



March 2026

Hi friend of ASAS,

The warm weather is back, the days are getting longer, and our programs are buzzing with activity! I'm excited to share a few recent "mission moments" that capture our purpose at ASAS: to provide comprehensive afterschool programming that keeps children safe and helps them succeed in school and life. We help young people explore new interests, build confidence, and grow toward brighter futures.

Last month, we celebrated **Black History Month** in style with our fourth annual Cook-off Competition and vibrant cultural performances that brought our community together.

Our All-Stars also stepped into the future during **Arlo Solutions Career Exposure Day**, where they explored AI, connected with industry professionals, and received valuable career mentorship.

And there's even more to look forward to! Mark your calendars for our "Play With A Purpose" Field Day Fundraiser on May 13 and the "Echoes of the Neighborhood" Documentary Screening on May 29. Keep reading for all the details.

Programs like these are only possible because of people like you who believe in our mission. Thank you for being part of this community and for everything you do to support our students.

## Highlights



On February 27, we hosted our **fourth annual Black History Month Cook-Off Competition**, an evening full of flavor, culture, and incredible student talent! Guests traveled across **five regions of the Black diaspora** through delicious culinary tastings and historical presentations, while students lit up the stage with **step routines, dance performances, spoken word, and a high-energy drumline**.

For the **Black Diaspora Passport Challenge**, schools explored the history and cultural traditions behind each dish. And the winners are...

- 🏆 **1st Place:** Leckie Education Campus
- 🏆 **2nd Place:** Johnson Middle School
- 🏆 **3rd Place:** Stuart-Hobson Middle School

Congratulations to our winning teams and to all of the schools who participated for bringing their creativity, curiosity, and pride to the competition!

A special shoutout to our **Youth Advisory Board members**, who kept the energy high all evening as fantastic MCs. We're also grateful to our incredible panel of expert judges, including our Advisory Board Member **Cheron Reed**, owner of RX Catering DC Metro, and to **Leckie Education Campus** for generously hosting this unforgettable celebration.



On March 6, our **All-Stars from Johnson Middle School** had an unforgettable experience at **Arlo Career Exposure Day** held at District E inside Capital One Arena.

Thanks to Arlo Solutions, our Board member **Lonye Ford, CEO of Arlo Solutions**, and **Arlo President Arlene Wube**, students stepped into a day designed to inspire the next generation of innovators and leaders.

During the event, our All-Stars explored the future of technology with **hands-on AI training**, even composing their own song using an AI model. They also heard from motivational speakers, connected with industry professionals, and enjoyed an exclusive tour of Capital One Arena. Students gained firsthand insight into the skills needed to thrive in tomorrow's workplace.

A huge thank you to **Arlo Solutions** for opening doors and inspiring our students to dream big about their futures!

## In the Pipeline



Get ready, get set... Our **third annual "Play With A Purpose" Field Day Fundraiser** is happening **May 13, 2026, from 5:30-8:30 PM** at Atlas Brew Works Bridge District.

Join us for an evening packed with great food, high-energy games, and a little friendly competition all in support of afterschool programs. Challenge your friends to classic lawn games, arcade favorites, and more, while enjoying exceptional craft beer and great company. Whether you come with friends, family, or coworkers, it's guaranteed to be a night of fun for a meaningful cause.

**Grab your tickets or sign up to sponsor today! We can't wait to play with a purpose with you!** 🎉🍷  
Visit: [tinyurl.com/asasgames](https://tinyurl.com/asasgames)



Join us for a **special screening of a student-led documentary** exploring the history and culture of Capitol Hill through "a day in the life" of **Stuart-Hobson students**. The evening will also feature a **Q&A with the student filmmakers**, offering a behind-the-scenes look at how the project came together.

📅 **May 29 | 5:30-6:30 PM**  
📍 **Hill Center, 921 Pennsylvania Ave SE, Washington, DC**

Guests will enjoy light finger foods and non-alcoholic beverages while celebrating student creativity.

**This event is free and open to the public.** We hope you'll join us!

