

We enter roles in our life that we hope to do well in and have happiness: have a successful valued career, hopefully for many reasons other than financial gain be well respected, and be able to impact others in a positive way.

Janice Ledford hit the mark on all of these. She entered a profession with far reaching impacts, she met it with industry and purpose for all the right reasons. I doubt Jesse Stuart ever met Janice, but his framed words hanging in my office describe it best, "... a teacher lives on through her students, good teaching is forever... and the teacher is immortal"!



I was Janice's principal and evaluator at Coles Junior High. She was one of the most outstanding classroom teachers I have ever observed. She was prepared every day, I mean she was prepared every day to do her very best for our students. She exemplified this immeasurable responsibility to each child in her charge.

Committed, effective classroom teachers can make committed, effective administrators. She was both. As principal at Blazer I was again her primary evaluator, and I observed a principal who accepted the major role of the instructional leader, who put the curriculum first, ensuring that the rigors, the relevance, and the relationships were in place to benefit the students. Janice stressed the highest expectations for every teacher and student on that campus. She ensured safety; she strived for the best learning environment in every building to further enhance the instructional program. She knew that the instructional program is what we are about, be a positive force on behalf of the sacred treasures entrusted to us, our students. Janice was student focused. Janice was an educator, regardless of the position she held, that commitment to excellence and expected her peers to do the same. It was all about our children.

During my time as superintendent, Janice dealt with many health issues, but she always fought back and was both a motivational force and an inspiration to those who worked with her. "Janice's river was so wide and her boat was so small," but through sheer commitment and dedication to our school district she persevered. Many of us would not have done the same.

Janice had a continual impact on teachers and students her entire career. She had a continual impact on student achievement and student successes in the Ashland Independent schools that will live on. Janice Ledford was a teacher. Yes, Jesse Stuart, "good teaching is forever, and the teacher is immortal".

We will never be remembered for what we have, but for what we have given. Life is God's gift to us. How we live it is our gift to Him. Janice Ledford gave God quite a gift!

Rest in peace, great teacher and dear friend.

*Stephen E. Gilman*

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# District News

December proved to be an exciting month for technology competition in the Ashland Independent School System. On December 4th, ten teams comprised of almost 100 students in grades 4 through 8 competed in the FLL (First Lego League) Regional Competition at Ashland Community and Technical College. Oakview Elementary School placed third overall and will participate in the state FLL event at Northern Kentucky University in February. On December 14th, over 120 students representing all seven of our schools participated in the STLP (Student Technology Leadership Program) Regional Showcase event at Morehead State University. Students from all of our schools made the cut and were invited to the state competition which will be held at Rupp Arena in April.

Ashland students demonstrated great technology know-how at both events. What they accomplished is amazing.

## First Lego League



First Lego League Regional Award:  
3rd Place—Oakview Elementary

Team Work Award:  
Poage Elementary Team #2

Judges Award:  
Charles Russell Elementary  
Ashland Middle School Team #3

Robot Performance Award:  
2<sup>nd</sup> place – Ashland Middle School Team #2  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Oakview Elementary

Core Values Award:  
1<sup>st</sup> Place – Poage Pioneers Team #1  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Ashland Middle School Team #1  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Ashland Middle School Team #4



Project Award:  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place—Crabbe Elementary

Robot Design Award:  
3rd Place—Hager Elementary



## STLP Regional Showcase

Junior Engineer:

Stevie Tolliver, Paul G. Blazer High School

Scratch Ambassadors:

Victoria Brown, Connor Robbins—Charles Russell Elementary

Showcase Winners:

Charles Russell Elementary  
"Sight Word Typing"

Crabbe Elementary  
"Marking" a Difference

Crabbe Elementary  
"Digging Into History"

Hager Elementary  
"Study Buddies 2.0"

Oakview Elementary  
"How to at Oakview!"

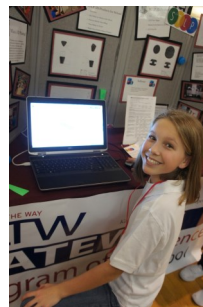
Poage Elementary  
"Community Yard Sale"

Ashland Middle School  
"3D Printing"

Paul G. Blazer High School  
"Tech Junkies"

Paul G. Blazer High School  
"Broken Chains"

Paul G. Blazer High School  
"The Ashland Tragedy"





# Head Start

For weeks now, the sound of carols, old and new, have been heard during school hours; the sounds pass on from classroom to classroom and down the halls, like a fire which must not be allowed to die out.

