

# AKRON DIGITAL ACADEMY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## Upcoming Events and Important Dates

- Mon., Oct. 31, 2011**-Halloween
- Tue., Nov. 8, 2011**-Voting Day.  
Financial Literacy Seminar at Evans and GPS
- Wed., Nov. 9, 2011**-Financial Literacy Seminar at Goodyear and Easter
- Thurs., Nov. 10, 2011**-Parent Leadership Team Meeting.  
10:30am-11:20am
- Mon., Nov. 14, 2011**- Bullying Prevention Seminar in the Middle School
- Tue., Nov. 15, 2011**-Parent Bullying Prevention Seminar, 5:30pm-6:30pm
- Thurs., Nov. 16, 2011**-Bullying Prevention Seminar in the Middle School
- Thurs. & Fri., Nov. 24-25, 2011**-Thanksgiving, No School  
For more information regarding upcoming events contact Mrs. Jaunae Carter, Community Engagement Coordinator at: 330-237-2241.

## Goodyear Starts the School Year off with a Kick

by: Ricki Williams and Julie Ward  
(Goodyear Students)



On Thursday, September 29, 2011 ADA's Goodyear Site had a kickball tournament and open house. We used Reserve Park which is across the street from the school. Many Goodyear students showed up with their families. The teachers provided hot dogs, macaroni salad, chips, fruit, brownies, cookies, and pop. We enjoyed ourselves with our classmates playing kickball, basketball, and corn hole. We feel that Goodyear should have more events like this more often, because open houses bring us all together as a school family.

## SES TUTORING IS NOW AVAILABLE

**Do you need extra help in Reading and/or Math?** SES Tutoring is a **FREE** program that provides after school tutoring to eligible students. If you are interested in boosting your reading and/or math skills please contact Ms. Meghan Ryckman, Development Coordinator, at: 330-237-2229 or speak with your teacher. There are a limited number of tutoring spots available. Once they are full, eligible students will be placed on a waiting list.



## ADA Becomes a Project MORE School

Project MORE (Mentoring in Ohio for Reading Excellence), a program that has been helping young Ohioans learn to read since 1999, is a 1:1 structured reading volunteer mentoring program for students in grades K-4. Students are mentored four times per week in 30-minute sessions. Bowling Green State University's Center for Evaluation Services has found that when students participate in this program they gain one month reading level for each month they receive volunteer mentoring. A key component to the success of the project is the rich reading mentoring content (books and lessons) that is printed by the school. These materials can be taken home for the student to read individually or to share with the whole family. As a supplemental reading program, Project MORE has the flexibility to be adapted to meet the needs of a diverse population of students. This supplemental reading program will begin in January. If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering, please contact Mrs. Patricia Fry at: 330-237-2206. For more exciting facts and data about the successes of Project MORE, please check out their website at: [www.ohioprojectmore.org](http://www.ohioprojectmore.org).



## Derrisha Williams-Hill Achieves Success!

Derrisha Williams-Hill started with the ADA as a Freshman. In her first year Derrisha rarely attended school or showed any enjoyment in learning. After her first year at ADA, something changed. She started coming to school and building a plan for her future. Derrisha has not missed a single day in the past three months while taking care of her sick mother, her two sisters and household responsibilities. She still finds time for herself. Derrisha takes daily walks at the University of Akron track, she enjoys volleyball and basketball. The teachers at GPS consider her to be extremely attentive, respectful, inquisitive, and focused. Over the past 3 years Derrisha has become an advocate for herself and will do whatever it takes to succeed. Derrisha is planning on graduating in June 2012. After she graduates, she wants to attend either the University of Akron or Stark State to obtain her degree in Dietary Management. Keep up the great work Derrisha!

## VOTING DAY

**Nov. 8, 2011** is your chance to make your voice heard. Exercise your right and cast a vote on issues and candidates. Your vote can make a difference.

## OHIO BENEFIT BANK IS AVAILABLE

Akron Digital Academy is an official Ohio Benefit Bank (OBB) counseling site. To find out more information about what OBB can offer you contact Mrs. Kelly Alexander at: 330-237-2242. It could change your life!

