

# FOCUS

## Ashland Independent Schools

### ACADEMIC ACCOLADES ABOUND!!!!

In the world of academic competition, the State Governor's Cup Finals are the culminating competition for the high school and middle school; whereas, the elementary schools finalize their seasons at Regional Governor's Cup.

The Blazer Academic Team had another outstanding season. The team gave an exceptional performance at the KAAC Governor's Cup State Finals in Louisville. The quick recall team came into the "Sweet 16" as a two seed after wins over Muhlenburg County and Paducah Tilghman. The team played phenomenally against Dixie Heights to move on to the "Elite 8" where they lost to the eventual state champs, DuPont Manual. The members of the quick recall team were Stephen Corbitt, Aryssa Damron, Cameron Garner, Jason Zheng, Hannah Wade, Kyle Conley, Shelby Street, Doug Mollett, and Shannon Cook. Several of Blazer's written assessment testers had noteworthy performances. Aryssa Damron placed 6<sup>th</sup> in the state in language arts, Stephen Corbett placed 10<sup>th</sup> statewide in social studies, and Cameron Garner was 11<sup>th</sup> in arts and humanities.



The road to State Governor's Cup is a long and hard-fought road. The Quick Recall team won the district by defeating Fairview High School 52-3 to move on to regionals where they lost in a tie-breaker to Russell but moved on to state. The team took 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in all 5 testing areas at district. Stephen Corbitt was 1<sup>st</sup> in social studies and 3<sup>rd</sup> in arts and humanities at regionals. Cameron Garner was 2<sup>nd</sup> in math, Johathan Dingess was 5<sup>th</sup> in math, Shelby Street 5<sup>th</sup> in social studies, Jason Zheng 5<sup>th</sup> in science, and Hannah Wade 4<sup>th</sup> in science.. Overall Blazer placed 10<sup>th</sup> in the state out of 200 high schools that compete in the state finals. Coach Eric Lambert is already making plans for summer practices and competitions.



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# District News

Verity had a stellar academic season as well. At District Governor's Cup Verity won first place in every category. They went on to regionals with wins in arts and humanities-1<sup>st</sup> Wren Jenkins and 3<sup>rd</sup> Dawson Coovert, science-2<sup>nd</sup> Nate Rickman and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wren Jenkins, math—3<sup>rd</sup> Zach Stafford, and social Studies-3<sup>rd</sup> Dawson Coovert. The quick recall team advanced to state and won its pool, posting wins over North Oldham and North Laurel. They advanced to the "Sweet 16" and defeated Edmonson County before losing to the eventual state champs, Meyzeek Middle School. Members of the team were Wren Jenkins, Zach Stafford, Nate Rickman, Dawson Coovert, William Zheng, Isaac Vinson, Will Fisher, Mackenzie Clere, and Julia Clere. One of the highlights of the state finals was a first place for Wren Jenkins in arts and humanities written assessment-OUTSTANDING!!!! Overall, the team finished 6<sup>th</sup> in the state out of 243 middle school teams. Coaches Dan Boyer and Tonya Brady are proud of the team's accomplishments this year.

The culminating academic event for elementary is the regional tournament. Ashland students represented their schools well. Winners were: arts and

humanities-5th Jordi Pullem Hager, written composition-4th Gwen Akers and 5th Mimi Moore Charles Russell, math-1st Luke Skaggs Hager and 5th Noah Carey Charles Russell, science-5th Ethan Swann Oakview, and language arts-4th



Adrianna Riggs Crabbe. Hager was 2nd in quick recall and 4th in future problem solving (FPS).

Charles Russell

was 3rd in FPS. The final standings of all schools competing placed Hager 3rd and Charles Russell 8th. Hager's FPS and quick recall team members were Jack Latherow, Luke Skaggs, Caleb Tackett, Connor Calhoun, Jackson Foutch, Thomas Skaggs, Philip Richmond, Jordi Pullem, Abby Zornes, Caroline Caudill, Camryn Patrick, Emma Latherow, and Joslin Wireman. Members of the Charles Russell FPS team were Mimi Moore, Hannah Greene, Spencer Greene, and Jocelyn Damron.

Congratulations to every student who participated in academic competition this year. Many hours of practice are required to meet with the success achieved by all of Ashland's academic teams. The coaches are also to be commended for their leadership and tireless effort.





# Ashland Head Start

On March 11, 2014, our district completed the second round of the Toyota Bornelearning Academy. This year's sponsors were Toyota and United Way of Northeast Kentucky. Hats off to the following Head Start parents who participated and graduated from the academy:

Belinda Young

My linda Jones

Patricia Caudill

Judy Howard

Krista Lardner

And two Former Head Start Parents—  
Courtney Thomas and Lynette Thomas

Congratulations to all of you!!!!

