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Allegany County Education Association

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A full color electronic version of this newsletter can be found on our website.

December 2024



The



Advocate

>>> Contemplations by Cresta

Toys for Happiness 2024!



In another amazing display of compassion and care, staff at Allegany County Public School facilities donated a record 145 toys, as well as \$2,420.00 during the recent 20th annual ACEA Denim Day for Toys For Happiness, held on Tuesday, December 3. A special thank you to all of the representatives and coordinators at each facility who helped collect, organize, and work with ACEA to get the many donations to our offices in time for the grand presentation on Friday, December 13, at the Stuff-the-Truck Event at Ollie's in LaVale.

Happy Holidays!

Ho, Ho, Housekeeping!

As the year draws to a close, many of us have routines to ring in the New Year. Some people make resolutions, hoping to make positive transformations that will change them for the future. For others, the act of reorganizing and cleaning can get them in the right headspace to face the unknown with a clean slate and a fresh start. Whatever your routine for ringing in the new year, I encourage you to check off a few of these “housekeeping” items to stay on top of your personal and family needs

- * Check your paycheck stub for your leave balances and to ensure your bi-weekly withholdings are correct.
- * Check with your doctor, dentist, and optometrist to ensure they continue to accept your insurance. Also, talk with someone in their office to make sure you understand how their billing works and determine if you must pay in advance for services.
- * Cold and flu season is upon us, so remember that ACPS requires a doctor's note after an absence of three consecutive days or more. If you are out for three days in a row, get a doctor's note to be attached to your timesheet upon your return. Always keep a copy for yourself.
- * Looking to make some changes and have fun in the coming year? Check out NEA Member Benefits (neamb.com) to see how you can save on insurance, vacations, car purchases, tickets and more.
- * Want to make connections with fellow ACEA members? Mark your calendars for two big events: Mr. Toad's Pottery on January 23rd from 6:30-9pm (RSVP – first 50 registered only) and Western Maryland Lobby Day in Annapolis on February 17th. See the flyers on your board and sign up today!

Our Perpetual Gift:
The ACEA Scholarship at Frostburg State University
Congratulations to the 2024 Recipient, Mason Reed!



Mason hails from Ellerslie, Maryland and is a junior at Frostburg State University majoring in elementary/middle school education with a concentration in math. He has achieved Dean's List status every semester while at FSU. He complements his studies as a member of the FSU track team in heptathlon and decathlon events with several podium finishes. He also volunteers with Special Olympics in Allegany County and has been a lifeguard/manager at Constitution Park Pool for the last five summers.

After undergraduate studies, Mason plans to continue his education at FSU as he pursues his Master of Education. He also plans to teach locally here in Allegany County after graduating.

Mason shared that he appreciates our support during his academic journey, and will continue to push himself on the track and in the classroom because of our generosity. We look forward to Mason joining our ranks very soon.

**December 2024
Hot Deals and Discounts
from NEA Member
Benefits!**

NEA Member Benefits features special deals for members. These can be found on the NEA Member Benefits website at <https://www.neamb.com/> and include discounted movie tickets, theme park admission, car buying and much more! And, for a limited time, NEA members can enter for a chance to win \$1,000 cash! Hurry—Ends January 2!

Union Made Gift Ideas!



Did you know???

Our CIGNA plan covers one annual physical per calendar year at 100% with an in-network provider. You would contact your PCP and schedule an annual physical/wellness screening, and be certain to let them know that this must be coded accordingly, so as to get this free benefit. For more information, contact CIGNA.

**Welcome new
ACEA Member!**

Unit 4

Elizabeth Whitacre

CV

ACEA 

Relax and get creative!

**ACEA MEMBER
POTTERY NIGHT**

First 50 members to sign up secure a spot!
Light refreshments will be provided-all you pay for is the pottery you paint!

THURSDAY JANUARY 23, 2025 | 6:30-9PM
MR. TOAD'S POTTERY STUDIO-LAVALLE, MD

Use the QR code below to sign up for the event!

