

FOCUS

Ashland Independent Schools

March 2017

Greetings,

As we near the end of the school year, I am compelled to express my sincerest gratitude for the duties that are performed by our staff and the manner in which they are performed. It indeed takes each one of us working toward the same goal to be effective, as we are, for our students. Our students are our most precious commodity. They are the reason we are here for many long hours each day.

We desire for our students to reach their potential in the classroom.

We also desire for our students to be involved in our many extracurricular activities that are afforded to them. Whether it is Softball, Wrestling, LEGO Robotics, STLP, Academic Team, or Cross-Country...we want your child to have a desire to participate in arenas outside of the classroom. We want to educate the whole child.

As you plan for your summer schedule of activities, we are also planning. We are planning how we can provide more meaningful opportunities for the students. We are also planning how we can improve our already strong areas as well as how we can better manage our areas of needed growth. You ARE important to us.

D. Sean Howard
Superintendent
Ashland Independent Schools



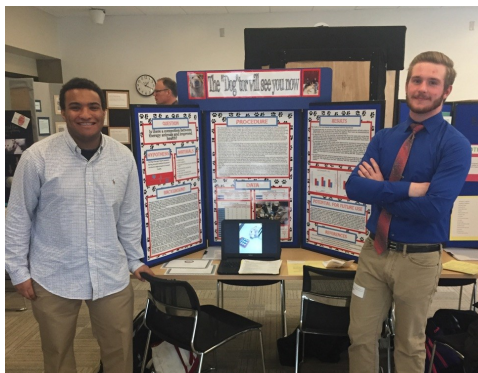
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District News



Anistyn Conner, a Blazer Freshman in Mrs. Spade's art class, was visited by Governor Bevin and the First Lady for her 3rd place in the State Kentucky Derby Poster Contest.



Ashland students received honors at the regional Science and Engineering Fair at Northern KY University

Elementary Awards:

Engineering: Materials & Bioengineering—
1st place—Aluana Troxler, Crabbe Elementary

High School Awards:

Medicine & Health—
2nd Place—Evan Billips & Marcus Daniels, Paul Blazer High School

Special Awards:

NKU Department of Physics, Geology & Engineering
Technology—2nd place—Alauna Troxler, Crabbe Elementary

Tri-Beta Honors Award (NKU Biology)

Julia Minigh and Blake Day—Paul Blazer High School

On Thursday afternoon, March 9, **Morehead State University's *The Little Company*** came to Ashland Middle School to perform *Einstein's Dreams*. <http://www.moreheadstate.edu/thelittlecompany/>

Following the one-hour performance, students participated in a one-hour drama workshop. All interested gifted and talented 6th grade students visited M.S.U. in the fall for an introduction to this play and a full-day drama workshop. The learning experience on March 9, was a related extension activity. Mrs. Jane Modlin and her afternoon high school theatre classes participated as well.



Paul G. Blazer High School Graduation
Class of 2017
Sunday, May 21, 2017, 5:00 pm
Putnam Stadium

Ashland Head Start

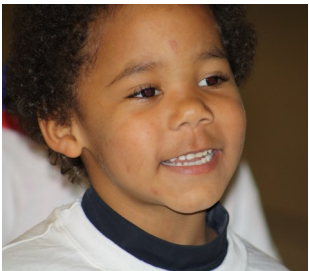
School Health Requirements

Ashland Head Start/ KY Pre-school Kindergarten Registration is here again.

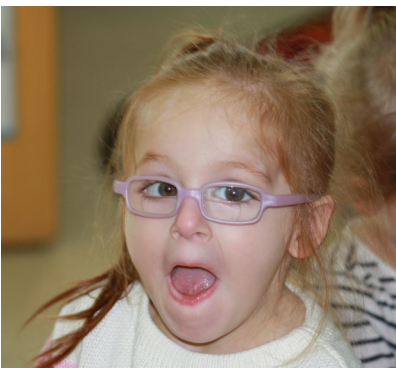
This is a reminder that all children registering for kindergarten need to have current and up-to-date health records. Please call Ashland Head Start if you have questions about whether or not your child has all the documents needed to enroll for Kindergarten. 327-2715

Kindergarten Health Requirements

- **Birth Certificate**
- **Current immunizations** (on a KY immunization certificate)
- **Physical**
- **Dental Exam**
- **Vision Exam** (by ophthalmologist or optometrist)



