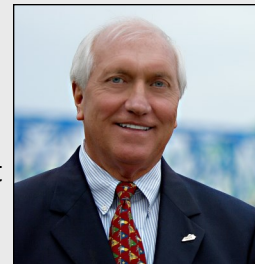


# FOCUS

December 2014

## Ashland Independent Schools



### Superintendent's Letter

We are in that special, magical time of the year when we are excited and joyful in making others happy while we make extra efforts to reflect our care and concern for family and friends. Maybe a practice that should spread throughout the entire year! It is a time of Thanks and Thoughtfulness...really a time to reflect and consider what is truly important in our lives.

I want each of you to know and appreciate the significant role that we fulfill in the lives of our students, their families, and all our co-workers throughout the year. We have such a "sacred trust" to care, nurture and yes, to teach those in our charge to become the very best they can be, now and into the future. It truly is a vocation like no other with a responsibility like no other. I am so proud of you and the wonderful works that you are providing.

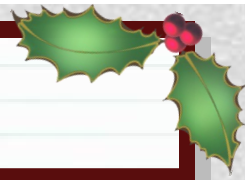
Learning is also for us...you never stop. I have learned that, no matter what happens, how difficult it may seem today, that life will go on, and it will be better tomorrow. I have learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way they handle rainy days, the elderly, those less fortunate, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas lights. I've learned that 'making' a living is not the same thing as making a 'life'. I've learned that sometimes life gives you a second chance. I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands...you need to be able to throw something back. I've learned that if you pursue happiness, it will elude you, but if you focus on your family, your friends, the needs of others, your position in life, and always striving to do the right thing, to do your best, and to treat others as you want to be treated, happiness will find you. I've learned that whenever I decide something with an open heart, I usually make the right decision. I've learned that when I have pains, I don't have to be one. I've learned that every day you should reach out and touch someone. People love the human touch...holding hands, a warm hug, or just a friendly pat on the back. I have learned that I still have a lot to learn. My sincerest hope that each of you enjoy this wonderful time of the year, and that you and those you hold dear, have the health and happiness that you so richly deserve.

*Merry Christmas!*

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# District News



## Technology Competition

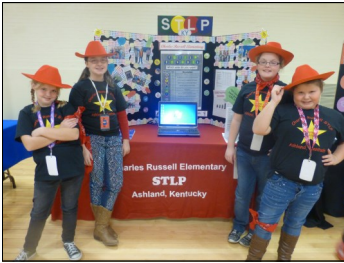
December proved to be an exciting month for technology competition in the Ashland Independent School System. On December 9 over 120 students representing all seven of our schools participated in the Regional STLP (Student Technology Leadership Program) Regional Showcase event at Morehead State University. Students from all of our schools made the cut and were invited to the state competition which will be held at Rupp Arena in March.



On December 12 sixty students in grades 4 through 8 competed in the FLL (First Lego League) Regional Competition at Ashland Community and Technical College. Charles Russell Elementary

School was named one of five regional runner-up winners and will participate in the state FLL event in February.

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



## STLP Regional Showcase Winners

Crabbe Elementary—  
"What's your STYLE"

Hager Elementary—  
"Hager Study Buddies"

Oakview Elementary—"Parent University"

Poage Elementary—"News Flash"

Poage Elementary—"Eat Smart and Boogie Down"

Charles Russell Elementary—"Button Bonanza"

Ashland Middle School—"Paperless School"

## First Lego League

### Regional Competition Winners

FLL Regional Runner-Up –  
Charles Russell Elementary

Star performer Award –  
Oakview Elementary, Ashland Middle

Gracious Professionals Award – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Hager Elementary

Inspiration Award – 1<sup>st</sup> Place - Crabbe Elementary

Team Work Award – 1<sup>st</sup> Place - Hager Elementary

Research Award – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Crabbe Elementary

Strategy/Innovation Award – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Ashland Middle

Programming Award – 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Charles Russell Elementary

Programming Award – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Poage Elementary

Robot Performance Award – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place -- Charles Russell Elementary



## PEP TALK

One of the major reasons Ashland schools was awarded a PEP (Carol M. White Physical Education Program) Grant was the percentage of the elementary students who are overweight or obese. Based on the most recent BMI's (Body Mass Index) for every Ashland elementary student calculated by the school nurse in September, 40% of the students are overweight or obese. This is an alarming statistic because the eating habits your children pick up when they are young will affect their lifestyle when they are adults.

The grant has provided for more physical activity each day along with teaching students about the role of nutrients in the development of healthy bodies. Another facet of the grant is providing parents with information about healthy eating habits for their students. One source available to all Ashland families is the Appalachian Partnership for Positive Living and Eating (A.P.P.L.E.) provided through the Ashland-Boyd County Health Department. They provide free of charge nutrition counseling, personal training, family counseling, and gym membership. To qualify, at least one child per family in K-6<sup>th</sup> grade must have a BMI at the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile or greater. 40% of all Ashland elementary students would qualify for the APPLE program. If you are interested in joining or want more information, contact Jennifer Klaiber at 606-329-9444 ext. 2248.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> NINE WEEK'S P.E. ACTIVITIES

This nine weeks elementary PE students have been busy with physical fitness testing and using pedometers. Additionally, K-2 activities have included bounce & catch, dribbling, volleying, striking, straddleball, beanbag exploration; twist & turn, hoop exploration, and ribbon wand exploration. 3<sup>rd</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> grades have been passing & receiving drills, pitching drills, flag pulling drills, zone football, ball-handling drills, pivoting drills, grid passing, shooting drills, and basketball skills. Walking, jogging, running, and dancing have also been incorporated.

