

AVON LAKE CITY SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

Good Things Are Happening in Avon Lake City Schools!

Preparing for the 21st Century . . .

By Bob Scott, Superintendent

Avon Lake City School District has had a great first semester. On the first day of school in August the thought of a year (until June) is daunting to students, parents and staff. Even though that first step is difficult, once it occurs, the second step is not only easier, but each step accelerates until by February we are all running.

Our sprint to the last day of school is created by our realization that time is "relative," and there will never be enough time to do everything that could be done. February, March, April, and May see our students preparing for and taking State standardized tests, AP (Advanced Placement) exams, and a myriad of assessments that "measure" their learning. At Avon Lake City Schools, we take all of these assessments seriously, prepare appropriately, and create an environment for the success of all students.

At Avon Lake Schools we also believe that there is much, much more to school and learning than what can be assessed by paper and pencil tests given on a single day. When we talk

about high expectations we include the standardized tests, but our focus is not on passing, but excelling. Preparation for "what comes next" is of much more importance to our staff and students. Whether you are a Kindergartener or a Senior our objective is that you will be successful at the next level, not just be promoted or receive a diploma.

Avon Lake students have many paths they can follow to be prepared for their next step. Opportunities have been created to place students in positions to be successful at every transition point throughout their school career. Having students earn a high school diploma is not enough. Students must be prepared for success at the next level. The opportunities students have at Avon Lake will give them a choice as they transition to the college or career of their choice.

The world is a very different place now than it was just five years ago. Many of the jobs people are working at today were not in existence when our current graduates started high school. As our world continues to change, the jobs our 8th graders, 4th graders or Kindergarteners will be applying for may not

exist or how the job will be done will be vastly different. Knowing that change is not going to slow down, Avon Lake City School District will continue to develop programming that meets the needs of every student today, tomorrow, and into the future.

Changing needs require that schools also change how they must deliver instruction. Avon Lake City Schools has been on a course for several years focused not only on preparing students for the next level (a solid academic base), but giving students the opportunity to accelerate their learning through Honors classes, Advanced Placement classes, Post-Secondary Enrollment Options, and dual credit high school and college credit classes. Through the use of technology, continually improving instructional practices, and continued implementation of 21st century learning skills the students of Avon Lake City Schools will receive a world class education.

There are many challenges facing the staff and students of Avon Lake schools, but none that cannot be overcome. We look forward to



**January
2012**



Website Improvement!

Did you know you can sign up to receive email notifications whenever our website is updated? All you need to do is complete the short form on each webpage by typing in your email address—and you can opt out at any time! You will need to do this for each page for which you wish to receive updates. For example, if you have students at Erieview and Troy, complete the form on each of these pages and you will receive an email when something new has been added. Parents, be sure to complete the form on our Flyer Connection page to receive an email whenever flyers are added to our website so you will always have the latest information on opportunities for your children (see related story on page 2)!

Welcome, Jim Stobe, to the Avon Lake Board of Education!

A warm welcome is extended to our newest Board of Education member, Jim Stobe. Jim was elected to an open full term on the Avon Lake Board of Education in November 2011. Jim is the Chief Financial Officer for Cohen & Company, a regional public accounting firm. Jim and his wife, Kristin, have lived in Avon Lake since they were first married in 2004. They have two young children - Savannah, age 6, and CJ, age 3.

"I am really excited to work with the other members of the Board of Education to help the students of Avon Lake reach their goals," said Jim. "We have a great team of teachers, administrators and support staff, and I look forward to getting to know them better through my role on the Board. Go Shoremen and Shoregirls!"



*Our newest Board of Education Member,
Jim Stobe*

TECHNOLOGY USE AT ERIEVIEW

Erievew Elementary School is using a great deal more technology than we had ever dreamed possible in our daily instructional activities. Using new techniques and technologies allows us to help our students continue to work towards the goal of developing skills commensurate with 21st century expectations. These tools also help us with our need for ongoing dialogue regarding student growth progress. With new tools comes the opportunity to think "outside of the box" which makes for an exciting progression in our drive to achieve excellence.



