

FOCUS

ON ACADEMIC COMPETITION

Ashland Independent Schools

When all the assessments were taken, all the problems solved, all the compositions written, and all the quick recall matches finished, out of eighteen schools, Charles Russell Elementary was awarded the Region 30 Championship Trophy. What an accomplishment! Since Ashland has five elementary schools, the points are so spread out that it makes winning difficult. All of the points garnered from other Ashland elementaries, enhanced the chances of Charles Russell's capturing the regional title.

When Mr. Gilmore became superintendent four years ago, he challenged schools to do "whatever it took" to be competitive in academic competition. He enlisted academic veterans, Dixie Johnson and Colonel John Burgess, to work with our elementary and middle schools to develop a strong academic competition program. He told all academic coaches he was committed to strengthening our program which would include subject area coaches for the major facets of competition. Mrs. Johnson remarked, "The winning of regionals by Charles Russell fulfills one goal we set four years ago. Oakview's success in winning the 6th Grade Showcase was another. Verity is reaping the benefits of a strong feeder system which is evidenced by Verity's sending nine testers to state, resulting in 8th place at the State Governor's Cup.



Not only did Charles Russell win regionals, they also hosted the contest which took many volunteers, parents and staff alike. One of the first place wins for Charles Russell was in future problem solving whose team members were Kimberly Hayes, Zach Greene, Chloe Van Horn, and Maddy Greene. The problem was about Great Britain II in the year 2075. Students were not getting to go to school unless they passed a test known as the GB assessment. Charles Russell's overall solution was the invention of the All Knowing Cap for boys/headband for girls. This cap was invented by a group called Education Learner's Protectors. The cap/headband gave students the ability to remember everything they learned, so they would be able to pass the GB assessment and would continue their education. Zach Greene said, "We really worked hard on competition day. We studied very hard on our research and fit it into our future problem solving booklet." Crabbe's Future Problem Solving team placed second. Members of that team were Hayleigh Buckler, Payton Scott, Spencer Wills, Cadence Stephens, and Xavier Stambaugh.

The areas of assessment are arts and humanities, social studies, written composition, science, and language arts. From Charles Russell, Olivia Allen took first in arts and humanities. She remarked, "The test was really hard. There was a bunch of questions

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District News

about Russian choreographers and musical terms I had never heard of. Some of it was easy, like the dance questions."

Charles Russell also had three students place in science

assessment: Shalayna Rice 3rd, Brianna Lambert 4th, and Robbie Francis 5th who also placed 4th in math. Other medal winners in assessment from Ashland were Spencer Johnson (Hager) 3rd math, Shelby Foutch (Hager) 4th social studies, Kylie Rhoton (Hager) 4th social studies, Kyle McComis (Hager) 4th language arts, Spencer Lett (Oakview) 4th language arts, Andrea Conley (Oakview) 4th social studies, and Payton Scott (Crabbe) 2nd language arts.



Besides future problem solving, the other team area is quick recall. Charles Russell came in second. The team members were Will Adkins, Robbie Francis, Olivia Allen, Jake

Damron, Maddy Greene, Zach Greene, Grant Kelley, Brianna Lambert, Shalayna Rice, Joe Sewell, Chloe VanHorn, Kaitlyn Lee, and Braedon Ward. Robbie Francis said, "Some of the matches were hard, especially against Worthington. We had worked together all year, and it really paid off."

Oakview's quick recall team placed third. Members of that team were Spencer Lett, Mykayla Akers, Justin Lucas, Julie Clere, Mary Alice Thornburg, Zoe Ingram, Andrea Conley, Ethan Hudson, and Mackenzie Clere.



The only Ashland elementary student to place in written composition was Emma Spade (Hager) who was first. The prompt

was to write a letter to the principal about whether you support the idea to utilize a company called School Assembly Programs which is an alternative to taking more costly field trips. Emma said, "It is important to save money, but it took a lot of thinking to support or oppose the principal's proposal. I was writing until time was up."

Another outstanding academic accomplishment this year was Oakview's winning the Sixth Grade Showcase against eight area schools. Oakview's team members were Ingam Acha, Connor Hutchinson, Wren Jenkins, Lydia O'Nan, Evan Billips, and Ashby Johnson. Charles Russell's team placed third with team members Zach Stafford, Leah Smith-Mensah, Abby Crites, Alannah Molenda, Ema-Leigh Forbes, Blaine Collins, Hattie Killin, McKenzie Lucas, and Morgan Vanover.



Verity Middle School qualified nine students for state at the Region 18 Middle School Governor's Cup competition as follows: Jason Zheng-math and science, Shelby Street-social studies and arts and humanities, Nate Rickman-science, Ingam Acha-language arts, Kenzy Moore-composition, Leslie Phillips-composition, Shelby Conley-arts and humanities. The quick recall team also qualified for state. On that team were Jacob Thacker, Kaitlyn Stevens, Shelby Street, Jason Zheng, Ingam Acha, Wren Jenkins, and Connor Hutchinson.

