

FOCUS

Ashland Independent Schools

Superintendent's Letter

Welcome Back! An Opening Day that puts it all in perspective...

August 17, 2011, we had that great opportunity to once again refresh and renew our commitment and dedication to those we serve. Those that make teaching the greatest vocation ever... how we approach it and how we provide it can make it the most honorable vocation ever. I am so very proud of all that I was able to view and experience on this school opening. I had planned to be in as many classrooms as possible on the first day to greet and encourage staff and students on our new beginning. I was able to go into the majority of classrooms throughout the district and emphasize that "it IS all about them!" As all of you have reflected on my ongoing theme of "Whatever It Takes," we must stop and re-emphasize the focus of all of our efforts. The first day is such a wonderful event when the majority of teachers have that golden chance to make that significant "first impression" on students and parents.



In making my rounds in classrooms, I had a little two minute message that was to impress on these young hearts and minds that they may hear from time to time in other environments that it isn't all about them, but here in the Ashland Independent School District, "It is all about them." In each classroom they were so attentive, so into eye contact and appeared to be hanging on to each word that I spoke (You know, that look that all of us in teaching strive for when we can tell it is working... they are getting it). In one of my last visits after another well received little pep talk, a little hand went up from a third grader and I quickly prompted her to pose her question, as we teachers thrive on so well... that little hand went up and that precious little face looked me right in the eye, and in a beautiful voice said, "What's for lunch today?" No, I was undeterred because my interpretation of this exchange was that she felt safe, secure, comfortable in her surroundings to be open and honest, and this the atmosphere in which she along with others will better learn and succeed.

My goal and that of the Board of Education is to strive every day to provide the strongest, most effective level of instruction in every classroom every day. Our students are deserving of our best efforts and resources daily, nothing less is acceptable. Staff, you are working harder than ever before... expectations are higher than ever before... and the accountability levels are greater than ever before. You are getting it done for our students. Please do not waiver and do not lose the focus of all of these expectations along with hours of training and implementation. All of the evaluation systems are in place to ensure our performance, and are directed upon the ultimate target... our students, their achievement and their successes. Remember daily that, "It is all about them," and we must continue to do "Whatever it takes" on their behalf. **I Sincerely Thank You** for all that you do every day, your commitment, and your dedication to our school children.

Steve Gilmore, Superintendent

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District News

Child Find

Lisa Henson, Director of Student Services

The Ashland Independent School District (AISD) is conducting an ongoing CHILD FIND system. The purpose of the CHILD FIND system is to find any child or youth who resides in the Ashland Independent School District and may have a disability and need special education or 504 services. AISD is looking for those children and youth, age birth up to 21 years, who are not in school or those who are in school but not receiving the special education or 504 services they need to have an appropriate public education.

The district's Child Find system includes children with disabilities, attending private or home schools within the school boundaries who may need special education services.

The Ashland Independent School District will make sure any child or youth who has a disability, regardless of how severe the disability, is provided an appropriate public education. This education will be at no cost to the parents of the child or youth.

If you know of a child or youth who resides in the Ashland Independent School District who may have a disability and is not receiving needed services or a child who attends a private or home school within the boundaries of the Ashland Independent School District who may have a disability and may need services, bring, telephone, or send information to Lisa Henson, Director Student Services, 1820 Hickman Street, Ashland, Kentucky, or phone 327-2706 ext. 2728.

Any information the district collects through CHILD FIND about children and youth who may have disabilities is maintained confidentially. Parents and eligible students have the right to inspect and review their education records as well as ask for changes in the records if they disagree with the information in the records. The Ashland Independent School District has policies and procedures for keeping information confidential. These policies and procedures are based on the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Infinite Campus Parent Portal

If you need help accessing the Infinite Campus parent portal or would like to set up one log in for multiple students, please contact Amy Wessel at 327-2742 ext. 2719 for assistance.

Image..."Whirled Peace"

Jennifer Spade, Blazer Art Teacher

In today's world, peace needs to become more than just a word. On September 21, 2011, Blazer High School art students took part in an International art and literacy project, Pinwheels for Peace, by "planting" pinwheels with messages of peace on Blazer's campus.



Pinwheels for Peace is an art installation project started in 2005 by two art teachers as a way for students to express their feelings about what's going on in the world and in their lives. In the first year, groups in over 1,325 locations throughout the world were spinning pinwheels on September 21st - there were approximately 500,000 pinwheels spinning throughout the world. Last year (year 6), 2010, over 3.5 million pinwheels were spinning in over 3,500 locations, including the United States, Europe, Asia, Australia, Canada, the Middle East, Africa, and South America.

