



# Sidewalk Chalk

## Monthly e-newsletter

### OUR VISION

All children in Randolph County enter kindergarten healthy & ready to succeed in school and life.

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#### In this month's issue:

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"A child who reads will be an adult who thinks."

—Sasha Salmina

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## Inspirations

A personality trait I've always longed for is what I call the gift of gab, or the ability to strike up a conversation—comfortably and naturally—with just about anyone about anything. In this regard, I am still a work in progress. If someone else makes the first volley, I am often all in. It's more difficult for me, however, to ask that first question or make that first overture.

Conversation, I have learned since entering the field of early childhood education, is one of the greatest tools in our toolkit to help young children build literacy skills. Children's home language environments affect their brains in very direct ways. Parents, grandparents, and siblings who converse with our young children (yes, even with infants and newborns) are increasing the number of words children hear, and eventually speak—and this is one of the primary strategies in helping children grow into capable readers.



Within these conversations, young children learn best when turn-taking is involved, following a serve-and-return pattern. In other words, the goal with our children is *conversation that is truly conversational*, with back-and-forth exchanges. Both parties are contributing, engaged, and reacting to one another. Of course, with a pre-language child, their response to our serve may be a string of babbles instead of a string of words. With an infant, their return may be a twitching of the arms, or a sweet little coo, or a shriek!

Pre-language serving patterns may be less obvious (at first!) than words, but if we take notice we will find our youngest children are inviting us to converse with them all the time. We may see them pointing to something, or twisting their bodies toward something while in our arms. This is our moment to respond to them with our language, and say something like, “I see you are looking at the light hanging over the table. Isn’t that a bright light?” or “I heard the dog bark. Did you hear it too?” From there, you can build a dialogue together, giving each other opportunities to lead and follow. The key is to keep it going, because in these exchanges, the child has to process what you are saying, and then formulate and deliver their own response. And this, my friends, is how language—and literacy—skills are built.

So, tell me, what good conversations have you had lately?

**Lisa Hayworth**

Executive Director

## Literacy Champions



Board Directors and guests at our 2021 Annual Meeting Breakfast were asked to become champions for early literacy. Each received materials they could share at their businesses, with family and friends, and in their communities.

If you'd like to become a Literacy Champion, too, we have plenty of materials we can provide.

For [Dolly Parton's Imagination Library](#), we have window clings, brochures, and yard signs that encourage families to register their children to receive a free book in the mail every month until their 5th birthday.

We also have rack cards about [Reach Out and Read](#) so you can tell families with young children about pediatricians who prescribe reading and provide free books at well-child visits as well as thank those pediatricians for partnering with us for early literacy.

We also have [The Randolph Basics](#) bookmarks, which you can use to remember and share 5 simple things we can all do with infants and toddlers to

[REQUEST MATERIALS](#)

## Literacy & Outdoor Learning

Executive Director Lisa Hayworth appeared on WGHP Fox 8 News to talk about getting out in the cool fall weather to Count, Group, and Compare using natural "loose parts" as a way to build early math and reading skills with infants and toddlers.

We created a blog post to support parents and caregivers in their journey to build brain connections that support future learning while having fun in the beautiful fall outdoors!



[Read the Blog](#)

## Annual Report



The 2021 Annual Report for fiscal year 2020-2021 was released today.

The report includes Board and agency information, the financial overview, a sponsors and donors listing, programmatic accomplishments and data, and early childhood data for Randolph County.

Randolph Partnership for Children managed nearly \$5 million in grant funds and awards as well as private contributions to provide services, programs, support, and education for early educators and families of young children in Randolph County during FY 2020-2021.