Mrs. Steele's classroom received an Area Education Grant for the 2013-2014 school year. We used the grant to purchase items to improve our Dramatic Play area in the classroom. We purchased items to make a bakery, pizza shop, grocery store, construction site, and sporting goods store. The children are currently using our baking items for our bakery and they have really enjoyed it! The Dramatic Play area is now one of the first areas that the children choose to go to. We are so thankful to have all of our new materials!

CHOOSY CATS ARE HEALTHY CATS



With the Area  
have been able

Moving, I Am Learning (IMIL.) It is a proactive approach for addressing childhood obesity in Head Start children. IMIL seeks to increase moderate to vigorous physical activity every day, improve the quality of movement activities intentionally planned and facilitated by adults, and promote healthy food choices every day. Choosy is a great character. He is a health hero. Choosy is a great character that young children can easily relate to. The "Meet Choosy" DVD has Choosy's favorite songs filled with photos and animation. Children love watching and listening to the DVD. It is also a good way to introduce Choosy to children and families. The DVD, "Move Me", is ideal for staff development for early educators, and for parents who want more information about developing healthy, active children.

Education Grant we  
to provide I Am



Ms. Nancy's Class

Our new study is buildings. We have been learning how buildings are built. The students have been enjoying this study by making buildings of their own out of classroom items in our room such

as blocks, dominoes, Legos, books, etc. After the students build their buildings in the room, we measure them and then see if they are strong or a weak building. The students are also getting to learn about the different buildings in our community again such as post office, schools, stores, etc.

Mrs. Whitts class is studying buildings. The class has been measuring how tall their buildings are, discussing what types of buildings they make, and showing their buildings off to friends and teachers.

Mrs. Steele's class has started a new study about recycling! We have learned about the different things that can be recycled and how it helps our environment. The children have been bringing in recyclable items for our classroom to take to recycle. At the end of



our study the students are going to be given some recyclable items and construct a masterpiece with them! They are also going to write about what they made. The children love our Dramatic Play area in our classroom and right

now we have turned it into a bakery. There are aprons, chef hats, baking utensils, mixing bowls, and plastic bakery food items in our bakery. They are really enjoying getting to be bakers!

## 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 their child to exceed in school; a healthy child has the best chance of success. Head Start Children are given health packets for school registration. Your child's health packet will only be as current as the records we have on file. Your child should leave preschool with the kindergarten health requirements:

- Current immunizations
- Physical (dated within 12 months of school start date)
- Dental Exam (dated within 12 months of school start date)
- Vision Exam (was due by Jan. 1 of your child's first year in pre-school)

# Crabbe Elementary School

Say! Crabbe Kindergarteners **do like** Dr. Seuss books! We will read them here and there! We will read them anywhere! Kindergarten students have been reading, writing, and learning about the famous author Dr. Seuss. Not only have we graphed our favorite read aloud, but we have also chosen our individual favorites and written opinion pieces about them! So, hats off to Dr. Seuss!

In February, first grade students attended "The Ugly Ducking" & "The Tortoise and the Hare" performed by the Corbion/Lightware Theater at the Paramount Arts Center. Students greatly enjoyed the performance and were involved and interested the whole hour. The classical and pop music accompanying the performance was so entertaining. Mrs. Holderness discussed string instruments and the classical music heard during the performance. Students also wrote in their journals about their favorite characters and parts of the performance. The students can't wait to see another Lightware show!



First grade students had bright smiles after they were visited by dental hygienist Allison Webb from Dr. Franze's office. The students participated in hands-on activities to practice flossing and brushing their teeth. They made their own big smile craft and went home with a brand new toothbrush.



Mrs. Cole, the library media specialist, organized Crabbe Elementary first annual Shoebox Float Parade on Friday, March 7 to celebrate Read Across America and Dr. Seuss's birthday. All students were invited to make a

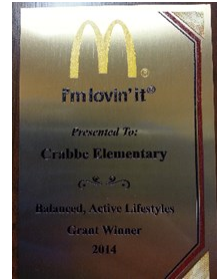
float that represented their favorite books or book characters. The Cat in the Hat led the 64 students who made floats through the hallway, passing out candy to the other students. The PTO generously provided Book Fair gifts certificates to the three floats that received the most votes from the staff.



Jurmain Sexton, Megan Stone, & Jake Ohler won third place in Crabbe Elementary's Science Fair with their project "Simple



Everyday Machines." On February 21 the students competed in the ACTC/FIVCO Area Science and Engineering Fair and won 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the category of engineering! Congratulations!