Jennifer Spade and Amber Chapman, Blazer art teachers, coordinated the Pinwheels for Peace project this year. Jane Modlin's theatre arts classes were also involved.

Blazer art students created pinwheels of all shapes and sizes – as part of the creation process, the students wrote their thoughts about "war and peace / tolerance/ living in harmony with others" on one side. On the other side, they drew, painted, collaged, etc. to visually express their feelings. The students assembled these pinwheels, and on International Day of Peace, they "planted" their pinwheels on Blazer's campus as a public statement and art exhibit/installation.

There's an App for That

Rebekah Williams, Technology Integration Specialist

The Ashland Independent School District recently launched a district app for smart phone users. Visit the iTunes Store to download your free app today! Infinite Campus has also released a new app called Campus Mobile Portal. This app, available free from the App Store, will give parents and students mobile access to the same Campus Portal content they have access to today. You will need to enter the following URL to setup your app: <https://infinitecampus.ashland.kyschools.us/campus/ashland.jsp>

Ashland Head Start

PLAYGROUND DEDICATION

Ashland Head Start/ Kentucky Preschool is very excited to be at our new location at 1820 Hickman Street (formerly Hatcher Elementary). We have a lot of new and familiar faces to welcome you upon your visits here. On Tuesday, October 18, 2011, we dedicated our new playground in the memory of Mr. Larry Branham with a beautiful plaque that will mark the entrance of the playground. Mr. Branham served faithfully on our Policy Council as a community representative. His voice was strong and always emotional whenever he spoke on behalf of our children. The love and dedication for making the lives of Ashland's youngest citizens was something that Mr. Branham strived diligently in achieving. His presence is missed, but his achievements will always be remembered in our community, especially here at Ashland Head Start.

Mrs. Steele's class started out the new school year with an "All About Me" study. This study allowed us to get to know our students and their families. During the study, we discussed hair color, eye color, parts of the body, people in our family, our birthday, where we live, and our favorite things. The students and their family completed a family project together that tells about the child. The children also decorated paper dolls to look like them. We have had so much fun finding out about all of our students!



In Mrs. Abbott's class, we have been studying "All About Me," with each child exploring his/her own favorite things and sharing in journals and artwork. We have also been talking about similarities and differences among people and cultures. Furthermore, we have learned about different types of family groups and had the

opportunity on September 27th for many family members to join us for a celebration in the classroom. Although it was called Grandparent's Day, we were fortunate not only to have many grandparents, but also parents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and siblings join us as well. We ate snacks, read a story, sang songs, and made a beautiful keepsake for the family members to take home.

This month Mrs. Rutman's class spent time investigating our peers and ourselves as we discovered things that make us unique. We learned about family, friendship, and working together. This past week we celebrated Grandparent's Day with a special activity in the classroom.

CONNECTING WITH FAMILIES IN PARTNERSHIPS

Your child is bound to meet dozens of teachers over the course of their education. But the most important teachers might not be found in classrooms. They're the people who taught you – grandparents. That's something we've noticed about our Head Start families. This year we've spent a lot of time working to encourage the full participation of grandparents and extended family members to build partnerships with the family as a whole. This week 113 grandparents and some great-grandparents participated in our "GRANDPARENTS WEEK CELEBRATION."



Children are eager to learn, and the standardized education system allows them to gain many valuable skills in pre-school. Grandparents joined in painting, reading stories, playing house, building with blocks, dancing, singing, and playing on the playground. They even enjoyed milk and cookies at snack time.

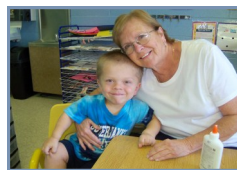


However, in Head Start we realize the learning doesn't stop here. Grandparents have a wealth of knowledge that can't be taught in school, and this knowledge is equally important in helping our children. Grandparents teach children who they are, where they come from, and who they can become. Grandparents offer children lessons in pride, culture, and traditions. They encourage and build children's self esteem. They are our pre-schoolers' biggest supporters and confidence builders.



This year as an extended family initiative, grandparents were encouraged to sign a "Grandparent Partnership Agreement" with Head Start. The partnership states that as part of the child's extended family and in some cases being the primary guardian, we will work together to achieve the best education and outcomes for each.

Grandparents still hold an important and unique position within families; the relationship between grandparent and child is second in emotional importance only to the parent. We are so proud of our successful GRANDPARENTS WEEK EVENT, and we encourage our grandparents continued involvement with Head Start / Kentucky Pre-School Program.