Please join us for a family event:

**Ashland Head Start/Preschool annual Christmas Program:**  
**December 17th, 2015 @ 6:30pm**  
**Ashland First Church of the Nazarene 2201 Bath Ave**  
**(across from the historical Ashland Central Park)**



"It came without ribbons! It came without tags! It came without packages, boxes or bags!... Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before! 'Maybe Christmas,' he thought,

'doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas... perhaps... means a little bit more!' ~Dr. Seuss, How the Grinch Stole Christmas! Merry Christmas Mrs. Whitehead's class.



Mrs. McDowell's room is full of cheer for the holidays. We are learning about what it means to be thankful for thanksgiving and the holidays. We are making cards for others for the holidays. We hope that the card will fill the receiver with joy. We also are working on our Holiday Program. We are having a PJ day and watching Polar Express this year. We hope all families have a great holiday and happy new year.



Mrs. Cox's class has been studying buildings the last few weeks. The children have enjoyed using classroom materials to create their own buildings. We are also getting ready for the annual Christmas program where we will perform "Jingle Bell Rock" and "Rocking Around the Christmas Tree".



Mrs. Steele's class has been celebrating the holiday season with a study on families. We have been discussing who is in our family, what families like to do, and what traditions our families have. We also had a special visit from Santa and Frosty the Snowman. The children got to have their picture taken with them and got a special treat! We have been practicing for our Christmas program that is going to be on Thursday, December 17th.



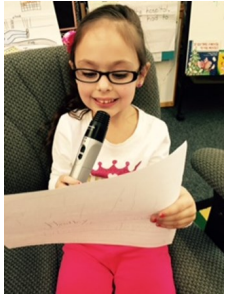
The children in Ms. Dee's class are exploring Christmas around the world. Activities include making candle wreaths, caroling, filling shoes with presents, and making homemade Christmas piñatas.

Mrs. Alger's class has been having a fantastic time learning about trees over the last few weeks! We have learned about the parts of trees, how and where they grow, how they change, and what lives in trees. We are looking forward to our winter break and coming back to learn many more exciting things in 2016!





# Crabbe Elementary



Kindergarteners LOVE to tell stories! What better way to use that in our favor than writing personal narratives? What is a personal narrative, you ask? A personal narrative is a true story that tells about an experience in your life and how you feel about it! Their experiences and how they reacted to the events ranged from heartbreaking to hilarious. Students are truly transitioning from learning about authors and illustrators to becoming

authors and illustrators right in front of our very eyes! Believe us-- Kindergarteners have a lot to share!

Ms. Clemons' third grade class celebrated a Random Acts of Kindness Day in honor of Coach Phil Ratliff. Coach Ratliff was an area football player who went on to play at Marshall University. He coached at many area schools until he found his place with the Charlotte 49er's in North Carolina. Coach Ratliff passed away at the age of 44. He instilled the love of football, the outdoors, and most of all, kindness, in everyone he met. On his birthday, the third graders made extra efforts to do Random Acts of Kindness. They logged their kindness on footballs and we posted them in the hallway. We know Coach Ratliff would have been proud. #RAK4PHIL



First Grade artists created drawings of Rudolph. They went over the lines with a black marker and matted their masterpiece on week one of the project. The following week they used watercolor to paint them. As with Rudolph, they are sure to go down in history with their efforts in Mrs. Debord's art class.



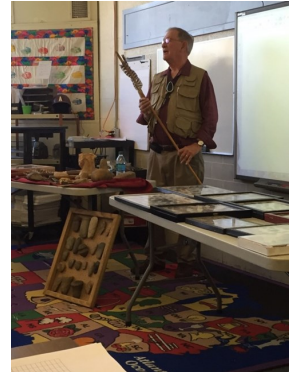
Nate Freize & Brianna Coleman finished ALL 25 lessons in Type to Learn 3. Lunch was on Mrs. Bowling anywhere they wanted! What a great job!



Isabela Morales looking at the bear claws that Mr. Crawford brought with him to speak to our 4th grade.

4<sup>th</sup> graders are participating in a global event Dec. 7-13, which is Computer Science Education Week. The Hour of Code is a one-hour introduction to computer science, designed to demystify code and show that anybody can learn the basics. *Every* student should have the opportunity to learn computer science. It helps nurture problem-solving skills, logic, and creativity. By starting early, students will have a foundation for success in any 21st-Century career path.

Crabbe STLP is gearing up for their competition in Morehead by finishing up their project on the Indian mounds located right beside our very own Crabbe Elementary in Central Park. Mr. Gary Crawford shared a wealth of knowledge with 4th graders about the Indian mounds and showed them many interesting artifacts he has collected over many years. Crabbe's STLP group has collected data, researched the mounds, made a webpage, and used this to create a cool presentation using virtual reality goggles that they assembled themselves! They will be able to show the judges the Indian mounds just as if they are standing in Central Park while they are in Morehead. How cool, huh?! This year's STLP members are Elias Jackson, Isabel Nelson, Eduardo Torres, Gabriel Soto, and Asia Thomas. Their teacher leader is Ms. Bare.



