

## **Thoughts from Superintendent Don Lawrence:** **Public School and Politics**

The November election is nearly here. Personally it excites me to realize that on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday in November, the automated calls from both political parties will cease and I can enjoy the evening free of political rhetoric and pressure. As educators, it is our desire that our students become aware of and look forward to being active participants in their local, state and federal elections when they reach the appropriate age. Part of that engagement in the political process takes place at our school as we will be participating in a mock election shortly before the actual election in November. The major reason that our school exists is to create productive citizens for our community. The idea that the children are our future is more than just a song title, it is a reality. They are our future voters and our future political leaders. We hope by providing information about the election process, and by providing an opportunity to feel as though they are participating in a national election, that our students not only learn about the process but that they also look forward to their future participation in the actual election when they become of age. While I may personally sigh every time the phone rings at 8:30 each night between now and November 6<sup>th</sup>, I keep reminding myself that the process is important to the future of our nation and as parents we hope that you will communicate this to your children as well. It is a worthy goal that we hope you will assist us in accomplishing this November.

Don Lawrence  
Superintendent



Pictured above are Kristian DuVall and Kiyah Blake, two sixth grade students who were among the first to benefit from the generous donation made by Web Stevenson's Family.

## **The Family of Web Stevenson** **Continues His Giving Spirit**

Kindles have come to Avenue City! We are very lucky to now have six Kindle e-readers up and circulating in our library. A great big thank you goes out to the family of Webb Stevenson who made this possible with a memorial gift in his honor. Mr. Stevenson spent a lot of time reading with our kids here at Avenue and these Kindles are motivating our readers for sure. The Kindles are loaded with this year's Mark Twain Nominees as well as other books in the mid-grades level.

Pictured above are Kristian DuVall and Kiyah Blake,

## **PTO Fall Chili Supper**

**When: Monday, November 19, 2012 from 5:30-7:30 PM**

**Where: Avenue City School Cafeteria**

***Free Will Donation Made to PTO***



## **What Is Proposition B and How Will It Impact Our School District?**

While public schools cannot ask its patrons to vote yes or vote no on a particular issue (using public funds to do so) it is absolutely permissible to provide out patrons with information regarding ballot issues that will impact their local school. Proposition B is one of those issues.

- Fact #1: Proposition B will appear on the November ballot and is the result of an initiative petition circulated by the American Cancer Society to reduce smoking and improve health care in Missouri.
- Fact #2: Proposition B will increase the cigarette tax by 73 cents a pack.
- Fact #3: Missouri has the lowest cigarette tax in the country.
- Fact #4: If Proposition B passes, the total cigarette tax will be 90 cents per pack.
- Fact #5: The national average cigarette tax is \$1.46.
- Fact #6: Missouri is 11<sup>th</sup> highest in smoking prevalence in the country.
- Fact #7: There are 8,600 Missouri kids (under 18) who become daily smokers each year and almost 20% of Missouri high school students smoke. Countless studies have shown that increasing the cigarette tax will indeed reduce smoking, especially among teens.

### Where will this tax on tobacco go?

Proposition B will generate about \$283 million each year. Twenty percent of this amount will be used on smoking cessation programs that help adult smokers quit and keep kids from ever starting. Thirty percent will go to higher education with a focus on training future caregivers, and the largest share, fifty percent, will go to Missouri elementary and secondary schools. The proposal includes safeguards, including regular public audits that will ensure the new revenue is spent as voters intend.

### What does this mean for our school?

This smoking cessation proposal will provide the Avenue City School between \$31,000 and \$46,000 each year to help fund our school. We can use the funds to pay for teacher recruitment, retention, salaries, or professional development; technology enhancements, textbooks, or instructional materials; or supplying additional funding for required state and federal programs.

### What are the long-term goals of the program?

Revenues from this fund will hopefully be the highest when it is enacted and then fall from that point as Missourians quit smoking. The auditor's \$283 million revenue projection includes a reduction in tobacco use in the state and is a reliable and stable funding number for long-term planning purposes.