Crabbe Elementary School

Kindergarteners have been working diligently on learning about themselves, responsibility, school rules, the alphabet, and numbers! They have had many learning adventures so far and have many more to follow in the upcoming year. Students have met some of the Letter People from Letter Land. One of their favorites is Mr. Noisy Nose! They're exploring the computer, musical instruments, and the SMART Board. Their next investigation will involve tools for measurement. Most importantly, students are discovering that learning is an adventure!



If you had an emergency what would you do? Well, kindergarteners at Crabbe know! They would call 911! Students are working on learning their parents' names, phone numbers, and addresses. They want to be prepared in an emergency. Our visit to the fire station

helped connect their classroom activities with the real world. We would like to thank the Ashland Fire Department for a fun and educational tour!

First graders attended 4-H Farm and Field Day at the Boyd County Fair Grounds. Some of the activities included making butter, making pumpkin pudding, grinding corn, and at the end of the day, children were able to choose their own pumpkin! Children were given the opportunity to learn about various animals including goats, horses, rabbits, pigs, and chickens. Students toured the barns that housed many of these farm animals. The 4-H teen leaders answered the children's questions to help students understand the way of farm life. It was a memorable trip for students and teachers!



On October 19th, the first grades at Crabbe Elementary rode city buses to the Paramount to see "Mathemagic". The magician performed math magic tricks related to new common core standards. A special "Thank You" to Ashland City Bus System for transporting the first graders to the Paramount. It was an educational experience for so many of our young learners!

Second grade is beginning to work with regrouping in addition and subtraction in math. In reading we are working on using context clues to find meanings of words and identifying the beginning, middle, and end of a story. We are also learning about common and proper nouns. In science, students have been studying the life cycles of plants and animals. In social studies, we have been studying how our government works and the jobs of the three branches of government.

The third grade classes are working on using informational text to answer questions. Students have been enjoying reading stories about animals and mysterious stories of the Lochness Monster and Bermuda Triangle. Students have been working hard on meeting their Accelerated Reader goals and achieving 85% accuracy. The third graders have also been working on addition and subtraction skills in math by practicing problems and working together to get an answer.

We have been focusing on describing characters, setting, and plot in English Language Arts. We encourage parents to question their children as to these story elements in books their children are reading and in television shows/movies they watch.

Sixth grade created mystery books and videos. We discussed the genre of mysteries and watched some short videos from the students of the past sixth grades. These served as good examples. The students followed their guidelines and created books with pictures and word clips, PowerPoint stories were created, and DVD's were shown on the Smart board.

Sixth grade students have created their own grid maps on poster board, using rulers to measure out latitude and longitude lines. They have drawn or traced landforms in the proper areas of the grid and labeled oceans and other waterways. They have colored these landforms and labeled them. In addition, they have created physical maps from directions that were given to them.

Sixth grade writers have responded to an on-demand writing about recommending a site in Kentucky that would be educational, fun, and interesting for a field trip. They have performed research to assist them with their writing.

Hager Elementary School

Mrs. Bevis and Mrs. Plummer took their students to The Boyd County Library for story time and crafts. The children toured the facility and enjoyed browsing the children's room. While the children toured, parents learned ways to better equip their child with reading and language skills. Parents enjoyed a DVD selection "Read To Your Bunny" by Rosemary Wells. While being humorous, this animated film brought the importance of reading to the forefront. The staff at the library were very gracious, sending us back to school with books, bookmarks, pencils, and wonderful enthusiasm for reading!



Fourth grade students created space creatures to share with the class. Each student researched an assigned planet. They could make their creature out of any materials at home. It had to have at least three adaptations to be able to survive on the planet.



Fifth graders completed their first round of science projects. Students were very excited to put them out on display for everyone to see! They then did a "Project Lab" where students visited both rooms to observe and record their observations about the different projects and techniques that students used to complete them.



First grade at Hager is off to a great start. We are already reading books and working hard in math. First graders enjoyed attending the PAC to see the musical "Junie B. Jones" and had a wonderful time on our

first trip to an apple orchard. We are so excited about first grade, and all it has in store for us!

Second grade classrooms had wonderful participation in Hager Open House Night. Parents had to guess which "or-kid" was their student by the descriptions on the flowers. Parents and students used estimation skills to determine the amount of candy in a jar. In science, students are observing bean plants as they grow in plastic bags. In social studies, students are studying local, state, and national governments.



Mrs. Debord has worked with our third graders in conjunction with



our ecosystem unit. Students have created Anansi for the savannah, used sand art (pictured) for the desert, and made underwater drawings of the ocean.