Lenzy Martin and Aslyn Fannin dancing the Quickstep during Ballroom Dance lessons for 5<sup>th</sup> grade.



5<sup>th</sup> grade students completing a science experiment on gravity.

5<sup>th</sup> grade, Jada Maynard, teaches math morning work on Career Day.



5<sup>th</sup> grade students, Katarina Davis, Hannah Luckett, Leslie Stone, and Sha Foster-McDonald, having fun at Crabbe's high attendance reward trip at Gattiland.



Mrs. Minton's student, Daniel Brown posing with one of the horses at the Kentucky State Horse Park.

Mrs. Murray's 5<sup>th</sup> grade class poses with the Clydesdale horses at the Kentucky State Horse Park.





# Hager Elementary

On Thursday, November 19, Hager inducted 26 5th grade students into our Junior Beta Club. Madison Davis, a former Hager student and member of the Class of 2016 at Blazer High School, and Dee Plummer, were the guest speakers. They encouraged our newest members to use their talents for good and continue to work hard and become successful members of our community.



Hager's LEGO Robotics team worked hard to prepare for their recent FLL Competition at the Ashland Community and Technical College. Their FLL project was called "Watson's Wish," which highlighted the importance of recycling water bottles and/or buying reusable water bottles. They placed 3rd in the "Robot Design" category! They had a lot of fun, and they are already preparing for their next competition.



During the second nine weeks, all Primary students at Hager have been learning about Dribbling, Volleying, and Striking! Here's a picture of some second graders in action playing a game called Straddleball. In this game,

students use their hands to strike a ball through the legs of another player. This is a great and easy game to play at home to help students improve their hand-eye coordination, and it has quickly become a favorite activity among our students!

Our kindergarten students are learning about helping others. Miss Moore's class is working hard to collect old toys that we no longer want. We are going to be sending these toys to The Salvation Army. Miss Keener's class is also doing a community project! We are collecting canned foods for a local food pantry. We have learned that Christmas is not just about receiving, but also about giving back to our community! In November, we studied Pilgrims, Native Americans, and the first Thanksgiving. We had a chance to dress up in costumes and re-live the first Thanksgiving. We spent many days preparing our food-just as the Native Americans and pilgrims did! December, we read The Polar Express and had our own special delivery from The North Pole! Everyone in our classes believe!



Mrs. Cole's and Miss Wheeler's 1st grade classes have been having a delightful December! They met their elves, Miss. Holly Noel, and Crystal at the beginning of the month. Holly is a very busy elf! She brought lots of treats and activities for the students. They even completed a candy cane investigation! Crystal has also been full of tricks and surprises all month long. They finished up the week with a Polar Express Day, complete with PJs, a movie, popcorn, hot chocolate, special tickets, and a craft!



Miss. Patrick and Mrs. Kennedy's second grade students kicked off their Christmas Around the World unit by entering a tree in the Festival of Trees at the Paramount Arts Center. Hager's Second Grade took home the third place ribbon in the school division. Students worked hard on making ornaments for their tree and were very proud of their accomplishment. During our Christmas Around the World unit we will be visiting many different countries and learning about cultures and traditions.

Hager third grade students were busy during the Thanksgiving season practicing and performing a reader's theater for other classes. Each child had a part to read in "Being Thankful." This play consisted of students learning to appreciate the sacrifice the pilgrims made when coming to the New World. The kids were excited to share information with others and enjoyed performing for teachers as well!



Fourth grade students have been participating in the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Program. The Conservation Educator speaks to the students on different subjects relating to life sciences and practical living skills. The topics have included Reptiles and Amphibians and Firearm Safety. Upcoming programs will cover Kentucky's Wildlife Heritage, Conservation Camp, and Wildlife Safety. This has been a fun and educational experience for the students

Hager's 5th grade students spent the month of November honoring those who have served and are currently serving in our military. The 4th and 5th graders put on a Veterans Day program allowing our students to see the importance of our country's military. Ms. Hund, School Technician and Air Force Veteran, and Lt. Faber were the guest speakers. The 5th graders also skyped with Chief Nicholas Wall of the United States Navy and discussed his time on deployment, as well as, his daily job on the ships.



# Oakview Elementary

Counseling: Students are finishing their "Too Good For Drugs" curriculum and learning about the dangers of gateway drugs. Also as part of our Random Acts of Kindness unit, students at Oakview collected enough canned food to provide 13 food baskets to Oakview families. The entire school did a great job in our 4th year of doing the Thanksgiving Food Drive.



