. Aydin's inspirational and deeply-personal talk, he shared with the students some of the challenges he faced while growing up, and how his love of literature – especially comic books – was his refuge.

Among his words of wisdom was: Be proud of who you are, even if it's not deemed "cool" by your peers; find something that you are passionate about and that speaks to you, then give it your best; and never give up on your dreams! In his case, he never gave up on his dream of turning the courageous story of Congressman John Lewis and the civil rights movement into a graphic memoir. It is a narrative that is little known, and can be used in high schools to keep this historically-significant story alive. We also hosted a visit by Kat Spears, author of the novels *Sway*, *Breakaway*, and – her latest – *The Boy Who Killed Grant Parker*. She read excerpts from her books and shared stories from her colorful life that inspired her to write these gritty, "young-adult" novels. Ms. Spears shared with the students (some of whom are aspiring writers) the challenges and rewards of the writing profession. Her books,

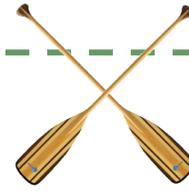
especially *Sway*, have proven very popular with our students, and we recommend adding them to your facility's library collection.

In addition to the two authors, we would also like to thank Wini Ashooh, librarian with the Central Rappahannock Regional Library, who was instrumental in arranging both visits. Ms. Ashooh visits the facility twice a month, unit by unit, for "Library Day," inspiring the students to become lifelong readers by introducing them to books that appeal to their individual interests. She broadens the horizons of the students through entertaining presentations in which she shows videos from the TED Talks series, introduces books by playing trailers of the movies they are based on, and motivates the students to achieve their true potential.

By Tony Kramer, Rappahannock Juvenile Center Education Program



Passion for Paddling



Chuck Conley, a PE teacher at Chesapeake Juvenile Service was recently the cover story for primetime a quarterly magazine insert in the Daily Press in Hampton VA. In this issue primetime talked with Hampton Roads residents on what they love about their outdoor hobbies. Mr. Conley said that he has been paddling area waters for a couple of decade on everything “that uses a paddle.” He told

primetime that “he started with a kayak and paddles for a couple of reasons. “All paddling is relatively inexpensive, it is great exercise, and a fun way to get outside.” In addition, “It doubles as my gym.” To get started Mr. Conley recommends taking lessons because “a good forward stroke is not intuitive and once you learn a good technique you are less likely to have an injury.” “Being able to self-rescue is also a good skill to

have.” Mr. Conley combines his volunteer time with his love of paddling. He takes Wounded Warriors out on the water with a group called Team River Runner. His favorite place to paddle is the ocean for the waves, the sea life and the view”.

Math Minute

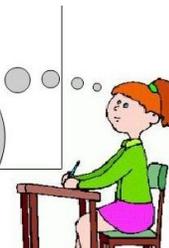
Teaching multiple subjects in one class period can be challenging for even veteran teachers. The Virginia Department of Education probably didn't have SOP teachers in mind when they created the Algebra and Geometry Vertical Alignment documents, but we can certainly use them! The links to these documents are on the SOP website and we highly recommend each math teacher download a copy to keep in the classroom. These charts will show teachers what skills are covered in each class from middle school to high school with the corresponding SOL number and bullet(s). By reading one row, teachers can see how students are expected to build on previously taught skills. Or, in the case of some students who haven't mastered skills, how to “plug in” where there are gaps. Additionally, these charts would be a terrific tool for teachers using

the SLOT (Spaced Learning Over Time) strategy we learned about in August. While this strategy is not appropriate to use for students enrolled for short time periods, it is a great strategy for students we know will be enrolled for longer periods of time.

Hopefully math teachers and literacy coaches have watched Annie Fetter's Ignite Talk: “Sense Making? Aren't we already Doing that in Literacy?” If not, please contact me and I will resend the link. Fetter reiterates what we already know...basic math and literacy skills overlap in several areas. As teachers, we need to show that to students and help them see they already know how to “make sense” of information presented to them no matter the name of the class. Thank you for all you are doing to help students make these connections. In visiting classrooms across the Commonwealth, it is very inspiring to see your creativity and hard work!