Blazer academic students who advanced to state were Tyler Hill-social studies, Noell Conley-composition, and Josie Whelan-



composition. Along with these students, Blazer qualified its future problem solving team with members Brent Garner, Noell Conley, Lauren

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Ashland Head Start

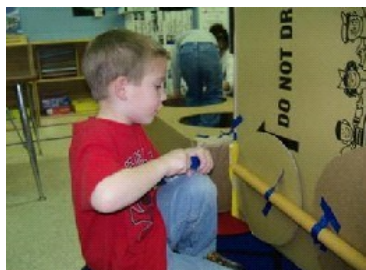
Health for Kindergarten

This is a reminder that very soon there will be a mad dash to get your child ready to enter kindergarten. Everyone wants his/her child to exceed in school; a healthy child has the best chance of success. While you are running around making sure that your child has his/her shots, a physical, dental exams, and a vision exam, remember everyone else in the state is making that mad dash as well. Please know that scheduling **now** best prevents appointment overloads for health services. Call your child's pediatrician or health care providers and make appointments **today**.

Kindergarten Health Requirements

- Current immunizations
- Physical (dated within 6 months of school start date)
- Dental Exam (dated within 12 months of school start date)
- Vision Exam (dated within 12 months of school start date)

All aboard! Mrs. Whitehead's class started the week studying transportation. "How bicycle wheels turn?", "Why are school buses yellow?", and "Why are traffic lights red, green and yellow?" The children became interested in the names of the train cars, how trains stayed on train tracks and how fast trains could go. We



found out that a train's average speed could be 217 miles an hour (350 km/hr), and that's over 3 times the speed limit on most highways! They go faster because they often travel in straight lines and don't have to slow down to make turns. This project turned into what Creative Curriculum calls a "Study." Studies are one of the most effective ways for children to learn. They help teacher's identify children's questions, organize and plan the events, facilitate investigations, and engage families.

Studies are meaningful to children because they provide opportunities to gain information through direct observation and experimentation and then to link new ideas to what they already know. We spent the month singing train songs, reading stories about people and animals on trains and re-creating our own train.



How can we help our children succeed?

As a parent or caregiver, no one cares more about your child's education than you. Get involved in your child's education at school, at home, and in your community.

Every child has the power to succeed in school and in life, and every parent, family member, and caregiver and community member can help.

We know, for example, that children tend to follow their parents' example. Children watch what we say and do. Parents are truly their children's first teachers, and this role lasts a lifetime. When we show our children that we value education, it gives them a powerful model for success.

The research clearly shows that meaningful engagement of families in their children's early learning supports school readiness and later academic success. Parent, family, and community engagement in Head Start and Kentucky Preschool is linked to children's success in their overall education.

The National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement has created a certificate that is to be awarded to families who exhibit EXCELLENCE in their family school engagement.

- Share information with students about a country you visited or lived in.
- Help put out a school or classroom newsletter (can also be done at home).
- Help sew or paint a display.
- Demonstrate cooking from a particular country or culture to students.
- Share a particular expertise with faculty (such as use of computers).
- Help students plan and build an outdoor garden.
- Go on a local field trip with a teacher and a group of students.
- Help to create a natural area outside the building where students can learn.
- Serve on a school advisory committee.
- Help organize a parent committee meetings.
- Help design a parent survey.
- Write a letter to legislators about the school.
- Go to a school board meeting to advocate for the school.
- Help translate information from the school into a language other than English.

Crabbe Elementary School

Kindergarten

In the month of January, Ms. Conley's students stepped up their nightly reading. Out of 26 students three students went above and beyond to work on their goal. Taylor Barker read 48 books. Noah Adams read 47 books, and Rick Ingram read 45 books. We are so proud of their accomplishment.

Crabbe kindergarteners would like to send out a huge "THANK YOU" to the following community leaders for providing each child with the book, Four Seasons for Little People: Christopher Fannin & The Fannin Automotive Family, Wilda Ramsdell, R.N., O.M. & T. Robert Love, Orthopedist, Joe H. Allen & Kentucky Farmers Bank, Greg A. Litteral & Charles C. Adams Insurance, Inc., Julie Welsh, O.M. & Laura C. Reese, D.O., Kathy & William Thorner of Caring Dentistry, and Sheriff Terry Keelin. Students were surprised and elated to have a book of their own to take home and share with their families! As Walt Disney once said, "There is more treasure in books than in all the pirate's loot on Treasure Island."

Kindergarteners kicked off their dental unit with a visit from the Tooth Fairy. She came in each kindergarten class to express the importance of taking care of our teeth. She demonstrated how to brush and floss their teeth. She also discussed healthy choices when eating. The students were very excited and interested in what she had to say. Thanks to the staff from Caring Dentistry for coming to our classrooms and providing our students with toothbrushes and floss.