Mr. Reams Music: Wow! What a turnout for our first Oakview Arts Night! The walls were covered with student art and it was standing room only for our students as they sang, played, acted, spoke, and performed. Thank you to the parents for their wonderful support of the arts here at Oakview. Our next arts event will be our Christmas performance of "Casey's Christmas Countdown" on Thursday December 17th at 6:30. This will include drama from our 3rd grade classes and Mrs. Sparks as well as music from the Oakview Comet Chorus. We hope to see you in attendance!



Fifth Grade: England Huizar is Oakview's first and only student to reach over 250 AR points! In honor of her stupendous achievement, our school library has been renamed to "Queen England the First Book Emporium" and England will get to be Principal for the Day! Jarod Brown has over 150 AR points and enjoyed a cookie dough Blizzard!

Congratulations to the following 5th grade students for becoming members of Oakview's Beta Club:

Cheyenne Adkins, Leaidan Blake, Landyn Bocook, December Boggs, Layne Brammer, Jarod Brown, Drew Clark, Tucker Conway, Kaitlyn Dillard, Liam Ferguson, Kennedy Fletcher, Rachael Fritz, Justin Goodwin, England Huizar, Marrison Kackley, Khali Kouns, Vivica Langham, Selina Limings, Amelia Lucas, Shyeann Menefee, Katy Raybourn, Ellie Roark, Adam Sallie, Abby Street, Brook Stubblefield, Lucas Trent, and Lilli Wilson.



Congratulations to Ms. Mann's homeroom as they donated over 100 cans of food to help fill Thanksgiving baskets for needy families! They celebrated their act of kindness with a pizza/movie party!

The 5th grade classes earned a total of 106.3 AR Points on Oakview's first official AR Day!

Fourth Grader: Students with 75 AR points had cookies with Mr. Tackett, and our 100 AR point club students had hot chocolate with Mrs. Howell. Gavin Stutler, Sam Hicks, and Ben Katterheinrich are the 100 point club members.



Third Grade: The past nine weeks have been full of fun in third grade! In math we have been working on the properties of multiplication and building our fluency in multiplication facts. Throughout the month of December we incorporated centers and games to help us learn our multiplication facts. We are preparing for our multiplication battles with fourth grade. Map skills and forces and motion have been the focus of learning in social studies and science. Summarizing and main idea have been the hot topics during reading class. We were proud to see two of our classmates at the Paramount in "A Christmas Fantasy." We have been working hard on our Christmas play, "Casey's Christmas Countdown," and are excited to perform for Oakview students and families. We are looking forward the New Year!

Second Grade: Seventeenth Annual Animal Shelter Christmas Collections. Students at Oakview Elementary School once again took on their annual holiday service project of collecting for the local animal shelter for the seventeenth year in a row. Students collected a variety of items (new and previously loved!) for all of the animals at the shelter. Collections included virtually anything that the animals or shelter could possibly use. Once again, the public also showed their holiday spirit and became involved in this very worthwhile project by bringing donations to the school! The children hoped to brighten the holiday season for the animals as well as remind everyone that there are many wonderful little (and big!) animals at the shelter just waiting to share their love with a family! Have you considered visiting the shelter and adding a new member to your family?

K, 1st and 2nd Grade: The Polar Express. Once again, The Polar Express made its annual stop at Oakview Elementary School with a very special guest reader aboard. This year primary students were treated to a lovely holiday reading by Mrs. Charlene Cooper. The students and their guests, gathered in the darkened gym, lit only with solitary lamp nestled amid cozy Christmas decorations. Nearby sat an inviting rocker, ready for the guest of honor to proudly read the beloved story, The Polar Express, written by author Chris Van Allsburg. The children were snuggled in their pajamas, robes and slippers, for this was the best and perhaps only way to hear one of the most wonderful Christmas stories of all. After the reading, the children found hot chocolate waiting for them in their classrooms, along with their own special bell so that they might always hear that one pure "jingle" of Christmas.

Kindergarten: In November, Kindergarten held their annual Friendship Ceremony! The students dressed as Native Americans or Pilgrims and gathered around a "fire." Two students at a time shook



hands by the fire and exchanged handmade gifts. After the ceremony we feasted on the food students brought to share. For the month of December we plan to meet the Gingerbread Man, Boy and Girl, discover some interesting facts about reindeer, and pay tribute to the big man himself... Santa Claus!



# Poage Elementary



## Kindergarten

Poage Kindergarten is wrapped up with crafts for this holiday season. We are decorating our classroom Christmas trees with colorful ornaments to share with our families. Our elves have also returned to make sure the kids are being good boys and girls. We are very excited for the Polar Express adventures we will participate in next week and hope that our bells will arrive from the North Pole!