## **Professional Development News**

The staff at ACES recently took the opportunity to visit area schools for an afternoon of professional development. During this time, the staff was able to see firsthand how other schools run their day, how curriculum is developed, and to get a general sense as to how a larger school with different dynamics is alike and different from our own school. The staff found this a very beneficial day as we were able to gain a time to talk with other teachers that teach the same subject area. The ACES staff used collaboration time to discuss these schools and what valuable lessons we learned from that day. We will be spending the day in November with our Platte Valley Conference schools in which we will be working on the second session of collaboration with surrounding schools.



## **Avenue City Teacher, Susan Wagner, Awarded and Honored for Teaching Students to Solve Future Problems**



Susan Wagner once saw signs of struggle in the eyes of a child she thought may be gifted. She gave that child a chance to join a gifted classroom where the student experienced academic excellence for the first time. Ms. Wagner introduced that child to Future Problem Solving, guided the student through years of participation in FPS, counseled the student throughout her master's program and early years of teaching, encouraged her to become a member of the affiliate's board of directors, and convinced her to join the ranks of international evaluators. In the same way, Susan nurtured her affiliate program. From Susan's many engaging strategies for coaching students, to serving on the board of directors, presenting at numerous state and national conferences, and taking on the role of affiliate director for Missouri, Sue Wagner continues to show her passion for Future Problem Solving and the benefits it brings to students. At the International Conference, her warmth and caring

have long helped the scenario writers become comfortable with the writing team they are just meeting. And for four years, the Board of Trustees were blessed to have Sue's quiet wisdom as she served as the chair of the Personnel Committee, working and reorganizing the personnel handbook and implementing efficient ways of gathering data. Although recently retired as an affiliate director, Sue continues to support the FPS in many ways. In the words of that former student that Sue took under her wing, "Always working selflessly and tirelessly, Susan Wagner is not only a model director, but an inspirational teacher, coach, and friend." These are just some of the reasons why Susan Wagner is the recipient of the John Daughtrey Memorial Award. John Daughtrey was the director of the North and South Carolina Gifted and Talented programs for six years and was a dedicated advocate of Future Problem Solving. The John Daughtrey Memorial Award is given in honor of outstanding directors, evaluators or staff in the Future Problem Solving Program.

Susan Wagner, instructor of the Gifted and Talented Program at Avenue City School, will be honored at the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Gifted Association of Missouri Conference in Columbia, Missouri on October 21, 2012. At the banquet numerous nomination letters were be read in honor of Ms. Wagner's dedication and commitment to the state of Missouri's Gifted and Talented Population. Ms. Wagner will be the recipient of the Dede Smith Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$250.00 and the John Daughtrey Memorial Award.

During Ms. Wagner's tenure at Avenue City School, she has coached and mentored many of the student population. Because of her dedication and commitment to Avenue City School, the students have brought home numerous state, national, and international awards,

## **ACES Student Government - Serving Our School Community**

This year in student council we have many activities planned for the 2012-2013 school year. Our officers that will carry out these activities are:



- President: Gabby Thomure,
- Vice President: Nick Froehlich,
- Treasurer: Peyton Turner,
- Secretary: Abby Burns,
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade representatives: Garrett O’Riley and Jakob Wilkinson,
- 7<sup>th</sup> grade representatives: Murphy Howe and Cole Walker, and
- 6<sup>th</sup> grade representatives: Sarah Burr and Grace Stites.

Among these activities was our very successful bake sale for Red Ribbon Week with the theme “Be a Smart Cookie, Don’t Do Drugs”. It raised a lot of funds for the Avenue City student council activities. Student Council has also been volunteering at the concession stand for basketball home games. We still need help though! If you would like to volunteer just one and a half hours of your time, contact Mrs. Adams at [eadams@aces.k12.mo.us](mailto:eadams@aces.k12.mo.us) or Mrs. Aguilar at [daguilar@aces.k12.mo.us](mailto:daguilar@aces.k12.mo.us). We also plan on having a dance for students in grades 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> on November 2<sup>nd</sup> from 5:30-7. To wrap up the 2012 year, around Christmas time we plan to use our fundraising money to Adopt a Family. We will pick a family from the community and we will provide items that match their wish-list. We’re extremely excited about the new year and we look forward to giving you follow-ups!