## Raising Money at Crabbe

Even though this was Mr. Davis' first year coordinating the annual Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser at Crabbe Elementary, he had high expectations. The students did not disappoint, resulting in over 55 participants and almost doubling the school's previous fundraising record with \$1,469! It is amazing to see how dedicated and caring Crabbe students are! Mr. Davis also won a \$500 Balanced, Active Lifestyles Grant from McDonalds. The money from this grant will be used to purchase new physical education equipment. Good things are continuing to happen at Crabbe Elementary!

## Grandparent Essay Contest

The fifth grade students at Crabbe Elementary had to write an essay answering the question "Why my grandparent should be the grandparent of the year?" After they were finished, Mrs. Janice Ledford read them and gave us a first and second place winner. Our first place medal went to Emily Weaver and second place went to Bradly Adkins. All the students did an excellent job and enjoyed sharing their grandparents with the rest of the school! By: Mrs. Minton



## Crabbe Young Bankers Club

The entire 5<sup>th</sup> grade class at Crabbe Elementary is participating in the Young Bankers Club (YBC) presented by Fifth Third Bank. The YBC is a financial literacy course that is designed to help students become more financially responsible. Each week the students learn about basics of money, including what it is and how people earn it, and the importance of saving and how education and career choices affect how much they will earn. Along with learning about money, the YBC also ties into 5 Common Core Standards such as number sense and operations, measurement, geometry, algebra, and data analysis. Each week the students are taught mathematical experiences about economics and personal finances as it relates to banking. Everything that the students learn from the YBC they will be able to apply to their own lives and their own financial future.



# Hager Elementary School



**Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Keener's classes** have started up their Reading Buddies for the year and they love it. To celebrate our great beginning, we even hosted a Teddy Bear Picnic when the kindergarteners were

learning about bears and hibernation. Students were able to bring in their favorite teddy bear or stuffed animal and read their books with them. We also compared our bears with a special writing, talking about what their bears had in common and how they were different. We wrapped up our picnic with special pictures to put onto the bulletin board with our bear comparison writings.

**Boyd County Winner** of the 2013-14 "Why my Grandparent should be the AARP Kentucky Grandparent of the Year" Essay contest was Camryn Patrick. The contest is sponsored by: AARP Kentucky & Kentucky Retired Teachers Association (KRTA). Her essay titled, "Best Mamaw", was about her grandmother Joyce Fulks.

**Hager's 5th grade** spent Friday, March 7 skyyping with famous author Tom Angleberger. He is the author of the Origami Yoda Series and many other books. The kids were enthralled with his energetic personality and his interest in their favorite things about school.



**Fourth grade students** attended the production of "FunKiKraKr" in December. This was a twist on the traditional ballet, "The Nutcracker." Our students enjoyed watching Emily Fields

perform as part of the Ashland Youth Ballet. In May, the fourth grade students will be taking a field trip to the Star Theater at Morehead State University where they will be viewing the following programs: "Earth, Moon, and Sun" and "Forces of Nature." They will also view "Tour of the Night Sky" showing students some of the constellations that will be visible that evening. In addition, laser-generated imagery will conclude the program. We are looking forward to this educational event.

**Third grade students** are participating in literacy centers focused on animal stories by Bill Peet. Students are also reading informational texts about animals and their habitats. As a culminating activity, they will choose an animal or a habitat to research for their informative pieces.

**On March 11**, Huntington Museum of Art came to visit Hager first graders. Students learned about color, shapes, lines, and texture in art. Ms. Linda showed the students pictures from the museum and conservatory. The students enjoyed their time with Ms. Linda and completing their own art piece. We look forward to seeing her on our visit to the museum later this school year.



**Mrs. Plummer's class** celebrated the 100th day of school with a wide variety of activities. The children wrote about items they would love to have 100 of AND things they would not want 100

of! We licked lollipops 100 licks to see if we could find the tootsie roll inside. Students walked 100 steps and we measured the distance. In the photo, some students stand proudly in front of paper plates in numerical order from 1-100!



# Oakview Elementary School



The Oakview Elementary PTO sponsored the Scripps National Spelling Bee this year. Each classroom conducted a spelling bee and winners then competed

against each other in a school wide bee. MacKenzie Clere, Oakview's winner, advanced to the local bee hosted by the University of Kentucky. Classroom winners were first grade: Alaina Lucas and Bonham Jax Buchannon. Second grade winners were Macy Bevins, Sam Hicks, and Ella Sellars. Third grade winners were Josh Daniels and James Eckard. Fourth grade winners were Matthew Edwards, Kaitlyn Hicks, and Sara Shytle. Fifth grade winners were Chrissy Brown, Katie Hutchison, and Russell Rogers. Sixth grade winners were MacKenzie, Kastin Hoffman, and Zach Jarrett. Congratulations to all our winners!!

We would like to congratulate 5th grader Ethan Swann, for being the city-wide DAR winner!!! We are very proud of you Ethan!!!