First Grade

The first grade students were visited by a representative from The Huntington Museum of Art on March 2. He presented a slide presentation of the museum's art work on various birds. The artists had used geometric shapes and organic shapes to paint their birds. The students asked many questions and then created their bird, choosing their favorite shapes. He brought several mediums for the children to use. They worked very hard and did an outstanding job. It was a fun time!

The students who reached their AR goal for the 3rd nine weeks were treated to ice cream sundaes for their hard work.

The first grades entered The Independent's Friendship Drawing Contest. It is opened to all students from kindergarten through third grade. The students drew a picture of a friend and stated reasons why that person is a good friend. The contest ended on March 19. We're anxiously awaiting to see if we have any winners.

Fourth Grade

Who is your favorite character from a book or movie? That is the question that the fourth grade students were to respond to as an entry in The Independent's annual contest. Responses were as varied as the students themselves. All hope to be "the" winner.

Reading, writing, and understanding poetry and figurative language have been the focus of the reading classes. Students were quite surprised to learn that many of the songs they enjoy are comprised of poetic devices.

Fractions = a part of a whole. Whether it be unit, proper, improper, mixed, or equivalent, the fourth graders have compared them, added them, subtracted them, and sometimes even used food to understand them!

Sixth Grade

Crabbe Elementary 6th graders have been learning and practicing manners with the assistance of a community volunteer. Many adults and young people fail to learn basic table manners due to our fast paced lives which necessitates eating in the car on the way to practices or eating in front of the television or computer. When an occasion arises where we have to sit, use the correct utensil, carry on a conversation with a stranger, pull out a chair, or open a door, many young people are at a loss. The goal of this activity is to help students become comfortable in these situations which will also help them as they begin to think and plan for their futures, including a job or social situation.

Track

On your mark...get set...GO! Crabbe Elementary's track team is off to a "running" start. As of the last practice date, there were 52 runners, jumpers, sprinters, and field event participants. In the words of one potential fourth grade track star, Tony, "I think that everyone on our track team this year will try his/her hardest to get to be the top but if not, we will definitely have fun trying! Coach Boyd, Coach Jacob, and Coach Ashley are really trying their hardest to make us better at track and to have fun too."

Hager Elementary School

A lot has been going on in kindergarten! They have read fairy tales, compared "3 Cool Kids" and "The 3 Billy Goats Gruff" with a Venn diagram, and had the play of "The 3 Billy Goats Gruff!" They even made a bridge for the goats to cross over and the trolls to come out! Mr. Caudill and many students attended. Breanna VanHoose says that her favorite part in the play was when the trolls fell off the bridge. Her favorite fairy tale is "Rapunzel."

By Sydni Pierce and Katelyn Ferguson

In first grade at Hager, many exciting things are happening! In Mrs. Jackson's class, they are making "Wonder Balls!" Wonder Balls are paper balls on which you can put information about animals or other things. On theirs, they are writing about polar bears. In Mrs. Kennedy's class, they are going to be making leprechaun traps. They will also be hatching chicken eggs and taking a trip to learn about wildlife! Lastly, in both classes, they are learning about Dr. Seuss! *By: Rachel Craft*



The second grade teachers at Hager Elementary, Mrs. Ross and Mrs. Baldwin, informed us that the students in their classes have been learning about things that change the Earth such as

volcanoes. The students have been trying to create different ways to solve addition and subtraction problems and have been working with fractions and measurement. They have also been studying biographies, early American settlers, and learning about adjectives and adverbs. Many activities on the Smartboard have been included to reinforce these lessons. *By Clare Huff and Macy Rice*

The third grade teachers at Hager Elementary, Mrs. Redman and Mrs. Mahanna, told us that their students have been working on fractions. They have also been doing an author study on Tomie dePaola. Mrs. Mahanna and Mrs. Redman informed us that their



students are learning about inventors and their inventions and what life today would have been like without these. They are now creating their own inventions with the help of their teachers.

By Clare Huff and Macy Rice

The fourth grade teachers, Mrs. Walters and Mrs. Buckley, informed us that their students are learning about equivalent fractions, mixed numbers, and improper fractions. They are also learning about vertebrates, invertebrates, and cold-blooded and warm-blooded animals. The students have been learning about primary and secondary sources and point of view.

By Clare Huff and Macy Rice

I am going to tell you some things we do in my 5th grade classes. One thing we do is our behavior plan. We can get three stickers each day. You get one for assignments, one for behavior, and one for attitude/ participation. If you lose 3 or more stickers each week, you do not get to go to Fun Friday! At the end of the year, if you have not lost more than 2 Fun Fridays you get to go to Kings Island on a school day! Other fun trips we get to take are to the Paramount Arts Center. We even get to see movies there too! Our last trip was to see the "Polar Express!" It was really fun! Our trips in 5th grade are awesome!! *By Megan Redman*

Sixth graders at Hager celebrated the 100th day of school by weighing items for their trail mix with 100 grams. The 6th grade got to eat all of the trail mix that Mrs. Vance made from store-bought items. The projects for the 100th day of school were really awesome. Believe us, we know! The project was really fun.

