

FOCUS

Ashland Independent Schools

Superintendent's Letter

Throughout our district it becomes quite apparent that the focus of our collective efforts is certainly on classroom instruction.....student achievement....student successes!

From the initial implementation of instructional coaches, professional learning communities, and deconstruction of the new standards associated with Senate Bill 1, it continues to be a team collaboration with classroom teachers and related support staff, building-level principals, and our Central Office staff. All of us are working together to do "Whatever It Takes" to do the very best for our students.

I want to refer back to my prior submission of the current three "R's" that should be referred to regularly as reminders that each ensures higher learning levels and academic successes only if they are utilized in concert.

Academic Rigor: True academic rigor means that the school curriculum is based upon high academic standards for all students. Teachers design, evaluate, and refine classroom instruction to assure active use of this core knowledge and high thinking demand for all students. Academic rigor exists where commitment to the knowledge core intersects the high thinking demand of the instruction. Every student in the school has access to and is expected to complete this rigorous core curriculum.

Relevance: Schools can help students experience their school work as important, interesting, and relevant. Students believe what they are learning is important when they can connect it to an area of personal interest, personal aptitude, and/or a career goal. Students and parents understand the importance of taking rigorous courses in high school and see the benefit of this beyond the high school experience. Students also see the interrelatedness and the connectivity of what they are learning in different content areas.

Relationship: Strong, meaningful relationships enhance the teaching and learning mission of the school. These relationships include teachers and students, administration and teachers, school and parent, parent and student, and the school and the community. The culture of the school is such that every adult in the school cares about each student's success. Strong relationships sustain people in time of challenge and change. A fundamental measure of the strength of the relationships within a school is how students would respond to the question: "Is there an adult in your school that knows you well, celebrates your successes, notices when you are struggling, and to whom you would go for help?" All other relationships within the school community exist to strengthen this foundational relationship between students and adults within the school.

I want to share a letter home to parents (page 2) from one of our teachers in the district. I feel strongly that throughout this notice to the parents that, "Rigor, Relevance, and Relationships" are most definitely reflected. I was so proud when a parent took the time to send me a copy with comments of how impressed she was with the receipt of such a note from a teacher. I believe strongly that many of us are striving to make this the norm for ensuring that our district exemplifies the new "Three R's."



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District News

Head Start, Preschool, and Primary Registration Set

Lisa Henson, Director of Student Services

Registration for Head Start, preschool, and primary school (formerly kindergarten and first grade students) will be held in the Ashland Independent School District during the week of March 28 – March 31, 2011. Registration hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily, Monday through Thursday. Evening hours are available on Tuesday, March 29, 2011, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

All students will register at the school in their attendance area for both kindergarten and first grade. Students wishing to attend schools not in their attendance area should request a transfer form from the school of their attendance area when registering.

Students registering for 3 & 4 year old Head Start/preschool should apply at the Head Start office at 3215 S. 29th Street. Age, residency, and income guidelines apply. For more information, call 327-2715.

Students who plan to transfer from outside the Ashland Independent School District (K-12) should register this spring at the school the child is requesting to attend.

According to Kentucky State Law, a child must be

- * three and four years of age by October 1, 2011, to enter preschool.
- * five years of age by October 1, 2011, to enter kindergarten.
- * six years of age by October 1, 2011, and have successfully completed a recognized kindergarten program in order to enter the first grade.

An official copy of the child's birth certificate from the registrar's office in the state the child was born is required for registration. Hospital certificates and billfold-size cards are not acceptable. Parents will be provided information regarding physical examination, vision examination, immunization records, and kindergarten screening by the principal or secretary of each school.

The Social Security Administration in Ashland will have available at each of the schools SS-5 application forms for social security numbers. The new tax law requires a social security number for all children five years old and older.

For further information, please call the principal of your attendance area school or Dr. Patsy Lindsey at 327-2706 ext. 2715.

Site-Based Decision Making Council Parent Elections

All Ashland elementary schools and Verity Middle School will hold elections for SBDM parent representatives on Tuesday March 29, 2011. Please check with your child's school to find out how to be a candidate and times for the election. Paul Blazer High School will announce the date for their parent election later.

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Dear Parents,

We have recently jumped into the fun subject of geography. We began by studying the five themes of geography (location, characteristics, regions, movement, and human environment interaction) and have explored the use of each in regards to many nations and cultures. We reviewed map skills and latitude and longitude. The students seemed to enjoy lessons on aspects of culture and the physical landforms of our world. We examined the ways that population density will affect culture and economics of an area. We contrasted the cultures of the U.S. and Japan. The students REALLY enjoyed the pictures of the overcrowded culture of Japan, especially the Tokyo public pool and the capsule hotels. One of their favorite lessons was the case study of the odd Nacirema tribe of North America. After thinking this tribe was odd and almost scary, I revealed that it was just American culture (Nacirema backwards) through ethnocentric perspective. If you would like to know more about what ethnocentric is, ask your child, as it will be on their test.

Speaking of their test, I gave a pre-test today. This was not for a grade, but the students worked very hard on it. We went over it afterwards and each student had to compile a PSP, or personal study plan. The PSP causes students to evaluate their own understanding of the various subjects and set up a plan of what they need to learn or explore in more detail by Friday's test. Yes, the first geography test WILL be this Friday, February 11th. We will be reviewing throughout the entire class tomorrow, and the students know their weaknesses and strengths thanks to their PSP. The pre-test can be found on the class website if you or your child would like to look over it. I have also attached a copy.