## HEALTHY EATING TIPS

- Guide your family's choices rather than dictate foods.
- Encourage your children to eat slowly.
- Eat meals together as a family as often as possible.
- Involve your children in food shopping and preparing meals.
- Discourage eating meals and snacks while watching TV.
- Encourage your children to drink more water.
- Try not to use food to punish or reward your children.
- Pay attention to portion size and ingredients.



# Ashland Head Start



Mrs. McDowell's Class

We have been working hard learning about winter. The families came to decorate ornaments with us.



In the classroom we made crafts as presents for our families. We had a family day in the classroom. The families came in and helped make reindeer food, Santa cookies, and snowman soup. We enjoyed the holidays with our families.



Mrs. Cox's class has been preparing for our Holiday Happenings. We have been practicing "Let it Snow" and "On Christmas Day". We have been making snow globes and other holiday crafts. The students have been writing their letters to Santa and are very excited for the holidays.



Mrs. Rutman's class is studying celebrations. From birthdays to holidays we are learning about how we like to celebrate with our families. This week, we made a piñata and learned about how families in Mexico celebrate the holidays.

Ms. Dee's Class—Family Game Night

During Family Game Night on November 13, our families spent time together trying out fitness activities. This year's first family game night supported Ashland Head Start's new Five Year Family Health and Fitness Goals. Families set personal goals that included two or three ideal fitness or health related concerns. Each family participated in games that support easy family friendly ideas for getting exercise indoors and out. Activities like jump rope, Frisbee, free weights, yoga, and stretching were among the stations available for families to try. Every family that participated in Family Game Night took home a pedometer and other fitness materials to support a healthy family lifestyle.

This Five Year Goal is subsequent to the Ashland District's momentum to increase the health and wellness of Ashland children through a Physical Education Program. Ashland Head Start Parent-Family-Community-Engagement plan includes creating an environment that supports Family Health and Fitness goals at school and home.

Mrs. Steele's class and all of Head Start got the Christmas season started off right with a special visit from Santa, an elf, and Frosty the Snowman! All of the children got their picture taken with Santa and Frosty and got a candy cane. We want to give a special thanks to the Ashland Credit Union for taking the time to come and do this for our students. They will always have this special memory.



## Social Emotional Learning and Christmas

Parents who exhibit the qualities of good character powerfully transmit their values to their children, modeling choices and actions that are essential to being a person of good character. When parents are honest, trustworthy, fair, compassionate, respectful, and involved in the greater good of our family and community they build strong character. How do our children learn this? They see it in our everyday actions and choices. Families can make cards for their community workers like police and firefighters. Take cookies to the elderly or to the hospital and clean up the toys they no longer play with and take them to city mission or homeless shelter for other kids. By doing this they will see that giving brings a sense of joy, satisfaction, pride, and peace to parents, families, and their community.

Jhonda Page

# Crabbe Elementary School



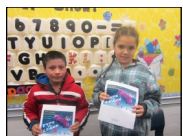
Kindergarten classrooms at Crabbe are under elf surveillance! Classrooms are filled with eves-dropping, Santa spying elves from the North Pole, hand-made ornaments, and the magic of children busily completing their lessons! The halls have been filled with

directed drawings of Rudolph and family-decorated gingerbread men in hopes that Saint Nick will soon be here! As the laughter of excited children rings through the halls, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Ronald McDonald came to Crabbe to visit with the kindergarten, first, and second graders on Friday, December 12, 2014. He performed magic tricks and talked to the students about Book Time, the importance of reading at school and at home. The children responded enthusiastically to his songs, dances, magic, and encouragement to visit the library. Ronald McDonald shows are free to our school and are sponsored by local franchises.

We are privileged to have two art students volunteering their time. Tori Wechsler and Keri Wheeler come to Mrs. Suman's third grade classroom each month. They are receiving their education from ACTC and are students of Mrs. Fosterwelsh. Each month they visit our classroom and give the students an art lesson on the current artist that we are studying and then present a new one. We studied Pablo Picasso last month, and this month we have studied Frida Kahlo.



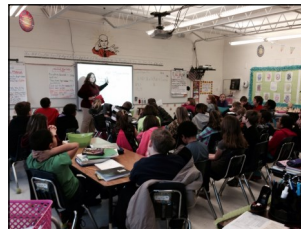
Way to go 4th grade Devoyne Montgomery & 5th grade Marco Aguilar; they have finished all 25 Lessons in Type To Learn 3.



Lego Robotics Team placed 1st in Inspiration and 2nd in Research!

4th graders were amongst the over 71 million people that tried the computer coding learning experiment. Students programmed Elsa or Anna to perform ice skating maneuvers, created paths for Flappy Bird to move through, or Angry Bird a course to be able to capture the pig. At the end of their endeavors, students were awarded Certificates of Completion for demonstrating an understanding of Computer Sciences, but if you ask them, they say that they were having fun and may even think about this as a career path.

A Crabbe School brochure was created by 4th grade Reading/ Language Arts students Brianna Coleman, Aslyn Fannin, Nate Frieze, and Jada Maynard. The students created this brochure in hopes that new families enrolling in Crabbe and any visitors be able to have helpful information.



The fifth grade classes were visited by middle school counselor Kim Moore. Students listened to an informative presentation about how their MAP scores will affect their middle school schedules.

In Mrs. Murray's social studies class students have been learning about Viking and European explorers and their important contributions. Students have been working with multiplying and dividing decimals in math.

As a reward for improved KPREP scores, the 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade Crabbe students enjoyed an exciting day of riding in a charter bus and exploring all that COSI had to offer. Throughout the day, students were heard saying, "This is awesome." This trip provided a valuable learning experience.