By Stevie Tolliver and Blake Johnson



Over the last two weeks, Hager's Student Council has been hosting an Open Your Heart Drive. All of the items collected were sent to King's Daughter's Hospitality House. Overall, we collected a grand total of 2,462 items! The intermediate and primary classrooms that brought in the most items won a pizza party. There was no clear winner until the final day. In the end, Mrs. Ross's 2nd grade class became our primary winner with 903 items collected! In the intermediate classrooms, Mrs. Keener's 5th grade won with 452 items. We are all very proud of the items donated and the help given to KDMC's Hospitality House.

By: Alexis Nichols & Robby Krick

Hager's Beta Club has recently visited Ashland's Headstart to volunteer its time to work with the teachers and preschoolers. We had a great time! When we first got there, we were able to eat lunch! We had soup and grilled cheese! After that, we danced in the gym. After we danced, we worked out and played games with the students. We were all worn out, so we went back to the classrooms and painted! We were sad when we had to leave at the end of the day! *By Emma Johnson*

Oakview Elementary School

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 holiday reading by Oakview's very favorite weatherman, WSAZ meteorologist, Chris Bailey! Mr. Bailey came to Oakview to share this wonderful tradition with Oakview's primary students. 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 waiting for them in their classrooms, along with their own special bell so that they might always hear that one pure "jingle" of Christmas.



Miss Ryan's 2nd graders had fun on the laptops during math class! They got to explore and play on Study Island while practicing addition and subtraction.

Mrs. Ross and her 3rd grade class took fractions to new places as they worked in

teams to explore fractional parts on a number line. Students were thrilled to use erasable markers on their desk to make their predictions about fraction parts. As part of the new core standards, third grade is using even more hands-on manipulatives to explore mathematical concepts.



Mrs. Rice's 4th grade students were getting active in class and learning about proper nutrition during an "Eat 5 and Thrive" activity.



Mr. Anderson and Mr. Campbell have been working together during RTI each Friday to provide students with some hands-on technology experience, using several iPad fraction apps.



Students in Coach Tackett's counseling classes have been learning about violence and treating others with fairness and respect. Students have been focusing on the Fairness and Respect pillars in the Character Counts program. Along with the Character Counts program, students are actively participating in the district's Too Good For Violence curriculum which focuses on anger management, bullying, conflict resolution, and diversity.

Oakview's STLP has been learning about internet safety. After a survey of all 3rd-6th graders, they determined that our students and parents were in need of internet safety rules and lessons. The students and sponsors planned a parent night on February 13th called "Pro-tech the Ones You Love." STLP teamed up with the Ashland Police Department and the Boyd County Sheriff's Department to talk about the dangers of the internet, present important facts, and provide safety tips to parents and students. Oakview's STLP will follow-up the presentation with additional classroom lessons and safety contracts.



Oakview's STLP cyber safety patrol qualified for STLP state championship competition on March 22nd. Congratulations and Good luck!!!!



Oakview's Academic Team participated in the District Governor's Cup Competition on Saturday, February 25th. Oakview's team had a great showing! In the mathematics written assessment, Julie Clere placed 2nd and Spencer Lett placed 5th. In the social studies assessment, Andrea Conley and Julie Clere tied for 4th place. In the language arts assessment, Spencer Lett placed 1st and Justin Lucas tied for 5th place. In the arts and humanities assessment, Ashley Hudson placed 5th. In written composition, Mykayla Akers placed 3rd. In team events, Oakview's future problem solving team placed 2nd. That team included Jacob Sansom, Kylie West, Zoe Ingram, and Mykayla Akers. Oakview's quick recall team placed 2nd. Members of that team include Mykayla Akers, Spencer Lett, Zoe Ingram, Julie Clere, Mackenzie Clere, Andrea Conley, Justin Lucas, Mary Thornburg, and Ethan Hudson.



Poage Elementary School

The third grade students in Mrs. Moresea's class researched and published biographies about famous Americans. Then to celebrate what they learned, every student decorated a potato to resemble his/her person. We had some "spudtacular" displays in our hall for all to see.

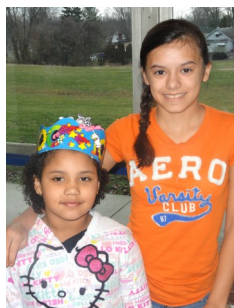


STLP students produce Poage's News Flash. This program includes school announcements, birthdays, special events, weather, sports, lunch menu and the pledge to the flag. Students learn how to write scripts, be a news anchor, a director, and also a camera person. Students enjoy participating in this program and add their own special touches in making Poage's News Flash a success.