Sixth grade students are having fun with volume. Student are comparing mass of different items. Students have to predict weight in grams and then weigh to find the actual weight.



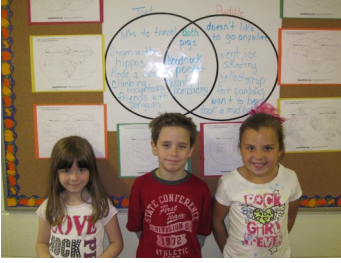
In guidance and library classes students at Hager Elementary studied the events of September 11, 2011. However, our focus was on the heroes in our very own community. Mr. Sammons, Mr. Griffith, and Mr. Hall from Ashland Fire

Department brought their fire truck and equipment and explained their job to our students. Police Officers Menefee and Simpson brought their police cruisers and explained their role in keeping our community safe. Mr. Spangler, who is an EMT, brought an ambulance and explained his role in getting critically ill people to the hospital, saving lives everyday. A huge thank you to our first responders for their visit!

Hager Junior Beta Club organized and collected food during the annual food feud between Ashland and Boyd Co. They collected over 5,000 food items to donate to our community partner, Hillcrest Bruce Mission. Way to go Hager students and families!!! Many thanks to the hard work and dedication Beta students put into this effort!

Oakview Elementary School

Mrs. Johnson's first graders have been working hard in reading and math. We have been comparing and contrasting two characters in a story, using Venn diagrams. Also we are working on our addition facts to ten using number bonds and other strategies to add.



Ms. Mann's class is going to work on a science unit with Mrs. Hall on pumpkins in October. The children will be bringing in real pumpkins. Each student will decorate a pumpkin as a family art project to bring in to display in the hallway.



Miss. Ryan's second grade class at Oakview Elementary had a visit from 'Paramount Joe' on the first day of school. 'Joe' put on this cowboy boots, hat, and bandana and joined in the 'back-to-school round-up'. The class loved seeing 'Joe' and hearing about the activities at the Paramount. We attended the show, "Junie-B" on October 5th at the Paramount, and the students looked for 'Joe' on our fieldtrip!

Mrs. Baker's second graders have been very, very busy since school started. They have been working on grammar and writing skills. Students are even in the process of creating their own poems to be displayed in the hallway outside of the classroom! Recently, students have also started taking on the HUGE task of working with regrouping in math (addition AND subtraction)! These are just a few of the things students have been doing. It's been quite a busy start to the new school year!

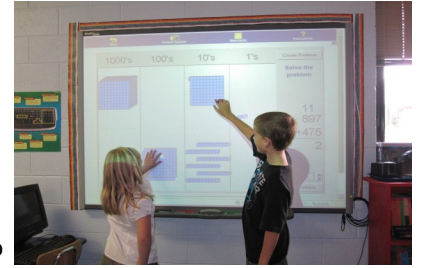


Oakview's students will once again soon begin their annual service project of collecting items for all of the animals at the local animal shelter. This very important project takes place each December and again each May. Students collect new and previously loved

items for the animals—anything that they could possibly use! If you would like to donate any items to this heartwarming cause, please drop them off at the school located at 3111 Blackburn Avenue in South Ashland! Thank You!

1st-6th grade students in Mrs. Bowling's computer class have worked hard to perfect their typing skills and improve their speed and accuracy. Keep up the hard work!

Students are shown practicing their subtraction with regrouping on the SMART board in Mrs. Ross's room. Using a virtual manipulative is just one of the methods students use to solve their math problems.



Primary classes are identifying notes and rests and reading rhythm patterns in music classes. They are also learning new songs and playing them for the class, and classmates will critique their pieces. Sixth grade students are busy in music class composing their own songs. When all compositions are finished, the students will be playing them for the class, and classmates will critique their pieces.

Ms. Queen's 5th graders have been studying prefixes and suffixes. Miss Jones (a student teacher from KCU) presented lessons covering this skill.



Students used technology and centers to culminate the unit. Using a variety of hands-on and group activities, the students used their new decoding skills to discover the meaning of words in real-live situations. We're "Fallin' for the FIXES!" in fifth grade!

Mrs. Clayton's 5th grade social studies class completed a web quest about the native American cultural regions, using the wireless computer lab.



Mr. Anderson's 6th grade class recently completed a literature unit on Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis. Everyone loved the book, and we have begun reading our next book, The Liberation of Gabriel King by, K.L. Going. These are fantastic books, full of laughter, excitement, danger, and a good moral theme!

