



## Monthly Newsletter



In true Exploris fashion, 1st grade took advantage of the great weather to move learning outside. Not only does this help with Covid precautions, but it helps students relate to our core value of Connections to Nature!

### Inside the Issue

#### FALL FESTIVAL

Save October 29th for an evening of fun for all ages!

#### BOARD RETREAT

Our Board spent a day learning more about the "why" of Exploris and the "what" of being a member of our Board.

#### SPIRIT WEEK

5 days of fun to round out the month of October and celebrate fall!

## DID YOU MISS CURRICULUM NIGHT?

It's not too late to check out the recordings from Crew teachers, Global Arts Teachers, and Admin & Support! Check your class blogs for the links to each presentation.





# COVID-19 TESTING

*Now Available for Free Onsite at Exploris*

Exploris can now offer both weekly screening testing and diagnostic testing for students and staff who opt to enroll in the program. Screening testing is useful both for catching asymptomatic cases and for providing documentation for travel or attendance at specific events, for example. Diagnostic testing can help families tell quickly if that runny nose is a seasonal allergy or an early symptom of Covid-19.

To participate, families must REGISTER their student. The test is a quick nose swab (not the invasive one that goes into the sinuses!) and results are confidential and sent only to the parent or guardian via text or email, usually in about 24 hours.

Click on the links below to register. And of course, free testing is still widely available at sites throughout Wake County. Thank you all for helping to protect our whole school community!

**[Exploris ELEMENTARY School STUDENT Registration](#)**

**[Exploris MIDDLE School STUDENT Registration](#)**

**[Wake County Testing Locations](#)**



# The *Pulsera* Project



**\$5 per bracelet, sold in carpool each day 10/18-11/1 !**

## Results

- \*SUSTAINED EMPLOYMENT FOR NEARLY 200 ARTISTS
- \*LEGAL AND MEDICAL AID FOR THOSE IMPACTED BY THE CRISIS IN NICARAGUA
- \*SECONDARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS
- \* UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ARTISANS AND THEIR FAMILIES
- \*HEALTHCARE FOR ARTISANS AND THEIR FAMILIES
- \*A HOUSING PROGRAM FOR ARTISANS AND THEIR FAMILIES
- \*ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES
- \*SUPPORT FOR OTHER SOCIAL ENTERPRISES DOING IMPACTFUL WORK IN THESE COUNTRIES

WE HOPE THIS WILL BE A HIGHLIGHT OF THE SCHOOL YEAR AS STUDENTS ENGAGE WITH THE BEAUTY OF LATIN AMERICAN CULTURE WHILE LENDING SUPPORT TO THESE SKILLED ARTISANS AND THEIR COMMUNITIES!



## Bracelets with Benefits!

OCTOBER 18-NOV. 1ST

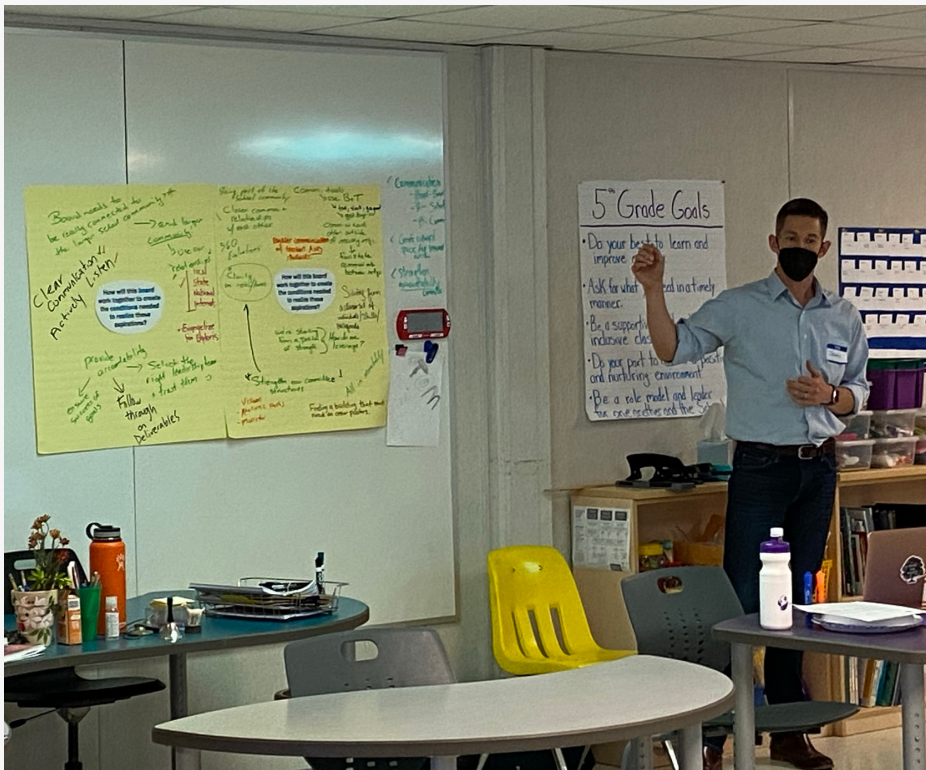
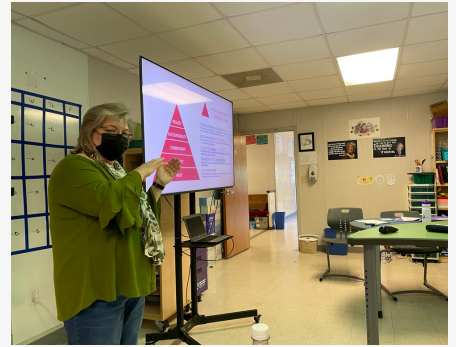
Over the next two weeks our school will be partnering with The Pulsera Project, a fair trade nonprofit organization that seeks to empower, inspire, and educate people in Central America and the U.S.