Mrs. Hill's second graders were very busy on the 100th day of school. The students spent time gathering their 100 favorite words prior to the 100th day of school. On that day we used the mobile lab and each student typed their 100 favorite words, using an internet site called wordle. The students made collages. They also were able to chew bubble gum as a reward for having their homework that week. We estimated how many bubbles we could blow, as a class, in 100 seconds. Following the activity, we graphed our results. Then the children used the time order words they had previously learned to write their very first "How to Piece." These were the favorite activities of the day!



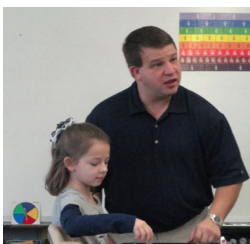
On February 1st, Mrs. Moore's and Mrs. Woods' kindergarten classes celebrated the 100th day of school. This was a fun-filled day with activities revolving around the number 100. Students joined together with their criss-cross partners to make 100 piece fruit loop necklaces and trail mix. Students are also learning about tally marks, money, TouchPoint, and dental health. We are looking forward to growing and learning throughout the rest of the year!



In Mrs. McLain's second grade class, we have been studying Snowy Owls. We have been learning so many amazing facts to use in writing our feature article. We are visiting a virtual website to learn how to dissect owl pellets, and then we are dissecting them in class. We also celebrated the 100th day in style with each child participating in so many interactive activities. One of the activities we did was see how many times we could blow a bubble in 100 seconds. With this, we did several activities from math to writing. We had a blast!



The 4th grade students at Poage have been testing rocks for their properties. They performed the scratch, color, texture, and hardness tests on several rocks and minerals. They also invited Clayton Hill from Pollock's Jewelers to come to class to talk about gems. Mr. Hill explained the difference in various gems and even allowed the class to view synthetic and genuine stones.



Poage Elementary hosted its 3rd annual Blood Drive on February 11th, 2012. Students from Paul Blazer designed posters for the event, and Jon Royalty designed the People's Choice Poster. Donors voted on their favorite design and Pollock's donated a 25 dollar gift certificate. Sixth graders Chloe Artis, Shelbi Barnett, and Alexis Smyser taught people to make paper cranes. There is an old Japanese legend that says if you make a thousand paper cranes, God will grant you a wish to make you healthy. Fifth and sixth graders have been making paper cranes for Kaelyn Wellman, a graduate of Paul Blazer High School who was in an automobile accident and to whom the blood drive was in honor of. The cranes will go to Woodland Oaks where Kaelyn resides. The drive was also a celebration for Eulas Hayes who was to give the unit that would make 34 gallons of blood donated. Seventy-three people showed up to donate, and 53 units of blood were given. It is said that 1 unit can save up to 3 lives. By our calculations, Poage and our community helped save 159 people through blood donations. Poage has a lot of "pint-sized heroes."



Charles Russell Elementary School

Beta Club Officers— 6th Graders: President – Zach Stafford, Vice-President- Leah Smith-Mensah, Secretary-Abby Crites, Treasurer-Ema-Leigh Forbes, and 5th Grade Rep.-Robbie Francis

6th Grade Academic Showcase-These CRS students placed at the 6th Grade Academic Showcase: Math-Zach Stafford-1st; Arts/Humanities-Leah Smith-Mensah-4th, Abby Crites-5th, Alannah Molenda-7th; Science-Ema-Leigh Forbes & Blaine Collines-8th; Language Arts-Zach Stafford-4th; Composition-Morgan Vanover-3rd & Alannah Molenda-4th; Quick Recall-3rd; Overall-3rd

CRS Academic Team-Results on 12/12 @ Oakview: Arts/Hum-Jaden Stevens-1st; SocStudies-Joe Sewell-1st, Jake Damron-3rd, Will Adkins-4th; Quick Recall: CRS-21 vs Oakview-14 & CRS-20 vs Greysbranch-15. **Results on 1/9 @ CRS:** Math-Shalayna Rice-1st, Robbie Francis-2nd, Braedon Ward-5th; LangArts-Maddy Greene & Kaitlyn Lee-3rd; SocStud-Jake Damron-1st, Zach Greene-2nd; Science-Robbie Francis & Jake Damron-4th, Brianna Lambert-5th; Quick Recall- CRS-23 vs Cannonsburg-16; CRS-22 vs Hager-14. **Results on 1/23 @ Rose Hill:** Math-Robbie Francis-1st, Braedon Ward-2nd, Grant Kelley-3rd, Shalayna Rice & Will Adkins-5th; Arts/Hum-Olivia Allen-2nd, Chloe VanHorn-4th, Maddy Greene-5th; LangArts-Brianna Lambert-1st, Kaitlyn Lee & Maddy Greene-3rd, Riley Dixon-4th; Science-Shalayna Rice-1st, Brianna Lambert-3rd, Jake Damron-5th; SocStud-Zach Greene-1st, Zach Francis-3rd, Braedon Ward & Jake Damron-4th, Joe Sewell-5th; Quick Recall-CRS-25 vs Rose Hill-10; CRS-21 vs Argillite-6. **Results on 2/6 @ Greysbranch:** Math-Robbie Francis-2nd, Shalayna Rice-5th; Arts/Hum-Olivia Allen-4th; Science-Shalayna Rice-1st, Brianna Lambert & Robbie Francis-2nd; Jake Damron-5th; LangArts-Brianna Lambert-2nd, Maggie Thompson & Kaitlyn Lee-5th; Quick Recall-CRS 21 vs Catlettsburg-5; CRS-20 vs Greysbranch-15.