# Hager Elementary School

Hager's LEGO Robotics team has been working hard to prepare for their competition at ATCT this month. They have been practicing Tuesday and Friday afternoons and have even practiced on Saturday's to ensure they were ready to compete! The students prepared an anti-bullying skit with Mario Brother's characters to get the attention of younger students. They also programmed their robot to complete tasks on the LEGO Robotics course. All the hard work paid off at competition! Hager's team placed 3rd in Gracious Professionalism and 1st in Teamwork!



Hager's Academic Team has also been preparing for upcoming meets. Each Wednesday morning several dedicated students arrive at 7:00 a.m. to practice their skills in Quick Recall. These students are very competitive and strive to correctly answer as many questions as possible because winning means extra doughnuts! On Wednesday afternoons, they practice their skills in Math, Science, Language Arts, Social Studies, and Humanities. Our loyal Future Problem Solving students meet each Thursday afternoon to work as a team to solve the problems of the future. We are looking forward to competing with the other schools in our district and region during the Governor's Cup meets held in the late winter and early Spring of 2015.



Hager STLP members have also been developing their project: Study Buddies. Every Thursday after school STLP members work with primary students on their homework and classroom skills. STLP 5th and 6th grade members presented their project on December 9 at Morehead State University.

Hager's STLP received a spectacular score of 98/100! Students will continue to improve their project and attend the state competition in Lexington later this year.

Students at Hager Elementary were given opportunities to participate in the Frozen Fest Art/Music Festival on December 16. Hager families were invited to attend an evening full of activities including opportunities to create art. Artwork created during art class and outside of the school day was on display and many students entertained us with acts involving dance, drama, and music.



On December 11 Hager hosted a "Get Schooled" event for students to show their parents what they have been learning. Students prepared self-evaluations in their homeroom's and shared the information with their parents in student-led conferences. They also gave their parents a fitness test in the gym and shared a healthy snack. In the library, students selected a book that they read with their parents and then took an AR test. Overall, the event was a huge success with over 200 parents and students in attendance. We looked forward to seeing everyone again in the spring.



In November Mrs. Plummer's class enjoyed learning all about the pilgrims and their travels, trials and triumphs in the New World. The kids explored the Mayflower and Plymouth Plantation via virtual fieldtrip. Students also prepared food that the separatists might have eaten during that first year. Each kindergartener made their own pilgrim hat and collar and enjoyed a Thanksgiving lunch together.

Hager's 2nd grade students went on a pirate scavenger hunt in the gym. Students were able to dress like a pirate, and they used their map and compass skills to find hidden treasures. Students also just returned from a trip around the world where they studied Christmas Around the World. Students learned about traditions in countries like Spain, Germany, Mexico, and Sweden.



Fourth grade students attended the Tobacco Free Academy in November. The presentation was provided by the Boyd County Health Department. Students received information on the dangerous effects of tobacco and tobacco products. This was followed up by writing a persuasive letter encouraging someone to quit smoking. Fourth grade students also attended the presentation of *Laura Ingalls Wilder Christmas* at the Paramount Arts Center.

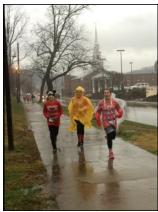
Exciting things are also happening in the 5th grade classrooms. Students skyped with Chief Wall of the United States Navy on Veteran's day. Chief Wall explained his duties as a Navy Chief as well as interacted with the students by answering their questions. It was a valuable learning experience! The 5th graders took a field trip to the Paramount as well to see *Laura Ingalls Wilder Christmas*. This finished up their Little House on the Prairie literature unit.

Sixth grade students had fun learning about the different types of boundaries and plate tectonics in science. They worked on an open lab with Milky Way candy bars to model the three types of boundaries. Students enjoyed a treat after their lab was completed.

# Oakview Elementary School

Oakview students are finishing up their Too Good for Drugs Program. They did a great job in the Thanksgiving Food Drive. We had a number of students who brought in food and donations. With the students and help from the South Ashland Family Resource Center, we were able to feed 13 families for Thanksgiving. Happy Holidays from Oakview.

Students at Oakview Elementary School once again took on their annual holiday service project of collecting for the local animal shelter for the sixteenth 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?



Oakview had their first annual Ugly Sweater 3k on Saturday, December 6. Many came to run in the rain and help the PTO raise money for our school.



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 will meet the Gingerbread Man, Boy and Girl, discover some interesting facts about reindeers, and pay tribute to the big man himself....Santa Claus!!



**First grade** students decorated gingerbread houses on December 15. First grade students who have met their AR Goal – Sarah Hicks, Izzy Donahoe, Chase Johnson, L. J. Murphy, and Victoria Revely.

Riley and Aiden in Mrs. Evans' class have earned 50 points in AR so far this year. Mrs. Johnson's students, Sarah Hicks and Izzy Donahoe made perfect scores on their spelling tests for the month of November. Mrs. Evans' student, Chloe has not missed a spelling word this semester. This includes the Bonus Words!



**Second graders** have read several versions of the story "Cinderella" from different cultures. The students compared and contrasted elements of all the stories. The students also made leaf animals and displayed them in the hallway. They wrote directions using time order words for others to follow to make leaf animal of their own



**Third Graders** enjoyed their trip to ACTC to see Charles Dickens' *The Christmas Carol*. Ben Katterheinrich, a third grader in Mrs. Well's class, did an outstanding acting job portraying Tiny Tim.