The Pulsera Project provides sustainable, well-paying work opportunities for nearly 200 artisans in Nicaragua and Guatemala, most of whom make colorful hand-woven bracelets, or “pulseras” in Spanish. The project then creates a market for their artwork by partnering with schools across the U.S.

Pulseras will be sold for \$5 here in our school, and the proceeds will be invested in a wide range of social impact programs in Nicaragua & Guatemala. [Click to watch the video to learn more!](#)

# BOARD RETREAT

CHECK OUT SOME SCENES FROM OUR SCHOOL BOARD'S ANNUAL RETREAT ON SATURDAY, SEPT. 19TH 2021



The members of the Exploris School Board came together to explore both the "WHY" of Exploris and the "WHAT" of their specific roles and responsibilities. They heard from Exploris staff and alumni, participated in student-led tours, envisioning and team building activities, and heard special presentations on finance, grants, and Kaizen techniques. Thank you to this talented group of professionals who volunteer their time and expertise in service to Exploris!



THE OCTOBER 2021 ISSUE

# EXPLORATIONS & ELECTIVES

HELP WANTED! FRIDAYS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

3rd graders flying high  
at Cirque du Vol



## CAN YOU HELP?

[ELEMENTARY  
EXPLORATIONS TOPIC  
SURVEY](#)

[ELEMENTARY  
VOLUNTEER SIGN UP  
GENIUS](#)

Our Elementary Explorations and our Middle School Electives are a special part of an Exploris education. Students have the chance to explore all kinds of interesting topics, service projects, sports, arts, and careers-- but only through the generous help of our family and community volunteers! Got a great idea or connection for a topic? Got some time on Friday afternoons that you could volunteer?

**For Elementary:** Please reach out to Karen at [karenm@exploris.org](mailto:karenm@exploris.org)

**For Middle School:** Contact Deb at [Deborah@Exploris.org](mailto:Deborah@Exploris.org)

***Even if you can't commit to leading a program, even one afternoon of volunteering is helpful! we'd love to have you come help with lunches, walking to events, and activities in the classroom on assorted Fridays!***



## TWEENS, TEENS, & SOCIAL MEDIA

Since the start of this school year, we seem to be seeing more instances of students not being their best selves on social media and when using school technology. The reports of bad language, inappropriate topics, rudeness, insults and even sexual comments, racial slurs and bullying are higher than we've ever seen.

At school, we have several tools we use to help monitor behavior while students are using school accounts. For home, we encourage all families to take an active role in looking at their student's apps and activities. As the adults in their lives (and as the people most likely paying for any phones and internet access!) our students still need you to help provide some seatbelts on the wide highway of social media, apps, and websites.

Plus, check out the QR code to the right for a great list of resources curated by our counseling team, and this list of [10 Apps for families to use to monitor kid's screen time, texts, pictures, and other social media and app usage](#).