District Governor's Cup Results—Math: 1st-Robbie Francis, 3rd-Shalayna Rice, 8th-Braedon Ward; Social Studies: 1st-Zach Greene, 6th-Jake Damron, 9th-Joe Sewell; Arts/Humanities: 2nd-Olivia Allen, 8th-Joe Sewell, 10th-Jaden Stevens; Writer's Composition: 1st-Olivia Allen, 5th-Chloe VanHorn, 6th-Maggie Thompson; Science: 3rd-Shalayna Rice, 4th-Robbie Francis, 5th-Brianna Lambert; Language Arts: 2nd-Maddy Greene, 3rd-Kaitlyn Lee, 4th-Brianna Lambert; Future Problem Solving: 1st Place Team-Maddy Greene, Zach Greene, Chloe VanHorn, Riley Dixon, Kimmy

Hayes; Quick Recall: 1st Place Team-(Will Adkins, Olivia Allen, Jake Damron, Robbie Francis, Zach Greene, Maddy Greene, Grant Kelley, Brianna Lambert, Kaitlyn Lee, Shalayna Rice, Joe Sewell, Chloe VanHorn,



Braedon Ward) CRS-28 vs Poage-20, CRS-28 vs Oakview-22, CRS-20 vs Oakview-18; **Charles Russell Overall District Champs with 54 points!**

4H Speech Winners-Olivia Allen, Miranda Martin, Brianna Lambert, Reno Bowen, Will Adkins, Maddy Greene, Joe Sewell, Preston Ledford, Dillon Adkins, Jaden Stevens, and Raegan Stevens. These students advance to the County competition. Good job!

Read Your Heart Out-Who read 4,483 books in one month? Charles Russell students...that's who! Mrs. Kristy Minton, 6th grade teacher, challenged the students at Charles Russell to read as many books as they could from January 12-February 13. Of course, they had to take an AR test on each book and score at least 80%. The students took her seriously as you can see. Noah Carey in 2nd grade won a Kindle by reading 122 books (the most in 2nd-6th grades) and Logan Allison in 1st grade won a Leap Pad by reading 156 books (the most in K-1st grades.) Mrs. Bonner's class won the grand prize which was a pizza party because they read a whopping 753 books. Way to go kindergarten! We all met together as a school for Literacy Night which was on February 16th at 6 pm. Many teachers and students were festively dressed as characters from their favorite books while the students and parents were engaged in learning more about reading while having fun! Angie Conley from the Boyd County Public Library even shared resources with the parents who attended. We finished the evening by having snacks in the gym while watching the 6th grade students make a book come to life. Everyone at Charles Russell had a great time reading their hearts out. —Preston Ledford



European Festivals-There were eight different festivals by teams of 6th grade students that were showcased. They were all very good, but we had a contest to see who was the best. Each team had to choose

a European festival to research and create a display. Each festival had to have five facts, a schedule of activities, food or music, a flag, and table presentation with a tri-fold poster board. The festivals were: The Prague Spring International Music Festival, Running of the Bulls, Cannes Film Festival, Festival of Lights, Festival of Roses, Masele-nitsia, Festa Italiana, and Oktoberfest by L. Smith-Mensah, E. Forbes, A. Banfield, T. Wolfe, and K. Mullins won. Everyone had fun and a lot of groups had ethnic food; I liked the zucchini fries. —Abby Crites

All about Russia-Mrs. Oksana Kinner taught the sixth grade classes on January 18th about the culture and traditions of Russia. She told us that Russia is the largest country in the world; and the Volga River is the largest river in Europe. She taught us that Russian girls wear pretty dresses with floral patterns and ruffles. She brought some dresses for the girls to have a style show. She told us that New Years is the most celebrated holiday in Russia. She taught us how to make Russian ice cream. —Baylei Park



Verity Middle School

Congratulations to Verity's Governor's Cup Team for an outstanding effort on Saturday finishing in 2nd Place overall at the 18th Regional Tournament. Testers advancing to the State Finals are:

Jason Zheng - 4th Place Math and 5th Place Science, Nate Rickman - 3rd Place Science, Ingam Acha - 3rd Place Language Arts, Shelby Conley - Tie 4th Place Arts & Humanities, Leslie Phillips - 2nd Place Composition, Kenzy Moore - 1st Place Composition, and Shelby Street - Tie 4th Place Arts & Humanities and 1st Place Social Studies. The Quick Recall Team finished 2nd and advanced to the State Finals as well.

