

# FOCUS

## Ashland Independent Schools

### Student Achievements/Student Success...

Blazer's Quick Recall Team won the Regional Governor's Cup Quick Recall championship, an accomplishment that has not happened since 2001. Congratulations to Head Coach Eric Lambert and members of the winning team: Stephen Corbitt, Aryssa Damron, Tyler Hill, Cameron Garner, Alex Newmark, Kyle Conley, Doug Mollett, and Jason Zheng.

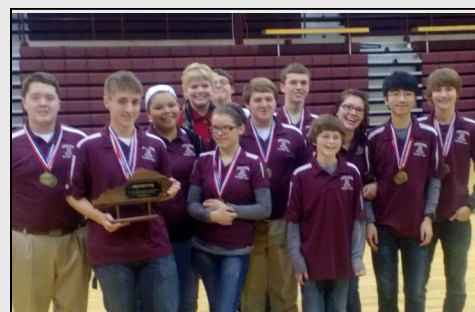


In November, Ashland Independent was one of only nine school districts in the state and 539 in the United States to be placed on the College Board's Advanced Placement District Honor Roll by having more students not only take advanced placement courses at Blazer but also be more successful in academically demanding classes. This means these students will be better prepared for the rigors of college work than those who do not take challenging classes.

Verity has also received recognition for academic excellence. Verity's Academic Team competed in the Knowledge Master's Open, a curriculum-based contest featuring 200 questions from a wide range of academic disciplines. Verity's team worked together to answer questions by computer in a timed test. The team had the highest score in Kentucky and 21<sup>st</sup> in the world. Team members are Ingam Acha, Will Carroll, Dawson Coovert, Jacob Baldock, Shelby Conley, Abby Crites, Hannah DePriest, Aryn Hughes, Connor Hutchison, Wren Jenkins, Constance Jones, Courtney Jones, Brianna Lambert, Spencer Lett, Shalayna Rice, Nate Rickman, Payton Scott, and William Zheng. This competition requires that the team agree on the correct answer and do it quickly. Head Verity Academic Coach Tonya Brady said, "We had the perfect mix of kids. They worked together really well, and we had a really good computer operator." Dan Boyer serves as the assistant coach.

Dixie Johnson, district gifted coordinator, and Col. John Burgess began working with most of these students several years ago on competitive academics. Kudos to both their efforts along with all of their academic coaches, individual teachers, and parents.

Good luck to all Ashland students as they advance in academic competition.



Paul G. Blazer High School Academic Team

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# District News

## Student Academic Growth

By Richard Oppenheimer

It's hard to believe, but it won't be long until students will be taking end-of-year K-PREP tests. Students in grades 3-8 will be assessed during a five-day window in the last 14 school days. High school students in designated courses will be taking end-of-course exams; all sophomores and juniors will be assessed in writing, and all juniors will take the ACT in early March.

One of our main concerns for students is that they are experiencing continuous growth. The Kentucky Department of Education believes it is so important that it made growth one of the major components of the new accountability system for schools. Last year, one of our elementary schools, Charles Russell, had the sixth highest growth score out of 733 state schools!

We measure student growth in physical, social, emotional, and academic terms. Parents can see their child's development in the first of these three areas, but the academic can sometimes be difficult to quantify. The Ashland schools utilize a variety of ways to measure students' academic growth, and one of the most recent to be used is the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessments. All K-11 students are assessed in reading and mathematics and all 3-11 students are assessed in language usage.

Teachers use the results of these assessments to identify student and classroom levels of performance to assist in developing lessons to fit student needs. Most importantly, the teacher can develop goals for individual students and track student progress in reaching these goals. As of December, 32% of our students had already met or exceeded their math goal for the year. In reading, 35% had met or exceeded their goal and in language usage 46% had met or exceeded their goal for the year! With five months of school remaining, we have high hopes that all of our students will meet or exceed their annual growth goals.

To find out more about MAP scores and goal-setting, parents can contact their child's counselor or classroom teacher.

## A Word of Thanks

The Café staff at Central Office would like to thank Jennifer Spade and her art students for volunteering their time and lending their talents to paint a border in the Head Start Café. The new artwork makes it feel more inviting for everyone. Thank you!

## STLP Regional Competition

by Cary Williams

Each fall student technology leaders from across northeast Kentucky meet at Morehead State University to present their latest projects in the STLP Regional Showcase event. Of those who participated, nine showcase projects from the Ashland Independent Schools received a score of at least 105 out of a possible 118 points and were invited to compete in the STLP State Championships taking place in Lexington on March 28th.

Congratulations to each regional qualifying showcase and best of luck in the State Championships this spring!

Charles Russell Elementary  
"Save our Skin"  
"Paper Savers"



Crabbe Elementary  
"Be the CURE"

Hager Elementary  
"Healthy Heart Challenge"



Oakview Elementary  
"Your Voice Counts"  
"Are you Safe?"  
"Switch to Save"

Poage Elementary  
"Video Book Techies"



Verity Middle School  
"Trash Talk"



# Ashland Head Start



Mrs. Steele's class celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. by discussing teamwork and how we all are united and work together. The morning and afternoon classes painted their hands

with multicultural paint and placed them on a poster in the shape of a heart. In the middle of the heart we wrote: "Mrs. Steele's Helping Hands are United as One." We entered our posters in the NAACP Martin Luther King Day Annual Contest and won second place! Our posters will be on display at the Boyd County Library during the month of February.