## COUNSELOR CORNER



Lori Mauro from our counseling team is creating a series of videos to help families navigate through their tweens and teens' social media usage.

Check out her [Parent Talk Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#)!

Have other counseling needs or questions?

[counselor@exploris.org](mailto:counselor@exploris.org)

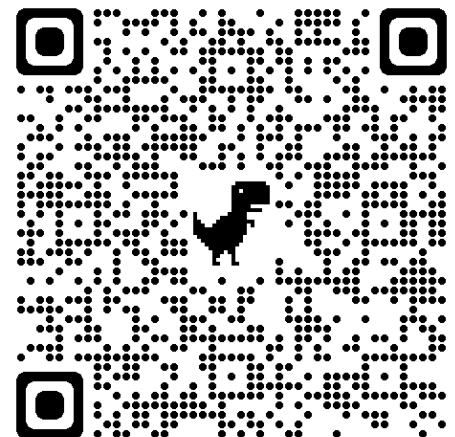
to go to all counseling support staff.

**Michelle Duncan**, Lead School Counselor, Lunch Programming Coordinator, McKinney Vento Coordinator, 504 Coordinator

**Matt Moreland**, School Counselor

**Ryan Boney**, counseling intern

**Lori Mauro**, Clinical Social Worker





# YEARBOOK NEWS



## YEARBOOKS & ADS ON SALE NOW!

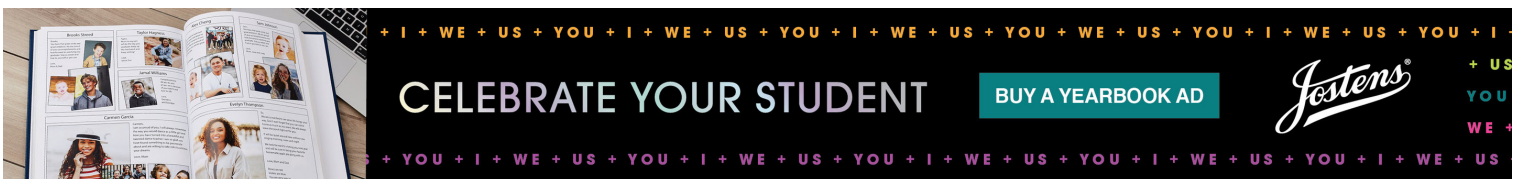
*Order both online!*

Think of all those first day of school pictures and selfies the kids take all year-- 10 years from now, will they know how to find those pictures? They will if they have a yearbook! The Exploris yearbook is created by our own students and is the official record of the school year. Books are on sale now at the link below!

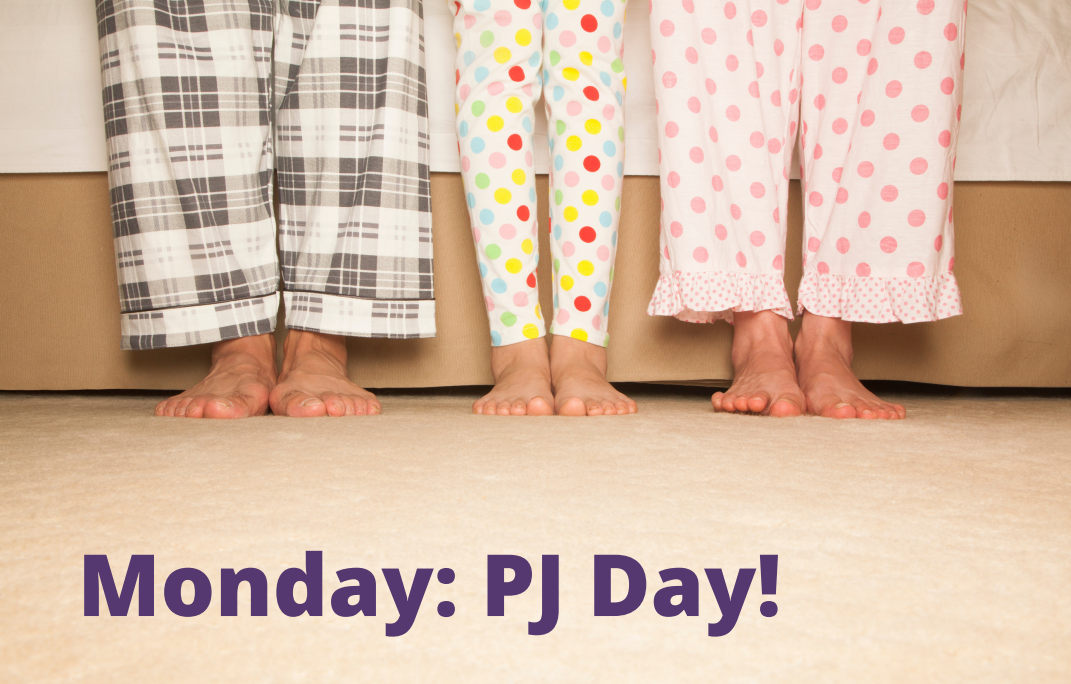
Also, families can order a tribute ad for any student to celebrate their year! Ads can also be created for a club or to thank a special teacher or team! The process is easy and starts by clicking the links below. Space is limited, so please order early to make sure your ad can be included!