## First Grade

The first grade classes at Oakview had a visit from the Huntington Museum of Art on March 13. Ms. Linda taught a lesson on the elements of art, using a slide show of pictures taken at the museum. The students were taught about shape, texture, line, and color. After the lesson, Ms. Linda visited each first grade classroom where the students were able to create their own piece of art, using the elements that were taught in the lesson.

## Second Grade

First and second grades will be decorating tiles for the Mutt-i-gree program that they are learning about in the classrooms. These tiles will be auctioned off to help raise money for various community services. The Mutt-i-grees Curriculum is an innovative PreK-Grade 12 program that builds on children's affinity for animals and highlights the desirability of Mutt-i-grees or shelter pets. The goal of the curriculum is to enable children to grow up to be calm, confident, and caring. It has been implemented in more than 2,500 schools across the country and Canada. Oakview is very excited to have implemented this program in our school this year.

In addition to the Too Good For Drugs curriculum at Oakview Elementary, Coach Tackett had the Health Department come in and present the Tobacco Free Academy to all 4th and 6th grade students. The program presents the dangers of tobacco use to the students. The effects of tobacco, smokeless tobacco, and nicotine on the body were presented to students with examples and a power point presentation. Cathy Anderson and her staff talked to the students about the dangers of tobacco use and why students shouldn't pick up the habit. The information presented was in conjunction with the curriculum Coach Tackett presents in his guidance classes.



## Fifth Grade

This nine weeks has been full of snow days and classroom fun in the fifth grade! In science, students are doing hands-on activities to show what happens to light in different circumstances. We've made foldables, worked with mirrors and lenses, and studied the spectrum with prisms. In math, students are filling their brains full with information about fractions. We've solved equivalent fraction mysteries, learned how to double and triple our favorite recipes, and attacked those word problems with a hands-on approach! In social studies, we are currently studying about the Revolutionary War and "bringing them to life" with the help of a program called ChatterKid! In reading, all three classrooms have incorporated centers into their schedules! We have been focusing on two writing standards and two reading standards each week at our centers. We have worked with iPads, computers, task cards, IXL.com, Quizlet, leveled readers in addition to working one-on-one with our teachers!

## Sixth Grade

Over the past few weeks, sixth grade has been working on 4-H and D.A.R.E. projects. On Monday, March 24th, our students will be presenting their 4-H how-to-projects and competing for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places. That following Friday, students will be presenting their D.A.R.E. Essays to Officer Simpson. Again, these essays will be scored, and the top boy and girl from the sixth grade will be chosen to compete at regionals. Our students have been working really hard on these activities and we can't wait to see how well they do.



# Poage Elementary School

Poage **kindergarten** has been busy celebrating Read Across America with Dr. Seuss. We read several books like The Cat in the Hat and Horton Hears a Who. We ate green eggs and ham and made a variety of silly creatures from the books.



In honor of National Children's Dental Health month, **first grade** students spent a week learning about how to care for their teeth. To conclude the week long study, Dental Hygienist Autumn Lee and her sister Brandy Runyon spoke to the first grade students about ways to keep their teeth healthy. Poage's first graders are now proud to show off their pearly whites!



Students in Mrs. Anderson's **3rd grade** class participated in Renaissance Learning's "Read the Most Coast to Coast" on Friday, February 28, 2013. The goal of the day was to read as many books and pass as many AR quizzes as possible. Last year's record was 4,409,622 AR quizzes. This year's goal was 5 million AR quizzes. Students nationwide came up a little shy of this year's goal, but read and quizzed on a record breaking 4,987,949 books in one day!

Seventeen of Mrs. Anderson's 3rd grade students participated in the event. Those 17 students read and took AR quizzes on 296 books and passed 288 of those with 91% accuracy! It was a fun day in which students enjoyed relaxing with good books and healthy snacks. Record holders for the day were Olivia Richmond and Bryce Church, both of whom read and passed AR quizzes on 26 books! Congratulations to them and to all students who participated!



The **4th grade** class at Poage has been learning about the weather. Each child made a weather instrument out of common household materials. They are also practicing for a future career in meteorology by giving daily weather reports to the class.

## Music

"Recorder Karate" has begun here at Poage Elementary! 4th grade students are practicing diligently inside and outside of Mrs. Jackson's music class, attempting to conquer all 9 songs/levels to eventually earn their "black belts". Be on the lookout for these young musicians with multi-colored strings (belts) tied to their recorders! Ask them to serenade you; you'll be impressed!



The cat hasn't got our tongue when it comes to sharing idioms. **Fifth graders** were chomping at the bit when they found out how fun idioms could be! They were head over heels in love with our idiom art project. Although it wasn't a bed of roses, the project was pulled off by the students without a hitch. Our drawings depicted the literal meaning of the words, and we included the true gist of the idiom as well. The students realized their idioms were only a drop in the bucket when it comes to the plethora of idioms in the English language. To make a long story short, my students are the apple of my eye, and I am not pulling your leg when I tell you I couldn't be more proud of their work!