The following students competed for Verity at the Math Counts Chapter competition:

Jason Zheng, Mike Wilson, Tyler Thomas, Zach Stafford, Kaitlyn Stevens, Autumn Hoffman, Will Carroll, Lydia O'Nan, and Connor Hutchison. Jason Zheng placed 4th overall and was in the final four for the Countdown Round. The team, consisting of Jason, Mike, Tyler, and Zach placed 2nd overall and will advance to the state level competition next month in Louisville.



Ms. Tackett's class and their peer buddies caroling at Oakmont Manor Nursing Home.

On Friday, January 27, Verity students attended a cyber-safety program presented by Rebekah Williams, district TIS, and Officer Scott Menefee, district SRO. Students were educated about ways to stay safe online, how to avoid being a cyber bully, what to do if you're a victim of cyber bullying, and the dangers of sexting. They also viewed real-life stories about students that were victims of these cyber-crimes. A parent program was presented on Thursday, February 23. Scan the QR code above with a smart phone or visit <http://bit.ly/GBeVoy> to view resources.



Despite being up against sometimes bigger teams and faster players, both the 7th and 8th grade basketball teams represented Verity very well during the hoops season. "The teams were very successful and fulfilled what we needed to prepare for this season," said Joe Bonner, head coach of both teams.

Verity's Award Winning Cheerleading Competition Team



Four members of Verity's wrestling team competed at state. Grant Krueger placed second in the state while Wyatt Kirk, Jay Layne, and Wesley Whelan competed also. Grant Krueger and Wyatt Kirk qualified for the high school state competition.

Noah Roberts, Marcus Lazear, Austin Tackett, Taylor Broughton, Dylan Blevins, and Grant Krueger represented Verity on the all conference football team.

Kenzie Pennington, Jacob Duncil, Jasmine Blake, Emily Watkins, Mia Weaver, and Levi Grayson all represented Verity on the high school swimming team. Congrats swimmers on a job well done.

Paul Blazer High School



Ms. LeMaster's Spanish V class spent 2 weeks studying Spanish poetry. They then took 3 days and wrote their own sonnets in Spanish. The topics ranged from grandmothers,

Salvador Dalí, love, and the adventures of Star Wars. The class then held a poetry reading complete with Spanish cookies, tea, and horchata (a drink made with rice, water, milk, sugar, cinnamon, and vanilla). All of the students did an excellent job of writing and cooking.

FCCLA Members: Participating in the Kentucky FCCLA Star Events competition are: Applied Technology – Rachel England, Judy Carver. Chapter Service Project – Kelly Stratton, Maya France Focus on Children – Lindsay Rothenstine, Shannon Rice. Illustrated Talk – Casey Clark, Braxton Pickle. National Programs in Action – Courtney Hayes and Rachel Redman. Winners will advance to national competition in Orlando, FL, this summer.

Mrs. Hieneman's Biology II classes received a DuPont grant to purchase the book *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*. The students are reading the book and discussing the importance that Henrietta Lacks has made in the field of science. Doctors took her cells without asking. Those cells never died. They launched a medical revolution and a multimillion-dollar industry. More than twenty years later, her children found out. Their lives would never be the same. After reading the book, the students will prepare a presentation that will be shown in an exhibit at the Ashland Town Center Mall in May.

Update on Ohio University Southern Tri State High School Juried Art Show - Out of the 76 entries, 11 awards were given. Blazer students took 5 of these awards! The winners are Noell Conley, Mariah Spillman, and Sara Crumpton took honorable mention. Hayley Slavens won Best in Show. Felicia Durand won a \$500 scholarship to OUS! Congratulations to all students who were accepted in the show. All those accepted were amongst the best works.

The Paul Blazer High School JROTC Academic/Leadership team composed of Rebecca Anderson, Deloris Haney, Joel Cordial, Duncan Carroll, Greenwell Christine, Garcia Christina, Fortner Kayla, Duncan Samantha has been chosen to compete in Level II of the JROTC Leadership and Academic Bowl. Winners of this round will advance to the final championship competition and earn an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. This event is sponsored by the Army JROTC and conducted by College Options Foundation. Paul Blazer High School JROTC Academic/Leadership team competed against 1,583 teams from around the world to advance to Level II in an online competition, *Zero Hour Threat*. Level II began February 1st and concludes on February 15th, 2012. One of the main goals of the JROTC Academic Bowl is to prepare students for state exit/graduation exams as well as college entrance exams, such as the SAT and ACT. In each level of the competition, this fast-paced event tests their knowledge using SAT/ACT-type questions in the areas of JROTC curriculum, English, math and science.