## 2nd Grade

It's Snow Secret.... Second graders are very busy during the month of December. However, they are not too busy to show their classmates and teachers how special they are to one another. Second grade students are busy doing random acts of kindness the entire month of December. This idea was inspired by the book, December Secrets by Patricia Reilly Giff. In addition, they are busy learning about economics and Christmas around the world with the help of their classroom Christmas elves.

## 1st Grade



Poage Elementary had a very exciting visitor in December!! It was the Grinch! The Grinch took pictures with students and stayed after school to take part in some holiday fun. Students

ate cookies and milk, made sand art necklaces, made reindeer food, and played Grinch bingo. Hopefully the Grinch will return next year!



## 3rd Grade

3rd Grade students from Mrs. Anderson's and Ms. Witt's classes have been working with Mrs. Anderson to study Christmas traditions from around the world. Students learned that while people all over the world celebrate Christmas, different places have different customs. Countries studied include China, Germany, Holland, Italy, Poland, Peru, India, Australia, and Jamaica. Each class compiled a book about what they learned. Each student contributed to the writing and illustrations for the book. Once the students' research was complete they performed a Readers Theater to showcase what they learned.



The 3rd-5th grade classes at Poage Elementary visited the Nina and the Pinta Replica Ships in Ashland. (Left: Ms. Damron's 4th grade class, Bottom: Mr. Kennard's 4th grade class)



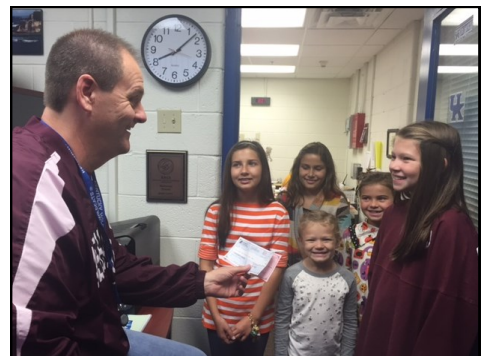
## PE

K-2nd students are currently participating in games related to cup stacking. Students perform various exercises in order to earn cups for their team. They use those cups to build towers. The team that builds the tallest tower is the winning team. Students are learning the physical, mental, and social benefits of being active during this unit.

3rd-6th students are learning the skills of basketball. We cover dribbling, passing, shooting, and defense. They will participate in various drills and activities to enhance their current skills. At the end of the unit students will participate in specialty games that focus on the abilities of the sport.

## Poage Spotlight

At the start of the school year several of our students set out on a mission to help fellow students who may need a little jumpstart with school supplies. Pictured below, Lexie Fannin, Laney Fannin, Greer Layman, Kennedy Sterling and Gracen Layman built their own business selling lemonade and presented Mr. Lester with a check for \$420.00! A special thank you to everyone who purchased a cup and supported these young ladies in their mission to help others.





# Charles Russell Elementary



On Oct 7th, Charles Russell, along with all district schools, participated in Walk to School Day. Local police and city officials joined in our walk from AK Steel Park to CRES.



Our students know the importance of staying healthy and were very excited to take part in the event.

## Annual Fall Festival



October 10th brought inflatables, games, Lil' Debbie cakes, and a dunking booth as CRES celebrated their Fall Festival hosted by our PTO. Students, their families, and school staff had a wonderful Saturday playing games, bidding on

baskets made by staff, and coming together as a community. Once again, the haunted house was a big hit and during the event, close to 100 boxes of Lil' Debbie Cakes were given away during the cake walk game.



## Red Ribbon Week

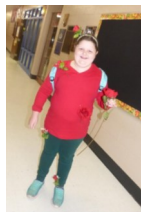


During the week of October 26-30 CRES celebrated Red Ribbon Week. Students learned the importance of being responsible and making healthy choices. Each day students celebrated with a different theme.

Monday: "Dream Big-Stay Drug Free" Students wore pajamas as a reminder to not only dream about a clean, drug free life, but to do it!

Tuesday's theme was "Don't be crazy- stay drug free!" This theme brought on crazy outfits, crazy socks and lots of crazy hair! Wednesday's theme: Letter Day, dress as something that starts with the first letter of your name. We saw a rose for R and cat for C; what great fun!

Thursday's theme: Decade's day brought flappers from the 20's and poodle skirts from the 50's. The week long celebration wrapped up with Dress up day for Halloween.



Cast members from Grease, Inside Out, and Ghostbusters stopped by to encourage our students to make good choices.