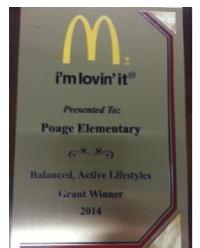
After mastering percents, **6th graders** at Poage were sent on an online shopping spree! They were challenged to spend no more than \$1,000 on only 8 items and were given coupons to help them with their purchases. The class enjoyed their shopping spree and practiced using percents in the real world.



## P.E.

Raising Money at Poage! It has been an eventful spring this year at Poage Elementary. Aside from the crazy winter weather, Poage students challenged themselves to

raise as much money as they could for the American Heart Association during this year's Jump Rope for Heart program. Not only did they deliver on that challenge, but they set a new record at Poage Elementary, raising \$2,139! Mr. Davis also won a \$500 Balanced, Active Lifestyles Grant from McDonalds which will go towards improving the school's physical education equipment. Hopefully it will warm up soon in preparation for track and field day!





# Charles Russell Elementary School



**Science Fair**—On February 7, the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes participated in a science fair. The winners for 5<sup>th</sup> grade were: 1<sup>st</sup>-Josh Thomas-Solar Oven; 2<sup>nd</sup>-Dalton Gray, Eli Aldridge, & Eli Miller-Electric Pickle; and 3<sup>rd</sup>-

Richard Runyon, Melanie Grimm, & Tyler Miller-Conductors. Sixth grade winners were: 1<sup>st</sup>-Maggie Thompson, Jessie Williams, & Felicity Elam-Shake It Up; 2<sup>nd</sup>-Zach Lee & Dakotah Forth-Left or Right; and 3<sup>rd</sup>-Cameron Marushi, Grant Kelley, & Zach Francis-Moovin with Milk. The overall winner was Spencer Gibbs-Strongest Building Shapes. These students won the opportunity to compete against students from other schools in the ACTC Regional Science Fair on Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup>. Spencer Gibbs won 1<sup>st</sup> place in the engineering category at ACTC. Good Job, gang!  
- Taylor York



**Civil War Presentation**—On the 28<sup>th</sup> of February, the 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes learned about the Civil War. Mr. Shawn Braden, Civil War re-enactor and CRS custodian, showed his Civil War collection and knowledge with the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students in a presentation in the library. He had Civil War-era military belts, uniforms, hats, medals, spoons, canteens, cups, and much more. He discussed many interesting facts about how the pieces were made and used and what life was like during the Civil War. At the end of his

presentation, he allowed the students to ask questions. There had to be at least fifty or more questions that they asked. The kids enjoyed learning about the Civil War and appreciated Mr. Braden sharing his knowledge with them.

-Paige Kelley & Gabby Talamantez



**Family Game Night**—Has your family ever had a family game night? Well, CRS had one school wide. It was on February 20 in the evening and hosted by the PTO in the school gym. They did it because they wanted you to just spend time with your family, get up out of the house and play a game to just have a little bit of fun. They set up some games in the gym like the limbo, twister, board games, and others. Parents spent quality time with their kids, and kids got to spend time with their friends. Everyone had FUN!!! - Elizabeth Davis & Gwen Akers



**Mask Making**—On February 27, Mrs. Hall's 6<sup>th</sup> grade learned to make Inca masks by watching a "how to" video. The masks had to look 3-dimensional. The materials we used were different colors of construction paper and glossy paper mosaic pieces, clear glue, and a white paper ready-made mask. First we bent the paper mask in the center to make the nose. Next we got pieces of construction paper or mosaic pieces in colors that we liked to make the eyelids, eye shadow, face paint, hair, beards, and glued them to the mask. They were all unique and very colorful. -Dakotah Forth & Terrick Smith



## Academic Team News—6<sup>th</sup> Grade Showcase 12/7 @

Louisa: Arts/Humanities-Ashleigh Taylor-5<sup>th</sup> place; Math-Grant Kelley-2<sup>nd</sup> place; Writer's Comp.-Maggie Thompson-2<sup>nd</sup> place.

