



MS. MAY'S FORMER KINDERGARDENERS (NOW FIRST GRADERS!) SHOW OFF THEIR MUDDY HANDS AND FEET AFTER MAKING COB FOR OUR EARTH OVEN LAST APRIL WITH ARTIST IN RESIDENCE MIKAH BUNCH



IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome and Welcome Back!

Welcome back to our returning Isaac Dickson families and a warm welcome to our new families! As you may have noticed by now, some exciting changes have come to Isaac Dickson over the summer.

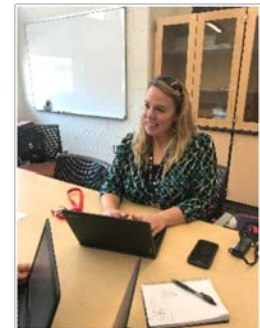
We have a number of new staff members to get to know as well as some familiar faces that are in new roles. First, some new roles for our returning teachers: Patti Evans has moved from 2nd to 3rd Grade, completing a remarkable 1st-2nd-3rd ladder in consecutive years. But you can still find her down the K-1 wing. Leigh Smith has moved from 1st to 4th Grade; and Octavia Hamilton is now in the 3-5 EC classroom (we'll meet her as a new teacher as well). Laura Lane is also stepping into a new role as Instructional Facilitator. We'll learn more about the Instructional Facilitator position in our next newsletter.

Our new staff members include *Assistant Principal* Tima Williams; Sandi Priest (*1st Grade*); Ana Hernandez (*2nd Grade Instructional Assistant*); Kaitlin Clark (*2nd Grade Instructional Assistant*); Elizabeth Reis (*2nd Grade*); Holly Griffin

(*3rd Grade*); Erica Grimes (*4th Grade*); Allison Mahon (*Intensive Intervention*); Julia Burdette (*Spanish*); Kathryn Bradley (*Media Assistant*), and Jennifer Huffstetler (*K-2 Exceptional Children*). We'll meet them all in this newsletter.

You may have also noticed that we have a new garden shed on the K-2 playground thanks mostly to the very hard work of parent Brian Monteleone—more on that story on page 2.

Finally, we want you to know that the PTO will continue to work this year to enhance the educational opportunities of all of our students. We plan to focus in particular on community building and social events. So if you have ideas on social and/or community events that you would like to see happen and/or would like to help organize (even better!), please let us know. Remember, all Dickson family members are members of the PTO. You can help out as much or as little as you like!



New Staff

Isaac Dickson has a number of amazing new staff members this year. Let's meet them!

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Mural Dedication

Thanks to everyone who came out for the Stumptown / Hill Street Mural d dedication and potluck on September 21.

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A New Shed on the K-2 Playground

A new garden shed was constructed over the summer by parent Brian Monteleone [along with help from other parents and Mr. Scott from the Kindergarten team, but really mostly Brian :-)]. The shed was designed by Aaron and Calder Wilson, of *Wilson Architects* and will soon have a living roof courtesy of parent Emilio Ancaya of *Living Roofs* who also installed the living components on the roof of the new cob oven.



The shed materials were paid for using part of a \$20K grant from the Faile Foundation, which the PTO applied for and received last year in order to make some physical improvements to our campus.

We are really, truly grateful for all of the work that Brian put in over the summer. He put in many, many hours of work and also had to get creative to keep the costs down and stay within the original estimates. Not an easy task!

The PTO is also continuing to work on getting two shade structures constructed for both the K-2 and 3-5 playground areas. For this, the PTO will be combining funds from the Foundation grant with funds from the Bright IDEAS board. A similar partnership was used to fund the



Isaac Dickson parents Rob Stenhouse and Brian Monteleone work on the garden shed over the summer.

construction of the earth (cob) oven last spring. Look for further details on shade construction in the coming months, and a big thank you to Bright IDEAS for partnering with the PTO on so many great projects.

Isaac Dickson's Rooftop Solar Project Receives Approval from School Board

Fundraising goal of \$220,000 has also been achieved

On June 26, 2018, the Asheville City Schools Board of Education approved two measures that the Isaac Dickson PTO has been working on and advocating for over the last 1-2 years. The first was approval of a no cost lease option for Isaac Dickson Solar, LLC to place 600 kWatts of solar photovoltaic (PV) panels on the roof of the school as an investment in renewal energy. The LLC will own and be responsible for the panels for a period of approximately seven years after which ownership will transfer to Asheville City Schools at no cost.