Kindergarten students at Poage have been very busy meeting the Letter People and learning about numbers. While learning about Mr. F, we took off our shoes and made "Funny Feet". We also learned all



about apples, trees, and what they need to grow. Following the theme "Character Counts," we have begun a "Scentsational" project where we acknowledge our students with a scent on their hand every time we hear them using the four magic words;

please, thank you, you're welcome, or excuse me to encourage proper manners. The scent is nothing more than clear Chap Stick that has a scent. The kids love it, and our hope is that the manners learned will become permanent.

It has started out as a very busy and exciting year in Mrs. Cooper's class! We began the year by learning about the life cycles and the parts of several insects. We then learned our math facts and number words with the help of some tasty watermelons. Our investigation then turned to several kinds of bears, and the way they hibernate. After our Teddy Bear sleepover, we sampled honey with our bear shaped biscuits we made in class as we learned how to read directions. As we learned about Johnny Appleseed, we each took a turn churning apples while making homemade applesauce. Johnny would be so proud! Every Friday, we get to shop with money we have *earned* throughout the week. (Play money of course!) There is a student storekeeper that helps us spend *or* save our money wisely.



I am proud to announce the first graders in Ms. Norris's class are now bear experts! Students learned all about brown bears, panda bears, and even teddy bears. Students brought their teddy bears to school and spent the day teaching them our daily routine, reading to them, and doing a few teddy bear games. The teddy bears got to stay the night at school and have a teddy bear sleepover and we made our very own teddy bears.



Mrs. Hill's class has been learning all about animal adaptations. The students conducted several experiments while learning about animals. They really enjoyed the Bird's Beak experiment. The students used tweezers, eyedroppers, and spoons to determine why

birds have different beaks. They also learned many new facts about animals while having an animal scavenger hunt. The all time favorite was the games OH DEER and Predator or Prey that helped the students to learn that animals have needs and depend on their habitat for survival.

In Mrs. McLain's second grade class we have been doing a book study on the Magic Tree House series. One of our favorite activities is visiting the magic tree house website after we read each book. There we can answer questions about what we have read and earn badges for our passport among other activities. We are also learning many reading skills along with enjoying each book. The suspense from each chapter keeps us wanting more. We have also been busy learning about animal classifications and each of their needs. We are researching why animals belong to each category and designing a class bulletin board to depict the animals as well as their habitats and food source. It is going to be an exciting project.



Mrs. Moresea's third grade has been busy, busy, busy! The class has completed community interviews and presented them in PowerPoint, created poetry, and published it in Wordle, making beautiful artwork, and published a class book all about themselves. In math we are learning about multiplication and have been challenged to learn our facts before Christmas break. This class is rising to the challenge!

Ms. Damron's classroom has been working on symmetry. We used mirrors to see if things were symmetrical. Sometimes things look like they are symmetrical when they are really not. For example, sometimes books can look symmetrical. We cut out shapes to see if they have lines of symmetry. I never thought that learning about symmetry could be so interesting. I think I liked it most when we used the Smart board. By: Emma Hill, student

Trout in the Classroom is back at Poage Elementary! Mark Hanni delivered 200 eggs to Ms. Nash's 5th grade on Friday, September 23. They should start hatching by the end of the week! They are called eye eggs because you can see a little eye of the trout inside the eggs right before they hatch. Students will log data daily about the PH, nitrogen level, temperature, and numbers.



Mrs. Anderson's students made paper mache owls as an extension activity while reading the book Hoot by Carl Hiaasen. Students are enjoying reading this book and learning about theme/central ideas.

Charles Russell Elementary School

Art Anyone?- Mrs. Suzanne Alexander from the Huntington Museum of Art visited both 3rd grade classes. She shared the elements of art: color, line, shape, form, and texture. She shared many examples of art such as cocoa pods, crossbows, pottery, sculptures, and carvings. The 3rd graders each got to make a decorative celebration mask. Masks can be used for plays, parades, culture, or parties. The mask helped them show their creativity and



learn the elements of art. If you are interested in art, maybe you should attend "Saturday Kids Art" every

Saturday at the Huntington Museum of Art from 1:00-3:00 p.m. – Preston Ledford

6th Grade Cell Project- Mrs. Hall's 6th grade science classes at Charles Russell Elementary have been studying cells and their functions. As an enrichment activity, the students had to create an edible plant or animal cell. They also had to label and describe each organelle in the cell.