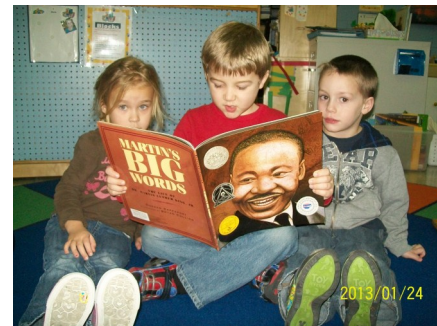
Mrs. Whitt's class placed 3rd in the Martin Luther King Jr.'s poster contest. The class's poster said "Mrs. Whitt's class working together to build our dream". The children worked together by tracing each others hands after being read a story about and talking about Dr Martin Luther King Jr's dream for our country.



Mrs. Dee's class is studying clothes. During our study the children are exploring drama and theater. The children have built sets for three of their favorite storybooks, *Llama Llama Red Pajama*, *The Three Little Pigs*, and *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*. The children have been voting on and creating the sets and props. After the sets are built, children have been acting out the stories for their friends, teachers, and staff members. It is exciting to see the children add elements of everyday life to these stories, like calling the Big Bad Wolf from cell phones and texting instead of yelling for him through the woods.

One of the exciting things that Mrs. Abbott's class learned about this month was Martin Luther King Jr. Day. We read a book called *Martin's Big Words* by Doreen Rappaport and talked about the life of Dr. King and his important

contributions to the Civil Rights Movement. We also participated in the annual Martin Luther King Jr. event sponsored by the Boyd County Chapter of the NAACP. After discussing Dr. King's famous "I Have a Dream" speech, students in Mrs. Abbott's class used materials to create a poster about what their dreams were to make the world a better place. Posters were then displayed at St. James AME, which is the oldest church in Ashland.



## Parent, Family and Community Engagement

January 17, 2013, was our first game night of the year. We were excited to have so many families come out and participate. Parents, grandparents, great grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and siblings of all ages participated. Participating families received a new game, book, and special treat. We are already beginning to plan for our next game night! Our goal is for more families to be engaged in their child's education and school readiness goals. Your Head Start team will be providing school readiness information and home activities. We will be doing our best to make sure that your family is well-informed and ready for a successful kindergarten enrollment and experience.

Mrs. Rutman's class has been learning about different cultures and celebrations. We invited families into our room to learn about how different cultures celebrate. With the help of our parents, we learned a traditional dance from the Kachin culture and explored different articles of clothing. We also learned about the Mexican culture and worked together to make a classroom Piñata. We loved learning about all the ways we are unique.



# Crabbe Elementary School



The Boyd County Public Library collaborated with Crabbe Elementary Library to create READ posters for the faculty and staff of Crabbe Elementary. The teachers and staff chose their favorite children's book or story for the posters. The posters are on display throughout the school. Come checkout Crabbe's Reading Hall of Fame!



Kindergarten students at Crabbe recently began checking out books. They have been learning how to P.E.T (Protect Every Title), so they can care for the books properly. Mrs. Coleman's class is so excited to be getting books.

It may appear that the arts have taken over Crabbe. In the past few months, first through sixth grades have worked on acting, performance, and music skills as they prepared a program for an audience. Students continue to practice the skills that make them good audience members and are learning how to critique and respond to art in many ways. We've got talent



Crabbe's STLP team went to Morehead State University for the Fall Showcase. Their project was titled "Be the Cure: Stop Bullying." These STLP students have been working hard to inform the students at Crabbe about bullying and how they can help be a part of the cure to stop it. Their project is moving on to the state competition in the spring which is held at Rupp Arena in Lexington, KY.

Students in Mrs. Coleman's kindergarten class completed a unit on Thanksgiving. They participated in craft activities making Native American headdresses and necklaces. The students are pictured modeling their crafts. They also made turkeys from paper plates and wrote what they were thankful for on each feather. Students learned a lot from the unit and enjoyed it.



Kindergarten students at Crabbe Elementary School were visited by Mr. Charles Rutledge, a math specialist. He challenged them to use frogs to solve story problems. Throughout the lesson, the frogs were busy jumping in and out of a pond and the students were busy learning math!

Mrs. Bowling's classes have been busy in the computer lab! Kindergarten through third grade is watching Cyber-Safety videos to learn the basics of internet safety. They will learn how to distinguish between an online activity and an ad, keep information safe, to keep away from strangers on the internet, and only to go online with an adult. Second through six grades are learning Microsoft Publisher. They are making a 4-sided Valentine Day cards!



Mrs. Walters' and Ms. Conley's classes have been studying about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and how important his life was to everyone. Like him we learned that we could have a dream and influence this country someday. If you get a chance, stop by the bulletin board by the cafeteria and read our poems and see our directed drawings.