**Fourth Grade** students have been learning about sound and light waves. They have been making instruments using a variety of materials such as paper, grass, rice, and cups. In the next two weeks the students will participate in several fun activities after reading *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* by Barbara Robinson and *The Polar Express* by Chris Van Allsburg. Plus, they will begin the candy labs in science with Mrs. Hall.

We are having tons of fun and learning so much in **Fifth Grade!** We are currently working on text features and comprehension questions in reading using life science content on ecosystems. Students are using this time to discuss how models aide in understanding processes in science. We are also learning about early English colonies through a fun scavenger hunt activity! In addition, students have unlocked the key on how to answer a stand-alone extended responses! They have learned how to take a prompt and using the seven steps, write a proficient/distinguished response. Students have started working hard in our new math books and resources. We have practiced taking real world experiences, like shopping in a catalog for our favorite toys, to learn how to add and subtract decimals with money. We are hoping to put our new knowledge to the test when we help STLP with their third annual Grinchmas party!

**Sixth Grade Showcase Results.** Quick Recall took home second place, Ethan Swann took home fourth place in Social Studies and fifth place in Science, Matthew Street: won sixth place in Social Studies, Josie Bevins: Sixth place in Science  
Showcase members: Katie Hutchison, Ethan Swann, David Keeton, Chrissy Brown, Josie Bevins, Chris Thornburg, Abigail Burchett, Jordan Stutler, Matthew Street, Asher Stevens

Our news team has started off with a bang! **WCMN** (Comets Morning News) has begun broadcasting every morning at 8:05 in every classroom with the day's important announcements, upcoming events, lunch, interesting fact, weather, & power word of the day! Just this week, we introduced our Reader's Choice segment. We will be attending the Fall Showcase, as well, to learn about how to make Oakview's news the best it can be! Our news team is looking forward to going to state in March to present all of our exciting news productions.





# Poage Elementary School



## 1st Grade

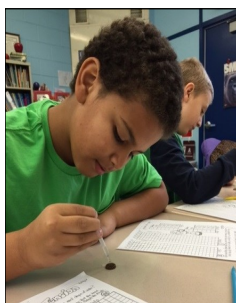
To introduce Poage Elementary's first graders to contractions, Mrs. Goodwin and Ms. Lowe's classes did contraction surgery. Students donned surgery masks and gloves and used their scalpels (scissors) to cut out the letters they didn't need. Then they stitched the contractions back together with apostrophe

band aids. The surgery was successful and many contractions were created!

Poage Elementary's first grade classes completed their Holidays Around the World unit. During this unit they learned about the different holidays people celebrate during this time of year, including Christmas, Chanukah, and Kwanzaa. One of their favorite activities from this unit was learning how to play the Chanukah game Dreidel.

## 4th Grade

The 4th grade class at Poage Elementary has been studying water. We did an experiment on surface tension. We saw how much water could be on a penny without breaking the tension. We also tried to place a paperclip on the water's surface to see if it would not sink. The experiments were really cool, and we enjoyed all of them. Written by: Halli Smith (Daughter of: Maggie Shelton & Steven Smith)



## Lego League

Poage's first LEGO League team attended their first competition at ACTC on Technology Drive. The team has worked hard all season while learning about programming a robot to perform specific missions. The team also experienced what it truly means to be a "team" and work together to solve problems. The coaches are proud of this FLL team!

## Safety Patrol

It's that time of year again ... Santa and the Grinch stopped by Poage Elementary to visit with their favorite students for the second year in a row. They were on hand to help support Poage's Safety Patrol as a fundraiser to help offset the costs for students attending the annual patrol trip to Washington D.C. Cookies with the Grinch were a hit with the kids as well as the adults.



## 5th Grade

As part of our social studies project on Native Americans, 5th grade students had a lot of fun learning about Native American history. Students learned about the homes of the tribes as well as their cultural traditions. Students were then able to choose to build a Native American Lodge, Hogan, Tepee, Longhouse, Chickee, Adobe, or Igloo. As part of the project, students wrote a report describing the home, the tribe, and other details about the tribe's culture. We invited parents and grandparents to come view the homes and to share cookies with them. Each student had a short speech prepared to share with the visitors about their project. The students were proud of their projects and enjoyed sharing.



## 6th Grade

The sixth grade has been working very diligently on their Christmas program with the great and wonderful Mrs. Jackson. The students have enjoyed utilizing their talents in a different way than just academics. We really have some talented children. It is an honor to be the last group to be with Mrs. Jackson before she retires. We are celebrating this time of year by reading a challenging classic novel, A Christmas Carol. This novel has shined a light on how important it is for us to make good choices with our actions and our words. The students loved learning about the unique life of Charles Dickens, which made us all a little more thankful for our own lives'. It has been fun learning about all of difference of life so long ago.

In math we have been working with evaluating equations and all of the fun with learning algebra. The students are growing by leaps and bounds! We just completed our second MAP testing and all of our in class students grew from their first testing score. They should all be very proud of their achievements thus far!



A huge shout out to the 6th grade showcase academic team! I am so proud of how well they all did at the meet! Every student worked very hard, and they were able to reap the reward of earning **second place** overall!! Way to go Poage Pioneers!!

## 6th Grade Showcase Results:

Quick Recall, 4th Place

Mathematics, 4th Place—Alex Boyle

Written Composition, 1st Place—Kate Hanni

Science—2nd Place tie—Chase Crumpton & Garret Royce

Arts & Humanities, 3rd Place—Gabby Carley, 4th Place—Kaya Ross

# Charles Russell Elementary School

**6th Grade Showcase**—Results from 12/6 @ Louisa Middle are: Math>2nd-Melanie Grimm & 5th-Tyler Miller; Science>4th-Melanie Grimm; Arts/Humanities>1st-Willow Triplett; Writer's Comp.>3rd-Mimi Moore; Language>3rd-Willow Triplett; 5th-Mimi Moore; Overall>4th Place. Good job!