*The Avenue City Student Council*

## **Board Member Receives Training**

Tonya Ball, member of the Avenue City R-IX School District Board of Education recently completed school board training sessions sponsored by the Missouri Association of Rural Education (MARE) held in Albany, Missouri.

With the enactment of Senate Bill 380, “The Outstanding Schools Act of 1993,” all newly elected / appointed school board members must complete at least sixteen hours of orientation and training within one-year following their election / appointment.

Specific topics included in the training session were: Establishment of the Board and Responsibilities; The Effective Board Member; Public School Laws of Missouri; School Finance; Assessment of Students and the Local School District; and District Long Range Planning.

Attendance of the sessions fulfills the required 16 hours of certification training. Training is only provided by organizations that have received approval by the State Board of Education. MARE annually provides training at several locations around the state.

## **ACES Library**

Jolynn Atoe, the new librarian at Avenue City School, is thankful and delighted with the purchase of new Kindles for our library. These Kindles were donated by the family of Web Stevenson and students can take turns checking them out. The books have the Mark Twain nominees. Book Club has begun the year with Reader’s Theatre of mixed up fairy tales. We are very excited to begin a book study of Half Upon a Time, by James Riley in November. There are many fun activities in the works that will build upon this genre study of mixed up fairy tales.



The library now features a sculpture designed by Jim Estes. The sculpture is a “Pop Art” creation made to look like a box of crayons. Mr. Estes is a retired Art Instructor at Missouri Western State University and is the grandfather of three ACES students; Halie, Morgan, and Caden Atoe.

In other news, the Scholastic Book Fair will be held December 3-10. We will be open before and after the school winter program, so please come check it out!

## 2012 Jr. High Basketball Season

<i>Date</i>	<i>Opponent</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Place</i>
10/15/2012	North Andrew	6:00 P.M.	Rosendale
10/18/2012	Union Star	6:00 PM	ACES
10/22/2012	Jefferson C123	6:00 PM	ACES
11/5/2012	Osborn*	6:00 PM	Osborn
11/6/2012	S. Nodaway	6:00 PM	ACES
11/08/2012	E. Buchanan	4:30 PM	ACES
11/12/2012	King City	6:00 PM	ACES
11/13/2012- 11/17/2012	NE Nodaway Tournament	TBA	Ravenwood
11/19/2012	Savannah Middle School	5:30 PM	ACES
11/20/2012	St. Joe Christian	6:00 PM	ACES

The following students are representing Avenue City School on our Jr. High Basketball Team:

<u>Girls</u>	<u>Boys</u>	
Hailee Fitzgerald	Calvin DuVall	Garett O’Riley
Madison Rowland	Jakob Wilkinson	Lance Whipple
Chloe Walker	Micah Turner	Cole Walker
Danielle Wilmes	Jakob Bailey	Nick Froehlich
Gabrielle Thomure	Peyton Turner	Nathan Holmes
Murphy Howe		

Both Teams are coached by Jack Burgess and Candi Rowland.

## Winter Musical Program for All Ages

Start the holiday season off right by coming to the Avenue City Winter program. It is Dec. 6, 2012 at 7:00 pm in the gym. Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be participating.

The 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade musical this year is called, "Flakes- A Musical Celebration of Snow, Slush and Ice". This musical is about a big blizzard on its way to Avenue with a cool bunch of jazzy, finger-snappin' snowflakes. But--- Uh OH! Here comes the snowplow and it creates "snirts." This is where you take a little snow, add a little dirt, and what you get is what we call snirt. Join the fun as the Flakes and Snirts help the Sad Snowflake see how no two flakes are alike and we are all special in our own way.



The 5th Graders are working on a jazzy version of the traditional holiday song, Ding Dong Merrily on High. The middle school will be singing a Medley of Santa songs plus a new song called ElfBusters. This is a parody of the song, Ghostbusters, written by our very own Peyton Turner. Come see how the 8th graders act it out. There is lots more, but you have to come and hear it for yourself!