**Martin Luther King, Jr.**

**A nice, helpful man**

**Changing laws**

**Talking, giving**

**To the people, across America**

**Caring for us**

**Teaching, believing**

**He had a dream!**

Fourth graders are working hard to improve their fluency skills. What is fluency? The most basic definition of fluency is simply the ability to read text accurately, quickly, and with good prosody (reading with "good expression"). Some of the ways that students have been practicing this skill is by doing choral readings, phrasing and participating in 4th Grade Poetry Time.

In science, 4<sup>th</sup> graders are learning that all living organisms have structures which help them get food, run from predators, hide from prey, and stay warm. Adaptations are body parts or behaviors that help an organism survive. Examples of the basic adaptations are the shape of a bird's beak, the number of fingers, color of the fur, the thickness or thinness of the fur, and the shape of the nose or ears.



On Tuesday January 8, students from Crabbe Cool Camp participated in Hands that Touch Campaign. Students made homemade Valentines for U.S. soldiers serving abroad and residents of local nursing homes. The student's pictures were in the Huntington Herald Dispatch newspaper on Wednesday 9. Cool Camp now offers Boy Scouts to participants. Also, student can play Wii, PlayStation, be involved with the 4-H program, sewing, library program for primary students, Girl Scouts, and board games. Any questions please call Patty Halterman at 327-2748 before 2:30 or 327-2730 Ext. 1001 after 3 o'clock.



Congratulations to Crabbe's Governor's Cup Team for its performance on Monday January 28. Crabbe hosted the meet which included Rose Hill Christian School, Hager and Charles Russell. The following students placed at the meet: language arts—Adrianna Riggs, 1st; Franny Hendriks, 3rd; science—Izzy Martin, 3rd; Alex Hackworth, 5th; art & humanities—Tim Kessler, 3rd; Ayden Donall, 4th; social studies—Kyesha Johnson, 4th; math—Tim Kessler, 4th.

The Crabbe Safety Patrol will be selling Elder-Beerman Community Day coupon booklets. Elder-Beerman Community Days are Friday, March 1 and Saturday, March 2. The booklets are \$5.00 each and contain savings of over \$400. The proceeds of these sales go towards the Crabbe Safety Patrol's annual trip to Washington D.C.



Mrs. Plummer's class has been playing with its food again! Students made a graph of 3-D shapes using Combos for cylinders, cheese for cubes, Cheetos balls for spheres and Bugles for cones. After each child graphed his/her individual results, we found out that the class had more cylinders than any other shape. Kindergartners also practiced subatizing using mini marshmallows and black paper squares. The students took turns rolling a die and saying the amount of dots on the face. All students then made the dot pattern on their papers. The kids decided that math is YUMMY!



The Huntington Museum of Art visited Mrs. Kennedy's and Mrs. Jackson's first grade classes at Hager for a lesson on hot and cold colors as well as shapes. Both first grades had an adventurous hands-on learning experience. Our thanks and appreciation to the Museum.

The second grade at Hager had a "blast" during their volcano experiment a few weeks ago. The students had been learning about quick and slow changes of the Earth. Students were able to see how the results of experiments depend on the change of certain variables. They figured out that the experiment required an entire 2-liter of soda and three Mentos to produce the outcome they wanted. After the experiment students created an image poem about their experience.

A representative from the Huntington Museum of Art will visit the third grade in February. Third graders will view a power point about masks from different cultures. The students will then create their own masks using the elements of art that were demonstrated in the power point.

Fourth grade attended the Tobacco Free Academy at Hager Elementary in November. The TFA is sponsored by the Boyd County Health Department. The students actively participated in centers which displayed the dangers of tobacco. Information provided was used as the basis of letters written by the students.



5th grade is preparing for the science fair! Students will work in small groups to complete and explain experiments in order to show the scientific process. We have also traveled to Narnia to explore a fantasy land and work on our comprehension skills!

Hager's sixth grade students have been focusing on learning more about the United States. Students chose a state and conducted a research project to find out all about their state. They learned about their state's origin, their state's goods and resources, their state's bird, flower, and tree, and their state's motto. Students then created bookmarks sharing all of this information with hand-drawn illustrations.

Hager students and parents enjoyed two special holiday performances this season. First and second graders performed "The Littlest Reindeer," incorporating both drama and music. The first and second graders did a fantastic job and spent a great deal of time preparing for this performance. Intermediate students had the opportunity to perform in the Winter Talent Show. Students performed dance routines, sang solos and duets, and even played instruments showcasing their talents.



Hager students had a great time at their holiday parties this past nine-week period. Pottery Place came to work with all students and helped them create beautiful tiles. The students would like to thank Pottery Place and the Hager PTO for organizing this fun day!



# Oakview Elementary School

## 14th 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. 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 use. The public 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?

