

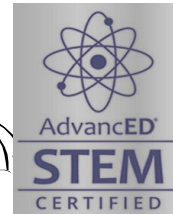
# THE ROAR

Volume 8, Issue 2

## ASCENSION CHRISTIAN LIONS

"Lighting a Path for the World"

SPRING 2016



# ACS Certified STEM School



**H**ow do you celebrate being named the first certified STEM school in the state?...with long *stem* roses, of course. Ascension Christian's faculty celebrated the good news shortly after they received the designation by the Atlanta-based organization AdvancED. It certifies quality learning in education for more than 32,000 schools nationally and internationally. The AdvancED assessment team spent three days evaluating the school's curriculum, classroom activities, and student projects. Numerous interviews were conducted with students, teachers, parents, and community organizations. School Superintendent Mark Pellegrin said the honor was something they had hoped for.

"We submitted our school for evaluation for STEM certification without really knowing how it would turn out. We were confident that we had a good school; we just didn't realize how good. For Ascension Christian to be named a certified PreK-12 STEM school is simply amazing. To be the first in the state is icing on the cake for us. The teachers work continuously to deliver quality in the classroom every day. I am so proud of this team. There is none like it anywhere!"

Since the announcement, school leaders have been asked to present Ascension Christian's accomplishments at a STEM conference in Tennessee. As well, several schools in Louisiana have scheduled plans to visit Ascension Christian.





# What is STEM?

The acronym STEM represents Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. For years, STEM has been growing in schools across the country as a mechanism to engage students to develop the skills, knowledge, and thinking strategies that will prepare them to be innovative, creative, and systematic problem-solvers. The basic concept of STEM is to encourage students, especially students underrepresented in STEM fields to connect to science, technology, engineering, and math as early as possible in an effort to increase participation by these students in STEM fields as a career. Most STEM schools are high schools, and they are usually magnet schools that serve only advanced-level achievers. At Ascension Christian School, however, the concept of STEM learning is different. At Ascension Christian School every student enrolled gains access to STEM opportunities in the classroom. Every student, regardless of achievement level, participates. Every student is challenged by the projects that are assigned. Students often work in groups to engage in teamwork and collaboration to solve problems. The process for STEM at Ascension Christian begins with teachers working together to create projects that require students to consider what they know and what they need to know to solve a problem. For example, a math teacher can collaborate with a science teacher, art teacher, English teacher, and/or a social studies teacher to design a project that would require students to consider all of these subjects in one project. A rubric guides students toward the expectations and the use an engineering model in the process. For several years, teachers at Ascension Christian have been doing these types of projects without identifying the projects as STEM. With the STEM certification label, teachers will intentionally support student learning with the engineering framework.



**Making Elephant Toothpaste**



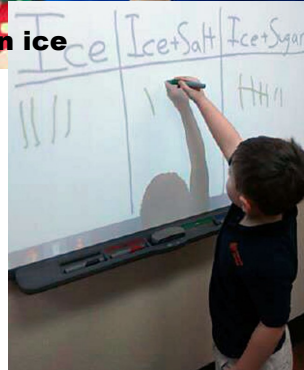
**Reading a recipe and baking**



**Developing an Ecosystem**



**Effects of salt on ice**



**Coding and robotics**



# Life After ACH

ACH seniors were invited to attend a forum comprised of ACH alumni who encouraged seniors toward their next steps. The alumni were recent graduates from 2010 through 2015. Many of the alumni are in STEM fields including engineering, healthcare, and architecture. ACH seniors in the audience gained insight into college life, work, being on your own, earning your way, responsibility, and much more. The Academic Counselor Lisa Pellegrin organized the event as a college and career readiness strategy. Coming up for seniors/juniors is career shadowing day on Feb. 2.