Family Fun Night was all about moving and getting healthy as a family. Our children and their families were busy working out together with lots of physical activities such as soccer, basketball, hula hoops, jumping rope, and skip along games. We also got moving with our friends from the Ashland Area Y.M.C.A. as they gave us a demonstration of some Yoga moves we can use each day. A big thank you for their donation of a six month Y.M.C.A. Family Pass presented to one of our families during the evening's prize drawing. We want to give a special thank you to our community partners, Boyd Co. Extension Office-Ky Nutrition Ed. Program, Pathways, Kings Daughters, and the Y.M.C.A. They joined us in bringing information, materials, and meeting with our families, presenting them some family services that are available to them within our community.



Ms. Carr's class has been studying diversity and what makes each of us unique. Recently we wrapped up the unit with a healthy snack of red and green apples. Although they are different on the outside, the students discovered the apples are all the same on the inside, regardless of their color. Our classroom is as unique as a rainbow and is filled with lots of love!

In Mrs. Knipp's Class our families came in to join in a celebration of love and friendship on February 14th. The children and their families made a heart-shaped sun catcher using contact paper and tissue paper. The children talked about what and whom they loved with the class. The children and their family got to listen to *Pete the Cat Valentine's Day is Cool* story. After the book we had a discussion about what friendship is and what makes a good friend. The celebration ended with "The Friend Song" from *Have Fun Teaching*.

Mrs. Steele's class completed a study about simple machines. We learned about the different types of simple machines and what they help us do. We celebrated our learning by inviting our families to our classroom to create our own simple machines. We made a car out of a clothes pin, pipe cleaners, and buttons, and we also made an edible car out of apples and grapes. We have started a new study about pets and are excited to go on a field trip to Pet Smart! We are also focusing on our Kindergarten Readiness skills.



Mrs. Fletcher's class recently finished our cultural study. We talked about our differences and similarities. The students were eager to learn about each of our friends. They also got to meet Mr. Howard, our schools' Superintendent. Mr. Howard read the book *Rainbow of Friends*. We have talked about how each of us are different in our own way, and we should accept others just the way that they are. We have now started our insect study and we are very excited to learn about all of them.

In Mrs. McDowell's class we learned about building structures and ramps. The students learned what ramps are and how they are used in our community. In our block area we built numerous structures and ramps. We raced cars down ramps. The students used different cars made from different materials to see which car was fastest. We also placed different textures on our ramps to see which texture would slow down our car. We also finished our pet study and cultural celebration. The students are excited to study insects next.

Crabbe Elementary

Extra! Extra! Read all about it! Our Kindergarten are becoming independent readers! The winter is always an exciting time of year to watch our little learners blossom into fluent readers as we approach spring. We are currently learning about beginning blends, and we are even taking spelling tests. This past week we learned the names of our city, state, country, continent and planet! Our "Kinders" have been learning the song, "Fifty Nifty United States." The song teaches the children each state in alphabetical order. We make sure to yell, "Kentucky!"



We have also been celebrating, Read Across America Week. For this week, we had a special theme each day. The Cat in the Hat came to stay with us one day in our classroom. Every student in our building also had the opportunity to participate in Family Reading Night. Here, students had a chance to participate in Dr. Seuss themed centers. Every child also took home three books to keep and read with their families. Needless to say, Crabbe Kindergarten are making headlines as they become fluent readers and are instilled with the love of reading. Go, Crabbe Kindergarten!



1st Grade students enjoyed our visit from the dental hygienist. Students practiced good oral hygiene with Dental Dino. Students also discussed the importance of flossing.

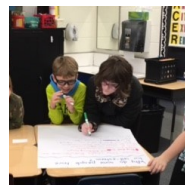
Asia Thomas and Alauna Troxler helped celebrate Read Across America and Dr. Seuss' birthday by reading to our second grade class. The class voted on what Dr. Seuss book they wanted read to them. They chose The Cat In The Hat Comes Back. The class enjoyed the story and loved hearing the older students read to them.



Ms. Clemons' third grade have been busy working on Accelerated Reader this nine weeks. Most students have reached their AR goals. We have two students, Myah Hamilton and Nevaeha Pack, who have reached over 100 points for the year. Students have also been mastering their multiplication and division facts on Reflex Math. There are four students who have mastered multiplication and division facts. Congratulations to Myah Hamilton, Aryanna Gulley, Kaiden Thornburgh, and Jazlyn Gordon!