## 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 students were treated to a lovely holiday reading by Oakview's very own principal, Debbie Diamond! The students and their guests gathered in the darkened gym, lit only with a solitary lamp nestled amid cozy Christmas decorations. Nearby sat an inviting rocker-ready for the guest of honor to proudly read the much-loved 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 and cookies waiting for them in their classrooms, along with their own special bell so that they might always hear the one pure "jingle" of Christmas.

## Kindergarten

Oakview's kindergarten classes have had a blustery time learning about winter weather! They are graphing the temperature every day to compare the days above freezing point and the days below freezing point. After reading Lois Ehlert's book Snowballs, the students brought in buttons, ribbons, etc. to build a snow family. The students designed matching pairs of mittens which are hanging out to dry! We use them to count by 2's! The students are learning about word families and have a spelling test every Friday! So far, the kids are studying hard and making good scores!

## 1st Grade

1st graders participated in Operation Christmas Child for Samaritan's Purse. They collected enough items to make 16 boxes. The boxes contained barcodes which allowed them to be tracked. Our boxes went to children from the Democratic Republic of Congo in Africa. The students enjoyed using map skills to locate the country on the map. 1st graders also enjoyed their annual making

of gingerbread houses with the 5th grade. They practiced friendly letters by writing thank you notes to their 5th grade partner.

## 2nd Grade

Ms. Mann's second grade class has been studying a unit on the earth, moon, sun, and stars. The students have been learning how the sun, moon, and stars all have predictable patterns of movement. Ms. Mann's class also created hearts for the Family Art Project for February, "We Are Working Our Hearts Out!".

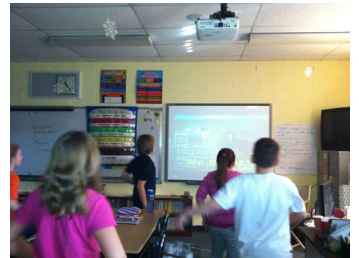


## 3rd Grade

In language arts, Mrs. Lewis's class has been studying myths and learning to determine the central message. They have also been spending lots of time learning about adjectives by using the SMART Board and singing some fun songs! In math, they have started exploring with fractions. We plan on becoming fraction fanatics!

## 4th Grade

Mrs. Rice's students are enjoying adventuretofitness.com during indoor recess. It is a free online service to get kids moving and teaching a history lesson along the way.



## 5th Grade

Students have been learning a "PEMDAS" rap to help them remember the order of operations. The fifth grade students have also been trying to sink Miss Royalty's ships in a life-size version of battleship, all while learning about how to graph points on a coordinate grid. In science, students are studying life science and ecosystems. In social studies, students have been learning about slavery.

## 6th Grade

Mr. Anderson's students have spent the last few weeks working on their personal narratives. The class started out brainstorming ideas, then moved onto composing a rough draft, and are now in the process of completing their final draft.





# Poage Elementary School

## Kindergarten

Students in Mrs. Moore's and Mrs. Woods' classes have been busy learning to read. Now that we are finished with the Letter People, we are putting those letters together to make words. We are also taking spelling tests and learning sight words. In January we began a study on winter and polar animals. We have been focusing on polar bears and penguins and the habitats in which they live.



We've been comparing mammals and discussing the things they have in common. For example, we know that we are mammals and so are polar bears. We learned that polar bears can survive the frigid temperatures because of a four-inch layer of fat along with their thick fur.

## First Grade

Mrs. Goodwin's first grade class spent the beginning of January learning about penguins. Our favorite day of the week was "Tacky" Day. The class read "Tacky the Penguin" and dressed in their silliest clothes just like Tacky. We had everything from shoes that didn't match, silly neckties and bows, and mismatched outfits. The students even made their own Tacky and designed him a silly new outfit.



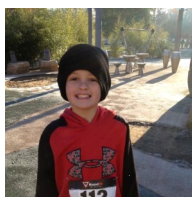
## Third Grade

3rd graders in Mrs. Harding and Mrs. Anderson's classes created celebration masks with Suzanne Alexander from the Huntington Museum of Art. The children made the masks using mixed media, geometric shapes, and lots of color. Each mask was created as a celebration of something in life that makes the student happy: basketball, summer, Christmas, etc.



Our school nurse Mary Strauser taught 3rd graders about the importance of hand-washing. "GloGerm" helped the students realize how important it is to wash their hands thoroughly during the cold and flu season.

Kudos to Jaxon, a 3rd grade student in Ms. Anderson's class, who finished 1st in his age group in the Overcome with Eddie 5K run with a time of 35:20.5!



## Fourth Grade

The students in the 4th grade at Poage have been learning about the rock cycle. They tested rocks for the various properties of minerals. They later brought in their own "pet rock" to test, so they could determine the type of rock they had.



## Fifth Grade



The Metric 500 sped into action on Friday, December 14, 2012. Steve Francis, a dirt track race car driver whose team is owned by Clint Bowyer, came and talked to the class about racing along with his wife, Amanda. The students enjoyed asking questions and hearing about racing safety and strategy. The 5th grade students cars were show pieces, but a lot of thought was put into their design. Mrs. Nash had the students apply their science and math skills to achieve a car with less mass and greater velocity. One student stated, "If I make the car slim, its mass will be less and it will go faster!" The cars were raced and victories were celebrated as the students at Poage Elementary cheered their favorite race car. During the final races, the cheering was intense and everyone had a favorite! The winner and 1st runner up were Andrew and Bryce. Mrs. Runyon had the students in the entire school vote in three other categories! The other trophy winners were Alexis for funniest car, Maya for best designed car, and Skylar for the most original car.