Starting Monday, we will begin our exploration into American geography and culture. This will begin with a review of the placement of the states. There will be a test in which students must label all 50 U.S. states. I will not be including capital cities this time. After they have reviewed the states, we will examine the 4 main regions of the U.S. and their accompanying cultures. We will be planning a pretend vacation as well, in which students will choose five landmarks they would like to visit from a list I will provide, and then plan their trip, noting directions, distance, states you pass through, cities you could visit, and will provide a few "pictures" from their vacation. I enjoy this project as it has real-life application and is fun for the student.

I hope that your children are enjoying the class and that they are communicating the diverse things we are learning and exploring. Please continue to communicate with your child about the things we do in class, as it is wonderful to get students excited and intrigued by learning!

Thanks to each of you for being supportive parents!

Ashland Head Start



Throughout the month of January, Mrs. Steele's class studied about hibernation. They discussed what animals hibernate, how long they hibernate, and what they do to prepare for hibernation. To wrap up the unit, the class celebrated with a hibernation

celebration. The students wore their pajamas to school and brought their favorite stuffed animal. They had Teddy Grahams and Gummy Bears as snacks and created pictures of what they learned about hibernation.

Mrs. Rutman's class is learning about the food guide pyramid and making healthy food choices. This has prompted many discussions about where food comes from, what types of foods are healthy, and how to purchase food. The class took a field trip to Kroger to learn more about the food groups and healthy foods.



Mrs. Abbott's class recently concluded a study of "Boxes." Throughout a four- week period, students explored different sizes, shapes, and uses for boxes. They used journaling to draw their own boxes and made pictures and descriptions of what they would like to keep in their boxes. At the end of the unit, family members came for a unit celebration.



Families were also invited to join the class for a Valentine's Day celebration. They read a story about showing love for others, sang a song together, and designed an original Valentine craft to give to someone they loved. The students and family members all had fun!

During the February family game night, Dana Baer and Geri Willis introduced parents to the Second Steps program. This Second Steps program is a violence prevention curriculum used in the preschool classroom. Information was provided to the parents on empathy, impulse control, and anger management.

Once again Ashland Head Start worked with the Friends of the Children program. The members of this organization wish to remain anonymous. Friends of the Children provide the most needy children with new coats, clothing, underclothes, and shoes. The Family Service staff and Head Start bus drivers transported the children for the shopping trip. The representatives from Friends of the Children met the group at a shopping location and assisted the children with selecting a variety of items. This was a wonderful experience for the children. This opportunity is also a learning moment for our children because it shows the good will of community and the compassion and caring that our society needs. While many families face challenges in today's economy, the group hopes this opportunity enables the children to select special items that give them confidence among their peers. This time shopping can only be described as joyous and emotional for the children and adults. We look forward to our continued partnership with Friends of the Children.

The Wurtland Church of God in Wurtland, Ky., has been an invaluable resource to Head Start families. Marcella Lyon is the office administrator who has been so helpful in scheduling time for the Head Start Family Service team to utilize the church's clothing closet. Leona Clark, Liz Thomas, and Wanda Jenkins all volunteer in the clothing closet, taking and organizing donations. They took the time to go through a multitude of large donations to find lightly used and new clothing, coats, and shoes for a number of Head Start families. Their tireless efforts and commitment are to serve their community. We are very thankful that they have partnered with Head Start.

Ashland Head Start Latino families were offered the opportunity to review *LATINO Magazine*. This magazine is offered free of charge to families. The magazine contains information on parenting, child development, and addresses specific interests of the Latino community. Families may request the magazine be delivered directly to their homes. The Head Start staff was very excited to be able to provide current information that is relative and culturally sensitive to our dual-language families.



On Sunday, March 6th, technology in the Ashland Independent Schools was featured in the **Progress 2011: Education** insert of the Herald Dispatch. You can check out this article as well as photos from all schools at www.herald-dispatch.com.

Crabbe Elementary School

Fourth Grade Music...or Martial Arts?!

Crabbe's fourth grade students have been learning to play the recorder, using the Karate Recorder Method. Students accomplish levels by learning songs. The first student to achieve the top level (Black Belt) in Mrs. Barber's class is Spencer Wills. The first student to achieve this level in Mrs. Withrow's class is Payton Scott.

Crabbe Third Graders Winning the Battle for 'Hearts and Math'

On Valentine's Day Mrs. Suman's third grade class used conversation hearts to work on math. Using the hearts they predicted, classified, estimated, measured, and worked with partners. What a sweet math class!! Four students reached their AR goals for the second nine weeks: Logan Matheison, Chris Reeves, Antwon Moore, and Lucas Daniels.

Fourth Graders at Crabbe Love Learning!

Fourth graders had a "hoot" dissecting owl pellets. Using a bone comparison chart, they were able to identify the diet of barn owls. Students found many rodent skulls as well as two moles and a bird's skull. This activity helped to provide background information and motivation for our study of food chains and webs.