Design winners were:

Most accurate design- Jakob Williams; Most disgusting designs-Brock Rogers & Shelbi Owens; Best Design-Alannah Molenda. The project was a huge success!! -Mrs. Hall, Makenzie Lucas, & Madalon Burnside



Goats- Mrs. Dawn Geyer, kindergarten teacher, brought her family's goats to school on Friday, September 16. They have a momma called Trucker and two babies. One baby was mostly black; the other was mostly white. The students and staff all enjoyed petting and holding the baby goats. –Carrina Hensley



Boyd County Fair Winner- Preston Ledford won 1st place for his insect collection in the 4-H competition at the Boyd County Fair in August. Preston is in 5th grade. Good job!

Johnny Appleseed- Mrs. McDowell's kindergarten class had a special lesson on Johnny Appleseed. One of the student's (Tucker) grandmothers, Mary Kay Hudson, came to class on Monday, September 12, to read the story of Johnny Appleseed, do some fun activities, and show some apple tree seedlings. She even brought Johnny's hat that was really just a pot.



Constitution Day- On September 16, 2011, Mrs. Janice Ledford went to the 2nd grade class to talk about Constitution Day. She had some fun activities for the 2nd grade to do. All the kids got a red folder and a paper hat that they got to color in red, white, and blue. Mrs. Ledford talked and asked if anyone knew what the Constitution was. Gwen said "Something like the law?" Correct. It is the act or process of constituting establishment. Then the kids did a dot-to-dot sheet that turned out to be a building— Independence Hall, where they wrote the Declaration of Independence. She read about the Independence Hall. Then the students got a green sheet that told them about the 13 states when the Constitution was written. Why do we celebrate Constitution Day on September 17? It is celebrated then because that day, the 39 delegates signed the Constitution to say they would follow the rules. –Makenzie Lucas



Apples- Mrs. Bonner's kindergarten class learned about apples in September. They made apple trees using their hands and feet and cut apples in half to make apple prints. They learned about the life cycle of an apple tree and tasted different apples making a pictograph of their favorites. They estimated and counted the seeds in an apple. What a fun way to learn about apples! -Mrs. Bonner

Pig- I have a pig named Mr. Paris who can get up to 8-12 pounds; he is now 1 pound. He is a teacup potbelly pig and drinks warm milk with bread. He was born August 1, 2011, and has blue eyes, and is black and white; He snorts a lot. I brought him to school and when I sat him on the floor, he started jumping around, because the floor has hog's hair carpet! All the kids in the class loved him. That is all about my pig. –Abigayle Crites



Verity Middle School

Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) had a wonderful turn out for See You at the Pole 2011 which was held September 28th. Over 100 students participated. Special thanks to our Verity choir and huddle leader Gabby Ingram for planning our event.

Mrs. Menshouse's rotation class wrote a script and produced a book trailer, using iMovie for the novel The Pigman by Paul Zindel. The final production will be placed on Mrs. Menshouse's teacher webpage.



On October 24th, student, staff, and community members were invited to hear the incredible story of courage and hope of

Rachel Scott. Rachel Scott was the first person killed in the Columbine High School tragedy on April 20th, 1999. She left behind an amazing legacy and a simple challenge to anyone who will accept it—*treat others with kindness and compassion, and you just might change the world you live in.*

The Rachel's Challenge Year One program challenges students to find purpose and security. Students discover that they can affect the world around them in significant ways. Students connect with Rachel's story strongly because she was an average high school student that made a big difference. Year One provides five challenges that create a practical "roadmap" for students to start their own chain reaction of kindness and compassion:

1. Eliminate Prejudice by Looking for the Best in Others
2. Dare to Dream - Set Goals - Keep a Journal
3. Choose Your Influences - Input Determines Output
4. Kind Words & Small Acts of Kindness = HUGE Impact!
5. Start a Chain Reaction with Family and Friends

Rachel's Legacy is the next step in the Rachel's Challenge program, picking up where the first year left off. Rachel's Legacy focuses on uncovering the potential and significance found in everyone. Students are challenged to open their minds and see just how great an impact one person can make in the world. This second-year program incorporates more stories from Rachel's life as well as some of the stories we've been privileged to witness as people experience Rachel's Challenge across the country.

The Patriots welcome new staff members Nicole Whitt—reading, Jerry Whelan—science, Jane Modlin—theater, Rebekah Williams—web page design and yearbook, Ben Maynard—assistant principal, and Tony Love—Central School physical education.

The Verity Boys Soccer Team completed its 2011 season 10-3-2. This year's team was led by 8th graders Bryce Bentley, Tanner Ganote, Hunter Gullett, Dallas Knipp, Austin Park, and Shelby Street.