## ART

**Kindergartners** are making Zuni good luck charms with pinch pot storage vessels.

**1st graders** are making Navajo coil pots and decorating them.

**2nd graders** are making Cochiti storytellers in clay and learning about Helen Codero, the first pueblo Native American to create these popular clay forms.

**3rd graders** are learning about the sand mandalas of the Navajo and Nepal and will make their own mandala.

**4th graders** are just beginning Hopi Kachinas. The spirit dolls made by the Hopi to teach children about some 400 Kachinas that watches over them.

**5th graders** are making face mugs in style of the Edgefield, SC face jugs of the African American potters of that region.

**6th graders** are also making storytellers in the Cochiti styles but with more detail and skill than the second graders.



# Charles Russell Elementary School

**Bear Facts**—On October 11, 2012, Mr. Grayson came to Miss Rowlett's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class to teach the kids how to stay safe when they come across wild animals like bears, foxes, raccoons, and otters. The biggest bears in Kentucky weighed around 500-800 pounds. When they come to meet with a black bear, they are going to put their hands on the back of their heads and roll into a ball on the ground. The bear will smell them and go away. If they see any other bear, then they wave their hands up and down in the air and the bear will go away. If the kids are near their house, they should go back into their house. The kids sure learned a lot about staying safe around wild animals. —Kimmy Boyd



**Fiddlers in the Classroom**—On November 2, 2012, Tara Sansom (3<sup>rd</sup> grade instructional assistant) and Aaron Lewis (Tara's boyfriend) came to the third grade classes to play some instruments for them. Tara played a violin/fiddle and Aaron played the guitar. They played a bunch of songs. They also told the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders that they practiced bluegrass music and that their fiddles were from Italy. They are very talented! -Jaden Stevens

**Author Mark Maynard**—On November 1, 2012, Mark Maynard, editor of the Daily Independent newspaper and an author, came to our school as part of National Author's Month. He came to Mrs. Hall's classroom to talk to the 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. He said he has written over 10,000 newspaper articles since 1975. He has written two books, *Mark My Words* and *Teamwork*. *Mark My Words* is a book about different people throughout the book. He sold 1,800 copies of those. *Teamwork* is a book about the Ashland Basketball team winning the state Championship in 1961. He also has a new book coming out about the Ashland Tomcats football team winning the state championship in 1967 called *Tragedy and Triumph*. I think the 6<sup>th</sup> grade class now knows how hard and how fun it would be to be a newspaper editor and author. —Russell Rogers



**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Regional Academic Showcase**—was held on December 1 at Louisa Middle School. Charles Russell 6<sup>th</sup> graders participated with the following results: Robbie Francis- Math 5<sup>th</sup>, Science 3<sup>rd</sup>; Shalayna Rice – Math 7<sup>th</sup>, Science 4<sup>th</sup>; Braedon Ward – Math 9<sup>th</sup>; Zach Greene – Social Studies 1<sup>st</sup>; Will Adkins – Social Studies 7<sup>th</sup>; Jake Damron – Social Studies 8<sup>th</sup>; Brianna Lambert – Lang. Arts 5<sup>th</sup>, Science 5<sup>th</sup>; Kaitlyn Lee – Lang. Arts 7<sup>th</sup>, Arts/Hum 10<sup>th</sup>; Olivia Allen – Arts/Hum 2<sup>nd</sup>, Writ Comp 1<sup>st</sup>; Joe Sewell – Arts/Humanities 7<sup>th</sup>; Maddy Greene – Writing Composition 6<sup>th</sup>; Quick Recall Team: CRS-36 vs. Fairview-1; CRS-17 vs. Louisa-25; CRS-18 vs. Holy Family-28. Participants included: CRS, Louisa Middle, Boyd Middle, Fairview Middle, Fallsburg, Oakview, and Holy Family. CRS finished 2<sup>nd</sup> Overall! Way to go!