One of the 4th grade ELA groups took a journey over *The Bridge to Terabithia*. In preparation for this expedition, they explored various open-ended questions in small group work. The award-winning book was determined to be a favorite.



Austin, Owen, Isaac, Landon, Rick, Harley, and Isabella were all winners in the latest 4H Competition. The next event is a county competition for all the school champions. This will be on Sat., 4/22/17 at ACTC. Good Luck, Crabbe Tigers!

5th Grade STLP students had fun at the Crabbe Family Literacy Night on March 2nd. They created a station called "Doggone Origami" where they showed students how to make an emoji dog origami bookmark. While making the bookmark, they encouraged the students to read at home



with their own dogs! They even asked a special guest, Digit, to come to read with Crabbe students of all ages. Digit is a certified therapy dog. A few of the members made a shoebox float that won first prize in the contest at school. The shoebox looked like Digit! This corresponds with their project which will be going on to the state competition in April about the benefits of therapy dogs in schools.

Hager Elementary



Kindergarten has been busy at Hager! In January, we learned about Martin Luther King, Jr. We used different colored eggs to learn that although we may

look different on the outside, we are all the same inside. In February, we celebrated the 100th Day of School with a lot of fun activities and also enjoyed our first trip to the Paramount. We kicked off the month of March with a celebration week for Dr. Seuss' Birthday! We made green eggs & ham and dressed up like our favorite Dr. Seuss characters!

First grade students have been reading nonfiction texts about simple machines. We have studied how each simple machine works and the benefits of each one. At the conclusion of our unit, we built Leprechaun Traps using 3 simple machines. We certainly want to catch the Leprechaun on Friday!!!

Hager's second grade students are becoming grammar heroes!! They defined and discussed the "superpower" each part of speech contributes to a sentence. Students loved taking on bad grammar using their "superpowers."



Our third graders celebrated "PI Day" on March 14th (3.14). Students took their "Oatmeal Cream Pie" and found the diameter (6cm) and radius (3 cm). They used this information to find the circumference (18.84 cm) of their pie. It was a great way to have a tasty pie with a scoop of math on the side.

We've been very busy in 4th grade! It's hard to believe we are nearing the end of school! We are so proud of our students for working so hard to meet their AR goals! We are getting ready to start our next book club. We can't wait! They've also been hard at work spotting figurative language while reading.

Students love sharing their findings!! They have begun learning about geology, weathering, and how weather and the atmosphere shape the world we live in today for science class. We have been taking virtual "field trips" to different locations to learn about the environment and landforms. Their favorite so far has been "traveling and exploring" Arches National Park! (Thanks, Google Earth!)

Hager's 5th grade class presented their Reading Projects, and they had a lot of fun sharing their favorite books with their peers.

They also finished reading *Holes* by Louis Sachar. They enjoyed peach juice to represent Kissin' Kate Barlow's spiced peaches and Funyuns to represent Sam the Onion Man's healing onions. They even had a visit from a bearded dragon and a spotted gecko, which are similar to the yellow-spotted lizards in *Holes*. In mathematics, they have been working hard in their Math Centers. They love working together to solve problems! The students also had a great time learning about health and nutrition while preparing a meal, during the Recipes for Life Program presented by the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service. The class picture features the proud chefs after a very successful meal!



Hager P.E. students have been working hard during the 3rd 9 weeks to support the American Heart Association's Jump Rope for Heart. Students learned about keeping our hearts healthy with exercise and a good diet, as well as the importance of staying away from smoking and drugs that can damage our hearts. Hager celebrated our donation of \$3,445.56 on February 16th with our annual Jump Rope for Heart Day.



Oakview Elementary

"Ashland's Future Starts Here!"

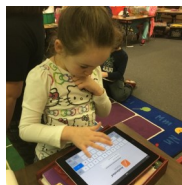


Oakview Elementary placed 2nd at Districts!

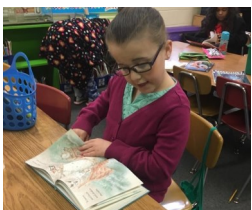
Kindergarten: "WE R2 EXCITED ABOUT READING!" Kindergarten has been working hard on Accelerated Reader. The students' first goal is to reach 10 points. When they reach that goal they move to our Star Wars bulletin board and enjoy a happy meal from McDonald's. We are looking forward to setting new goals and reaching those goals this year.. "MAY THE FORCE BE WITH US" as we read, read, read!