**Academic Team News**—Results from 12/1 @ Crabbe are: Math>1st-Noah Carey & 2nd-Luke Geyer; Science>2nd-Noah Carey, 6th-Dylan Lundy & 8th-Isaac Campbell; Social Studies>1st-Spencer Greene, 2nd-Luke Geyer, & 7th-Kaythan Baer; Arts/Humanities>1st-Eli Campbell, 3rd-Hannah Greene, & 6th-Shelby Conley; Language>4th-Jackson Lawson; Quick Recall>CRS-15 & Wurtland-4; CRS-17 & McKell-10. Results from 12/15 @ Poage are: Math>1st-Noah Carey, 4th-Luke Geyer, & 5th-Gracie Madden; Science>2nd-Noah Carey & Elizabeth Davis, 5th-Dylan Lundy; Social Studies>2nd-Luke Geyer, 4th-Spencer Greene, & 5th-Elizabeth Davis; Arts/Humanities>1st-Belle Hiles, 2nd-Eli Campbell, 4th-Shelby Conley, & 5th-Hannah Greene; Language>3rd-Hope Harris, 4th-Shelby Conley & Eli Campbell; Quick Recall>CRS-11 & Poage-7; CRS-15 & Summit-8. Way to go!



## Emergency Safety Pillow Cases—

Have you ever heard of safety things in a pillow case? This is called the Pillow Case Project sponsored by the American Red Cross and Disney. The 2nd through 5th grades participated in this activity. Red Cross workers, Rich and Meredith came to CRS to

help kids to learn to be prepared for a disaster by filling a pillow case with items they would need like: toothbrush, toothpaste, batteries, extra clothes, water, family photo, blanket, radio, and one special item that you want to keep. They had us say a pledge and take a safety test. Once we took the test we were given a Mickey Mouse pillow case to draw and color. We all really enjoyed the pillow case project. For more information contact Joanna King at the Ashland Red Cross office. -Makena Francis

**Miss Kentucky**—On October 12, Ramsey Carpenter, Miss Kentucky, came to our school. She talked about encouraging others, and how to eat healthy. She told us to show our best and show our talent. Miss Kentucky's talent is playing the fiddle; fiddle is country for violin. Her fiddle is special because she colored it with green food coloring. She also said that she had to try three times before she become Miss Kentucky. Everyone enjoyed her visit! -Caleb Campbell & Bethany Ledford



**Veteran's Day Program**—Boy Scout Troop 109 (Cole Kemper, Drew Kiser, Jackson Lawson, Isaac Leeper, and Josh Jordan) served as the color guard; Willow Triplett led the pledge to the flag; and Mimi Moore sang *The Star Spangled Banner*. Mr.



Salysers welcomed everyone, Mayor Chuck Charles expressed appreciation on behalf of the City of Ashland, and all veterans present introduced themselves. The guest speaker was Air Force Master Sergeant Chris Kohut who spoke about his and his family's personal experiences while serving in the military. The student body led by Mrs. Jackson sang patriotic songs to show appreciation and honor the veterans and all military personnel for their service to our country. All students shook hands with the veterans to end the program.



**Christmas Program**—The 5th and 6th grades presented "A Holiday to Remember," on December 11th directed by Mrs. Cindy Jackson and Ms. Sheila Meade. There were thirteen songs presented in a variety of ways including: *Frosty*, *Feliz Navidad*, *Rockin' Round the Christmas Tree*, *Jingle Bell*

*Rock, Away in the Manger*, and *Do You Hear What I Hear?*. Some students sang solos like Richard Runyon and Haleigh Jackson or sang in groups. There were special dances including Eli Campbell as Frosty, Tyler Miller as Rudolph, and Layla Brown did a ballet to *White Christmas*. At the end of the program, Mrs. Jackson was presented a quilt made by the students to thank her for her many years of service. Happy Retirement, Mrs. Jackson! The program was a wonderful way to share Christmas cheer. - Holly Shelton & Abby Leeper

**Harmonicats**—The Harmonicats led by Mrs. JoAnne Reinhard visited each of the classrooms on Thursday, December 16, to serenade students and staff with Christmas tunes played on their harmonicas. Some of the songs were: *Jingle Bells*, *Silent Night*, and *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*. The Harmonicats include students from 5th grade: Rilee Vanover, Matti Parks, Kaythan Baer, Hope Harris, Chase Morgan, Bethany Ledford, Riley Brogdon, Gwen Akers, Kelsie Gibbs, Lindsey Brown, Drew Kiser, Elisabeth Davis, Hanna Haines, Malique Coleman, Aliyah Coffey, and 6th grade: Richard Runyon, Beau Smith, Tyler Miller, Kelsie Click, Shenoa Campbell, and Kaleigh Newman. -Leah Grayson



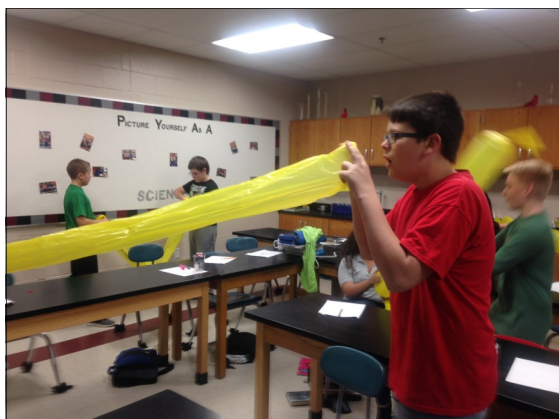


# Ashland Middle School

Technology students learned how to code during the second nine weeks. As a culminating activity, students learned how patterns, color, and movement work together to create a beautifully animated tree. Each student's animation code was submitted and will light up Kentucky's holiday tree in Washington, D.C.