**Academic Team News**—December 10 meet at Oakview had the following results: Arts/Humanities: Maggie Thompson-3<sup>rd</sup>, Kimmy Hayes & Delaney Jackson-4<sup>th</sup>; Science: Miguel Talamantez-3<sup>rd</sup>; Math: Grant Kelley-1<sup>st</sup>, Cameron Marushi-5<sup>th</sup>; Quick Recall: CRS-20 vs. Cannonsburg-20; CRS-16 vs. Worthington-12. January 14 CRS meet results were: Arts/Humanities: Hannah Greene-3<sup>rd</sup>, Maggie Thompson-4<sup>th</sup>, Willow Triplett-5<sup>th</sup>; Science: Miguel Talamantez-3<sup>rd</sup>, Dalton Gray-5<sup>th</sup>; Math: Grant Kelley-1<sup>st</sup>, Cameron Marushi-2<sup>nd</sup>; Language Arts: Ashleigh Taylor-1<sup>st</sup>, Faith Nivens-5<sup>th</sup>; Quick Recall: CRS-16 vs. Argillite-11, CRS-19 vs. Ponderosa-17. January 28 results at Crabbe are: Math: Grant Kelley & Cameron Marushi-3<sup>rd</sup>; Science: Miguel Talamantez-3<sup>rd</sup> & Dalton Grey-4<sup>th</sup>; Arts/Humanities: Maggie Thompson-1<sup>st</sup>; Language Arts: Ashleigh Taylor-1<sup>st</sup>; Quick Recall: CRS-11 vs. Rose Hill-14; CRS-15 vs. Crabbe-13. Good job team!



**Girl Scout Troop 983 Christmas Dinner & Magic Show**— was on Saturday, December 8, from 5 to 7 pm in the CRS gym. The menu included turkey, ham, stuffing, gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, corn, salads, desserts, and drinks. Prior to the dinner the troop decorated the school with wreaths and Christmas trees. The CRS staff is appreciative of the troop's thoughtfulness in making this Christmas more festive and delicious. Leaders: Kathy Davis, Tiffany Jobe, Jane Williams, and the scouts: Elizabeth Davis, Delaney Jackson, Nikki Williams, Gwen Akers, Amelia Akers, Myla Hamilton, Faith Jordan, Holly Shelton, Marissa Morrison, Tilly Martin, Abby Leeper, Gracie Madden, Gracie Delaney, Kaleigh Newman, RaShaye Wheeler, Skylar Reffitt, Jada Vincent, Brook Cook, Anna Carter, Grace Preston, Chloe Frame, Addison Jobe.

**Internet Safety Night**— Thursday evening, January 10, Ashland Resource Officer, Jay Church, gave a presentation in the library on Internet Safety to parents, teachers, and students. His PowerPoint presentation included tips to stay safe, prevent cyber bullying, understand Kentucky laws, and who to contact for help if concerns arise. He had a pamphlet about Internet safety to give each person and a question and answer session. Door prizes were given to all in attendance. For more information about Internet safety, go to: [www.ashlandkypd.com](http://www.ashlandkypd.com). -Melanie Grimm & Katie Turner





# Verity Middle School

Mrs. Menshouse's Language Arts Class has 54 students who have been chosen to have their poems published in Creative Publications: A Celebration of Poets Appalachian Fall 2012 Grades 4 - 12 Anthology Edition. Their work that was chosen was from the Poe unit and their poems were written using "Poe style." The selections were made from thousands of poems submitted from all over the Appalachian region. Students must have mastered the art of poetic style and use of poetic elements to convey their message effectively.

Mrs. Gullett prepares to take the District Governor's Cup winning Future Problem Solving Team and 1st place composition writer Rachael Barber to the regional competition. Good luck to these district champions!



Gear Up stands for Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs. Gear Up works with students to help them plan, apply, and pay for college. The

seventh grade Explorers Team visited all three campuses of Ashland Community and Technical College as part of the Gear Up program. Students were given tours of the automotive and diesel mechanic programs at the Roberts Drive campus. Students saw everything from carpentry, welding, and culinary arts to nursing at the Technology Drive campus. Students visited more traditional classrooms for math, economics, science, and English at the main campus on College Drive. The 7th graders visited the ACTC campuses and all 8th graders will visit a 4-year college.

Below is a wonderful note received by the Verity cafeteria workers which echoes the sentiments of all students and staff at VMS.

*Dear Lunch ladies,*

*My name is Kiersten Wellman. I'm in the 7th grade Discovery Team. I just wanted to thank you so much for taking time out of your life for us children. I just thought that ALL of you guys deserve a "Thank You." So here I go. THANK YOU!*

*Sincerely,  
Kiersten Wellman, 7th Grade*

Verity has started a recycling program in cooperation with Rumpke Recycling. The school has received an 8 yard recycling dumpster affectionately named, "The Greene Monster." The school is recycling cardboard, paper, newspaper, plastic bottles, and metal cans such as aluminum pop cans. Verity's goal is to reduce it's trash going to the landfill by at least 1/3.

Verity Middle School's String Orchestra program received the Kentucky Music Educators' Program of Excellence "Gold" Level again for the 2011-2012 school year. The school has achieved this highest level for each year since the awards inception. One of the highlights of the criteria for the year included "Distinguished" ratings for both the school's Beginning and Intermediate Orchestras at KMEA's Large Ensemble Festival in the spring.

Student Council sponsored several events during December and January to encourage the student body to become more involved in school activities. In December, students participated in a Holiday Spirit week with theme days that included White Out, How the Grinch Stole Christmas, Tacky Holiday, Get Your Elf On, and The Night Before Christmas. Students donated a dollar to participate and raised \$350 that was donated to a local family in need. On January 14, representatives organized "Fill the Stands Night" for the 7th and 8th grade boys basketball teams as they took on rival Boyd County. Attendance by Verity students was higher than usual, and student council representatives plan on making this an annual event. The students also had the opportunity to serve as pages in the House of Representatives on February 14, 2013. The students took a tour of the Capitol and learned about how a bill becomes a law.