THANKS TO ALL ACH ALUMNI FOR SUPPORTING SENIORS

# BETA State

ACH senior BETA team competed at the state BETA convention in Lafayette in January. ACH Quiz Bowl team, as District Champions, competed all the way to the semi-finals. Junior Judah Gaudin was very impressive in his campaign for state BETA President, and Evan Thompson competed in live Art for ACH. All in all the team was a formidable competitor in all areas. We are very proud of our team and all they have accomplished this year. Congratulations to the students, teachers, and parents for your hard work!

QUIZ BOWL TEAM



GAUDIN TEAM



JUDAN GAUDIN CAMPAIGNING



# Robot Delivers Coffee

Computer Science students designed a robot to deliver coffee to the Superintendent's office. Class instructor Nathan Catlin said the students had fun with the project.

"Mr. Pellegrin challenged the class to create a robot that would deliver coffee to his office. While he thought it would be a stretch, the students made it happen rather quickly. Building the robot was the easy part, the fun part was getting their cell phones to work as a controller for the robot. It was great seeing Mr. Pellegrin's response when the robot turned the corner into his office. He was tremendously excited, to say the least!"



LtoR Dale Englehorn, Tyler Daigle, Bryce Mayers, Easton Stelly, Jeffrey Ragusa, Nicholas Weber, Eddie Krass, Gavin LeDoux, Mr. Catlin, Instructor, and Mr. Pellegrin



# Early Learning Center



ELC students studying foods and learning about tastes.



ELC students getting a taste of oranges.

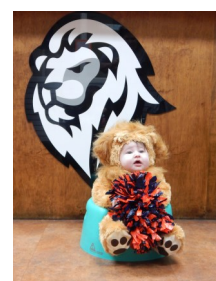


ELC students working on art projects.

Assistant ELC Director Sandy Johnson (left) recognized Frederica Amos for doing a good job in her position at the ELC. She always comes to work with a smile, and she is always willing to do whatever it takes to make the ELC a special place. Thank you!



Little Dexton Hebb poses for a quick pic in his lion costume. What do you think??? Do we have a future mascot in the making? Go Lions!



Linda Peterson Lead Teacher for Toddlers and 1 year olds (right) honored Judy Watts for her kindness, willingness to help, and her generous spirit at the ELC. Thank you Judy!



ELC's Mary Glasper received her letter of recognition from the Professional Council of Early Childhood Education awarding her the Child Development Associate Credential (CDA). It is the most widely recognized credential in early childhood education, and it is a key stepping stone on the path of career advancement in early childhood education. Congratulations, Mary!



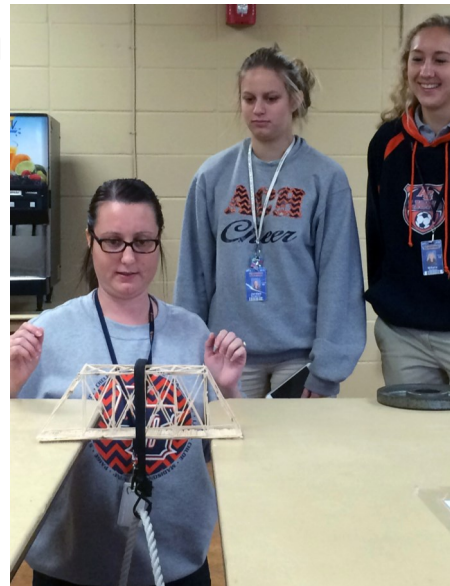




## Zoie's Garden

The cold weather slowed outside activities, but spring plans are heating up. Students are researching vegetables and will soon germinate seeds. More beds will be constructed for more planting. LSU Ag Center is going to partner with ACE

with the Master Garden Program. Zoie's Garden, as it's called, is a memorial to a former student who died suddenly of juvenile diabetes. Today Zoie's garden is an extension of the classroom as a living lab. Students use it to make life lessons and connections to God's world.



High school Geometry teacher Devon Brignac assesses her students' engineering design to determine if the bridge they built can support and sustain the weight requirements. Students Jordan Bergeron and Mikala Oulman watch to see if their design works. (It passed!)