Got a great picture of a classroom activity or afterschool event? The yearbook staff also invites everyone to send in those wonderful photos to help us have a more inclusive book! Just use the QR code to the right.

[Order yearbooks and personal ads by clicking this link and going to Jostens.com](#)







**Monday: PJ Day!**



**Tuesday:  
Crew Day**



**Wednesday:  
Colors Day**

## **Exploris Spirit Week!**

**Oct. 25th-29th**

**Monday: PJ Day!** Stay in your robe and slippers for class and be comfy all day

**Tuesday: Crew day!** Each crew will choose their own theme! Watch your class blogs for announcements

**Wed: Colors day!** Dress head to toe in a favorite color, go all neon or rainbow, or choose a blackout/whiteout style!

**Thursday: Sports Day!** Wear your workout gear, team uniform, or items from your favorite team

**Friday: Character Day!** Dress as a favorite from history, books, movies, games, series, etc. **Also:** Halloween Costumes are welcome in class today!



**Thursday:  
Sports Day**



**Friday:  
Character  
Day &  
Halloween!**





Exploris PTO Presents the

# Fall Festival

**FOOD • CRAFTS • GAMES • FUN**

Friday, October 29  
5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Exploris Elementary  
Campus, Swain Street

Wear a costume or a fun mask!  
All K-8 kids, families, & faculty are invited.

DJ \* Food Truck \* Firepit \* Raffle





# CLASS HIGHLIGHTS

*Take a peek inside our classrooms!*



## KINDERGARTEN

The beginning of kindergarten is a lot of learning how to be at school. And a lot of playing with our new friends.



## 1ST GRADE

In true Exploris fashion, 1st grade has moved our learning outside! a



## 2ND GRADE

In Art, students created construction paper collage art inspired by Yayoi Kusama and covered the room with dots to make our own artist installation! We also worked on landscape paintings inspired by Vincent Van Gogh



## 4TH GRADE

What makes our school special is our unique way of combining project based learning, with expeditionary learning. In this picture some may see chaos but we see collaboration, engagement, intentional use of technology, hands-on learning all while learning about people groups of North Carolina.



# CLASS HIGHLIGHTS

*Take a peek inside our classrooms!*



## 5TH

Science is about making hypotheses and testing them to either prove or disprove your ideas. Here, students explore the concepts of force and motion and friction. During our rainy day, we took a brain break earlier this week to get some energy out!



## 6TH GRADE

Sixth grade had our Puff Mobile Design Challenge. Click on [THIS LINK](#) to see the full photo gallery!



## 7TH GRADE

After building our Rube Goldberg Machines, students have been learning about force and motion through Newton's Labs. We are also reflecting on the fact that we are a force as well. Here two students are working on their Balloon Race Design before the big run.



## 8TH GRADE

8th grade continued our study of Hydrosphere with our annual stream study at Walnut Creek Wetland Center. We also cleaned the stream in Chavis that is adopted by Exploris 8th grade and did a scavenger hunt about the history of Chavis park!



## CHECK OUT THESE UPCOMING EVENTS!



### OCT. 19 & 20

**School Pictures!** Elementary on Tuesday, Oct. 19th and Middle on Wed. October 20th.

No fee; all will be photographed for the yearbook. Families will have the option to purchase prints and digital images.



### OCT. 22ND

**No School- Teacher Workday & Family Conferences**

Watch your emails for schedules and invitations if your crew teacher is holding conferences.



### OCT. 29TH

**Fall Festival!** Join us at the Elementary School campus for a PTO sponsored night of games, music, and even s'mores around a firepit!





Happy  
Halloween