The second measure was a request to invest a Duke Energy rebate check provided to the district into the solar PV array project. This rebate was provided by Duke because of energy efficiencies already in place at our school. This rebate helped accelerate our fundraising

timeline, which had already benefitted from a \$110,000 matching grant offered by an anonymous donor in May 2017.

The PTO launched a fundraising campaign in April 2017 in partnership with the [Green Built Alliance](#) to raise part of the overall cost of the array through charitable donations. The ultimate cost of the 600 kWatt rooftop system is around \$1 million, with \$220,000 coming from the fundraising campaign and about \$800,000 from private investors. For the charitable contributions, donations have been accepted through the Green Built Alliance's [Appalachian Offsets](#) program ([cutmycarbon.org](#)). Businesses and individuals who make a tax deductible donation to [cutmycarbon.org](#) also offset their own carbon footprint by contributing to a local green energy project (in this case, the Isaac Dickson's roof top solar

array). In addition to making Isaac Dickson Elementary one of the first carbon neutral schools in the Southeast, the solar panels will ultimately save Asheville City Schools over \$3.5 million in energy costs over their lifetime. The rooftop panels will likewise prevent the emission of approximately 1,000,000 lbs (450 tonnes) of CO₂ each year.

Installation is planned for the summer of 2019 by [Sundance Power Systems](#). Green Built Alliance will continue to collect donations for the Isaac Dickson solar project via the offsets program [cutmycarbon.org](#) for the time being in an effort to ensure that the timeline that private investors need to own the array to get a return on their investment does not exceed 7 years. The solar panels have a lifetime of at least 30 years.

Welcome New Staff!



Erica Grimes—4th Grade. My name is Erica Grimes, and I am very excited to be a new 4th grade teacher at Isaac Dickson this year. My passion for teaching began as I was living and teaching ESL in Taiwan. I have a bachelor of fine arts in metal working from Ball State University in Indiana, and I completed the teacher training program at the University of North Carolina Asheville to obtain my teaching license. I grew up in Indiana and my whole immediate family live there. I come from a long line of teachers. My great grandfather and grandfather were professors, my mother and both of her sisters are all educators. I cannot wait to continue on with this tradition and start my teaching career, in Asheville, at such a great school.



Octavia Hamilton—3-5 EC. Hi my name is Octavia Hamilton. I am a graduate of Bennett College for Women. I am excited to start this new position and work with the students!



Julia "Profa" Burdette—Spanish. I fell in love with Spanish in middle school. I studied Spanish at Appalachian State University and did a study abroad in Spain. I have taken many student groups to Spain and have traveled in Costa Rica and the Yucatán in Mexico as well. I am in my 18th year of teaching. I taught in elementary schools for five years and a middle school for twelve years.



Tima Williams—Assistant Principal. I am a single mom with two beautiful teenage daughters and LOTS of pets (my youngest daughter wants to major in animal science). I enjoy spending time with family, traveling, creating art, and volunteering. Helping others makes me happy!

I have a Bachelor's of Science in Learning Disabilities K-12 with minors in Psychology and Art from Appalachian State University. I hold a K-12 license for Academically Gifted Education and am highly qualified in ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies. I graduated from the Executive Leadership Program at Western Carolina with a Master's Degree in School Administration. I am Nationally Board Certified in Exceptional Needs Birth to Young Adult and am a regional, state, and national presenter. I am a Master Literacy Trainer, a Reading Research to Classroom Practice Trainer, and a Math Foundations Trainer for the state. I am currently pursuing Montessori School Leadership Certification.



Sandi Priest—1st Grade. I was born and raised in Florida. I have lived in Boone, NC for nearly 12 years. I have experience teaching all elementary grades, especially 1st, 2nd and 3rd grades. I am a vegetarian so I am super excited to live in Asheville where there are so many restaurants to choose from. I am thrilled to be at IDES and love my first grade team already. I am super fortunate to have Angel Redmond for my assistant. This is going to be a fabulous school year!