Submitted by: Laurie Cooper, DOE

How do I do that again?



VBJDC Cardboard Challenge 2016



During the November Election Day, the VBJDC, as part of its partnership with the Center for Excellence in Alternative Education (CEEAS), participated, for the first time, in the Global Cardboard Challenge. Inspired by the short film, "Caine's Arcade", the Global

Cardboard Challenge is an annual event presented by the Imagination Foundation to celebrate student creativity and the role communities can play in fostering it. All residents and teachers participated in the event and created over twenty arcade type games using only cardboard, recycled materials, and imagination. The challenge was ripe with creativity,



engineering, and teamwork. Students were introduced to the Cardboard Challenge concept during class and were allowed to begin the initial designs before the event. On the day of the event, students had only two and half hours to complete their final games. After the event, all games were displayed in the gym for all residents to view and play. A special awards ceremony was held before Thanksgiving to highlight the most outstanding games, and a bulletin board was created to highlight the event. If your facility is looking for an event for your entire program, the Global Cardboard Challenge is something that, with a little planning, offers everyone a chance to come together and play!

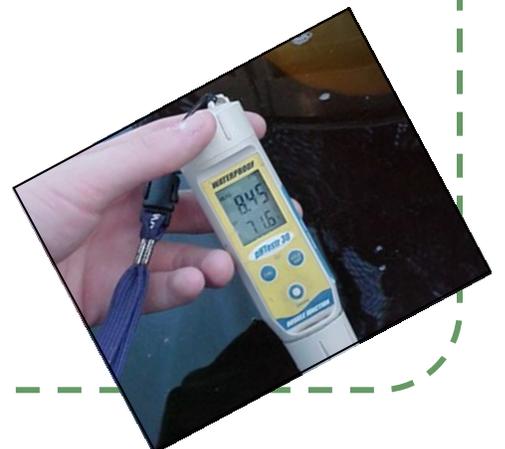
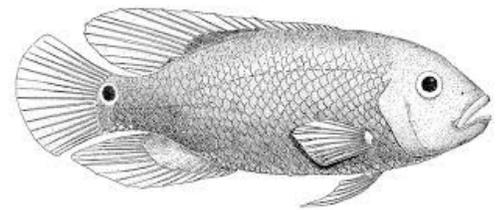


Tilapia Harvest in Chesapeake

Chesapeake Juvenile Service Center (CJSC) Post Dispositional (PD) Education Program has again been raising tilapia. For about the last year the fish have been living in an aquaculture tank in our greenhouse. Students collected rain water using eco-friendly rain barrels to provide freshwater. They used the water to maintain the

water quality of the 400 gallon culture. They apply their science class information to include, pH, temperature, and logs to keep a stable growth environment in the tank. Just before Thanksgiving students started harvesting the fish. The tilapia had grown to about a foot in length and just over a pound in weight. To assist students in harvesting the fish the water level in the tank was pumped down to help net the fish. Once caught the small fish were sorted and returned to the tank to continue to grow and spawn. The large fish

were sold to staff with the proceeds being used to purchase materials for seasonal projects and classes in the culinary arts, and equipment and supplies needed to support the greenhouse and aquaculture. For the majority of the students this was the first time that they had seen or handled a live fish. One student remarked "This is cool!"





State Operated Programs

Thanks to everyone that has submitted articles for Sharing Our Progress this Winter! Please continue to submit articles for the next newsletter this upcoming winter season.

Articles must be submitted the **15th day of the month before the publication.**

Newsletters will be published on the 1st of October, December, March, and June.

Submit articles in MSWord

format to:

sharingourprogress@gmail.com

A few guidelines for articles:

1. Provide articles that are **75-200** words in length. If you have more information to offer the field, include your email so that you may be contacted.
2. Provide author's name at the end of the article.
3. Submit graphics as JPGs or GIFs.
4. Submitted articles written by you or your staff.
5. Proof your article.
6. Send articles any time.

Thanks for all your support and contributions to our newsletter!!

Happy Holidays!

Merry Christmas!

Happy New Year!