Fourth graders are also working on pumping up their content area vocabulary. They are beginning to understand that it's not enough to "know how to do" a math problem but that they must also be able to "talk" math. This concept is extending over to the other content areas as well.

"Don't judge a man until you've walked two moons in his moccasins" is a phrase you may hear some fourth graders discuss since they have just completed the Newberry Award winning book, Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech. This novel proved to be a favorite as evidenced by Savanah's quote, "It's the best book I've ever read!"

In reading *My Brother Martin*, students learned that Martin Luther King, Jr., his brother, and his sister liked to play pranks when they were young. One was to tie a stole on the end of a pole and scare unsuspecting people as they walked by their house. Thank you to the Highlands Museum for bringing a real stole to enrich our students' understanding of that story!



Crabbe Governor's Cup: A Great Season



Governor's Cup students are excited about our district match on Feb. 26th. So far, many team members have placed in testing areas, and we have won 5 quick recall matches. 1/24/11 Results: Nate Rickman 2nd place Math; 1st place science; Kiara Chapman Arts and Humanities 3rd place; Payton

Scott 1st place Language Arts; Cadence Stephens 2nd place LA; Spencer Wills 4th place LA. 2/7/11 Results: Science- Nate Rickman 1st place, Cadence Stephens and Kiara Chapman tied for 3rd place, Payton Scott 4th place Arts and Humanities; Nate Rickman 2nd place Math; Payton Scott 1st place LA.

Crabbe Third Graders Accelerate Past Reading Goals!

Ms. Clemons' Class has been off and reading this year. We have been working on Accelerated Reading goals all year. We currently have 1,354.2 AR points for the year. Hayleigh Buckler has 157.8 points, and Makayla Skeans has 159.2 points. We have learned to pick books within our zone of proximal development and watch keeping our accuracy at 85% or higher. Our class goal is to reach 2,000 points by the end of the year.



Today In Speech News—Everything Sounding Good

This school year has gone well in speech. Thanks to all of the students who have practiced their sounds, words, and sentences. We have had many speech students graduate this year!! That is great. Thanks to all of the parents who have come to meetings, called for information, and helped their child at home. It really makes a big difference with their progress. Continue to practice with your child when you hear a sound, word, or sentence that is not said correctly.

Crabbe First Graders Study Weather

Ms. Bare's 1st grade class has been studying about weather with Ms. Ally Boyd, student teacher from Pikeville College. She will be doing her student teaching at Crabbe in Ms. Bare's class until May. Students have been learning all about the water cycle, clouds, and types of weather by doing many different fun activities and experiments. We are very thankful to have a great student teacher like Ms. Ally!

Hager Elementary School



Hager Student Council held its 6th annual "Open Your Heart Drive" during the first two weeks of February. All donations were given to King's Daughter's Hospitality House. They had the greatest donation

yet with a donation of around 2,000 items! The classrooms competed for a pizza party; Mrs. Mahanna's class won. Student Council would like to thank all of the parents who gave so generously. We also want to thank Wal-Mart for its donation of a \$100 gift card and CVS's donation of 50 hand sanitizing gels.

McKenzie Smith, a Hager fourth grade student, won 2nd place in the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. essay contest. The theme was "Build a Vocal Community for Today and Tomorrow." She was presented with a \$50 US Savings Bond and a certificate at the ceremony on January 17, 2011.

Justin Bradley, a third grade student at Hager, went to Frankfort this weekend to compete in the Elks Hoop Shoot state competition. He won and now gets to go to Paris, TN, March 11 - 12. Good Luck, Justin!

Hager would like to recognize Molly Baldock and Wesley Gibbs who recently participated in the local theater production *Once Upon a Mattress* at PAC.



Hager kindergarten classes learned about the importance of leadership as they studied Abraham Lincoln and George Washington. The students created a Venn diagram to compare and contrast the characteristics of these two great presidents. Students also estimated how many drops of water will sit on a penny and what household substances clean coins best. Vinegar/salt worked best, but ketchup/salt was a close second! Lastly, the students wrote special letters to place in top hats, just as Abe Lincoln did!

First grade will begin working on simple machines beginning in March. We are excited to learn about pulleys, wheels and axels, incline planes, and levers. The students will complete the unit by creating leprechaun traps out of simple machines. They will present their traps to the class. Before we go home, we will set the traps in hopes of catching the leprechaun. Good luck, First Graders!

Students in second grade have been studying maps, grids, and globes. Each student used his/her individual globes to locate oceans, continents, north and south poles, equator, longitude and latitudes lines. We



have also focused on Black History Month, studying famous Black Americans. Students examined the life of Harriett Tubman and the Underground Railroad.

Third grade social studies classes will be making land-feature accordion booklets. They will also create three-dimensional relief maps of the Earth's surface. In addition, they will utilize the Internet in an interactive project to explore different regions of the Earth.

Hager's fourth grade students have been learning to play the recorder, using the Karate Recorder Method. Students accomplish levels by learning songs. The first student in Mrs. Buckley's class to achieve the top level (Black Belt) is Parker Clarke. Mrs. Walter's class has a three-way tie. The students in her class to first achieve Black Belt status are Kylie Rhoton, Emma Spade, and BreAnn Stevens.