[View/Download the ANNUAL REPORT](#)

## Welcome New Directors

Three new community members joined the Randolph Partnership for Children Board of Directors during the 2021 Annual Meeting Breakfast. New Directors include:

**Chelsie Embler**  
Attorney

**Jamee Tate**  
Personal Care Assistant/Medication Technician and Parent Volunteer

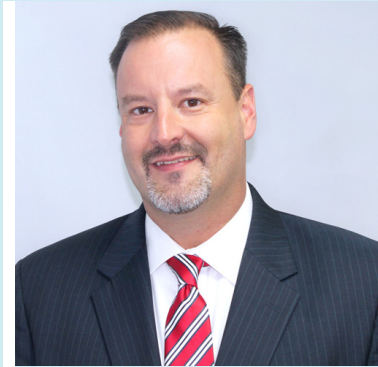
**Dr. Aaron Woody**  
Asheboro City Schools Superintendent



Chelsie Embler



Jamee Tate



Dr. Aaron Woody

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## Breakfast for Supper

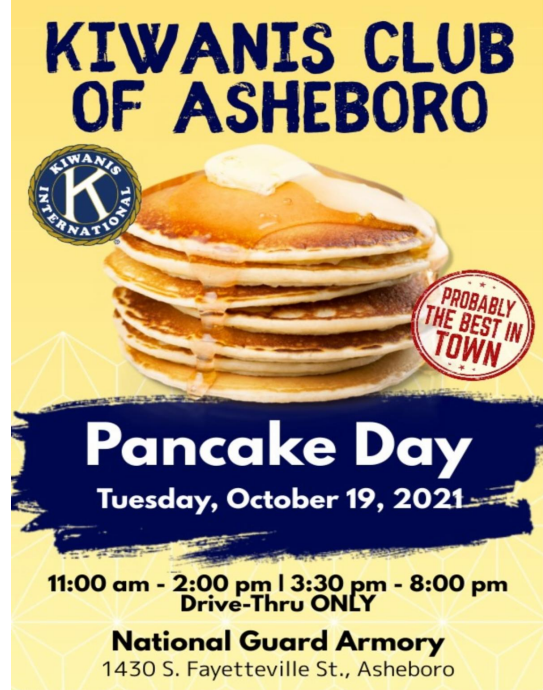
There are two ways you can support programs and services for young children and their families in Randolph County simply by eating breakfast for supper.

On **Tuesday, October 12**, **Biscuitville** will be open from 5-8 PM for supper! It's their annual **Breakfast After Dark** fundraising event. Plan to head over to the Asheboro Biscuitville at **745 W Dixie Drive** for dinner to support not only Randolph Partnership for Children, but also these other excellent community organizations: Mount Shepherd Retreat Center, Uwharrie Charter Middle School PTO, Lindley Park Elementary, Southern Yeager Academy, Christ the King Christian Academy, South Asheboro Middle School, Coleridge Elementary, Randolph County Honor Guard Inc., Southwestern Randolph High School.

On **Tuesday, October 19**, **Kiwanis Club of Asheboro** is hosting its **Pancake Day** fundraiser. This year's event will be a drive through for both lunch and supper. It will again be held at the **National Guard Armory**. Drive on through and pick up a stack of the best pancakes anywhere to support early literacy, youth sports, youth programs, and so much more!



Tuesday, October 12



Tuesday, October 19

## Penciled In

- **Wed., Sept. 22, 11 AM:** Family Engagement & Leadership Coalition
- **Thurs., Sept. 23, 4 PM:** Randolph ChAMPS
- **Thurs., Sept. 30, 8:30 AM:** OLE Fall Summit
- **Tues., Oct. 12, 5-8 PM:** Breakfast After Dark
- **Thurs., Oct. 14, 9:30 AM:** See Andee Edelson on WGHP Fox 8 Morning Show for Mommy Matters segment
- **Tues., Oct. 19, 8:15 AM:** Board of Directors Meeting
- **Tues., Oct. 19 (see times, above):** Kiwanis Pancake Day
- **Wed., Oct. 20, 11 AM:** Family Engagement & Leadership Coalition
- **Wed., Oct. 20, Noon:** NC Crunch Day



[Visit our Calendar](#)

*Help us put kids first in  
Randolph County!*

### Donate

new & gently used books  
new infant blankets  
diapers

### Shop

We're connected with [Amazon Smile](#), so when you shop and select Randolph County Partnership for Children,

you're helping to raise money for literacy programs, parent support, early childhood professional development and NC Pre-K right here in Randolph County!



[SHOP NOW](#)

Randolph Partnership for Children | 349 Sunset Ave., Asheboro, NC 27203 | 336-629-2128

[Visit our website](#)