**Check us out on Facebook and become a Fan!**



## Important Updates and Information on Programs for Students

**Vocational Program**—Currently, we have 17 ADA students attending classes in six Akron Public High Schools. Of the 17 students, three are in the second year of their vocation and the other 14 are in the first year. There will be a meeting December 1, 2011 for all interested students. More information about the program will be in the November Newsletter.

**AFTER Graduation – Where do I go?** During the next month our counselor, Mrs. Marano, will be meeting with juniors and seniors at each of the sites to provide information about career choices and how to get started with after-graduation planning. Each junior and senior will have an opportunity to attend 3 information sessions which will cover all of the choices available and how to be ready for life after graduation. **DON'T miss these sessions** – you will receive a lot of valuable information to help you plan your future.

**ACT Testing**—Students who are considering college after they graduate need to take the ACT (American College Test) in order to apply for admission to any regular college. This test is given 6 times per year at a number of local places. The test costs \$34. The next available test date is December 10. You **MUST** be registered (online) by November 4. Interested students should contact Mrs. Marano, Counselor at Evans (330-237-2208 on Mon/Weds/Thurs) to get more information.

**Apprenticeships.** Many students are not interested in going to college after high school. Another wonderful choice for students who are interested in a skill would be to explore an Apprenticeship. This would include training to become a plumber, electrician, pipefitter, bricklayer, carpenter, operating engineer or any other building trades skilled individual. See Mrs. Marano about getting your name on the trade union waiting list AS SOON AS YOU TURN 18, even if you are still in school.



Dania Swails (Easter Student) and family

### A Full House at the Easter Lab's Open House

A "full house" was one way of describing the Easter Lab's September 27 Open House. The staff was on hand from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. to greet a crowd of more than 40 visitors, including students, their families, and friends. After touring the classrooms, visitors spent time with their student's mentors to chat and receive progress updates. In addition, attendees viewed a demonstration of the *Achieve* software, a reading program that is currently part of every English course at ADA. Everyone was treated to refreshments and door prizes provided by staff members.



Essence (Easter Student) and her family



### Students Design to Represent Freedoms

Akron Digital Academy's Easter location had three students enter the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Constitution Day Poster Design Contest. This is an international contest sponsored by the State Library of Ohio and Government Documents Round Table of Ohio. Students had to design a poster that showed how they benefit from the freedoms embodied in the U.S. Constitution. Lauren Harris, Laura Juarez and Essence Yancey submitted posters. Winners will be announced on the Gov Doc Kids Group website and [www.ConstitutionFacts.com](http://www.ConstitutionFacts.com) on Election Day (November 8, 2011). Each winner will receive a \$50

U.S. savings bond with the Grand Prize winner receiving a \$200 U.S. savings bond. Winning posters will be displayed at: <http://community.fdlp.gov/govdockidsgroup> and [www.ConstitutionFacts.com](http://www.ConstitutionFacts.com).



### Get to know your Race to the Top (RttT) Transformation Team

Get to know your RttT Transformation Team is a monthly series that will present biographical information on each member of the Race to the Top (RttT) Transformation Team. The members of this team will become experts in their assurance areas and be able to answer any questions about RttT. This month's biographical sketch is on Mrs. Donna Ryckman, Coordinator Child Study/Special Education. Mrs. Ryckman brings to the Transformation Team over 40 years of educational experience. She attended

The Ohio State University where she earned a B.S. in Education with an emphasis on Speech and Language Therapy. Through her years of experience, Mrs. Ryckman has attained a master's equivalent in various areas of Special Education. She is certified in Speech and Language Pathology and Remedial Reading, grades K-12 and is licensed in Speech and Language Pathology. When Mrs. Ryckman is not helping ADA students, she is volunteering at Children's Hospital, Witan and the Akron Children's Zoo. She enjoys reading, creating greeting cards, and cheering on the Buckeyes in football and basketball. Mrs. Ryckman's educational philosophy is that education and learning should be for all, from birth until... forever. Teachers should teach students how to teach themselves and foster the ability to discover their own strengths and weaknesses. Mrs. Ryckman believes that her life long love of learning has helped her become the best teacher possible for her students and their parents. Change is constant and learning must be constant. Mrs. Ryckman's experience is a welcome addition to the Transformation Team and she will be a crucial, contributing member to the success of RttT.

[www.akron-digital.com](http://www.akron-digital.com) to stay current on ADA events