The team was 5<sup>th</sup> overall. Other team members included: Anna Heineman, Miguel Talamantez, Zach Francis, Zachary Lee, Gabby Talamantez, and Paige Kelley.; Meet 1/13 @ CRS. Social Studies: 5<sup>th</sup>-Kaythan Baer; Lang. Arts: 3<sup>rd</sup>-Eli Campbell, 4<sup>th</sup>-Taylor Hamilton, 5<sup>th</sup>-Hope Harris; Science: 1<sup>st</sup>-Melanie Grimm, 4<sup>th</sup>-Dalton Gray; Arts/Human.: 3<sup>rd</sup>-Willow Triplett; Math: 4<sup>th</sup>-Noah Carey; Quick Recall: CRS vs. Poage won 16 to 8; CRS vs Worthington lost 19 to 16.; Meet 2/10 @ Russell. Social Studies: 3<sup>rd</sup>-Dalton Gray, 4<sup>th</sup>-Luke Geyer, 6<sup>th</sup>-Allie Greene; Lang. Arts: 5<sup>th</sup>-Taylor Hamilton, 6<sup>th</sup>-Willow Triplett; Science: 3<sup>rd</sup>-Tyler Miller, 4<sup>th</sup>-Dalton Gray, 5<sup>th</sup>-Melanie Grimm; Arts/Human.: 3<sup>rd</sup>-Tyler Miller, 4<sup>th</sup>-Willow Triplett; Math: 4<sup>th</sup>-Noah Carey, 6<sup>th</sup>-Melanie Grimm.

**STLP RCX Regional Robotics Competition**—at Morehead State University on 3/22. CRS STLP placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the elementary division and will compete at state on 4/22. Team members who participated were: Caleb Campbell, Isaac Campbell & Noah Crites. They received a team trophy to keep and a traveling trophy that has to be taken back next year; Charles Russell will be the first school's name engraved on the trophy.



**4-H Speeches**—The 5<sup>th</sup> grade students did 4-H speeches on 3/21. The students who received purple ribbons qualifying them to advance to the district competition are: Kelsie Click, Melanie Grimm, Eli Miller, Tyler Miller, Jadyn Mintz, Mimi Moore, Richard Runyon, Beau Smith, Josh Thomas, & Willow Triplett. -Melanie Grimm





# Verity Middle School

Verity MathCounts team placed second in the Regional Chapter Competition.



Zach Stafford placed third overall in the Mathcounts Regional Chapter Competition and won a \$500 annual scholarship to Western Kentucky University.

Ashland Independent Schools will have its 2nd Annual 5K run/walk on May 31st at Central Park starting at 9:00 a.m. Flyers can be printed off on [tristateracer.com](http://tristateracer.com) or picked up at the YMCA. The event is to encourage physical activity among Ashland Independent Schools faculty, staff, students, and families.

Katie Valance and Chloe Vance spoke at the Chain Links Meeting about Epilepsy Awareness Month. They informed members about Epilepsy and discussed information about this disorder.

Verity's robotics team competed in the STLP RCX Robotics Regional Competition at Morehead State University in March. The group placed 6th out of 13 teams. Alex Kessler, Katelyn Lee, and Payton Scott represented Verity.

Verity string orchestra students participated in the Kentucky Music Educators Association's District 8 Solo and Ensemble Festival on Saturday, February 22. Of those participating, the following students received a rating of Distinguished: Hannah Hickman, Wyatt McCarty, John Thomas, Dawson Coovert, Evan Billips, Lexi Smyser, Ben Fazenbaker, and Zach Stafford. Performing as part of a Distinguished Ensemble were: Zach Stafford, Kaitlyn Bellew, Lydia O'Nan, Bella Kesling, Chloe Whitlock, Evan Billips, Britany Guererro, Dawson Coovert, Julia Lyons, and William Zheng.

Verity's STLP had 5 projects move on to state judging: E-Publishing—Patriot Lantern Newspaper Class; Manipulated Image—"My Sister"—Johnathan Thompson; Original Music—"Progress"—Wyatt McCarty; Original Photo—"Volley"—Payton Scott; and Story Telling—"Catacombs"—Wren Jenkins; The projects can be viewed on Ashland's District Website, Verity's MS under the heading STLP Winter Products 2014.

Congratulations to Verity Patriot Arrows 3<sup>rd</sup> place middle school team at Region 14 Tournament!! Verity's Archery Team competed at the NASP State Tournament on March 18 and qualified for nationals in May. The Patriot Arrows more than doubled in size this year to 60 archers and have competed in many practice tournaments leading up to the region tournament. Qualifying region and state teams included: Ben Fazenbaker, Tyler Crowe, Kaitlyn Bellew, Evan Billips, Adam Peach, Ethan Sparks, Sydney Bennett, Savannah Braden, Tristan Watts, Josh Ison, Sydni Pierce, Michael Sammons, Andrew York, Ethan Cassady, Luke Dickerson, Blake Johnson, Reno Bowen, Tyler Williams, Kathryn Vallance, Alexis Smyser, Lindsey Caines, Dylan Wamsley, Bella Kesling, Rebel Morris, Caleb Castle, Hannah Hickman, Gage Hignite, Brock Rogers, Cameron Fraley, Sydney Church, and Tanner Keener. Head coach is Ramona Bellew; Assistants are Allen Bellew, Misha Bennett, and Jan & Scott Vallance.