The Ashland Middle School yearbook was recognized during Balfour's National Buy Your Yearbook Day (NBYYD). The AMS yearbook staff won in a contest that recognizes excellence in yearbook sales and promotion. NBYYD winners excelled in one or more of the following areas: sales slogan, advertising, social media promotion, sales improvement, and most spirit.

Students use Bernoulli's Principle to inflate windbags.

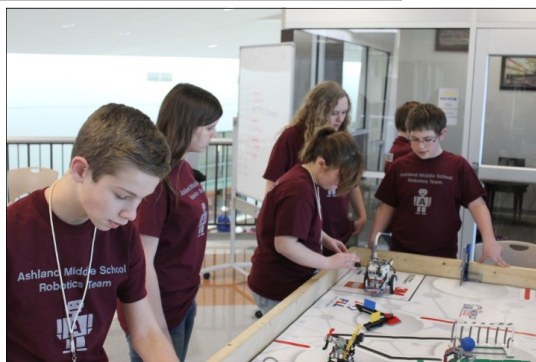


The construction at Ashland Middle School keeps advancing. Parents needing to pick up a student need to come to the front entrance on Kansas St. and use the buzzer system to enter the building.

Discovery Team students just completed writing their first books in Mr. Bailey's language arts classes. The project allowed each student to come up with his/her topic and take it through all the writing stages. From there, students printed their books and created illustrations to accompany the text. A company in Kansas prints the hardcover books with each student receiving one free copy.

STLP's project, "Paperless School," competed at the STLP Morehead Regional Showcase. The project was selected to compete at STLP State Competition. The state competition is held in March at Rupp Arena. The showcase presenters were: Casie Henry, Zach Lee, Kaitlyn McLain, and Reilly McLain. Makayla Skeans was the alternate.

While learning about the process of mummification in Ancient Egypt this 9 weeks, students in Ms. May and Mrs. Lee's class got some hands-on experience mummifying a potato. Students were divided into mummy teams and each team was given one potato to mummify and one potato that wouldn't be mummified. After predicting what might happen to the mummy and the non-mummy over a period of time, students measured out a mixture of baking soda and table salt which acted as natron to preserve their potato mummy. Each day the students made observations of how the non-mummy and the mummy were changing, and after a week unearthed their mummies and made notes about their final state.



The AMS Robotics Team practices before the FLL competition held at ACTC's technology campus. The team consisted of Dakotah Forth, Stephen Kennard, Kaitlyn Lee, Zach Lee, Hannah Rollins, and Payton Scott. The team received a 3rd place trophy for robot strategy and innovation.

These students and teachers have achieved their goal for the 20 Book Challenge: Christine Clarke, Gavin Couture, Mrs. Gregory, Hailey Hall, Mara Haney, Aaron Hill, J.J. Holmes, Courtney Lewis, Kaitlyn McLain, Reilly McLain, Ella Stephens, Reece Stevenson, Jonathan Thompson.



Mr. Chaffin inspects the progress of the new gym. The boy's basketball teams are excited at the prospects of playing games in January in the new facilities.

The Future Problem Solving Team at AMS is working to solve new global issues this year. Topics include Processed Foods and Propaganda. If you would like to share information to help them prepare for competition on these topics, contact coach Mrs. Parker. The team consists of these hard working members: Payton Scott, Spencer Wills, Kaitlyn Lee, Hayleigh Buckler, Caitlin Harvey, Madison Graham, Courtney Jones, and Zach Lee.

AMS's Youth Service Center raised \$3000 for the Cash and Coins for Christmas fund. This money will be distributed to AMS families in need of a little assistance for Christmas. Thanks to all the students, staff, and parents who so generously donated.

Builders Club has been busy this holiday season. They rang the bell for Salvation Army, sold trees for Big Bro/Big Sis, purchased gifts for the giving tree, and are hosting a special needs Christmas party.

Want more AMS news? Follow all of the great happenings through the online newspaper, [The Paw Print](#) and the Ashland Live Streaming Video Daily Announcements. Links to each can be found on AMS's webpage under the Quick Links section.

# Paul Blazer High School

## STRING ORCHESTRA

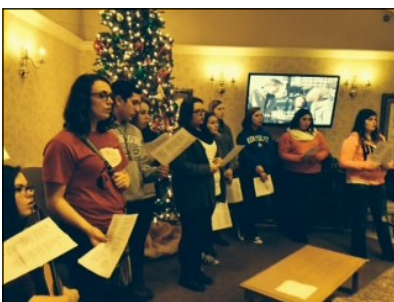
Congratulations to Blazer String Orchestra students Olivia Black, Hayley Deal, and Carlie Geyer for winning positions in the KMEA All-State Orchestras! Olivia will be performing in the Symphony Orchestra. Carlie and Hayley will be members of the Commonwealth String Orchestra. The three violin students were selected by a highly competitive audition process and will be participating in a rigorous rehearsal schedule in Louisville on February 4 - 7, concluding with concerts at the Kentucky Center for the Arts on Saturday, February 7th.