I enjoy working with students and opening up new worlds and cultures for them. Music and dance are some of my favorite activities. In the classroom, I use an approach called comprehensible input or the natural approach. Just as a young child learns their native language by LISTENING for MANY months (years?) before actually talking, my classes are structured so that students hear Spanish the majority of the time. I am intentional, slow, and repetitive so that students understand what is going on before we move forward. The main job students have is to LISTEN and UNDERSTAND. We will incorporate reading and writing at very basic levels as they are ready. I have two young boys, Wesley (4) and Andrew (2) and my husband also works for Asheville City Schools. I enjoy cooking, baking, playing music (bass/irish button accordion), dancing, sewing, watching crime dramas, and spending time in our lovely mountains. I look forward to meeting you and your children.



Kathryn Bradley—Media Assistant. I got my BA in Art from Warren Wilson College in 2001. I spent several years working as a dental lab assistant, making crown and bridge models for dentists. I received my teaching licensure in middle school math from UNCA in 2012. For the last 4 years, I have taught Robotics, Computer Science, and Engineering at Erwin Middle. I love teaching STEM, and I am excited to see the innovative projects students develop in our Maker Space!



Holly Griffin—3rd Grade. My name is Holly Griffin and I will be teaching third grade at Dickson this year! I am looking forward to many things, and I'm particularly excited about our school's magnet theme of experiential learning.

I am looking forward to an outstanding school year!



Allison Mahon—Intensive Intervention.

Hello! My name is Allison Mahon and I am the new EC teacher at Isaac Dickson. My family and I recently moved to Asheville from Athens, Georgia. I have a daughter named Olivia. She attends the 4th grade at IDES. We are excited to be new members of the Asheville City Schools Community! Our family enjoys camping, hiking, riding bikes around town, and spending time exploring our new home town!



Kaitlyn Clark—2nd Grade Instructional Assistant.

My name is Kaitlin Clark and I am married to my best friend of three years Dewayne. We have one son who will be three in September named Easton. I am currently expecting my second child another little boy named Grant in November. I have my BK degree from WCU where I last worked as a N.C. PreK teacher at Eliada before coming to Dickson. Now I am back working with the best teacher and my mentor through my college career Ms. Reis! I cannot be more excited to be here and I hope for a grateful year.



Elizabeth Reis—2nd Grade.

Hello! My name is Elizabeth Reis, soon to be Elizabeth Kane. I'm getting married this weekend :-). I moved here from New York City five years ago and taught in Haywood County until this year. I like hiking, camping & yoga, and also enjoy making jewelry and organic beauty products.



Ana Hernandez—2nd Grade Instructional Assistant.

My name is Ana Lilia Hernandez. I've just moved to Asheville from Corpus Christi, Texas. I have teaching experience in kindergarten, third grade, and now have the opportunity to add 2nd grade to my resume. I'm looking forward to embrace this change in my life!

In Memoriam

Peggy Genova or (Ms. G) began her career in education supporting special needs students at a small high school in Bend, Oregon. In 1996 after moving back to North Carolina with her family of four she decided to go back to school to pursue a formal degree in education, obtaining her NC teaching license and a masters in elementary education.

Peggy's first teaching career was in Buncombe County Schools at Black Mountain Elementary. She developed the "Kids on the Run" program for 4th grade and after the first year other teachers began implementing the program to encourage students' physical fitness. In the program, students ran laps on the playground to work up to a marathon (26.2 miles) by the end of the year!

Peggy began teaching at Isaac Dickson in 2008 and was a teacher and friend to hundreds of students and dozens of teachers at Dickson. Bringing in her love of the outdoors and her passion for addressing social justice, her classroom was filled with a love of learning, laughter, equity, and empowerment. From organizing a class performance of Adele's "Hello",

Marching Against Racism, incorporating experiential education with Outward Bound's 4 Pillars, Peggy created a supportive classroom environment and had an endless amount of compassion and love for her students. Her "supernova's" as she called her students were an inspiration to her as much as she was to them. In 2015, Peggy pushed for the allotment of several teacher scholarships to attend a NC Outward Bound Educators Course. Since then, 6 teachers from Isaac Dickson have participated in the NC Outward Bound Educators Initiative-4 awarded in scholarship by NCOBS and 2 funded by the Isaac Dickson PTO, which will maintain the scholarship for future teacher participation.