The following students were selected as members of KMEA All State Chorus for 2012: Haylie Delong, Jessalyn Huff, Aaron Lewis, Alex Lewis, Kristen Moore, and Austin Waggoner. These students performed in concert at KMEA Professional Development Conference in Louisville, KY, on February 9th and 10th. Caitlin Brown was selected as a member of the National High School Honor Choir for 2012. She performed in concert as part of this choir in Carnegie Hall in NYC on February 12, 2012.

The following Blazer Band students were selected for the 2012 KMEA All-District 8 Band: Cassie Kinner, Brittany Gill, Austin Hammonds, Kamryn Gose, Kathryn Jackson, Travis Fannin, Abbey Craig, Alex Schlessner, Angela Craig, Ayleia Marcum, Conor Justice, Shane Riley.

The following Blazer Band students were selected for the 2012 Kentucky All-State Band: Abbey Craig, Kathryn Jackson, Ayleia Marcum.

The following Blazer Band students were selected for the 2012 MSU Honor Band Clinic: Cassie Kinner, Brittany Gill, Austin Hammonds, Josh Lumpkins, Kathryn Jackson, Travis Fannin, Abbey Criag, Alex Schlessner, Angela Craig, Ayleia Marcum, Travis Tackett, Conor Justice, Shane Riley.

District News



Canty, Andrea Bellew, and Clay Woford and its quick recall team whose members were Stephen Corbitt, Tyler Hill, Brent Garner, Cameron Garner, Aryssa Damron, Aaron Krick, Allen Flath, Rex Gonzales, Alex Newmark,

Doug Mollett, and Aliyah Datcher.

The academic competitions would not be possible without our dedicated coaches. The head coaches are as follows: Eric Lambert-Blazer, Tonya Brady-Verity, Amanda Hood-Charles Russell, Tonya Campbell-Oakview, Christine Scott-Crabbe, Susan Swinney-Hager, and Gara Bowley-Poage.

With the new education reform, there is more and more emphasis on academics to ensure career and college readiness. Mr. Gilmore sees academic competition as a way to entice students to be interested in their school work and thus to be better students. He gives a huge debt of gratitude to every academic coach, administrator, teacher, and coaching assistant.

“My primary goal continues to be to ensure as many student achievements and student successes throughout each school and every grade in the district. We are educators entrusted with the most important responsibility ever relegated to another....the molding and nurturing of the hearts, minds, and abilities of each student in our charge. I continue to emphasize the focus on academic rigor, the relevance of what we are teaching, and the vital component of teachers developing strong relationships with our students. Academic excellence is what we are about....it is what we are striving for everyday in every classroom. I challenge staff and students to do “whatever it takes” to do your very best.....to achieve and to succeed,” Mr. Gilmore states.



By Janice Ledford

Special Education Records Destruction Notice

In accordance with state and federal regulations implementing the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), this is to inform you of our intent to destroy personally identifiable information related to special education services maintained in the Ashland Independent School District's special education records. The Ashland Independent School District's special education department will be destroying items that are no longer needed to provide educational services if it has been three (3) years since this individual has received special education services in the Ashland School District. These items may include: IEP's, Evaluation Reports, Test Protocols, Notifications of Meetings, Notices of Action, and other personally identifiable information within the Special Education file. The district will maintain a permanent record, without time limitation, of some special education reference due process. The school district is required to maintain records for a minimum of three (3) years from the date a child leaves the school district. Please be advised that the records may be needed by the student or the parent for social security benefits or other purposes. You may contact the office of Lisa Henson at 327-2706 for more information.



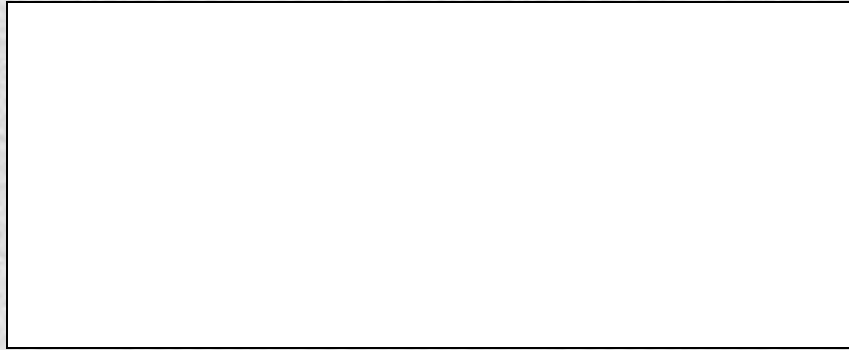


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Derek Runyon, Blazer High School
David Greene, Verity Middle School
Brad Greene, Crabbe Elementary School
Phillip Caudill, Hager Elementary School
Nancy McHenry, Oakview Elementary School
Bob Blankenship, Poage Elementary School
Steve Salyers, Charles 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



Governor Beshear congratulates a Verity student on his accomplishments at the State Governor's Cup awards ceremony.

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