

### Old Man Winter Makes an Old Man Out of Me

He may have died 110 years ago, but Mark Twain's comment still applies. "Everybody talks about the weather but, nobody ever does anything about it." While previously blessed in recent years with snows that occurred over the weekend, we have been seemingly hit numerous times this year with weather that has threatened to shut the school doors across NW Missouri. With that, comes the controversy of when and when not to cancel school.

When I have asked or overheard answers by students about what exactly the superintendent does, three popular answers roll out. 1) He's the boss of the principal. 2) He owns the school. 3) He calls off school. While two of these answers can be debated, the one no one disputes is #3. Quite frankly, nobody wants the job associated with #3. After 27 years as superintendent, I can probably find a lot of people who would say "He never got it right." I invite those people to take that part of the job any day they want it. It is perhaps the most stressful part of the job and I have hated it every time the alarm went off and I crawled my way to the truck to go "check roads." When I finally retire completely, it will be the part of the job I will miss least of all.

So how does calling off school take place? I venture to say that the "old school" superintendents hate this part of their job. Quite frankly hate isn't a big enough word. The "new age" superintendents rely on a third party to make their decisions. Perhaps they buy an assistant superintendent a weather station to hook up to his/her computer. Perhaps they take the easy way out and simply rely on good ole Mike to be 100% accurate on the nightly weather channel. Weather predictions cause the "old schoolers" to toss and turn all night waiting for that 4:00 A.M. alarm to go off so they can crawl out of bed and begin the process. They will drag a comb across their head and climb into the truck and start driving out to the worst roads in their district to see if what was predicted has happened, is happening or looks on radar that it might happen. While the weather man (person) can be wrong 75% of the time, the local school administrator doesn't have that luxury. He/she must make the call by 5:15 A.M. whether the buses can get through at that time AND if the buses can get through 2 hours later AND if the buses do make it to school he/she needs to make sure that the kids can stay at least until lunch time. Will the weather worsen and buses need to be recalled and the kids sent home early thereby negating a day and causing a full make up day to occur? All the questions have to be considered and decisions made while most of the world lie snuggled in their beds while visions of a missed school day dance in their heads.

It is quite ironic that somebody with no meteorology training or formal NASCAR driving training is out on the most dangerous roads at the most dangerous time of the day in the most dangerous conditions trying to make decisions about weather and safety. Many times the

decisions have to be made on days where the state and county have plowed the gravel and blacktops but some have to be made on days before they have started that process.

The last week of January 2019, brought wind chills of -25 degrees. About 10 years ago, our friendly weather people started using the phrase “dangerous wind chill.” When I was a kid, I am not sure there was a wind chill and most certainly there was no “dangerous,” knife-wielding, crazed wind chill. Mom just wrapped me up tighter with a scarf and mittens and pushed me out the door for the 7 block walk to Sherwood Elementary School. I don’t remember ever being excused from school because it was too cold. Yet, here we are, the creators of a brave new world. A simpler, more brutal one, in some respects, but so much kinder in others respects. The ship that carries the idea of never cancelling school because of bitter cold wind chills has chopped its way through the ice and sailed out of the harbor. Because I am old, I will always delay cold weather decisions because sometimes that predicted wind just doesn’t show up. I also do not know many parents who do not have to work when the wind chill drops. You see, part of the message about coming to school is about trying to create a work ethic. In today’s world, many people might say “work ethic?” Man, he is old.

While you may get frustrated with calls and texts and website postings about weather cancellations this winter, know that I feel your pain. I just feel it all night long. In the end, the old schoolers will still roll out of bed, drive the roads, and make their morning calls based upon facts and not on predictions. The decisions may not always be convenient and in somebody’s mind they will never be correct. In the mind of those students at “The Avenue” the only right decision is to not have class. In fact, many would say we need to dismiss every day starting on August 15<sup>th</sup>.

Here’s looking forward to the next predicted Snowmagedon of 2019.