Miss Holbrook's and Mrs. Keener's fifth grade classes completed projects about the Revolutionary War. We traveled back in time as journalists to create news scripts, songs, map battles, reports, and 3-D models! By the end of the unit, they were all Revolutionary War experts!

Students enjoy using the smart board during Response to Intervention math in both sixth grade classrooms of Mrs. Vance and Mrs. Jackson. Making use of the board makes learning fun and easier to understand.



Oakview Elementary School



Principal Nancy McHenry is giving the Lunch Ladies a cake on their inspection of 100%, from the Boyd County Health Department. Congratulations, ladies, you are the best!



5th & 6th grade students across the district wrote DAR essays entitled "Memoirs of Paul Revere." This year Oakview had two winners. 5th grader Chase Villers and 6th grader Anne Burchett. Congratulations!



Congratulations to the boys and girls for raising over 1800 dollars for the American Heart Association by participating in the "Jump Rope for Heart" event, held from Feb 7th -11th in Mr. Harris's gym classes. Congratulations to Bailey Grubb for raising the most money (\$365)! The American Heart Association thanks all of the children who participated in this event!

American Idol has nothing on Oakview. Our multitalented students showed their range of strengths from music to magic.



Congratulations to Shelby Conley, Oakview 6th grade student, for qualifying in the Middle School State Governors Cup finals in arts and humanities.

Congratulations to Ethan Swann 2nd, MacKenzie Kestner 2nd, MacKenzie Clere 3rd, Laney Kouns 3rd, Andrea Conley 3rd, and Ehan Hudson 3rd for finishing all of 16 lessons on Paws. Good Job!

Congratulations to Carlie Geyer 6th, Caleb Geyer, 6th and Madison Ratliff for finishing all 25 lessons in Type To Learn 3. Good Job!

Ms. Swann 2nd Grade

- * To celebrate 100 days of school, students drew self-portraits of what they thought they would look like when they turn 100 years old. Students wrote a short description of things they would or would not be able to do.



- * Students created personalized hearts to display in the hallway in celebration of Valentine's Day. Heading of the display read "Ms. Swann's 2nd grade is working their Heart's Out!"
- * Students will be decorating a personalized kite to display in hallway to welcome the month of March. Heading is-"Ms. Swann's 2nd grade is Flying High!"

Oakview's Jr. Beta Club has been quite busy. During the month of February, club members have sold "Pampered Chef" and coupon books from Elder-Beerman. Proceeds from both fundraisers were donated to AARF (Ashland Animal Recue Fund.)

On March 2, Jr. Beta students participated in Read Across America Day. Jr. Beta members read to classrooms and gave each child a Dr. Seuss bookmark of his/her own.

Jr. Beta has several other events planned for the spring. We are proud of our club members!

Oakview's 6th grade academic team competed in The Kentucky Colonels' 6th Grade Showcase at Russell Middle School where they took first place in quick recall over Russell Middle School, Wurtland Middle School, Boyd County Middle School, McKell Middle School, and Charles Russell Elementary. The team includes Emily Hollingsworth, Tate Dowdy, Madison Ratliff, Cassandra Menshouse, and Shelby Conley.

Several students also placed in written assessment events. In math, Cassandra Menshouse and Emily Hollingsworth tied for fourth place. In language arts, Shelby Conley placed first. In science, Madison Ratliff placed fifth, and Madisyn Selby placed 6th. In social studies, Carlie Geyer placed 6th. In arts and humanities, Shelby Conley placed first, and Madison Ratliff placed fourth. In composition, Anne Burchett placed third, and Madeline Tipton placed fourth.

Oakview Elementary won second place overall in the competition. Congratulations to all those winners!



Poage Elementary School

Kindergarten

Mrs. McLain's and Mrs. Moore's kindergarten students celebrated the 100th day of school in style. The day's activities all revolved around the number 100. Both classes got together with their criss – cross partners to complete many activities including making 100 piece necklaces, trail mix, etc. We have also been learning about Arctic animals, winter, and presidents. Kindergarten is truly an exciting place to be!!!



1st Grade-Cooper

Mrs. Cooper's 1st graders have been working non-stop this winter. We've traveled to the North and South Poles while learning about Arctic animals and their habitats. Next year we are going to recruit a polar bear for our basketball team since they can stand 10 feet tall!

Did you know that your heart is about the size of your fist? This is just one of many facts we learned while studying about the human body. Valentine's Day is a great time to let our friends know how much we like them, but we found out it's also the perfect day for practicing our math skills with CANDY! We used conversation hearts and candy kisses to practice our graphing, measurement, addition, subtraction and estimation skills. Of course, the best part came at the end of the math lessons when we ate the candy! We can't wait to see what the spring months have in store for our class. We think we might head on down and visit some warmer climates near the equator and the shores over the next few months.

1st Grade-Norris

Ms. Norris' 1st grade class loves to play games, especially ones where they get to learn while they play! The last couple of months, Friday centers have become game days. The students love to play "Candy Land: Sight Words Edition." It is played just like the board game Candy Land, but the students have to read the Sight Word on the cards before they can move their game piece. We also practice vocabulary words with "Don't Break the Ice: Vocabulary." Students draw a card with a definition and then find the



vocabulary word on the ice that matches and knock it down. We even have "Chutes and Ladders: Addition and Subtraction." Students have to correctly answer an addition or subtraction fact before they can move the number of spaces they have spun. Our new games prove learning really is fun!