1st Grade: Mrs. Roberts' and Mrs. Johnson's class reached their class AR goal of 1,000 points! Mrs. Roberts' class enjoyed popcorn as a reward, and Mrs. Johnson's class gobbled up some pizzas. Both classes have set new goals and continue to read daily. First grade had a sweet time in February passing out Valentine's Day cards in their homemade boxes.



First grader, Jace Morris, decided to donate money to a staff member who lost their home in a fire and brought in his ENTIRE PIGGY BANK!!! He counted each penny and ended up donating \$17.22! He inspired many other students to bring donations as well.



2nd Grade: Second grade celebrated the 100th day of school by setting a goal in each class to read 100 books. Ms. Lewis's class read 118 books and earned 59.9 AR points, while Mrs. Gilbert's class read 169 books and earned 93 AR points!

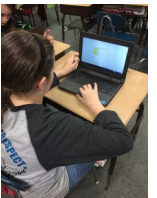
3rd Grade: It has been a great nine weeks in third grade! We have been working on a variety of topics to prepare us for the K-PREP test! In math, students have learned about comparing fractions, with unlike and like denominators/numerators, area, and perimeter.



Context clues, vocabulary, sequence, tall tales, and fables have been our focus in reading. In writing, we have written our persuasive pieces, hoping to encourage someone to try an activity we love! Students have continued to battle the fourth graders in our biweekly multiplication challenges!



4th Grade: The fourth graders are now using Google Classroom to take assessments on fractions and decimals. During the last week, the students have taken a quiz on tenths and hundredths. They have really enjoyed using the Chromebooks to learn about new math concepts.



5th Grade: Our 5th grade students spent the morning on March 3rd, at AMS finding out what it will be like next year as they enter 6th grade. They were treated to a fashion show that showed them the do's and don'ts of what to wear at middle school, a tour through the 6th grade wing, to ease their fears of not getting lost next year, and they got to meet teachers who explained all the electives that will be offered to them next year. Also, 5th grade is preparing for their 2nd annual Wax Museum presentation which will be April 13th. This year, we span many years—from Marie Antoinette to Tiger Woods!!

Coach Tackett: 4th grade students in Guidance Counseling got to attend the Tobacco Free Academy sponsored by the health department. Students learned about the harmful effects of Tobacco use and other illegal drugs. The program wrapped up our unit on Tobacco and our Too Good For Drugs program.



Poage Elementary

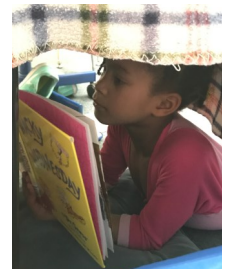
1st Grade

Poage Elementary's first graders are ready for March Madness! They are participating in a tournament of fairy tales where eight different fairy tales will face off in a bracket-style competition. For each leg of the tournament they will write their opinion on which book is the best and then vote on the books using Google Forms. May the best fairy tale win!

Poage Elementary's first graders also participated in a nationwide reading event called ReadQuest on Friday, March 3rd! Students from thousands of schools across the country read books and took Accelerated Reader comprehension quizzes on what they read. Our first graders set a goal of passing 200 AR tests, 100 tests per class. They surpassed their goal and passed 254 AR tests!



read throughout the day. They read in tunnels, in tents, with flashlights, with a friend, and even with a stuffed animal. Awards were given to the students



for their outstanding performance. Some of the awards given were for the highest number of points of the day, highest percent, quietest reader, and most excited about reading. It was one of our favorite days of this year! Poage Second Graders Rocked Reading!

PE K-2 Students just finished dance and have begun learning the fundamentals of kickball and T-Ball/waffle ball. They are learning the rules and perfecting their kicking and hitting skills. Plus, we are talking about the importance of exhibiting sportsmanship behavior, whether you win or lose.

PE 3-5 These students have just finished up dance as well and have started volleyball. They are learning how the scoring works, how to rotate positions, and the rules of the game. Furthermore, they too are learning about the importance of exhibiting sportsmanship behavior, win or lose.