The school is also in the early planning stages to create an outdoor learning space in her honor.

Peggy will always be in the hearts of the students she has taught and the teachers she has known. Her wisdom will serve to enlighten us all who strive to teach with compassion and help us to empower the free spirits in our classrooms.



The Stumptown/Hill Street Mural Dedication

A big thank you to everyone who made it out to the mural dedication and schoolwide potluck--our first social event of the new school year. We appreciate everyone who made the program a success: Keena Proctor for leading us in song, Angel Redmond for her original poem "Stumptown", Libby Kyles for MC'ing the event, for Rasheeda McDaniels, Ernie Mapp, Daniel Suber and the Word on the Street Youth group for their spoken word and song and, especially, to all the Stumptown elders. A huge thank you also to Paige Duft who worked out the panel configurations, facilitated the work with the students, and hosted our artist for 3 months in her art classroom.

The dedication marked the end of a year-long process that began last fall with a matching grant application to the Asheville City Schools Foundation to supplement a grant earmarked from the PTO.



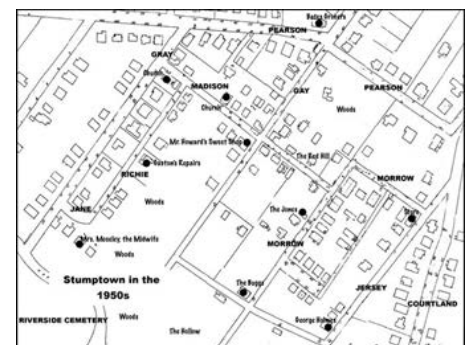
facilitate these sessions as well as the eventual hands on work with our students. About 15 elders came to the sessions, several of whom also addressed the 3rd and 5th grades classes last March just before the art work with the kids began.

Opposite the Stumptown mural, Ernie Mapp has painted the two former Hill Street Schools below a depiction of the current Isaac Dickson Elementary building. Our plan is to honor former Hill Street School teachers on that wall with a future project.

On the Stumptown side, the portraits on the raised panels include Phyllis Sherrill, Clara Jeter, Al Whitesides, Sophie Dixon, Walter Mapp Sr., Henry Robinson, Bobbette Mays and Sharon Leverette. We'll learn more about these former Stumptown residents in a future newsletter, but come by and take a look if you haven't already.



The Artist for the project, Ernie Mapp, attended the listening sessions along with Daniel Suber who helped



Upcoming Events—

- **Breakfast of Hope** - October 18 at 8:00 am - IDES Gymnasium
Please see the [flyer](#) for more information and join use if you can!
- **Monster Mash** - October 26 - 5:30 to 7:30 PM - IDES Gymnasium
Costume contests, DJ (parent Jakub Holy), Food & Refreshments
(If you have extra Halloween Costumes to share, please bring them to school and give them to Ms. Lewis for any kids that might forget that day or otherwise not have one)



SPONSORS ARE NEEDED for the Hot Chocolate 10k & 5k Race. Would you, your company—or a business owner you know—like to be a sponsor? All proceeds benefit students and teachers at Dickson!

Please follow the link and help us get sponsors:
www.hotchocolate10k.com.

The **Hot Chocolate** includes The Marshmallow Dash, 1k Hill Climb, a 5k and a 10k race. Whatever your ability, there's a race for you. We'll also need all hands on deck to help out with the race so stay tuned for more information as we proceed through fall.



Shopping online? If you said "Yes" then you should know about smile.amazon.com. If you complete your purchases at smile.amazon.com, 0.5% of your purchase can be donated to the **Isaac Dickson Elementary PTO**. Just be sure to choose our PTO as your designated charity in your settings. Super Easy!

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Please consider joining our meetings. Our work sessions occur the first Tuesday of every month at 5:30 pm at the school. This fall, we are focusing on social events rather than meetings, but we'll announce any general meetings as they are scheduled. Our general meetings are usually the third Monday of the month, also at 5:30 pm. Everyone is welcome attend any of meetings because you are all members of the PTO, and we encourage suggestions and involvement. Please let us know what you think!