2nd Grade

The second grade class has been busy learning about the Solar System. They enjoyed becoming part of the demonstration of "rotation" and "revolution." We made craters using flour and objects of different sizes. To conclude we read Postcards from Pluto by Loreen Leedy. After completing our research on the planets, we wrote friendly letters to earthlings as if they were creatures living on other planets.

Third Grade

Poage Elementary students supported their troops by collecting and organizing care packages for soldiers in Afghanistan and Iraq. The children sent letters and photos as well to let the soldiers know how much they appreciate their heroic deeds.

Fourth Grade



Article by: Savanah Gifford

Rain! Rain! In Mrs. Damron's exciting fourth grade, we made it rain! No, I'm not talking about making it rain outside but inside. Before you say I'm crazy, it was an experiment. First, we took a boiler and turned it on and set a pot of water on it. Then, we took a stack of books about the same height as the boiler and the pot on top of each other; we got a tray and put two cups of ice on it. Then we set the tray evenly on top of the books and the boiling pot. Before we knew it, we saw EVAPORATION, CONDENSATION, and wait for it PRECIPITATION!

Fifth & Sixth Grade

Sixty-eight people showed up at Poage Elementary, Saturday, February 19 to give blood in honor of Kaelyn Wellman. 6th grade students have been studying the circulatory system by doing inquiry activities and listening to resource people



from the community about the heart and blood. They have "walked" through a heart, tested simulated blood, and dissected hearts.

5th graders at Poage have done inquiry activities with roller coasters and simple machines to prepare themselves for the Poage Metric 500. It will be held in March. Students design the cars themselves, and the Blazer shop class helps cut them out. Newton's Laws and metric measurement are taught during this unit.

Poage 5th grade students learned how the digestive system works and did a simulation of food passing through by way of peristalsis push. Andrea Cox came to the classroom to discuss the importance of your teeth as the first part of digestion. She gave each student toothpaste as well as floss and educated the students on proper use and oral hygiene.



4th-6th graders at Poage are ready for their Noon Ball tournament. Teams have been preparing during the winter months with "regular season" games. The single elimination tournament has begun, and students are anxiously awaiting the results!

Charles Russell Elementary School



Academic Team Meet Winners-At Greysbranch 12/13 were: Abby Crites-1st, Hattie Killin-2nd, Makenzie Lucas-3rd/Arts & Humanities; Zach Stafford-1st, Robbie Francis-3rd/Math; Blaine Collins-1st, Ema-Leigh Forbes, Robbie Francis-3rd, Brianna Lambert-5th/Science; Zach Stafford, Chase Goodrich-3rd, Abby Crites-4th/Social Studies; Zach Stafford-1st, Jake Damron-2nd, Kaitlyn Lee-3rd, Olivia Allen-4th/Language Arts; Quick Recall 2-wins. At Crabbe 1/24 were: Makenzie Lucas-1st, Jaden Stevens-3rd, Hattie Killin-4th/Arts & Humanities; Jake Damron, Chase Goodrich-5th/Language Arts; Braedon Ward, Zach Greene-2nd, Chase Goodrich, Abby Crites-4th/Social Studies; Robbie Francis-2nd, Blaine Collins-3rd, Brianna Lambert-4th/Science; Robbie Francis-1st, Makenzie Lucas-2nd, Braedon Ward-3rd, Joe Sewell-4th/Math; Quick Recall 1-win & 1-loss. At Worthington 2/7 were: Brianna Lambert-1st, Jake Damron-2nd, Ema-Leigh Forbes, Robbie Francis-3rd/Science; Zach Francis-1st, Kaitlyn Lee, Jake Damron-4th/Language Arts; Robbie Francis-2nd, Zach Stafford-5th/Math; Hattie Killin-5th/Arts & Humanities; Quick Recall 2-wins.

Jr. Beta Club Officers-These CRS students were elected as Jr. Beta Club officers: Sami Taylor-President, Blake Rogers-Vice President, Mycah Miller-Secretary, Amy Moore/Andrew York-Co-Treasurers, and Abby Crites-5th Grade Representative.

Local Dramatic Performers-Several CRS students participated in the ACTC Theatre's *Once Upon a Mattress* (children's version) based upon the fairy tale *Princess and a Pea* Feb 17-20: 6th grader-Sami Taylor as Lady Beatrice; 5th grader-Hannah Staggs; 4th graders-Jaden and Raegan Stevens, and 3rd grader-Ashleigh Taylor, all as Ladies.

Valentine's Dance Court-6th graders: King-Gage Rhoden and Queen-Koriah Taylor; Court-Shaylyn Caldwell, Sidney Campbell, Sydney Jackson, Kylie Thomas, and Kierra Toppings, Cody Blevins, Elijah Keaton, Noah Roberts, Austin Tackett, and Cody Thompson.



Volcano Experiment-On January 10th, Amanda Hood's 4th grade science classes did an experiment on volcanoes. They used: baking soda, tops of a two-liter bottle, paper bowls and cups, dish soap, vinegar, water, and food coloring. After combining all the ingredients, one held the top in place, another poured in the baking soda water; it should explode.