# AVENUE CITY SCHOOL 1<sup>ST</sup> QUARTER HONOR ROLL

## 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE – A HONOR ROLL

Alex Fitzgerald  
Mitchell Steele  
Corinne Stewart  
Caleb Walker

## 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE – A/B HONOR ROLL

Jaxon Ball  
Ainsley Blake  
Grace Bradley  
Quaid Campbell  
Mason Christian  
Morgan Heckman  
Aleigha Horton  
Pierce Johnson  
Wesley Phillippe

## 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE – A HONOR ROLL

## 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE – A/B HONOR ROLL

Jozlin Bennett  
Sway Bennett  
Logan Christian  
Molly Luthans  
Reagan Thompson

## 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE – A HONOR ROLL

Jacob Ball  
Kacey DuVall  
Cambry Roach  
Daniel Slaybaugh  
Nicolas SteelE

## 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE – A/B HONOR ROLL

Caden Atoe  
Morgan Atoe  
Lake Campbell  
Tobin Davis  
Lauren DuVall  
Audrey Elifrits

Emilie Mazur  
Kenna O'Riley  
Corwin Shipp  
Hayden Stewart  
Ian Turner  
Riley Wilcoxson



## 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE – A HONOR ROLL

Halei Atoe  
Lauren Bailey  
Breanna Beahler  
Reba Boles  
Sarah Burr  
Ashley Luthans  
Trevor Maag  
Grace StiteS

## 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE – A/B HONOR ROLL

Kiyah Blake  
Kristian DuVall  
Guy Gaddy  
Alex Jacobs  
Daire Karr  
Lydia Paolillo  
Morgan Sylvester  
Evan Vette  
Zackery Whipple

## 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE – A HONOR ROLL

Sara Fiedler  
Hailee Fitzgerald  
Murphy Howe  
Madison Rowland

## 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE – A/B HONOR ROLL

Calvin DuVall  
Jordan Hill  
Nathan Holmes  
Aaron Janni  
Brett Shanks  
Cole Walker  
Danielle Wilmes

## 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE – A HONOR ROLL

Abigail Burns  
Garrett O'Riley  
Shelby Pettigrew  
Andrew Proctor  
Gabrielle Thomure

## 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE – A/B HONOR ROLL

Brayden Blake  
Kaleb Christman  
Nicholas Froehlich  
Brie'Anna Kerns  
Allison Turner  
Peyton Turner  
Chloe Walker  
Xena Zahau





## AVENUE CITY SCHOOL 1<sup>ST</sup> QUARTER PERFECT ATTENDANCE

### Pre-Kindergarten:

Emmy Adams  
Addalyn Campbell  
Natalie Farrell  
Gwendolyn Oswald  
Luke Oswald  
Kylie Rosmolen  
Mikayla Sailor  
Ella Scott  
Adam Sylvester  
Tessa Taylor

### Kindergarten:

Max Howe

### First Grade:

Kayla Beam  
Maren Heckman  
Ethan Phillips  
Ethan Zeit

### Second Grade:

Katie Beam  
Anthony Peterson  
Gage Schottel  
Connor Zeit

### Third Grade:

Jaxon Ball  
Ainsly Blake  
Morgan Heckman  
Kayleen Meers  
Gabriel Peterson

### Fourth Grade:

Camren Patrick

### Fifth Grade:

Tobin Davis  
Nelson O'Neil  
Cambry Roach  
Corwin Shipp

### Sixth Grade:

Kiyah Blake  
Sarah Burr  
Alex Jacobs  
Evan Vette

### Seventh Grade:

Courtney Meers  
Madison Rowland  
Austin Vette

### Eighth Grade:

Brayden Blake  
Nicholas Froehlich  
Zachery Meers  
Charles Oswald  
Andrew Proctor  
Micah Turner  
Peyton Turner  
Jakob Wilkinson

## School Food – What’s Cooking?

“School Food – What’s Cooking?” is about celebrating the positive changes that have been made in school food programs across the country. Our school is cooking up all sorts of exciting programs and plans. Avenue City School celebrated National School Meals Week by inviting parents, siblings, and grandparents to school and to enjoy lunch or breakfast with a student the week of October 15-October 19. This was an opportunity to celebrate the changes and great accomplishments of the school food service program.

One of those accomplishments is the new meal requirements for students. The school day just got healthier thanks to changes to school meals. Students can expect benefits from healthier and more nutritious food in school. Thanks to the Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act, major improvements are being made across the country to transform school food and to promote better nutrition and reduce obesity.