Each week two girls, two boys, and a staff member are recognized as "Patriots of the Week." In order to be selected Patriot of the Week, a student or staff member must be nominated by someone else in the school and/or community. Once nominated and selected, the recipient gets his/her picture displayed in the front hallway and his/her name goes on the school marquee and school website. Each recipient also receives free admittance to an athletic event of his/her choice and one free trip to the concession stand. A big Patriot CONGRATULATIONS to all winners this year.

Marshall Heath is heading up Verity's Student Technology Leadership Program (STLP) brand new Help Desk. STLP members meet each morning to help with technology issues at Verity. Recently, Heath prepared a shipment of used ink cartridges to be sent off for recycling. There were over 125 cartridges recycled in this shipment. Verity's recycling program has also turned in over 40 lbs. of used electrical cables so far this school year.

The 8th grade advanced physical education classes participated in a powder-puff football game at Putnam Stadium on October 28th. The game was between the Adventurer Team and the Dream Team. Pep music was provided by the middle school band. Students paid \$1 to attend the event which was donated to the Youth Service Center's "Cash and Coins for Christmas" drive to purchase gifts for underprivileged students.

Paul Blazer High School

Student Council hosted the Homecoming Dance where Amanda Nelson was crowned queen and sponsored the Food Feud.

Ms. LeMaster's Spanish V class celebrated Mexico's Independence. The class met at Mary Adkin's house and prepared the traditional



Mexican Independence Day dish of Chiles en Nogada. The dish is a mixture of meat and fruit stuffed into poblano chiles and topped with walnut sauce. They also prepared chicken quesadillas and Mexican trifle. This was the culmination of a week spent translating articles about the Mexican revolution, Pres. Benito Juárez, and the Mexican constitution. Cooking was hard work. It took 4 1/2 hours, but everyone said that they had lots of fun and a real bonding experience.

The following students were selected as Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) officers for the 2011-2012 school year: Clay Woford—captain, Kathryn Jackson—co-captain, and Noah Wessel—treasurer

The following students were selected as Active Christian TeenS (ACTS) officers for 2011-2012 school year: Stewart Rolen—president, Kelly Heishman—vice-president, Kristen Moore—secretary, and Katlyn Hunt—song leader.

FCA and ACTS meet together every Friday morning at 7:45 in Room 214 for a short devotion. These groups sponsor the annual See You at the Pole and National Day of Prayer activities at Blazer and participate in various community service activities throughout the school year.



Blazer's Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) is assisting in the fight against breast cancer in honor of its very own, Mrs. Hill - culinary instructor, along with the many others who have been affected by breast cancer. We participated in the American Cancer Society Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk on October 22 in Central Park.

The following students were selected as FCCLA chapter officers for the 2011-2012 school year: Alex Buskey—president, Maddie Fosson—1st VP, Courtney Hayes—VP peer education, Lauren Fannin—VP individual programs, Kelly Stratton—VP star events, Mandie Peterman—VP finance-, Morgan Dutton—VP public relations, Haley Webb—VP community service, and Molly Elam—VP parliamentary law.

Kentucky FCCLA and Blazer High School are participating in a statewide community service project entitled "Beading to Beat Autism." We are making and selling bracelets for \$3.00 with money going to the Beading to Beat Autism organization.



Kathryn Jackson has been selected to participate in the 85th Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade on November 24th in New York City. She is one of 185 musicians chosen to perform as part of the Macy's Great American Marching Band. Kathryn is a senior and plays the French horn in the Blazer High School band.

On Friday, October 28th, **Blazer JROTC** cadets participated in CyperPatriot, the premiere national high school cyber defense competition created to inspire high school students toward careers in cyber security or other science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines critical to our nation's future. Participating cadets were Allen Sturgill, Alex Swim, Jacob Kinner, Frank McGarey, and Timothy Runyon.

Congratulations to the 2011 Ashland Varsity VolleyCats for winning their 3rd consecutive regional title and 2nd consecutive district title. The members of the varsity team are Katie Castle, Noell Conley, Sara Crumpton, Emily Hall, Jordan Hensley, Kari Huffman, Emily Preece, Madison Ryan, Abbey Card, Amy Carpenter, Lauren Fannin, Jessica Sutton, Hannah Goebel, Megan Hensley, and Shannon Card. Jeffrey Huff—head coach; Amanda Moore—assistant coach; Jessica Williams, Dan Morgan, and Bill Durstein—volunteer assistants.

64th District All-Tournament team members were Jordan Hensley, Noell Conley, and Kari Huffman, MVP. Jordan Hensley, team floor captain and 2010 MVP, was named 16th Region Player-of-the-Year by the Kentucky Volleyball Coaches Association.

Additionally, the junior varsity team went undefeated, and the freshman team went 17-3. Congratulations on an outstanding season!