Math Maniac Show-On December 9th a math genius named "Max Millions" came to CRS to teach all the students about math. His favorite number is zero because it's worth a lot when it seems like it isn't. When it comes to money place value is very important. Max showed how easy fractions can be. After the show, in my interview with Max he told me CRS was his favorite school, especially 4th grade and his favorite fraction is $1/3$.

Harmonica Concert-

Mrs. Joanne Reinhard, 5/6 art instructional assistant, has been teaching harmonica classes every Friday to 5th grade students: Ema-Leigh Forbes, Madelyn Hamilton, Carrina Hensley, Ivy Hobbs, Bentley Meade, Shelbi Owens, Baylei Park, Austin Perkins, and Tyler Williams. The students performed for their classes, parents, and teachers in December.



Working with Clay-Mrs. Joanne

Reinhard's 5th and 6th grade classes worked with clay in December. The 5th grade students made pottery while the 6th grade students sculpted gargoyles. The finished works were displayed in the front hall for all to see. Pictured is Sidney Campbell's gargoyle.



Tea Party-In Sheila Meade's 2nd grade library classes, the students have been studying folk tales from around the world. They read a book called *Cloud Tea Monkeys*. They celebrated their study with a tea tasting party. Some of the tea flavors were: caramel, vanilla, cinnamon, and raspberry. While drinking their tea, they watched the movie *Alice in Wonderland*. -Jake Damron

Podcasting-Second Grade students in Carolyn King's classroom created two podcasts to describe the process of solving an addition and subtraction problem using bar models. Working together, students imported digital pictures showing each step. Then students created and edited an audio recording to verbally describe each of the steps. They added transitions and music to complete the projects. The podcasts can be viewed on the math page of Mrs. King's classroom website.



The Buddy Files-After reading a mystery series of books called *The Buddy Files*, 2nd graders in Carolyn King's classroom had a lot of questions: How did the author think of all the things that she wrote about? Why was the 3rd book so sad? Why does the biggest dog have the name "Mouse" and the loudest voice (written in all caps)? The students are excitedly waiting for the author, Dori Butler, to participate in a Skype visit soon.

Verity Middle School

Verity's Future Problem Solving Team won 1st place in the District Governor's Cup. Congratulations to Taylor Donahoe, Tristan Kennard, Madison Howard, and Alex Lebrun.

Verity's Family Career and Community Leaders of America won 1st place in three separate categories for S.T.A.R. Events and will compete on the state level in Louisville. Gabbie Ingram and Kaitlyn Stevens--Focus on Children, Nikki Kumar--Illustrated Talk, and Destiny Unrue--Applied Technology

Chain Links sponsored "Random Acts Of Kindness" Week at Verity. They decorated doors and lockers with positive messages. They even catered lunch for the cafeteria staff. Students and staff were recognized throughout the week for performing acts of kindness.

Thanks to the many community businesses who made donations to help support this program.

Verity has a new four-legged staff member named Izzie. Izzie is the classroom social dog in Mrs. Tackett's room. Izzie is there to help students learn responsibility, learn to be more outgoing, and improve their social skills. Mrs. Tackett's students will be taking Izzie on the road to visit places such as elementary schools and nursing homes. Izzie will be performing the tricks the student have taught him.

During "Ethnic Week" in foods class, the students prepared Levanese peasant salad, Israeli egg and tomato scramble, Turkish baklava, Indian lassi, and Chinese water chestnuts.

Alex Donalson was invited to the governor's mansion for placing 2nd in the state poster contest for the state highway department.

Rachel Gould was selected as a cyber reporter for the STLP State Championships in Rupp Arena this coming May. Rachel will find something of interest at the championships, prepare an article, and the article will be included in the STLP Cyber Gazette that will be available on a statewide basis.



Verity's Spanish Club members display a craft they made during Patriot Period*. The craft is called Ojo de Dios (Eye of God which is similar to a dream catcher)

*Patriot Period is new at Verity this school year. It meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays for forty minutes and allows students additional time to study in areas of interest or gives students more time to help them master core subjects.

The Verity 7th grade boys basketball team opened the season by winning East Carter OVC Preseason Tournament. The boys took 3rd in the OVC; their league record was 8-5 and 19-7 overall. They had a great year and are looking forward to next season.



Verity's Math Counts Team placed first in the February 18th area competition. Team members were Cameron Garner, Jason Zheng, Zach Hall, and Jacob Porter. Cameron Garner was the First Place finisher in the countdown round and 4th place overall.

Grant Krueger won the regional wrestling title in his weight class. Wyatt Kirk finished fourth in his weight class. Both wrestlers qualified for state competition.

Verity's 2nd quarter AAA Club was announced, and 244 students qualified. Students are recognized quarterly for academics, attendance, and attitude. A picture of each member of the AAA Club is placed in the front hallway of the school.

The 8th grade boys basketball season came to a heartbreaking conclusion in the OVC tournament with a 47-46 overtime loss on a last-second shot to rival Boyd County. The 8th graders finished the season with a 14-12 record, including impressive victories over Boyd, Fleming, and Rowan County(s). Nick Miller and Trent Woods were named to the OVC All-Conference team.

Each week at Verity, two students and a staff member are recognized as Patriots of the Week. All Patriots of the Week have their picture displayed in a place of honor, their names are placed on the marquee in front of Verity, and they receive other rewards.