Verity's yearbook class has been documenting the construction of the new gymnasium and third floor renovations. They have enjoyed taking guided tours and capturing the progress with their cameras.



# Paul Blazer High School

Blazer String Orchestra students participated in the Kentucky Music Educators Association's District 8 Solo and Ensemble Festival on Saturday, February 22. Of those participating, the following students received a rating of Distinguished:

Distinguished Solo Performance students were: Kaela Hinson, Caroline Geyer, Amber Williamson, Thaddeus Stambaugh, Caleb Geyer, Lauren Fazenbaker, Autumn Hoffman, Hayley Deal, Carlie Geyer, Sami Taylor, Raegan Williams. Olivia Black – who qualified for the State Festival on May 11 at Eastern Kentucky University

Performing as part of a Distinguished Ensemble were: Carlie Geyer, Caleb Geyer, Caroline Geyer, Hayley Deal, Autumn Hoffman, and Amber Williamson.

The following Paul Blazer High School students won awards at the Region 5 Future Business Leaders of America Conference held March 6, 2014, at Morehead State University:

1st Place: Meredith Sergent - Business Law, Elissa Renneker - Client Service, Jordan Steele - Networking Concepts

2nd Place: Steven Friley - Banking and Financial Systems, Ross Thompson, Robert Wesley

3rd Place: Josh Day - Entrepreneurship, Evan Cox, Emily Cassity - Insurance & Risk Management, Emily Ford - Marketing, Haley Pierce, Katie Tilton



Who's Who in KY FBLA and Future Level Business Achievement Award – Lakyn McCaffrey. Lindsay Rothenstine was elected as Region 5 President and Ashley Carpenter was elected as Region 5 Treasurer for 2014-2015. All of these students are now eligible to compete at the KY State FBLA Leadership Conference to be held April 14-16, 2014, in Louisville.

Mrs. Spade's art students participated in an art and poetry contest sponsored by the FIVCO Sexual Assault Linkage Team to raise awareness of the prevention of child sexual abuse. The winners were recognized by Mayor

Charles on Saturday, March 8 at the signing of the proclamation declaring April as Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse Awareness Month in the city of Ashland. The following students won monetary awards in addition to being recognized: Sidney Campbell, Shaylee Miller, & Elshadai Smith-Mensah won Honorable Mentions. Megan Simpson won 3rd place, Selena Miller won 2nd place, and Zhonna Carter took first place with a \$100 grand prize, and Zhonna's work will be placed on a billboard on Greenup Ave.



Our battalion is busy as ever. Rifle team has just begun. Their first competition is on May 3, at the Armory. We are also hosting our very own military ball on March 29 at the Armory as well. Our staff has been working hard on this event. Our raider team and color guard have begun practice once again. They are preparing themselves for Morehead's competition on April 12. Our

program has received a \$3,200 NRA rifle team grant. The grant will be utilized to purchase new air rifles and more equipment for the team. Also, our very own Battalion Commander and Battalion Command Sargent Major have enlisted with Kentucky's National Guard. Hill will be going to basic training in July while Garcia leaves in September.

Gabby Ingram has been elected as a state officer for FCCLA (Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America). She will attend the 2014 National Leadership Conference in San Antonio, Texas, this Summer.

Kentucky – Tennessee Key Club International District Convention

The Blazer Key Club won several awards and honors at the 2014 District Convention, held in Nashville, Tennessee. Congratulations for the following:



Alanna Hatfield won 1st Place in the Oratorical Contest, she presented her speech at the convention and will now be representing K-T District at the International Convention in Anaheim California. Elshadai Smith-Mensah was elected to serve as the K-T District Board Secretary for 2014-15. She was also recognized as the Division 8 Outstanding Key Clubber. Brooke Harvey was selected to receive the Andy Hutson Scholarship for outstanding leadership and promoting Key Club. Katie Tilton and Brooke Harvey received the Governor's Service Award. The club won 2nd place for the Non-Digital Poster designed by Katie Tilton. The club won 3rd place overall for club achievement, and was again recognized as the longest chartered Key Club in existence.

Representing Blazer at the District Convention were: JD Cook- Board Treasurer, Brooke Harvey- Lt. Governor Division 8, and Katie Tilton – Division Projects Chair. Club members who attended were: Madie Peterman, Elshadai Smith-Mensah, Meredith Sergent, Alanna Hatfield, Madison Davis, and Will Carroll. Congratulations Key Clubbers! The club would also like to thank JD Cook, Brooke Harvey, and Katie Tilton for the outstanding service on the K-T District board this year!!!!



