

## Good News! October- December 2014

**GOOD NEWS!** articles show how active the ACHS community is during the school year.

### **Air Force Band, Singing Sergeants and ACHS (Oct 21)**

Atlantic Coast High School hosted the United States Air Force Band and the singing Sergeants at a concert on Monday, October 21st, 2014 in our Performing Arts Center. The concert was part of their Fall Tour 2014, "Southern Harmony".

Select members of the ACHS Chorus and Band were invited to perform with the US Air Force Band in front of a packed performing arts center!



### **Special Olympians Medal at the Fall Classic (Nov 15)**

Two ACHS students recently took home medals in the Special Olympics Fall Classic at ESPN Orlando. This is the state level competition for all of Special Olympics fall sports and ACHS first show for power lifting.

After 9 hours of competition, Jaquiza Walden walked away with 2nd place (if not for a disqualification in her first lift she would have come away with 1st). Keno Washington took 1st place in the heavy weight division. Both athletes expressed gratitude for getting the chance to attend this type of competition and enjoyed the Opening/Closing Ceremonies that Special Olympics Florida puts on.



### **Drama Takes Honors Nov 15**

The Stingray Theatre Troupe #7923 competed in The International Thespian Society District 2 Festival on November 15th. Christine Lambert, Lorna Margretta, Kristen LaSalvia, Tiffany Nelson, and Ian LaSalvia all earned "Excellent" marks while Jimmy Henson and Macy McBride earned "Superior" Ratings.

It is a district competition against several high schools across northern Florida. It is a high stress environment. Plus they prepared these performances while simultaneously working on our fall production of the play Almost, Maine.

### **Technology in the Real World (Nov 20)**

Real world application can be found in the partnership of Big Brothers/Big Sisters and WEB.com in starting the inaugural year of mentorship with 10 ACHS students. On November 20, ACHS students had the opportunity to "lunch and learn" from their mentors at WEB.com. This program will continue throughout the year with the student applicants working side by side with mentors twice a month for the remainder of the school year.

This is the first year in which this partnership allows students to get first-hand information about the technology field and all the parts that are involved in this home-grown business that reaches around the nation. Participating students applied for this opportunity to learn from those who are actually in the field. The big idea for these interested ACHS students is to gain insight to the Internet technology field that is ever-growing and changing.



### **It's All About Our Kids – Childhood Obesity Summit (Dec 6)**

Atlantic Coast High School recently hosted the Childhood Obesity Summit hosted by former school board member Betty Burney. ACHS Senior, Harley Rowand discussed what ACHS is doing through nutrition and physical activity to decrease childhood obesity as well as her philosophy of being active.

The summit was attended by community members as well as the Mayor of Jacksonville, Alvin Brown, and our own superintendent, Dr. Vitti (who were also speakers on the first panel).



### **You See Him Rollin' – Special Olympian Accepts the Challenge (Dec 7)**

One of our students, Dillon Ford, recently joined a competitive racing team, Team Achilles. This weekend, Palm Beach hosted a marathon. Dillon completed a half marathon (13.1 miles) which was a first for him! This was Dillon's first road race and completing it was an incredible accomplishment for him.

### **Basketball Knows No Limits – Swish! (Dec 6)**

ACHS' very own Earl Edwards competed in an all deaf traveling basketball league this past weekend in Orlando, FL. Earl's team, the Jaguars, placed 2nd overall in the tournament!



### **“Sting” is All About Competition (Dec 6)**

ACHS Special Olympic Unified Flag Football Team (Sting) traveled to the Special Olympics Florida's National Training Center in Clermont, Florida on Dec 6, 2014 to compete in the state Flag Football tournament.

Twenty-nine unified teams made the trip to Clermont from all over the state. After a long day and fierce battles with a team from Miami - Stingrays came home with second place. Along with team competition, skills competition was added this year and ACHS Alex Bheer came home with a Gold medal.



### **Art Teacher is Awarded by Target (Dec 10)**

One of our teachers, Kelly Delaney, was recently awarded a grant from Target. This \$700 field trip grant will allow the art classes to attend the Cummer Art Museum. Ms. Delaney was selected as a recipient for this grant out of all the submissions nation wide.

### **Tacky Holiday Sweater Day (Dec 16)**

Atlantic Coast High School faculty jumped into the holiday spirit this year with the annual Tacky Christmas Sweater day. This annual event has brought out the festive nature of the faculty and allowed us to have a fun filled day with the students.

