

National ACE Plus Adopt Team of the Year:

Mrs. Elise Neill and Maj Randy Lentz

**5th/6th Grade Teacher at Cornell Elementary School, Coraopolis, PA,
and
AE Officer at NER-PA-133 Golden Triangle Composite Squadron 603**

Ms Elise Neill registered for the ACE program and then asked to be “adopted” by a CAP squadron. The Aerospace Education Officer of the Golden Triangle Composite Squadron 603 in the PA Wing of CAP, Maj Randy Lentz, thought that sounded like a great idea. Soon the two were collaborating on how this would work for the squadron members to visit the classroom and teach the students some ACE lessons.

After receiving the “adopt” materials from CAP’s NHQ, Maj Lentz began recruiting some cadets to join him in this endeavor. He got four cadet volunteers to join him and they began practicing the lessons to be prepared for the students. They went to the school for nine days as Mrs. Neill had two fifth grade classes that received three lessons each and three sixth grade classes that received four lessons each. Each visit lasted much of the day to get all the classes in and ensure all 80 students were given the opportunity to meet and work with the squadron members. The CAP squadron team taught the assigned lessons and added instructional videos and other activities to the lessons. Said Maj Lentz, “The cadets learned great teaching and communication skills while working with the students. To see the students’ eyes light up with excitement with each lesson was amazing!”

Maj Lentz and the cadets also shared information about the cadet program with the students and ten students expressed interest in the program. Four students have already joined the squadron!

Mrs. Neill enjoyed having the squadron members come to the classes and her students eagerly anticipated having the CAP members return. Mrs. Neill stated that it was very beneficial to have the cadets there, including female cadets. It was much more fun with them working with the students.

Mrs. Neill also stated that her principal noticed the camaraderie and pride presented by the students when they were involved with the CAP team, especially as they were able to wear their distinctive purple ACE shirts donated by CAP. She also noted that the students loved using their balsa prop planes, the football rockets, and AeroProps provided by CAP. The dynamics of having the CAP adults and cadets in the classroom allowed the students to gain a new perspective from other “volunteer” instructors and to eagerly anticipate when the volunteers would be coming back!

Said both Lentz and Neill- “This is a great program!”



Cadets demonstrating the principles of flight with videos and the Bernoulli Bag.



Maj Lentz and cadets helping students use the airplane control surfaces to maneuver the plane to pitch and roll.





Mrs. Neill is a dynamic teacher of all things STEAM and leads a Girls Who Code team and much more!!! She is not in any ACE Plus photos as she was busy enjoying her students' new volunteer mentors! But, without her desire to provide her students with extra perspectives about STEM education, this program would not have been possible!

For their willingness to join hands between the ACE classroom and the CAP squadron in the ACE program's associated *ACE Plus Adopt* program, *THANK YOU* and *CONGRATULATIONS* to this awesome collaborative team!