Vital Club Students have been working hard and having fun during our meetings. So far our student step challenge winners have been Jacob Shytile and Jack Hogsten! Our staff step challenge winners have been Mrs. McLain and Mrs. Runyon!

Our robotics teams recently competed in the First Lego League tournament on ACTC's Technology Drive Campus. The two teams worked together to complete tasks in areas including Core Values, Robot Games, Robot Design, and Team Project. Pioneer Team #1 was awarded the Judges' Award for energy. Pioneer Team #2 was awarded 2nd place in Core Values and was 1 of only 4 teams to win a bid to the state competition.

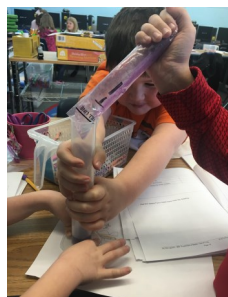
5th Grade—Mrs. Chapman's fifth grade class had a visit from Mark Renfro, retired social studies teacher from Ashland Middle School. He talked to the students about the American Revolution and the colonial period in America. He brought several artifacts from the time period for the students to see and handle. This is the second time Mr. Renfro has talked to the class and shared artifacts from the past.



STEM

During STEM class with Mrs. Lynch, 2nd graders have been investigating and classifying properties of matter. Students applied their knowledge and skills to solve a design problem by creating an insulating cover to keep an ice pop

solid for 30 minutes. Not only did these 2nd graders have fun learning, but they also got to eat their science experiments in the end!



2nd Grade - Second graders had a fabulous time celebrating one of our favorite things to do...READ! We participated in Read Quest where the students spent their entire day reading and taking AR tests. What made the day extra



special was the unique ways the students could choose to read. Students came to school dressed in their pajamas and picked their favorite ways to

Charles Russell Elementary

STLP News: State competition is just around the corner! The STLP students will be traveling to Rupp Arena in Lexington on April 12, 2017, to compete in the State Showcase Competition. Ali Ellison, Riley Gussler, Morgan Palma, and Emma VanHorn have worked hard and are excited to represent Charles



Russell and Ashland Independent Schools. CRS will also have Samuel Tibbitts representing us in the State Scratch Ambassador service category. He was the only AISD elementary student to advance to state in a service category! **Good Luck to everyone competing!**



Academic Team News:

On Monday, February 7, 2017 and Saturday, February 11, 2017, the Charles Russell Academic Team competed at Districts in all subject areas, as well as Quick Recall and Future Problem Solving. The following students advanced to Regionals: Ali Ellison-2nd Place Mathematics, Myla Hamilton - 5th place Science, Ashley Colley-2nd place Language Arts, Anna Bocook-3rd place Language Arts, Aubrey Foster-3rd place Arts and Humanities and Ashley Colley-5th Place Arts and Humanities. The Future Problem Solving Team of Molly Keyes, Kiarah Knipp, Kaia Mantle and Kyra Traylor took 2nd place, and the Quick Recall Team of Holly Harris, Grace Delaney, Myla Hamilton, Arsi Smith-Mensah, Rachel Tackett, Vera Houk, Caleb Elliott, Aubrey Foster, Anna Bocook, Grant Smith, Shaelyn Steele and Riley Brillhart took 2nd place. place and the team was awarded the Katherine Hume Sportsmanship Award.



Cheerleader News: The Charles Russell Indians Blue Team cheered their way to a runner-up trophy for their dance routine. Our

girls have practiced and cheered games since mid-October 2016 and finished up their season in late-February 2017. They practiced two times a week and had two games a week. All of them showed great improvement and dedication throughout the season. We are SO proud of their accomplishments and can't wait to see what the next AYBL season has in store for our little Indians. #indianpride.

—Miss Martin and Miss Shannon



Bottom L to R: Kalleigh Knipp, Jaylin Stanley, Ashley Ingram, Olivia Meade, Addison Jobe **Top (L to R)** Laryn Berry, Abby Lynch, Molly Keyes, and Lizze Coffey.