Congratulations to Verity's Governor's Cup Team for its showing in the 18th Regional Tournament on February 5th. Individual student testers scoring in the top 5 in the subject area assessments and advancing to the state finals in Lexington are: Rex Gonzales 3rd Place—Social Studies, Shelby Conley (Oakview 6th Grade) 5th Place—Arts & Humanities, Shelby Street 4th Place—Arts & Humanities, 1st Place—Social Studies, Cameron Garner 1st Place—Mathematics Additionally, Cameron Garner and Rex Gonzales will be advancing in Science for scoring 40 or higher out of 50 on that test. The Quick Recall Team finished in 2nd place from a field of 8 teams and will be advancing to the state finals as well. The team finished with a thrilling run after taking Russell Middle to a tie-breaking match to end the tournament in the 7th Round. Good luck to all of these students at the state finals on March 13 & 14.

KMEA District 8 All District Chorus students—Marshall Heath, Dylan Blevins, Geoffrey Bennett, Brooke Cochran, Korrina Shortt, Kessewaah Amo Mensah, Diane Stapleton, and Audrey Vance.

Verity is hosting a Career Fair on March 25th during the school day. The Career Fair will collaborate along side the Reality Store. Local businesses will provide information to help students understand what is required to obtain and hold work positions. Local colleges will provide information on requirements for admission and what programs are offered there. Contact Carrie Hollar for more information at 606-327-2727 during school hours or by email at carrie.hollar@ashland.kyschools.us.

Paul Blazer High School

The football team manned the Salvation Army kettle for two days over Christmas break outside of Wal-Mart Dec. 20 and 21. It was the 5th year that the team has done this project with over 60 young men involved over the two-day period.



Mrs. Chapman's advanced art class and the art club participated in a project called "Empty Bowls" to help the Ashland Community Kitchen. Students produced 100 bowls that will be fired and glazed and donated to the Community Kitchen in late March. The Kitchen

will then host a luncheon in April where the bowls will be bought and the proceeds will go towards the financial needs of the kitchen.

Student Council was in charge of the annual River Cities Harvest Food Feud. 3000 plus cans of food were collected here and at the other schools.

Student Council gave Christmas goody bags to the faculty and staff. Members are now collecting donations for cystic fibrosis through the selling of spirit chains. Spirit chain links are counted and the winning class wins \$50.00.

Congratulations to Trent Hardy for finishing as state runner-up for wrestling in the 215-lb weight class! The loss in the finals was Trent's only loss of the season.

Congratulations to Emily Salyers, Stephen Corbitt, and Taylor Adams for qualifying for the state academic meet in their individual testing areas and to our quick recall team that finished third in the region, losing in a heart-breaker to West Carter to advance to the finals.



Mrs. Hieneman's Biology II classes and Mrs. Bias' AP Biology classes were awarded the DuPont Grant. With this grant, the classes were able to purchase a Gel Electrophoresis machine and the supplies required to complete the lab. Genetics and molecular biology are two fields that are rapidly growing. In order to prepare our students for biology-related STEM careers. They need to have exposure to

basic DNA analysis techniques such as gel electrophoresis. The five classes have started working on this lab. The completed project will be finished in late March or early April. The students will participate in the AEG Mall Exhibit at the Ashland Town Center Mall on May 7, 2011. Progress of the lab and the grant will also be displayed in the Daily Independent sometime in the upcoming months.



Cisco Academy at Blazer would like to thank Mr. Brian Rodehaver, Senior Network Analyst at Bellefonte Hospital. Last year, Mr. Rodehaver orchestrated a generous donation of networking equipment to the Ashland Blazer Cisco Academy to be



used by Academy students working toward possible career paths in the information technology field. Mr. Rodehaver has been a supporter of the Cisco Academy at Ashland Blazer for the last 7-8 years and continues to offer his help when time allows. The equipment donation will allow students to have "hands-on experience" with many of the same pieces of equipment being used on a large scale to manage network systems around the world. So again, this is a "BIG THANK YOU" to Mr. Brian Rodehaver and Bellefonte Hospital for caring about our students here at the Blazer Cisco Academy. For more information on Ashland Blazers' Cisco Academy, visit the website below or contact James Pennington at the following e-mail address: james.pennington@ashland.kyschools.us.

<http://www.cisco.com/web/learning/netacad/index.html>



The archer in the photo is competition team member, Emily Salyers. She is a senior at Blazer. Ashland Independent School District's first archery team, The Blazing Arrows, started this year by Jill Smith, Daris Duncan, and John Shelton. The archers practice 4-6pm Mondays and Wednesdays at the KYOVA Mall, with the competition team practicing 4-6pm on Fridays. The mall is generously allowing the team to practice in an empty space, free of charge to all

Blazer High School students. Equipment was purchased with money awarded from a grant. The competition team is comprised of 24 archers who exhibit sound, consistent archery skills, attend practice regularly, and are in good academic standing. Regionals will be March 12 at Boyd County Middle School. Blazing Arrows members were given team shirts by the school district. The t-shirt design was inspired by several team archers and was drawn up by Blazer High School senior student, Cody Good.

March is National Athletic Training Month.