The new school meals have more whole grains, fruits, and vegetables; low-fat milk; and less salty and fatty foods. School meals now do a better job of giving kids the healthy foods they need.



### **Board of Education Meeting Highlights**

A brief description of the highlights of the board meetings from June 2012 to October 2012 are as follows:

June 19, 2012

- Review of Program Evaluation for: Preschool
- Post a District Handbooks for Thirty Days
- Approved Internet Safety Upgrades
- Accepted Resignations of Certified Staff
- Approved District Hiring of Certified and Support Staff

July 12, 2012

- Review of Program Evaluation for:
  - 1) District Mission Statement,
  - 2) District Annual Goals, and
  - 3) District Philosophy
- Approved District Handbooks
- Approved 2011-12 Budget Finalization
- Approved lunch Prices for the 2012-13 School Year
- Approved Amended 2012-13 School Budget
- Accepted Support Staff Resignation
- Decision on Salary Increases for the 2012-13 School Year

August 9, 2012

- Approved the Substitute List for the 2012-13 School Year
- Approved Substitute Teacher Pay Increase
- Approved Amendment of 2011-2012 Budget Finalization
- Posting of Board Policies and Regulations Updates for Thirty Days
- Discussion of Maintenance Issue
- Decision on Tax Rates for 2012-13 School Year
- Approved Hire for Support Staff Vacancy

September 13, 2012

- Review of Program Evaluations for: 1) Transportation, and 2) Facilities/Safety
- Approved MCE Board Policies/Regulations – Posted for 30 Days
- Approved the Proclamation of “Red Ribbon Week”
- Approved Bus Routes/Mileage/Riders for the 2012-13 School Year
- Approved of the Special Education Cooperative Agreement
- Discussion on the WAIT Sex Education Curriculum for 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grades
- Approved Purge District Items
- Accepted Support Staff Resignation
- Approved Hire of Support Staff Position

October 11, 2012

- Review of Program Evaluations for the following:
  - 1) Student Data,
  - 2) Assessment and/or Review of Testing, and
  - 3) Discipline
- Approved of School Audit for 2011-2012
- Adoption of Program Evaluation Schedule
- Discussion of Future Construction







## Avenue City Parent Teacher Organization

PTO has had a great start to this school year! This year our membership is up almost 30% over last year and we have had a number of successful events to start the year. Our Fall Festival was a big success at the end of September. Many thanks to Emily Campbell who managed the event which included a number of new games, a giant obstacle course, and lots of activities for the whole family. We sponsored the "Extreme Science Assembly" where a gentleman came in to school to show the children how much fun science can be. We are also helping to fund a field trip for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades to see the Junie B. Jones play in Kansas City at the end of November.

How can we support all of these events you ask? We have started selling trash bags as an on-going fund-raiser to help support field trips. If you need any just ask the front office and we will get you what you need. We keep a supply on hand and sell them as needed at events throughout the school year. We will continue to host a 50/50 raffle at all home basketball games. We also will be hosting a Chili Supper and our yearly Turkey raffle on November 19 at 5:30pm at Avenue City School. This is the night of the home basketball game against Savannah. So be sure to swing by and enjoy a bowl of chili and support the home team.

Last but not least, the staff will be hosting a Basketball Tournament the last week in November. The basketball tournament is November 29, 30, and December 1. The tournament is geared towards 6<sup>th</sup> grade teams. There will be two brackets; a boys' bracket and a girls' bracket. We will need volunteers and local teams to support our efforts, so please contact either Mr. Burgess or Russell Phillips if you are interested or need more information.

### Receive ACES Alerts Now on Your Cell Phone!

Sign up for **ACES ALERTS!** and get important information about the Avenue City R-9 School sent via email and text message directly to your mobile phone, wireless PDA or pager.

**EMERGENCY INFORMATION**

**SCHOOL CLOSINGS**

**LATE START/EARLY DISMISSALS**

**SCHOOL EVENT REMINDERS**

Sign-up is easy...and it's free! Just go through the simple 2-step sign-up that is found on our website at:

<http://avenuecityschool.org/>

Just click on the Textcaster button on the left.