Don Lawrence, Superintendent

#### **6th Grade D.A.R.E. Class**

This year, Deputy Kenny Thompson has led another ACES 6th grade class through the D.A.R.E. program offered via the Andrew County Sheriff’s Department. The 6th graders have learned many lessons about how to handle peer pressure, making good decisions, avoiding tough situations, and saying no to drugs and alcohol. This class met once a week during the 1<sup>st</sup> semester. They held a Fun Day on January 10<sup>th</sup> and will graduate the program in the spring. The kids enjoy Deputy Thompson so much! He does a great job with the students in this program and establishes good relationships with them. Thank you, Deputy Thompson!



**ATTENTION FUTURE ACES**



Avenue City School District is now accepting enrollments for 2019-2020 Kindergarten class. Students who enter kindergarten must turn five years old by August 1<sup>st</sup> of the school year. Screenings will be administered on potential students in the spring before entering Kindergarten. These screenings are used to tell parents and teachers the student's strengths and

weaknesses before entering school. The date for Kindergarten Screening is April 12, 2019. If your child will be attending kindergarten during the 19-20 school year, please call the school office to get all necessary information and sign your child up for screenings.

In April of 2019, the instructional staff at Avenue City will be working with the United Way to offer the Success by 6 KinderClub Program for incoming kindergartners. Families with a child who will begin kindergarten in the fall of 2019 are invited to participate in KinderClub at Avenue City School. Preparing for kindergarten doesn't start on the first day of school - it starts RIGHT NOW. These readiness meetings at Avenue City School are led by the district's Kindergarten Teacher, who will share academic and social information with parents of children who will be starting kindergarten next fall to use at home. At no cost to families, five meetings will provide parents with the information and resources needed to help their child be ready for school. Avenue City School and United Way are collaborating to offer KinderClub at Avenue City School to help ease children's transition into kindergarten. Mark your calendar now for the following KinderClub dates: April 23, April 25, April 26, April 29, and April 30.

For more information about Kindergarten Screenings and the upcoming KinderClub program, contact the school at 816-662-2305.

**ACES Washington, D.C. Trip**

There are 18 students and adults going on the D.C. Trip this May 2019 and they couldn't be more excited! The group is traveling via Worldstrides student travel company, and the students and teachers going on the trip meet once a month in Mrs. Forney's room to chat about places they will visit. They have also had articles to read independently about some of the sights as well, providing extra background information prior to the trip. The group is having t-shirts made that they will wear each day of the trip, and will also wear as a group to advertise the trip in the weeks before and after. At this point, the trip is offered to current 5th-8th grade students and their adult family members. The plan is to offer this trip every other year to our ACES students. Anyone with questions about our D.C. Trip can call the school and speak with Mrs. Beth Forney.

**PACES**  
**Persistent Attitudes Create Excellence in Students**

Avenue City students in grades 3-6 will begin an annual training program starting February 4th, to accomplish the end goal of running a 5K event (3.2 miles) later in the spring. Students who would like to join this group work on training for 12 weeks to develop endurance, agility, strength, and healthy eating habits that will enable them to compete in the Helen Davis Husky 5K. As we begin our eighth year of this training, students gain a new perspective of how to create a mindset of making their body physically ready to run a long distance. Avenue City students have always had a great showing at the 5K event and it is a great opportunity for students to work hard to reach a goal and at the same time, help another school to raise money for needed equipment and supplies for their own students.

**Professional Development News**

The Avenue City School staff recently completed a required CPR training, which included updated information about using an AED. Staff were given time to ask questions specifically about performing CPR on children and proper techniques to use on smaller sized students that are in our youngest classes.

New requirements from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) this year advise teachers to have two hours of dyslexia training yearly. The Missouri State Teacher Association has created four, one-hour online trainings to help meet this requirement.

We have had various staff members present information from science networking, new standards in math, Pathways training (our reading program grades K-2), and new library resources including Tumblebooks through the Rolling Hills Public Library.

As a school, we have used this year to create a positive behavior system in which expectations in all areas of the school are consistent and provide a positive environment for the students. We have revisited our expectations throughout the school year during in-services to discuss the success of how this has been implemented and make changes to what needs improved. This is an ongoing process that we will continue to implement this year and in upcoming years, but we feel this development has been a valuable tool for our students and staff alike.

As we are now in to the second semester of the school year, our staff will begin looking at opportunities to attend summer workshops and trainings. This will allow us to grow professionally and give us great information and access to new resources to use in the classroom to meet the needs of the students.