2017 Region 32 Academic Meet:

On Monday, February 27, 2017 and Saturday, March 4, 2017, students from 16 elementary schools all across Ashland, Boyd, Russell, Fairview and Greenup Counties competed in the Region 32 Academic Meet. Over 200 students were involved in tested areas, composition, and in the team events of Future Problem Solving and Quick Recall. Charles Russell was proud to be the host for these events and to see Ashland take several places in testing. Ashland Independent Schools took a 3rd place in Quick Recall, took three of the top 4 awards in Future Problem, with Poage Elementary winning this event. In the tested areas Ashland had a 4th place in Mathematics, a tie for 5th in Science with two Ashland Students, a 2nd place in Language Arts, 1st and 2nd place in Arts and Humanities, a 2nd, 3rd, and tie for 5th place in Composition. Poage Elementary placed 2nd among all 16 schools just 3 points behind the leader. The future for Ashland Independent Academic Teams looks very bright by this wonderful showing at the 2017 Regionals Competition.

CRISP Program:

A new program has been implemented during the spring semester at Charles Russell. The CRISP (Charles Russell Indian Scholars Program) provides academic enrichment opportunities for students in grades 3-5 that are facilitated by school librarian, Sheila Meade. Students were selected based on teacher recommendations, grades, assessment data, attendance and writing skills. Students submitted an application stating why they would like to be part of the program and what qualities they possess that would help them to be successful. Students in grades 4/5 meet four days a week, alternating between working on projects of their own choice and brain-centered activities that promote problem-solving and creativity. Students in 3rd grade meet two days a week for enrichment activities. Some of the activities include coding, learning how to play chess, building Structures, and playing logic games .



Basketball News:

A **BIG** Shout Out to the CRS Girls' Basketball Team! They won the Holy Family Pre-season Tournament, the AYBL Regular Season Tournament, and the AYBL Post-season David Payne Memorial Tournament! Their season record was 18-2! **Way to go girls!**

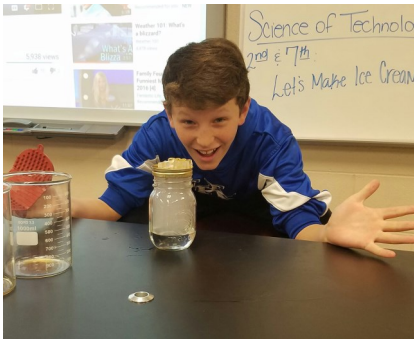


Ashland Middle



Students in the Discovery Team recently completed a Breakout game over the novel Witness by Karen Hesse. They had to work together as a team to decipher clues to "break out" and open their box.

While studying Egypt, Ms. May and Mrs. Lee's 7th grade social studies classes experimented with mummification. Students measured and mixed salt and baking soda to create natron, the solution used by Ancient Egyptians. Once they made their natron, the students buried a piece of potato deep inside. The students watched their potato mummies for seven days, making observations about the texture, consistency, and appearance. The students compared the mummy from the solution to a piece of potato not buried in the solution.



Mrs. Hess's students made a cloud in a jar using hot water (representing evaporation), ice (representing condensation), and then hair spray (representing dust) to create a cloud.

Congratulations to the String Orchestra for an outstanding day at the KMEA District 8 Solo and Ensemble Assessment Event. The following students were rated a "One" or Distinguished for Solo Performance: Eric Billips-String Bass, Luke Geyer-Viola, Hannah Laney-Violin, Reece Pennington-Cello, Hailie Gullett-Violin, Santiago Gutierrez-Cello, and Matthew Street-Violin. The following students were part of an ensemble that was rated a "One" or Distinguished: Cheyenne Adkins-Cello, Maddie Aliff-Violin, Brianna Barker-Viola, Eric Billips-String Bass, Landyn Bocook-Violin, Luke Geyer-Viola, Santiago Gutierrez-Cello, Connor Howard-Cello, Drake Howard-Cello, Chris Marsh-Cello, and Caroline Pullem-Violin.

Friday, May 5th, will be the last day to qualify for The Twenty Book Challenge.

Mrs. Lee's theatre arts class presented a reader's theatre version of "The Gift of the Magi" by O'Henry. Students worked on memorizing the lines, designing the costumes, and were assisted by Mr. Brown's art class to design a backdrop. The principal parts, Della and Jim, were read by Hailee Guffey and Richard Runyon. Our narrators were Jasmine Johnson and Lanae Odne. Mrs. Porter, Della and Jim's neighbor, was read by Jamie Ison. Alyson Jones, Bethany Slone, and Nate Brown rounded out the cast playing the shop keep, hair buyer, and custodian.