District News

New Assessments

Richard Oppenheimer, Director of Student Achievement

This fall, Ashland students through grade 11 have been using a computerized test called Measures of Academic Progress (MAP). Students will take the test 3 times during the year. Teachers will use the results of the tests to assist with instructional planning and for determining student growth during the year.

Also, the old CATS tests are no more. Kentucky students in grades 3-8 will now be taking K-PREP tests at the end of the year. These new assessments are designed around the state's revised curriculum and are much more demanding. High school students will begin taking end-of-course assessments in English 10, Algebra 2, biology, and US history this year. These tests come from ACT and will help students and teachers determine if students are on track for being college-ready.

If you have any questions regarding these assessments, please contact Richard Oppenheimer, Director of Student Achievement, at 327-2706.

ACT Accolades!

Derek Runyon, Blazer Principal

Every March, as part of statewide student testing and accountability, every 11th grade student in the state of Kentucky takes the ACT test. The ACT test assesses high school students' general educational development and their ability to complete college-level work. The multiple-choice tests cover four skill areas: English, mathematics, reading, and science. The ACT is offered six times per year nationally at a cost of \$34. However, since this is part of Kentucky's accountability index for all high schools, each 11th grade student receives this one-time free ACT test. ACT is the most widely used national entrance exam for colleges. The highest possible ACT score is 36, and there are 215 questions asked (English – 75; Math – 60; Reading – 40; Science – 40), and each part is timed.

This past March, our current seniors, last year's juniors scored a 19.8 composite on the ACT with a 19.6 in English, 19.2 in Math, 20.3 in Reading, and 19.6 in Science. Among region schools, Blazer tested more students (232) than any other school and ranked 2nd. Statewide, we ranked in the Top 20%. We are so proud of our students' scores, and for the efforts we are seeing yearly as our scores continue to trend upward.

National School Bus Safety Week

Eric Edwards, Transportation Department

National School Bus Safety Week was October 17-21, 2011. The transportation department would like to take this time to talk to you about school bus safety. Driving a school bus can be difficult at times. Teaching school bus safety isn't just the job of the driver, or the school principal, or teachers. The parents need to get involved also.

Children and their parents, as well as the community, need to be aware of the risks involved with children and school buses. Motorists also need to obey all state laws regarding driving in the areas of school buses and watch for the school bus stop sign. Even though you think the children are not crossing in your direction, that isn't always the case, so stop and wait for the sign to close.

In conclusion, children should understand that riding on the bus is a privilege. The bus is an extension of the classroom, and they are expected to behave as well as they would in their classroom. Parents can also help by reminding students to follow the simple safety rules outlined below:

- While at the bus stop, stand back from the curb.
- Don't push or shove while entering or exiting the bus, and always use hand rail.
- Always watch and obey the bus driver and wait for the driver's signal before crossing in front of the bus—cross in front, never behind the bus.

When riding the bus:

- Take your seat quietly and quickly; remain in your assigned seat when the bus is moving.
- Keep your feet and hands to yourself and never ever stick your hands, arms, or head out of the window of a bus.
- Always talk in a quiet voice, be courteous to the driver and school bus mates, and use no foul words or hand gestures.



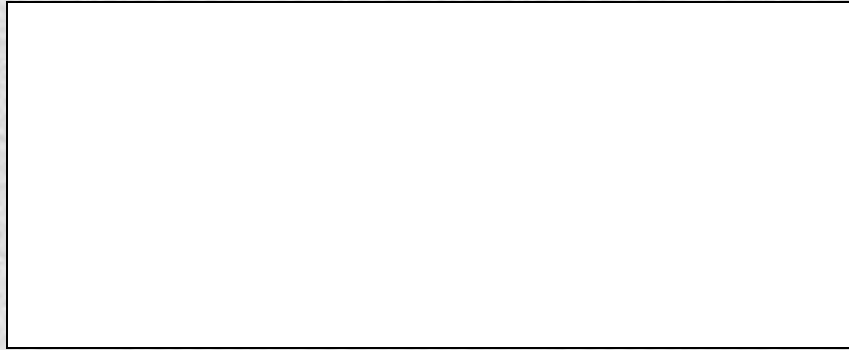


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David Greene, Verity Middle School
Brad Greene, Crabbe Elementary School
Phillip Caudill, Hager Elementary School
Nancy McHenry, Oakview Elementary School
Bob Blankenship, Poage Elementary School
Steve Salyers, Charles Russell Elementary School
Jacqui 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



Bethany Ledford and her grandmother enjoy eating together at Charles Russell's first Grandparents Day lunch.

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