## Veteran's Day 2015



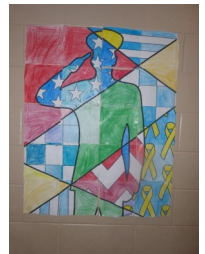
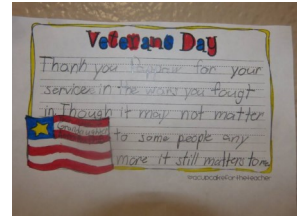
We love veterans here at Charles Russell. In usual form, we pulled out all the stops to honor men and women from our community that have served in the military. Music teacher Tara Lewis did what

she does best in preparing this wonderful program with all students. In addition to the program, art work created by our students with the instruction of art teacher, Whitney Martin was proudly displayed throughout the school.

Among guests were members of all four major branches. Also represented were the Coast Guard and National Guard. Before



ending the day, students were given the opportunity to shake the hands of our local heroes and thank them personally. We here at CRES, will never forget the sacrifice made by these men and women for our freedoms. Thank you!



Recently CRS students have participated in two student initiated service projects. First, two fourth grade students collected toy donations to send to patients at the Saint Jude Hospital. The project was a

success and the girls packed up two boxes full of items to send to SJH. Secondly, a group of fourth grade girls organized donations for the homeless community in Ashland. They collected clothes, socks, gloves, and hygiene items. So far the girls have collected a



large box of donations and will be coordinating with the SAFRC center to distribute the items. We are very proud of our caring students and their efforts to display good citizenship.





# Ashland Middle School

Cash & Coins for Christmas exceeded our hopes and was a huge success this year. Due to everyone's generous giving we are able to help over a 100 students between Ashland Middle School and Paul Blazer High School have a brighter Christmas with gift cards for \$75 each. We want to send out a heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone who made this possible. Merry Christmas!



Dec. 5th the Ashland Middle School Tomcats competed in their first ever KY Colonel's Sixth grade Showcase as a part of the middle school. The 6th Grade Academic Team at AMS competed in the 6th Grade Showcase this weekend at Louisa Middle School and came out with an undefeated Quick Recall victory and

the overall championship! The following students placed in their respective subjects: In Math, Cade Perlato got 5th, Morgan Vinson got 4th and Noah Carey got 2nd. In Science: Eric Billups got 3rd, Payton Cook got 2nd, and Gwynnan Cartmel got 1st. In Social Studies, Ethan Goodrich got 4th, and Isaac Campbell and Connor Calhoun tied for 1st. In Language Arts: Gwen Akers got 6th and Eli Campbell got 1st. In Arts and Humanities, Hailie Gullet got 6th, Drew Kiser got 3rd and Eli Campbell got 1st. In Writing Composition, Gwen Akers got 3rd and Brady Preston got 1st. AMS came out on top with a total of 92.5 points!



The Explorers Team made holiday cards to be sent to military personnel serving all around the world. Cards are required to have a minimum of five sentences as well as decoration.

Congratulations to the following students for auditioning for and earning membership in the 2016 District 8 Middle School Honor Band: Angelina Patel, flute - 4th chair; Jessica Miller, flute - 5th chair; Calvin Riggs, oboe - 1st chair; Maranda Morin, clarinet - 8th chair; Joey Farris, clarinet - 16th chair; Alex Crisp, trumpet - 1st chair; Colten Pinson, trumpet - 14th chair; Olivia Connolly, French horn - 3rd chair; Austin Pinson, trombone - 9th chair; T.J. Preston, tuba - 3rd chair; Josh Rice, tuba - 5th chair.

This January, these outstanding musicians will spend two days rehearsing with students from 20 other middle schools and will perform a concert at Morehead State University.

The Discovery Team did a McTeacher's Night to raise money for team activities. The following students won 2 free tickets to Camden Park's Spooktacular Night: Brielyn Colburn, Austin Skaggs, John Billups, Isabele Jobe, Bradley Adkins, and Sarah Litteral



Ashland Middle School takes great pride in honoring America's Veterans each year. The 2015 Program was held in AMS' new gymnasium, which has the capacity to seat the entire student body. Area Veterans were invited to attend. The Blazer ROTC Color Guard conducted the tribute, The Fallen Comrade Table. The panoramic photo highlights the impact of the ceremony with the entire student body and guests assembled in the same location. The AMS 8th grade girls basketball team competed in the Middle School State Basketball Championship in Lexington. The team reached the Elite 8 in the tournament and finished 5th in the entire state of Kentucky. Congratulations, girls, on great season. Members of the team are Morgan Bradley, Jada Miller, Merrick Clinger, Rylee Miller, Abby Huff, Danielle Spears, Clare Huff, Savannah Cade, and Julia Parker



Students from the Discovery Team visited a replica of Columbus' ships, the Nina and the Pinta when the ships were at the Ashland dock. Several students were interviewed by a reporter from local television station WCHS and featured on a nightly news segment.



Students from the Adventure Team competed in Halloween themed math games.