## ACTC VISIT

Each year the Ashland Rotary Club sponsors an event that invites area seniors interested in attending ACTC at Technology Drive to come for a visit. This year all of Mr. Heaberlin's classes attended. The students had a chance to tour all the different areas of technology; Auto CAD, Welding, Carpentry, Nursing, and CNC Machining. They toured the facility and met the instructors, who explained what is required for each class and saw the equipment that goes along with that class. ACTC invited speakers to come in and talk to students about different options they have after high school. Contact information was provided for people that will help them to decide what might work best for them. Lunch was also provided and served by the Rotary Club. Thanks to Cara Huff for setting this up each year.

## Kentucky Museums To Go: Abraham Lincoln in Kentucky

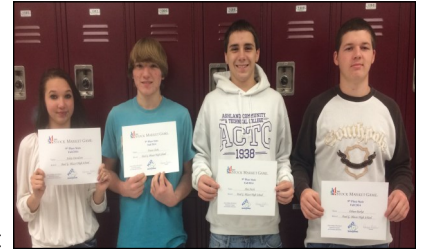
Ms. Owens received the Abraham Lincoln in Kentucky exhibit from Kentucky Historical Society. It included 5 large display exhibits. The exhibits were put in various locations throughout the classroom. U.S. History class were put into six groups. Each group had a primary source of Lincoln; one of his speeches or addresses. Each group had to translate the quote into their own words, as well as come up with supporting and compelling questions. While that was going on, three of the groups completed a scavenger hunt based on the museum displays of Lincoln. They were given twenty minutes to complete the scavenger hunt, and the first student to get all the answers correct the quickest, received a piece of candy.



Members of the Paul G. Blazer Spanish and French Honor Societies visited Woodland Oaks Healthcare Facility on December 8. Members caroled through the hallways, singing in Spanish, French and English while giving out treat bags to residents. Both students and residents

enjoyed the time together. The members of both honor societies will also be ringing bells for the Salvation Army on December 20th at Ashland Town Centre from 10am to 4pm. Hannah Wade (seated), Joy Kountz (historian, SHF), John Pina (president, SHH), Megan Conley, Mattie Reeves, Taylor Donahoe, Kelsie Floyd, Breanna McKnight, Kaylee Thompson, and Morgan Scherer.

Congratulations to the team of Ashia Davidson, Travis Clark, Alex Fitch and Ethan Barker, in Ramona Bellew's Business Management Class, for placing 9<sup>th</sup> in the state out of 300 teams in the online 10-week Stock Market Game™ (SMG) with a final



portfolio value of \$106,780! SMG is a national program of the Foundation for Investor Education and is offered by the Kentucky Council on Economic Education. It is an interactive, interdisciplinary program for students to learn about economics, finance, and our American economic system. Teams of students research companies, make investment decisions, and create their portfolios, investing \$100,000 in imaginary money in stocks and mutual funds. They are ranked on equity in portfolio. Student teams from Mrs. Bellew's Business Management class and Debbie Barnett's Business Principles class competed against other Kentucky teams statewide and across local regions. The competition was fierce, with most of the teams earning a profit and gaining an excellent learning experience.

Blazer FBLA Officers, members and advisers recently attended the National Fall Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. Students and advisers attended numerous educational workshops and listened to great motivational speakers plus networked with other FBLA officers, members, and advisers from across the United States. Blazer attendees were also able to visit and tour many of the historical landmarks and memorials such as the Iwo Jima, Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Martin Luther King Jr., World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, and many more. They visited the Smithsonian Institution along with Arlington National Cemetery where they saw JFK's grave and the Eternal Flame, visited the Custis-Lee Mansion and witnessed the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier along with moving presentations from two schools in attendance. Officers in attendance included: Lindsay Rothenstine, Ashley Carpenter, Cameron Moore, and Kaitlyn Bellew; members: Shannon Rice, Aaron Lewis, Miranda Berry-Jones, Elshadai Smith-Mensah, Sydni Pierce, and Alexis Smyser; advisers Ramona Bellew and Debbie Barnett.



Mrs. Spade's art students participated in the Ky Folk Art Center's Pictures in Place photography project and the following student's works were selected to be displayed at the Folk Art Center in Morehead through February 27, 2015: Chayse Roar, Hannah Layne, Noah Eidson, Hunter Cambell, Will Carroll, and Carlie Remy. The exhibition is also viewable online at [www.picturesinplace.com](http://www.picturesinplace.com)



## Blazer High School Honors Veterans

Paul Blazer High School held a Veteran's Day ceremony and breakfast on Tuesday, November 11, 2014, at 9:00 a.m. in the James Anderson Gym lobby. All area veterans were invited to attend. The observance began with a salute to our veterans and a POW/MIA ceremony. Following the service and the playing of Taps, a continental breakfast was served by Cat's Catering.

The POW/MIA service was performed by members of Blazer's JROTC program, under the direction of CSM (R) Paul D. Royster and LTC Matt Chapman, (RET). LTC Austin Hicks welcomed the veterans and led the Posting of the Colors and the National Anthem and later introduced Blazer Principal Mr. Derek Runyon, who provided closing remarks. Music was provided by Blazer's Chamber Singers. Theatre IV students Brandace Walker and Breanna Cole narrated the POW/MIA ceremony. Courtney Castle led the prayer, and Emily Shay introduced the guest speaker.

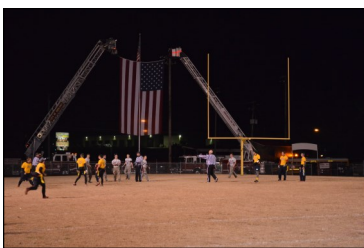
Highlands Museum provided a Veteran's Display

This year's guest speaker was Major Promotable James B. Richmond, a former Blazer High School faculty member. Major Richmond was a 1996 graduate of Morehead State University, where he received his commission through ROTC. Major Richmond's military schools include basic training, advanced individual training, engineer officer basic course, engineer officer advanced course, command and general staff college, and airborne school. His current assignment is Battalion Commander of the 206th Engineer Battalion in Owensboro, Kentucky.