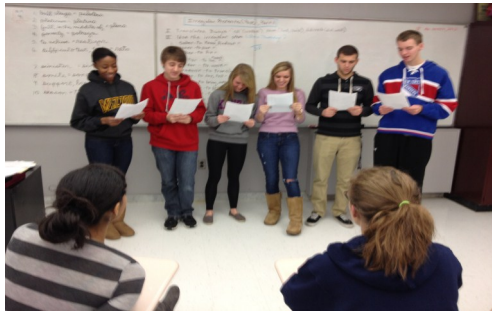
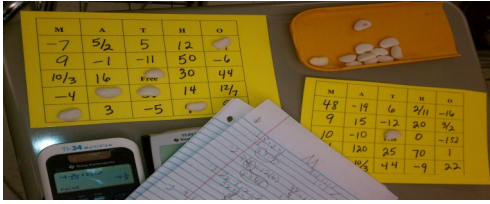
8th grader Rodham Kinner's art work was featured on Channel One on February 4, 2013. Channel One is a national news program for schools that is broadcast each day.



Spanish 7 and 8 had an instructor from the Paramount (Ashland Regional Dance Theater) teach them salsa dancing.

# Paul Blazer High School

Blazer's Algebra 1 students worked math problems and found solutions. The solutions were then used to play MATHO (similar to BINGO). Learning while playing math games has been a great district strategy this year.



Mrs. LeMaster's A.P. Spanish V is studying a unit on poetry. The class had to write a sonnet using a Spanish rhyme scheme and meter. The task was really difficult, but they all did well. The end of

the unit was celebrated with a poetry reading. The students all snapped their fingers to show their appreciation of each other's work. Refreshments were served.

Mr. Biggs and Mrs. Burgess's Reading Transition classes have been improving the college and career readiness of their senior classes. Seniors who did not meet the benchmark in reading and English on the ACT their junior year, were placed in reading transition classes to begin their senior year. Out of the nearly 75 students who began in this course, about 40 students have successfully met the benchmark on either the ACT or the COMPASS test since the beginning of the year!

The football team manned two Salvation Army kettles at Wal-Mart on Melody Mountain on December 20. Fifty-four players took turns during the hours of 9:00 am and 8:00 pm. It is the ninth year that the football team has worked the kettles during the Christmas holidays.

The following Blazer choral students have been chosen as members of the District 8 KMEA All District choir: Savannah Blevins, Allison Brown, Caitlin Brown, Emily Cassity, Pam Cox, Ethan Darby, Alisha Hampton, Brittany Hensley, Jessalyn Huff, Aaron Lewis, Dana Palmer, and Lindsay Shumat. These students will rehearse with other area All District choir students, and present a concert at the Paramount Arts Center on March 1, 2013.



Painting by Katie Tilton



Blazer's Academic Team has had an amazingly successful year thanks to the hard work and dedication of a bright young team. The team has put in countless hours of practice and has participated in over 50 competitive matches and holding a record of 53-6.

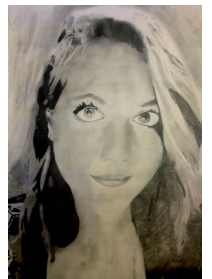
Hard work paid off at Governor's Cup District competition, where Blazer swept the competition in Quick Recall and took almost every top position in testing. 14 of 15 testers moved on to Regional.

Blazer's team kept of their efforts and success at Regionals, which were held at Russell High school. Testers found success in the form of 8 of the 14 placing and advancing to the State Championship. The highlight of the event came in the Quick Recall tournament. After defeating Raceland and West Carter by large margins, Blazer met with the Red Devils in an exciting match where Blazer was able to hold onto a lead throughout the match and finish with a 6 point victory. Russell then played their way out of the loser's bracket for a rematch in the finals. Down by 1 with a minute left, Russell scored the final 3 points for the win. In an edge of your seat tie-breaking battle, Blazer pulled out a 1 point victory over reigning champs, Russell. For the first time since 2000, the 16th Region District Quick Recall Champion is Paul Blazer High. Quick Recall members are Stephen Corbitt, Tyler Hill, Aryssa Damron, Cameron Garner, Alex Newmark, Kyle Conley, Jason Zheng, & Doug Mollett. Congratulations and good luck at State on March 16, 17, and 18 in Louisville.



On Tuesday, November 20, our JROTC battalion led the Christmas parade in downtown Ashland. The cadets marched, in uniform, led by the Color Guard.

Students in Mrs. Spade's Art 2 classes have worked very hard on self portraits. Junior, Jamie Lee Church, did an outstanding job on her Chuck Close inspired portrait.