**WANTED**

All Avenue City School 5th through 8th graders for a stompin' good time! Saddle up, put your boots on, and mosey on over to the ACES school commons on April 26th, 2019! Be there at sundown (7PM-9PM) for a dance that is meant to welcome our incoming 5th graders to middle school life and is also a chance to say goodbye to our awesome 8th grade class as they finish up their days at ACES. The Student Council has hired a D.J., there will be games, music, snacks, and drinks, and there will be an admission of \$5 taken at the door.



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**CONTEST WINNERS****School Spelling Bee**

Avenue City School held classroom Spelling Bees in January. Winners of classroom Spelling Bees are standing: Riley DeRoin (8<sup>th</sup>), Claire Schonemann (7<sup>th</sup>), Nori Steele (6<sup>th</sup>), and Alayna Pargas (5<sup>th</sup>). These students will represent Avenue City School at the County Spelling Bee in February.

Alternate winners are seated: Brynlee Neil (8<sup>th</sup>), Ethan Phillips (7<sup>th</sup>), Kaylea Farrell (6<sup>th</sup>), and Annelise Forney (5<sup>th</sup>).

**School Geography Bee**

Avenue City School held a Geography Bee in January. The champion of the 2019 Geography Bee was Brady Starmer, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade. The second place winner was Saige Blake, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade. Brady's exam will represent Avenue City School in the National Geography Bee, winner of this event will be posted in March.

**2019 Middle School Track Meet Schedule:**



<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Location</u>
04/02/19	Tuesday	SMS
04/06/19	Saturday	Benton
4/9/19	Tuesday	SMS
4/11/19	Thursday	North Andrew
04/13/19	Saturday	SMS
4/22/19	Monday	St. Joe Christian
4/25/19	Thursday	Riverside (Wathena, KS)

**Library News**

There is a lot going on in our ACES Library right now! The ACES Book Clubs are preparing to attend the UCM Children’s Literature Festival on March 18, 2019. During this trip students will have the chance to meet some of their favorite authors. It is a super exciting day!

Early March will bring our chance to vote for Missouri Nominee books. In order to vote, students must read at least four books from a category of nominees. We have had great participation this year and I can’t wait to see who the winners are!

The ACES Spring Scholastic Book Fair is coming up as well. Mark your calendars for March 18-27, 2019. The fair is open daily during school hours, as well as before and after school. We will also be open before and after the music program on March 26, 2019. We hope to see you there!!

**Preschool News**

As an adult, Albert Einstein remembered a pivotal event in his life that inspired his interest in scientific discovery. He was four or five years old and stuck in bed with a childhood illness when his father handed him a magnetic pocket compass to play with. He spent hours twisting the compass, wondering how the needle always knew to point towards the north.

The book *Internet Invention: From Literacy to Electracy*, quotes Albert Einstein on how playing with that compass inspired his love of science. "I can still remember," He wrote, "that this experience made a deep and lasting impression on me. Something deeply hidden had to be behind things."

As a parent, you probably love to see your child playing. It’s incredible to hear their ideas and to learn about the new worlds they create. It’s also fun to see how creative they can be as they put their imagination to use in learning about the world around them.

Play is far more powerful for children, however, than many parents realize. ***It’s actually the key***



***to learning.*** Researchers and educators across the world have found that play can help enrich learning and develop key skills such as inquiry, expression, experimentation, and teamwork.

Here at Avenue City Preschool, our goal is to create an environment where children can ask questions, try new things, take risks, develop a community of friends and gain the social and emotional skills they'll need for a lifetime, all while having fun!

### **Sing with Wing**



This semester you can stroll by the music room and hear drums pounding out rhythms. . Students are learning beats, rhythms, and note values. Middle school students enjoyed watching selections of the Broadway show STOMP as they watched extraordinary percussion talents.

As the negative wind chills are in our area, Avenue City music class will echo warm sounds of flowers, sand, and beaches. The spring show will bring shorts and sandals to invite us to the warm season. Students will shine this March with their delightful voices and dance.

Mark your calendar now for the all school Spring Musical on Tuesday, March 26, 2019 @ 7:00 PM.

### **ACES PTO**

The ACES PTO is looking forward to some exciting events coming up to finish out the school year!