Over 150 students were rewarded for reaching their reading goals. Our Reading Queens, Lauren Delaney and Reese Couture, shared the magic of reading with others.

Several band students performed at the KMEA Solo & Ensemble Festival held at Montgomery County High School. All band students from AMS earned either Proficient or Distinguished Ratings! Students receiving Proficient Ratings were: Kane Albertson-tuba solo, Ian Buckler-saxophone solo, Nafi Byrams- trombone solo, Rilee Vanover-French horn solo, Martina Flowers and Nancy Conley-flute/trumpet duet, Ian Buckler and Caleb Rood-sax/trumpet duet. Students receiving Distinguished Ratings were: Grace Browning-keyboard solo, Jasmine Bryant-clarinet solo, Joselyn Bryant-clarinet solo, Elliott Fosterwelsh-clarinet solo, Rhiannon Gullett-clarinet solo, Delaney Jackson-clarinet solo, David Keeton-trumpet solo, Jada Maynard-clarinet solo, Rachel Moon-clarinet solo, Adrianna Riggs-bassoon solo, Max Robinnette-trumpet solo, Braden Spears-snare drum solo, Lucas Trent-alto sax solo, and Gwen Akers and Melanie Grimm-alto sax duet.



Adventurer Team students practicing math skills with games.

Paul Blazer High



The 7th annual Ohio University Southern Tri-State Juried High School Art Exhibition was held the last week in February with 595 works from around the region submitted to the show. Fourteen artworks from Blazer Students were accepted out of a total of 112 pieces in the show. The following

students' works were exhibited: Emma Brown, Niamh Denny, Hannah Porter, Payton Scott, Justin Lucas, Erynn Weatherford, Sydney Jackson, Abby Caines, Sinclair Paddock, and Blake Rogers. Abby Caines took First place in the show and Sinclair Paddock took 2nd place. Congratulations to all students whose work was accepted.



The Paul G. Blazer Tomcat Battalion

Rifle Team had its internal rifle qualifier to determine its top 12 shooters. After a great day of competition, the top 12 shooters earned their spot and were able to advance to the Greenup County Rifle Competition on Saturday, March 11th.



In attendance were fellow JROTC Cadets, Battalion Staff, Family, and Friends of the shooters. The following JROTC Cadets are the Top 12 Shooters: Keeston Clark, Abby Caines, Kayla Lucas, Tanner Keener, Destiny Eden, Jacob May, Zachary Lee, Emily Alexander, Jacob Haack, Heaven Wallace, Katie Myers, and Timothy McKinney.



Blazer celebrated Read Across America week and Dr. Seuss's birthday on Friday March 3rd. The library's top readers were treated to a pizza party with prizes. Mrs. Osborne, the Library Media Specialist, read about Dr. Seuss (whose real name was Theodor

Geisel). Among other things, the students learned how Dr. Seuss got his name (he began signing his magazine cartoons as Dr. Theophrastus Seuss). Seuss was really his middle name. Dr. Seuss continues to delight, motivate, and inspire children throughout the world with his fanciful creatures and the rhythm and rhyme of his books. In his own words, "Think left and think right/and think low and think high/ Oh, the THINKS you can think if only you try!"

The P.E. department at Paul Blazer High School

has implemented an intramural sports and physical activity program this school year. The first sport that was introduced was intramural basketball. Student



teams as well as a faculty and staff team participated before school on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. The season concluded with a tournament. The final game took place on a Friday afternoon in front of the entire student body with the faculty and staff team coming out on top.

The Blazer String Orchestra was well represented at the KMEA District 8 Solo and Ensemble Assessment Event on Saturday, February 25th. The event, which took place this year at Montgomery County High School in Mt. Sterling, has individual and small group performances assessed by a judges who are music educators from Kentucky and surrounding states.

The following students were rated a "One" or Distinguished for Solo Performance:

Ben Fazenbaker - Violin, Will Frye - Cello, Carlie Geyer - Violin, Caroline Geyer - Cello, Julia Lyons - Cello, Wyatt McCarty - Viola and Calvin Riggs - Viola.

These students were part of an ensemble that was rated a "One" or Distinguished:

Sydney Bennett - Violin, Mackenzie Clere - Violin, Olivia Connolly - Violin, Calvin Riggs - Viola, Will Spade - Viola and Ashleigh Taylor, -Cello.