Easton Stelly and Jeffrey Ragusa work together to engineer a wheel assembly for a project in their computer science class.

## Important Dates

Winter Break February 8-10, 2016  
 ACH Cheerleader Tryouts February 17-19, 2016  
 Staff Development Day (No School) March 4, 2016  
 3rd 9 Weeks Ends March 4, 2016  
 District Rally March 5, 2016  
 ACE Book Fair March 7-11, 2016  
 Easter Break March 25-April 1, 2016  
 ACE Standardized Testing Dates April 11-14, 2016  
 ACH Standardized Testing Dates April 12-13, 2016  
 State Rally April 16, 2016  
 Lions & Legacy Gala April 17, 2016  
 ACH Theater Production April 28, 2016  
 Jr. BETA Convention May 5-6, 2016  
 Seniors' Last Day May 6, 2016  
 ACH Sports Banquet April 22, 2016  
 ACH 2016 Graduation Ceremony May 14, 2016  
 ACH Awards Ceremony May 17, 2016  
 ACE Awards Ceremony May 20, 2016

Elementary students in the after school Legos Club are building their first robots. ACE students Corin Waguespack, Hadlie Walker, Skylar Rattler, Taylor Koretzky, and Madison DeLoach work



with the LEGO Mindstorm EV3. The kits provide students with tools needed to create robots that can think, walk, talk, and just about anything imaginable. The kits were donated by DOW. Sheila Catlin works with the students in small groups weekly.

Thank you, DOW!



Ascension Christian Schools  
SECOND ANNUAL  
**LIONS** & Legacy

*Gala & Silent Auction*

SUNDAY- APRIL 17, 2016

5:00-8:00PM

*The Clubhouse at  
Pelican Point Country Club*

TICKETS  
PRE SALE \$40 • AT THE DOOR \$50

DRESS ATTIRE

A SPECIAL NIGHT OF  
CELEBRATION AND GENEROSITY,  
SHOWCASING OUR LION PRIDE  
AND BUILDING A LEGACY.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT:  
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[ASCENSIONCHRISTIANGALA@GMAIL.COM](mailto:ASCENSIONCHRISTIANGALA@GMAIL.COM)





# LOOKING AHEAD

In November of 2015, Ascension Christian Schools (ACS), completed its five year evaluation for accreditation and received exceptional scores in all three categories—Teaching and Learning, Leadership Capacity, and Resource Use. The full report is available online at [Advanc-ed.org](http://Advanc-ed.org). As well, in December 2015, ACS submitted for a second review to pursue certification as a STEM school, (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). ACS was honored with being named the first, and currently the only, STEM certified school in Louisiana. The momentum at Ascension Christian Schools is electric. Planning for 2016-2017 is very exciting.

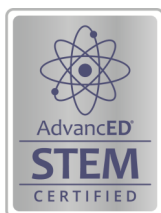
School leaders have been traveling across the state to see other excellent schools for the purpose of expanding opportunities for students to have more electives throughout the day including, music classes such as violin, piano, music appreciation, and voice/choral classes. As well, we are working to expand our career readiness programming to certify students for careers in nursing, early childhood education, welding and more.

Our community partners support these expanded programming options to enhance students learning and prepare them for college and career. Their tremendous generosity and contributions are important to the continued growth and development of the schools. Expanding and enhancing education is a key strategy to achieving excellence. We are thankful to our community partners for their willingness to invest in the vision and purpose of Ascension Christian Schools.

## THANK YOU

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

**Dr. Borislava Ilcheva**  
**Milton and Doris**  
**Clouatre**



ACH Cheerleaders with the ACE Cheerleaders at camp



(Front row) Ava Crifasi, Corin Waguespack, Amanda Fontenot, Lauren Swanson, Sydnee Irvin (Back row) Coach Cynthia Babbitt, Madeline Bobe, Hadlie Walker, Skylar Rattler, Dakota Dawson, Coach Crystal Perkins

## GALA FUNDS PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT at ACE/ELC