Our 7<sup>th</sup> annual pancake breakfast will be held Saturday February 16<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 to 12:30! Come out and support Avenue City and let us do the cooking!

Mark your calendars for the ACES Spring Fling on Saturday April 6<sup>th</sup> complete with carnival games, silent auction, and dinner! The committee is hard at work planning the event and more information will be provided as we get close to the date. We are accepting donations for our silent auction if you or someone you know would like to donate.

Our final Culver's Night for the school year is planned for March 12<sup>th</sup>. We have had overwhelming support during our previous events and were able to earn \$700 each time to put towards teacher funds to enhance the classroom experience for ACES students! Thank you for your support!

Did you miss the last order window for ACES apparel? Have no fear; you still have time to order before the end of the school year! We will offer up one more order window but you will also be able to purchase from our in stock merchandise during the Spring Fling.

We would like to offer a huge thank you to our ACES families, staff, and community! With your help we earned \$291.50 in January for Box Tops so please continue to clip those and send them in! A huge thank you once again to Emily Campbell for being the silent partner managing the Box Tops for PTO! We also raised \$224.00 with our turkey raffle in November and \$80.00 with our 50/50 raffle at home basketball games! The Chili Supper fundraiser raised \$859.70 and the Fall Fest brought in \$552.36. Thank you so much to the school board for serving food and to everyone that served on those committees and/or volunteered during the events. None of our events would succeed without the continued support we receive from you!

The funds we received from the above mentioned items have helped us give back to our students by providing thus far into the year field trip support for Middle School visiting the WWI Museum and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades attending Dinosaurs revealed. We have also been able to add a new budget item to our yearly budget to assist teachers with classroom school supplies which has included:

- -Stools for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade
- -Rockers for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade
- -Book retriever software for classroom use
- -Pumpkin pies for the school wide Thanksgiving lunch
- -A portion of book printing cost for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> book clubs
- -Maps for 5<sup>th</sup> grade

We have also worked with Mrs. Milne to provided supplies and goodies for both Red Ribbon Week and Kindness Week.

Again, thank you for the support you provide to Avenue City and the PTO, we look forward to a great finish to the 2018-2019 school year!





**7th Annual ACES PTO Breakfast**

Come and enjoy a pancake breakfast at Avenue City School on February 16, 2019!

This event will be hosted from 7 am-12:30 pm!

It is \$5 for an all **you can eat** breakfast!

There will be Sausage, Biscuits and Gravy, and Pancakes!





United Way



Presents:

Family  
Fun  
Time

A FREE play series for parents and other caregivers of young children, aged birth to 6 years old.

January 19  
10:00 to 11:30 a.m.  
Imaginarium!

St. Joseph Museums  
3406 Frederick Avenue  
Imaginarium is a place devoted to imagination. We will have hands-on building activities, space-themed activities, and will show some objects from the museum's collections.

February 9  
10:00 to 11:30 a.m.  
Weather!

Rolling Hills Library  
The Upper Story Room  
1904 North Belt  
Join us for a morning celebrating National Weatherperson's Day. KQTV Meteorologist will give demonstrations, plus games and crafts about our atmosphere.

April 27  
10:00 to 11:30 a.m.  
Let's Go Outside!

Missouri Department of Conservation- Northwest  
701 James McCarthy Drive  
Explore the Conservation Department while on a scavenger hunt, listen to the birds chirping, frogs croaking, and owls hooting. Feel the feathers of a turkey, antlers of a deer, and use your nose to figure out different smells.

Family Fun Time is a FREE play time for families with children, aged birth to 6 years old. You are invited for games and activities. Free snacks and juice will be provided and every child aged birth to 6 will receive a free book.

Call Jay at United Way,  
(816) 364-2381, for more information.

Other Upcoming Events  
Around Town

Dr. Seuss Birthday Brunch  
10 a.m. to noon  
March 9, 2019  
Keatley Center  
1202 South 28th

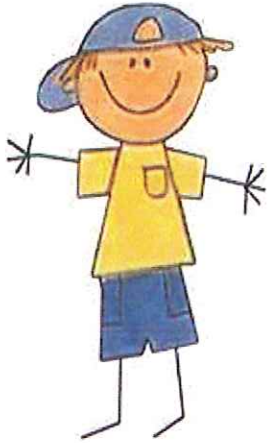
Events are supported in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services & Technology Act, as administered by the Missouri State Library.