In Mr. Imel's class students are using microscopes to look at the difference between normal human blood and sickle cell affected blood. Ty Duckwyler is using the microscope to look at the red blood cells.

**Army VS Navy Football Game**  
The first annual Ashland Army vs Boyd County Navy JROTC flag football game was held at Boyd County High School November 20<sup>th</sup>, a tribute to the long-standing tradition of the Army and Navy annual football



game. The game between the U.S. Army and Naval Academies has long been a symbol of the perseverance of both branches of military servicemen. The Cadet game, created by Ashland and Boyd County's JROTC programs, was a great contest that boasted the teamwork and sportsmanship of both teams. Recruiters from all branches came to watch, as well as a bundled-up crowd of fans and families. "We've always been big competitors, but it's mainly for honor, and for having fun and representing our program," Ashland Battalion Commander Austin Hicks said. Over 50 players came to support their schools, and played a hard game neck-and-neck until the end. They are expected to play again next year at Putnam Stadium, and fight again for the traveling trophy.

The Blazer Academic Team has been working hard this Fall, and there are great things on the horizon. The junior varsity and varsity teams have been competing in two leagues this Fall, as well as several travel tournaments. The Academic Coaches, Amber Chapman and Eric Lambert could not be more pleased with the dedication these kids have put forth.

The Varsity Quick Recall team went undefeated in the Eastern Kentucky Academic Conference this season. In the Championship Tournament, the varsity steamrolled their way to the finals but were defeated by reigning champs, Johnson Central. The varsity team consists of Hannah Wade, Cameron Garner, Doug Mollett, Shelby Street, Jason Zheng, and Kaitlyn Stevens and is coached by Amber Chapman. The varsity is now preparing to compete in the 2015 Governors Cup, which kicks off on January 24 at Blazer in hopes of making another run at the State Championship in Louisville in March, where they have made it to the Quarterfinals the last two years.

The junior varsity team competed in the Governor's Cup Junior Varsity Challenge, where they became the Section 15 Champions with a big win over Johnson Central. In this competition of testing, writing, and quick recall competition, the Blazer team battled it out for the big victory. The JV Quick Recall team, who took 1<sup>st</sup> place, consists of Wren Jenkins, Dawson Covert, Nate Rickman, Zach Stafford, and Hannah DePriest. The following competitors placed in their testing competitions: Wren Jenkins – Language Arts 2<sup>nd</sup>, Arts 1<sup>st</sup> Dawson Covert – Social Studies 3<sup>rd</sup>, Arts 2<sup>nd</sup> Nate Rickman – Science 1<sup>st</sup> Zach Stafford - Math 2<sup>nd</sup> Shelby Conley – Language Arts 3<sup>rd</sup>, Arts 3<sup>rd</sup>, Writing 4<sup>th</sup> Hannah DePriest – Social Studies 4<sup>th</sup> Harrison Hall – Science 2<sup>nd</sup> Derrek Baer – Science 5<sup>th</sup> William Fisher – Social Studies 5<sup>th</sup> Isaac Vinson – Math 4<sup>th</sup> William Zheng – Math 6<sup>th</sup>

In November, the junior varsity competed for the gold against Johnson Central once again. Both teams fought their way to the finals of the Eastern Kentucky Quick Recall Tournament. In a showdown finish for the championship, Blazer upset the reigning champions, winning by just 1 point. The JV season at an end, the team now looks forward to backing up the varsity and continuing to learn from their leadership and experience.

There are bright things in the future for both the varsity and JV Academic Team. GO TOMCATS!!!



On Monday December 8, Blazer's Accelerated Geometry and AP Statistics students participated in the Hour of Code. They were joined by tens of millions of other students around the world who also spent an hour learning the basics of computer science. The

second week in December is marked as Computer Science Awareness week and the Hour of Code is running its 2nd annual campaign to allow students to become familiar with reading and writing code. During the Hour of Code, the students helped Elsa from Frozen create snowflakes from circles, parallelograms as well as fractals. Go to <http://www.code.org> to try the tutorials and write your first line of code!



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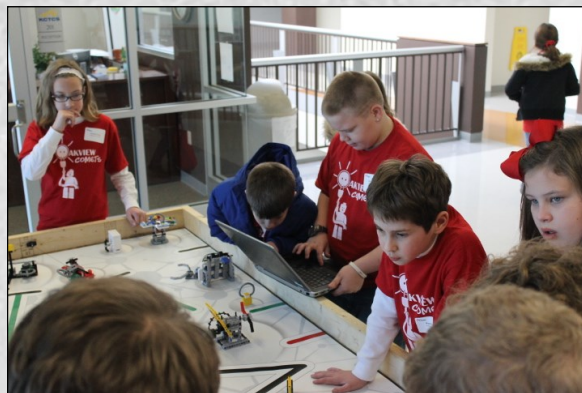
# FOCUS

## **School Principals**

Derek Runyon, Blazer High School  
David Greene, Ashland Middle School  
Brad Greene, Crabbe Elementary School  
Phillip Caudill, Hager Elementary School  
Rebecca Howell, Oakview Elementary School  
Jamie Lester, Poage Elementary School  
Steve Salyers, Charles Russell Elementary School  
Jacqui Thornburg, Head Start Director

## **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



*Students making last minute changes to their robot at FLL Regionals.*

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Charlie Chatfield  
Chris Clarke  
Frank DeMartino  
Carol Jackson  
Molly Webb

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