Brae Bentley, Morgan Minton and Cassidy Shumate

taught Mrs. Toni Bonner's class about the importance of avoiding germs and using good hygiene. The girls are students of Ms. Stephanie Phillips' Child Development Services I class.

District News

RCX Regional Winners

On Saturday, March 25, 2017, the Ashland Independent Schools hosted the regional RCX (Robo Challenge Extreme) Competition at Paul G. Blazer High School. Fourteen teams represented eight regional schools participating in the event. Congratulations to our regional winners.



Elementary Division
1st – Crabbe Tigers



2nd – Poage Pioneers #1

Middle School Division

1st – AMS Savage Narwhals



2nd – AMS Teenage Mutant Ninja Sloths



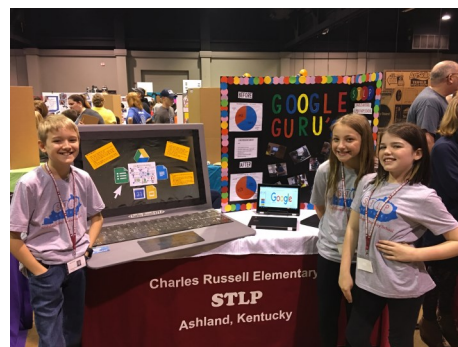
STLP State Championship



The 2017 STLP / RCX State Championship event turned out to be an exciting day for the Student Technology Leaders in the Ashland Independent Schools. With over 9000 students in attendance, our students still managed to come out on top with a number of big wins. A special congratulations goes out to Crabbe Elementary and



Charles Russell Elementary for being selected as state finalists. They were part of an elite group of 68 teams selected as winners out of over 1400 showcase projects.



STLP Showcase Finalists
Crabbe Elementary, Paws for a Cause.

Charles Russell Elementary, Google Gurus.

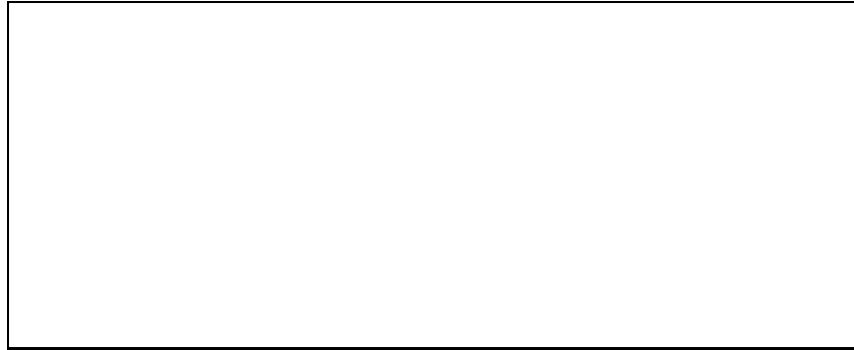
Senior Engineer – Stevie Tolliver, Blazer
Scratch Ambassador – Sam Tibbitts, Charles Russell
Live Reporter – Emily Vanhooose, Ashland Middle
Production Company – Luke Ingram, Ashland Middle
Extreme Networking – 1st Amelia Lucas - Ashland Middle
Breakout Edu – 1st place, Hager Elementary
Bench Challenge – 2nd place
Joel Katterheinrich, Blake Spangler, Ashland Middle
UK Computer Science – 2nd place
Noah Kelley, Ashland Middle.



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School Principals

Teresa Conway, Head Start Director
Jamie Campbell, Crabbe Elementary School
Phillip Caudill, Hager Elementary School
Rebecca Howell, Oakview Elementary School
Katie Holbrook, Poage Elementary School
Shawn Thornbury, Charles Russell Elementary School
David Greene, Ashland Middle School
Derek Runyon, Blazer High School

Central Office Personnel

Sean Howard, Superintendent
Linda Calhoun, Instructional Supervisor
Lisa Henson, Director of Student Services
Kristen Martin, Director of Finance
Richard Oppenheimer, Director of Student Achievement
Christine Scott, Director of Pupil Personnel
Cary Williams, Director of Instructional Technology



Ashland Middle School Fire Pandas received the "Rising Star" award at the state First Lego League Robotics Tournament.

Board of Education

Chris Clarke, Chair
David Latherow, Vice Chair
Carol Jackson
Mark McCarty
Bruce Morrison

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