# Paul G. Blazer High School



Ashland Independent School district won the participation award in the Paramount Arts Center Festival of Trees. One tree in particular held a very special meaning for Blazer HS. The Tree of Hope designed by Mrs. Spade's art students honored those battling kidney cancer. The monarch butterflies were each drawn by students.

Monarchs move through the many stages of life to emerge as the emblem of hope and renewal. Orange is the adopted color of the battle against kidney cancer. Students wrote quotes of Hope on ornaments. The tree was dedicated to Allison McKnight whose ongoing battle with this disease is inspiring the entire Blazer community with her strength and faith. The tree was in a bidding war and raised a school tree record of \$500 for the Paramount and the purchaser gave the tree to Mrs. McKnight to enjoy through the season.

On Saturday, October 10th, Blazer Theatre Arts Society presented the comedy Parents Just Don't Understand by Bryan Starchman. Parents Just Don't Understand demonstrated that the discussions between parents and children are timeless and universal. To round out the evening, students also performed original works. In addition to some of Blazer's talented theatre students, there were faculty guest performers including Eric Lambert, Kevin Stepp, and Justin Imel. All proceeds from the performance were donated to Blazer faculty member Allison McKnight and her family.



Blazer High School Medicaid Nurse Aide students recently completed their clinical rotations at Oakmont Manor and Woodland Oaks long term care facilities. These students completed the MNA training in early December and took the State

Registered Nurse Aide exam on 12/11/15. These same students will begin phlebotomy training in January, 2016. All their hard work will result in 2 career certifications before they graduate in May, 2016. These still will be eligible to work as a State Registered Nurse Aide or a Medical Lab Technician immediately following their high school graduation. The Health Sciences Program is extremely proud of these students!

Under the direction of Karen Hopkins, Blazer Choral Department was eligible to audition 9 students for a spot in KMEA All-State Chorus. We had a first for Blazer in that all 9 students were selected to this state level honor choir! 100% of our auditioning students were selected to All-State Chorus! These students will rehearse and perform at the KMEA Professional Development Conference held in Louisville KY in February of 2016.

Students are: Kelsey Gute, Ashby Foutch, Taylor DeHart, Hattie Killin, Sydni Pierce, Desmond Snyder, Savion Bacon, Danny McGraw, and Wesley Whelan.

The Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Region 5 Fall Leadership Conference (RFLC) was held October 13, 2015, at Morehead State University. RFLC brings together Local Chapter FBLA Officers and Members from throughout Region 5 to learn about their responsibilities for holding office plus ways to help their chapter have a successful year. Region 5 Officers teach members how to fulfill the duties of their office, then conduct roundtables over fundraising, recruiting, community service, ice breakers, competition & awards and much more. Conducting the Conference from Ashland Blazer were: Cameron Moore, State Historian and Region Treasurer, and Kaitlyn Bellew, Region 5 Secretary; attending were Kaitlyn Stevens, Blazer Vice President; Hannah Carroll, Blazer Reporter; Sydni Pierce, Blazer Historian; and Adviser Ramona Bellew.



FBLA Officers and members travelled to Charleston, SC, in November, for the National Fall Leadership Conference. While there they attended many workshops and sessions, listened to great speakers, and networked with members from across the U.S. They also visited many fun and historic sites around the city including Boone Plantation, Fort Sumter, Folly Beach, Angel Oak Tree, Old City Jail and more. Attendees included: Cameron Moore, State Historian; Kaitlyn Bellew, Region 5 Secretary; Hannah Carroll, Blazer Reporter; Sydni Pierce, Blazer Historian; Leah Smith-Mensah, Member; Ramona Bellew and Debbie Barnett, Advisers.



Saturday, December 5, Blazing Arrows Archery Team made history by hosting the first Archery Tournament held in Anderson Gym. Over 400 archers from elementary, middle and high schools around the Tri-State area

participated in the event. The Blazing Arrows team of 38 is coached by Jeff Carroll and Ramona Bellew. Awards were presented to the top three boys and girls in each division, plus best overall boy and girl. Congratulations to the Blazing Arrows Team for winning the High School Division. Britta Dalton was the Overall Best Girl and 1<sup>st</sup> place girl in the High School Division; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place was Savannah Braden and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Hannah Carroll. Also ranking in the high school division was: Kaitlyn Bellew, 4<sup>th</sup> Place; Hannah Hickman, 7<sup>th</sup> Place; Sydni Pierce, 8<sup>th</sup> Place; Jerett Morrison, 6<sup>th</sup> Place and Andrew York, 7<sup>th</sup> Place.





# District News

## FOCUS ON STLP at Paul Blazer High School

Sherry Payne—coordinator

In the past, Blazer's Student Technology Leadership Program has been a club. This year Mrs. Osborne agreed to coach and coordinate the program in a class format. The class meets daily 6<sup>th</sup> period in the Blazer Media Center (library). There are presently 10 students enrolled in the class. However, there are 6 other students who are in the club but who were unable to take the class.