# District News

## SPRING TESTING

*Richard Oppenheimer, Director of Student Achievement*

State mandated testing is just around the corner for students in Kentucky's public schools. K-PREP assessments for students in grades 3 through 8 and for high school sophomores and juniors must be administered in the last 14 instructional days of the district calendar. With the wild winter we have had this year, those last 14 days begin on May 14, 2014, but we may have more school cancellations, so check with your school! Within that time frame, schools must choose 5 consecutive days in which to test.

For elementary and high school students, the testing window currently is May 14 through May 21 (remember, school will not be in session on May 20 due to primary elections) with make-up tests administered in the days following. For the middle school, the window is May 21 through May 27. Each school will set the schedule of testing, following closely to state requirements. Be aware that changes to the district calendar still could affect these 5 day windows.

All students enrolled in the high school courses of Algebra II, Biology, English 10, and US History must also complete end-of-course exams. Currently, these assessments are scheduled for the week of May 19 through May 23. Remember that the results of these specific tests account for 10% of the students' overall score in these classes.

Additionally, students enrolled in Advanced Placement courses at the high school have the opportunity to take AP tests, which, depending on their scores, may provide college credit.

Required Tests by Grade

Gr	Reading	Math	Science	Social Studies	Writing	College Readiness
3	Yes	Yes				
4	Yes	Yes	Yes		Editing/ Mechanics Test	
5	Yes	Yes		Yes	On- Demand Writing	
6	Yes	Yes			Editing/ Mechanics & On- Demand Writing	
7	Yes	Yes	Yes			
8	Yes	Yes		Yes	On- Demand Writing	Explore Test
9						
10	End of Course Assess- ment in English 2	End of Course Assess- ment in Algebra 2	End of Course Assess- ment in Biology	End of Course Assess- ment in US History	On- Demand Writing	Plan Test
11					On- Demand Writing	ACT
12						

## GRANTS UPDATE

### Elks National Foundation

A \$10,000 grant from the Elks National Foundation was received to expand school garden programs across the district. Members from the Ashland Elks Lodge # 350 will help build raised garden beds and benches at participating schools and provide gardening tools, soil, and plants. Also included in the grant are funds to support school assembly programs on health and nutrition.



### Read to Achieve – Reading Diagnostic and Intervention Grant from Kentucky Department of Education

Crabbe, Charles Russell, and Hager Elementary Schools were awarded a Read to Achieve grant from the KY Department of Education in March. Each school will receive \$48,500 a year for a period of three years to support the cost of a

Reading Recovery teacher. The Reading Diagnostic and Intervention grants provide evidence-based interventions for struggling readers in the primary program (K-3). The schools will secure Reading Recovery teachers for implementation to begin in August 2014.



### Carol M. White Physical Education Program (PEP) Grant

The US Department of Education announced the award of a Carol M. White Physical Education Program (PEP) grant to the Ashland Independent School District. This three-year grant award totaling \$589,951.00 will be used to unify district elementary school physical education programs. By using the SPARK curriculum, the district will expand and implement a comprehensive physical education program designed not only to meet but exceed Kentucky Physical Education standards. Additional physical education instructors will be hired for the 2014-15 school year. All elementary school students will engage in additional daily physical activity through structured PE classes, active recess, and two physical activity breaks per day. Instruction in healthy eating habits and good nutrition will also be stressed. The district will partner with community agencies to offer a comprehensive program to improve the overall health and well-being of our students and their families.



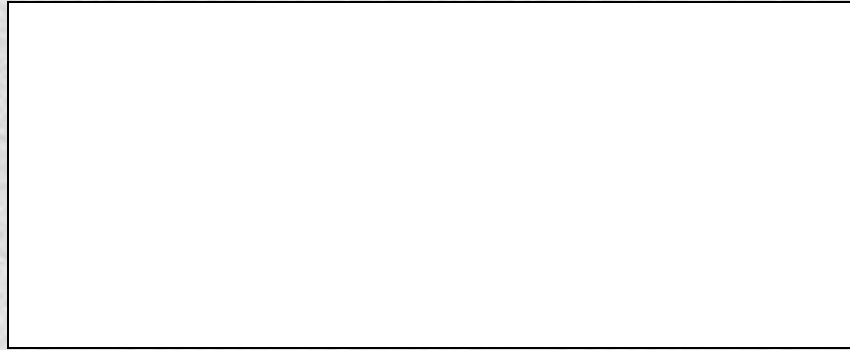


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# FOCUS

## School Principals

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

## Central Office Personnel

Steve Gilmore, Superintendent  
Linda Calhoun, Instructional Supervisor  
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



*Poage Elementary Students showing support for our troops!*

## Board of Education

Charlie Chatfield  
Frank DeMartino  
Carol Jackson  
Molly Webb

The Ashland Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, religion, marital status, sex or disability in employment or the provision of service, as set forth in the Title IX and VI and in Section 504.