Self-Portrait by Hannah Goebel



Popcorn & Drink by Breanna Gransberry



# District News

## Bring Your Own Device

by Cary Williams

One of the biggest technology initiatives nationwide is to encourage students to bring their own personal electronic devices to school to be used for instructional purposes. According to data collected this past fall for the 2012 Technology Readiness Survey, we know that in the Ashland Independent School District students and teachers personally own over 4,300 computing devices including but not limited to laptops, tablet devices, e-readers, and smart phones. After reviewing this data, district leadership decided to include as part of the 2013-14 District Technology Plan a "Bring Your Own Device" policy which will not only allow but encourage staff members to harness the power of personally owned devices in their classrooms.

The Ashland Independent BYOD initiative consists of three strands:

**Infrastructure** – In December members of the technology department completed a comprehensive upgrade of the Wi-Fi environment in each building to support a 1:1 student-to-device ratio as well as put in place a means to track and monitor all district and personally-owned device activity on the network.

**Policy** – The existing Acceptable Use Policy was revised to include the use of personal devices on school property.

**Training** – Prior to a personal device being added to the network, all students as well as faculty/staff members will successfully complete the Digital Driver's License program. Professional development courses will also be offered this spring and summer to provide teachers with best practices and strategies for device management and use in the classroom.

We are excited to watch as changes occur in classroom instruction when school councils adopt the new Bring Your Own Device policy and start implementation in each school.



Julia Heaberlin and Mikal Farris, class of 2012, reunite with Mr. Gilmore during a basketball game at his alma mater.



Ten students represented Verity Middle School at the Regional Math Counts competition. The team consisting of Ingam Acha, Connor Hutchison, Zachary Stafford, and William Zheng placed 2nd overall and will be competing at the state competition March 23 in

Lexington. Congratulations to Connor and Zach who placed in the top ten and to Ingam who won 3rd place overall individual and also received a \$500 yearly scholarship to Western Kentucky University!

## McKinney Vento Homeless Education Grant

by Dr. Patsy Lindsey

The Ashland Independent School District has been awarded a McKinney Vento Homeless Education grant. The \$43,000 homeless education funds are awarded on a competitive basis to school districts to assure that all homeless children and youth have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education as other children in the district. Funds may be used to provide supplemental instruction, transportation, professional development, referrals to health care, and other services facilitating the enrollment, attendance, and success in school of homeless children and youth.

The Ashland schools have partnered with Safe Harbor to provide a tutoring program for the children living at Harbor Hill. Harbor Hill is the apartment complex where abused women and their children find safety and refuge. Although the program is in the early stages of implementation, so far it has been a huge success. Eight tutors have been working diligently with twelve children to help them maintain adequate grades. Aside from the obvious benefit of higher academics, all of the tutors have indicated a special bonding with their students.

An initiative of the grant is the professional development component. In November the district hosted training for all principals, guidance counselors, secretaries, attendance clerks, Family Resource/Youth Services Center staff members, and community partners. Among the community partners participating were representatives from CARES, Safe Harbor, Shelter of Hope, The Dressing Room, United Way, Pathways, and the City of Ashland. The training was very informative and allowed all partners to join together to support the plight of the homeless students in our community. Another PD that is planned for the Ashland teachers and administrators will take place in August. It will be a training provided by the Ruby Payne Foundation to help educators understand poverty and the children impacted by poverty. The McKinney Vento grant was written by Geri Willis and is renewable for up to three years.

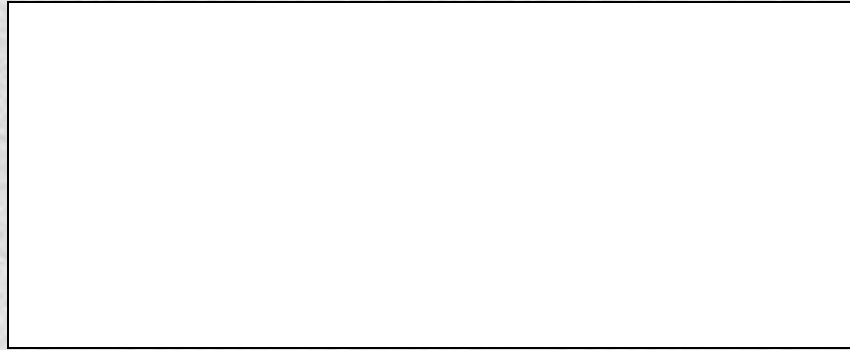


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# FOCUS

## School Principals

Derek Runyon, Blazer High School  
David Greene, Verity Middle School  
Brad Greene, Crabbe Elementary School  
Phillip Caudill, Hager Elementary School  
Debbie Diamond, Oakview Elementary School  
Bob Blankenship, Poage Elementary School  
Steve Salyers, Charles Russell Elementary School  
Jacqui Thornburg, Head Start Director

## Central Office Personnel

Steve Gilmore, Superintendent  
Linda Calhoun, Instructional Supervisor  
Joe Fraley, Director of Transportation/Maintenance  
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



*Oakview Elementary students congratulate Coach Love after he was named head coach of the high school football team.*

## Board of Education

Patricia Hall, Chairperson  
Charlie Chatfield, Vice-Chairperson  
Frank DeMartino  
Carol Jackson  
Molly Webb

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