At the beginning of the school year, Mrs. Osborne interviewed each student and divided the class into three work groups: videography and video production, video gaming and engineering. These groups brainstormed various ideas for their showcase projects and decided on a project with Mrs. Osborne's approval.

The Blazer Engineers, aka Tech Junkies, assist the school technology coordinator when she needs help. Their showcase involved much of the unwanted equipment on campus. They dismantle this equipment and remove any expensive components or wiring they could use for future projects. Most of the remaining "shells" are recycled. The group has made several small robots from kits and a solar generator from a recycled cooler. Their next project is to build a SumoBot and "soup it up" with recycled components. The group is looking for a sponsor to purchase a 3D printer for some proposed community projects.

The Video Production group is working on an Ashland history website and producing a documentary film on the Ashland Tragedy. Filming is scheduled for January and February at Heritage Farm Museum and The Trainmaster's House (bed and breakfast). Mrs. Modlin's drama classes will make up the cast and Mrs. Hopkins' choir members will perform the background music.

The Video Gaming group chose to develop a video game for instructional purposes. Using the free software platform, Unity, their game, Broken Chains, follows an African tribesman from his tribal village on the grasslands of Africa to a slave ship bound for Virginia. His experiences with Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad will provide students with what it really feels like to be a slave trying to reach freedom in Canada.

All three showcases did well at the Regional STLP competition and will compete in the semifinals at the State STLP competition in April. Also, Stevie Tolliver will be one of the junior project engineers at state, and Marshall Heath was chosen as an alternate junior project engineer. Best of luck to all Blazer state STLP competitors!

## Focus on Attendance

Dr. Patsy Lindsey, Director of Pupil Personnel

Good attendance is important. It always has been, and it always will be. Student achievement is directly related to student attendance. Let's face it, a student can't learn if they aren't in school. Good attendance and punctuality are life-long habits that benefit us throughout our entire lives. After our students leave the public schools and either continue with their education or enter the work force, attendance and punctuality are not only good habits but also are essential for success. That's why it is important to establish those life skills as early as possible.

The first half of this school year has been an especially good year in terms of attendance. Our district-wide attendance at the end of the third month of school was 96.4%. That's the highest attendance for the Ashland Schools in at least the last fifteen years. Parents, please continue to encourage and promote good attendance. Besides the obvious advantage of your child reaping the benefit of an education, you are also instilling in your child a life-long learning habit that will benefit them throughout adulthood. Thanks for all you do.

## School Matters!



**Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow**

The 2016 Blazer *Hi-Life* yearbook is in production and taking orders daily at Blazer High School. The 2016 yearbook theme is **STAND OUT**, and the staff is working to show how Blazer *stands out* academically, athletically, and in the community.

If you would like to order a 2016 yearbook, the cost is \$70 and may be ordered through the yearbook staff at the high school or via Balfour.com.

Local businesses and organizations that would like to support the yearbook with advertising should call adviser Kevin Stepp at 327-6040 x3606 for rates and details.

Parents of seniors should consider a senior page. The senior page features up to 12 photos along with a sentiment. The page is lasting memento of the years at Blazer High. Please call the high school for more information or visit the yearbook link on the school webpage.





Ashland Independent Schools  
1820 Hickman Street  
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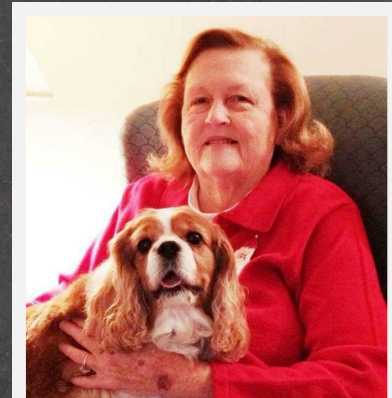
# FOCUS

## School Principals

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

## Central Office Personnel

Steve Gilmore, Superintendent  
Linda Calhoun, Instructional Supervisor  
Lisa Henson, Director of Student Services  
Janice Ledford, District Consultant  
Patsy Lindsey, Director of Pupil Personnel  
Richard Oppenheimer, Director of Student Achievement  
Tim Walters, Director of Finance  
Cary Williams, Director of Instructional Technology



*Mrs. Janice Ledford was a beloved educator and administrator in the Ashland Independent Schools. She will be greatly missed by all those who had the privilege to know her.*

## Board of Education

Charlie Chatfield  
Chris Clark  
Frank DeMartino  
Carol Jackson  
David Latherow

The Ashland Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, religion, marital status, sex or disability in employment or the provision of service, as set forth in the Title IX and VI and in Section 504.