Read. Sing. Play.

Every Day to Build Your Child's Brain.





## Avenue City Preschool



- We offer Preschool for 3,4 and 5 year olds on M-W-F from 8:00am-11:00am with an all-day option available until 5:45pm.
- Did you know that you **do not** need to live in our school district to attend our Preschool? However, first priority will be given to district patrons. We are taking applications beginning February 1, 2019 for the 2019-2020 school year. Space is limited.
- For more information, please call the school at 1-816-662-2305 or e-mail Becky Grimes at [bgrimes@avenuecityschool.org](mailto:bgrimes@avenuecityschool.org) or Mrs. Farrell at [afarrell@avenuecityschool.org](mailto:afarrell@avenuecityschool.org)

### Board of Education Meeting Highlights

A brief description of the highlights of the board meetings from October 2018 to January 2019 is listed below. The minutes of each board meeting is posted on the school webpage under Board Information.

October 9, 2018

- Motion to Approve the Proclamation of "Red Ribbon Week"
- Approval of Additions to the 2018-19 Staff Substitution List
- Post Board Policies and Regulations for Review
- Approval for Water Softener for Kitchen
- Decision on Concrete Work

November 15, 2018

- Review of Program Evaluations for Federal Programs
- Approve New and Revised Policies/Regulations
- Motion to Set Dates to File for the Board of Education from December 11, 2018 to January 15, 2019.
- Approval of Snow Bids

December 20, 2018

- Review of Program Evaluations for: 1) Student Data and 2) Special Education (IDEA and ECSE),

January 10, 2019

- Review of Program Evaluations for Professional Development
- Approval of Transportation Bid for 2019-2022
- Review/Approval of Preschool Tuition for 2019-20 School Year
- Review of Preschool Handbook for 2019-20 School Year
- Superintendent Evaluation and Extended Contact

Next Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 14, 2019 at 7:00 PM.



### AVENUE CITY SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES

There are three school board seats up for election this April 2<sup>nd</sup> for the Avenue City School District. Three candidates signed up for the Board of Education, so no election will be necessary this year.

Chase Holcumbrink has been a member of the board for three years now. Chase has two children; one is attending Avenue City now and the other is a future ACES student. Chase has signed up for another three year term.

Jaren Johnson-Pippitt was appointed by the Board last June to fill the vacant seat after Jason Manley resigned from the board. Her appointment was until April 2019. Jaren has now signed up for a three year term. Jaren has one child going to Avenue City School and one that graduated from ACES last year.

The new member to the Board is Nicklaus Salmons. Nicklaus will be serving a term for one year to finish up the vacant seat left by Mr. Manley. Nicklaus attended Avenue City School as a student and now has two children attending the school.

We would like to thank Kraig Stites for his services at Avenue City. Kraig served on the Board for 6 years. His dedication to the students of the district was greatly appreciated.

Members of the School Board as of April 2019 are: Rodney Davison, Justin Palmer, Tonya Ball, Travis Elifrits, Chase Holcumbrink, Jaren Johnson-Pippitt, and Nicklaus Salmons.

### **COMMUNITY RECYCLING PROGRAM ENDS AT ACES**

Due to the continuing increase in cost by Waste Management the recycling container that was located in the Avenue City School parking lot will no longer be available. The remaining waste container located at the school is for school use only. The community is not authorized to use this container.

If you are interested, the Region D Recycling & Waste Management District has a recycling trailer that comes to the Avenue City Oil & Grocery on the first Saturday of every month from 12:30 – 1:30 pm. For more information please go to their website:

<http://www.regiondrecycling.com/collection-information/andrew-county-collection-information/>

AVENUE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Nonprofit Organization

U.S. Postage Paid

Cosby, Missouri

Permit No. 6

Avenue City School District  
18069 Highway 169  
Cosby, Missouri 64436

Phone: 816-662-2305  
Fax: 816-662-3201  
www.avenuecityschool.org



WE ARE ON THE WEB  
WWW.AVENUECITYSCHOOL.ORG

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LOOP

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