Ashland has had an athletic trainer on staff and a sports medicine program for 34 years. AJ "Doc" Stadelmeyer MA, ATC is our current Ashland athletic trainer. In March our sports medicine class at Blazer will be holding an in-class sports medicine contest to see who the most skilled student athletic trainer is at Blazer.

The Kittens' record is 22-4, undefeated in the district for the season. Mykal Farris, Julia Heaberlin, and Kaylyn Gambill made the Eastern Ky. All-Stars.

District News

Testing Time!

Richard Oppenheimer, Director of Student Achievement

Spring is almost here, and that means state testing is right around the corner. In late April, sophomores and juniors at the high school and all students in grades three through eight participate in something called the Kentucky Core Content Test (KCCT). Tests include reading, math, science, and social studies and will consist of multiple choice and open response questions (requires more than just a short answer). Not all grades will take all of the tests. See the chart below to find out what is tested in your child's grade.

An on-demand writing test will also be given in select grades and involves responding in essay form to a problem or situation.

After completion of the KCCT, students in grades three through seven will take the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS). This test covers reading and mathematics and is used to compare our students' progress to students around the country.

Once we receive the results of the tests, the district and schools will use the data to determine how well we are doing in preparing your children for college and career readiness. We will find strengths and weaknesses and make plans for improvements. For this reason, it is very important that we get accurate information and ask that you encourage your children to give their best effort on these tests!

If you need more information or have questions about testing, please call me, Richard Oppenheimer, at 327-2706 or contact your child's school counselor.

Grade	Spring Tests
3	KCCT - Reading and Mathematics; ITBS - Reading and Mathematics
4	KCCT - Reading, Mathematics, and Science; ITBS - Reading and Mathematics
5	KCCT - Reading, Mathematics, Social Studies, and On-Demand Writing ITBS - Reading and Mathematics
6	KCCT - Reading and Mathematics; ITBS - Reading and Mathematics
7	KCCT - Reading, Mathematics and Science; ITBS - Reading and Mathematics
8	KCCT - Reading, Mathematics, Social Studies, and On-Demand Writing
10	KCCT - Reading
11	KCCT - Math, Science and Social Studies; ACT

Lea Foudray and Jordan Boston's art classes at Charles Russell, Oakview, and Verity participated in the Boyd County Public Library's annual Hands that Touch a Heart program.



National School Social Worker Month

Shawn Crump, District Social Worker

March is **National School Social Worker month**. With this in mind the Ashland Independent School District would like to recognize our seven school social workers: Shawn Crump, Cheri Dilego, Krista Payne, Danna Baer, Geri Willis, Chris Sloan, and Jeannie Stafford.

The services provided by the team include a broad list of roles in the district. Some of these roles include individual and group counseling, case management, home visits, referrals to other workers and agencies, prevention programs and services, grief services, and any other services needed to meet the emotional or physical needs of our children within the district. If you see any of these workers out in your schools, wish them a happy National School Social Workers month in March and let them know how much you appreciate the hard work they do. If you have any questions on services provided, you can contact our Central Office at 327-2706.

"Get Caught Being Good"!

Joanna Berner, Safe Schools/Healthy Students

Crabbe Elementary has started an eight week program called "Lunch with a Cop – Get Caught Being Good!" Each Friday over the eight week period one student from each classroom who has good behavior, good attendance, and a good attitude will be treated to a special lunch with either D.A.R.E. officer Simpson or School Resource Officer

Menefee. At the end of the eight weeks all the students who have had good behavior, good attendance, and a good attitude will get to go on a special field trip. As part of the *Safe Schools/Healthy Students* Initiative, the Ashland Independent

School District is proud of the close partnership with the Ashland Police Department and offers this program not only to reward our students who exhibit positive behavior but to enhance the relationship between our students and our police officers.



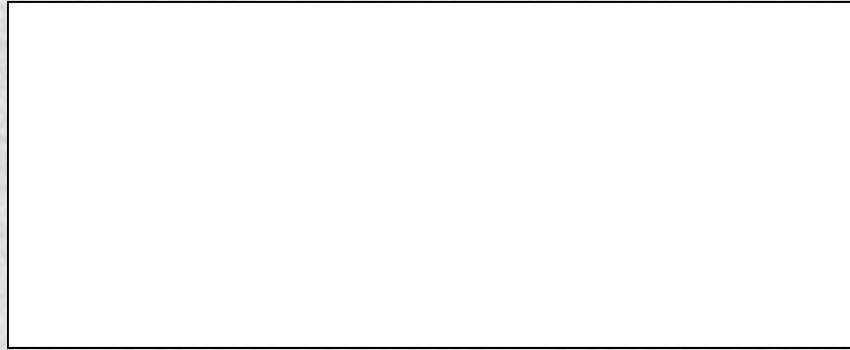


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Linda Calhoun, Hager Elementary School
Nancy McHenry, Oakview Elementary School
Bob Blankenship, Poage Elementary School
Steve Salyers, Charles Russell Elementary School
Jacqui Thornburg, Head Start Director

Central Office Personnel

Steve Gilmore, Superintendent
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Lisa Henson, Director of Student Services
Janice Ledford, District Consultant
Patsy Lindsey, Director of Pupil Personnel
Richard Oppenheimer, Director of Student Achievement
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Poage Elementary Students showing support for our troops!

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