As we continue to experiment with new technology, we are finding new ways to promote student achievement. We have added a small number of iPads to our technology toolkit and are hopeful about the prospect of adding more. Our teachers and our students are finding new and exciting resources using these devices that make learning more interesting and more fun. Having a computer in your hand is proving to be a very powerful tool for accessing "right now" information and stretching academic lessons beyond what might be considered usual and typical.

We are admittedly quite excited about our "New Look". Our construction dust has finally settled and we are quite happy with our new look. The cafeteria is considerably larger and brighter. The new classrooms are much brighter as well – and our new cabinetry affords additional storage space. Our new playground space is definitely getting a great deal of use during recess. We certainly do appreciate the efforts of our PTA who helped supplement our current play equipment with new apparatus!

Avon Lake City Schools

Are Going Green!

Parents — take a look at the new **Flyer Connection** link on our school website! You will be able to review flyers for events sponsored by community groups and other non-profit organizations in an electronic format, thereby saving paper and helping our environment. Instead of receiving a backpack every week full of flyers, you only view/print the flyers for which you are interested! And don't forget to sign up to receive email notifications when the **Flyer Connection** webpage is updated (see page 1). To view current flyers, simply click on the **Flyer Connection** link found at the bottom of each home page.



WESTVIEW PRIDE!

Westview Elementary School has completed additions for our growth into the future. Adding two new classrooms, an expanded cafeteria area, and a new entrance and office area make Westview ready for the future. The staff and educational community appreciate the trust and commitment of our community to provide the best education and facilities for our students.

Our staff continues to explore ways to improve the instruction, support, and experience of each student. Workshops and professional development in Differentiated Instruction, RtI (Response to Intervention), Common Core Standards, special education services, and others have continued to sharpen, strengthen, and hone our practices. Our staff completed much of this learning on their own time because of their commitment to be the best for their students.

Westview has developed a strong reputation, over the years in our community, for educating students to their best abilities. For over 50 years, the staff, students and families have worked together to produce successful, compassionate and thoughtful students to impact their futures. It is an honor to be part of a great school system and a great community!

KIDS HELPING KIDS AT EASTVIEW

Eastview Elementary School is proud to have sponsored an event to support the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation - *Kid's Walk to Cure Diabetes*. In doing so, we live up to our slogan at Eastview of "Kids Helping Kids." The children of Eastview and many of their parents walked in support of all children with Type I Diabetes, including some of their very own classmates. Children spent the week leading up to the walk participating in fun and educational activities to help them better understand the lives of those affected by diabetes. Additionally, children sought sponsors that would contribute donations for every mile walked. This healthy walk raised over \$7,500 for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International. The money collected will support research to find a cure for this terrible disease. Each year, over 15,000 children are diagnosed with diabetes. That is 40 children a day. At Eastview Elementary School, we are trying to do our part to help find a cure!



MATH COUNTS AT LEARWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL

MATH COUNTS is a national program that has existed since the early 1980's to inspire curiosity and excellence in Math for U.S. middle school students. At Learwood, 7th and 8th grade students meet weekly to work on challenging problems provided by the national MATH COUNTS program. This program is a key cornerstone of the S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) curriculum supported by Avon Lake City Schools. In late February, the eight most proficient Learwood MATH COUNTS students will travel to LCCC to compete against other area schools in both individual and team competitions. Congratulations to 8th grader Aaron Assaf who represented Learwood last March as a 7th grader at the state competition at Columbus State Community College!

NOT JUST YOUR EVERYDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS AT TROY!



Sarah Durisek & Max Gruber

Gone are the days of the adults getting on the PA system in the morning to lead the students in the Pledge of Allegiance and announcing what would be happening throughout the day. Troy Intermediate School is on the cutting edge of technology and it is being led by students. At the end of last year, Troy received four iMac computers with iMovie installed on each of them. Each quarter we identify 12 to 15 students willing to be trained as iMovie announcers by using the iMacs and the iMovie application. Their job is to access Google Docs to determine what they have to report on. They then go out and video students saying the Pledge of Allegiance and other staff who need to make announcements. They use Flip Videos and when they are all done filming, they come back to the iMac lab and download the videos. According to Max Gruber, 6th grade announcer, "We have had to learn a lot of time management this year. You have two days to get the videos done and at first there is a lot of pressure. Eventually you learn how to pace yourself!" Sarah Durisek, also a 6th grade announcer said, "This year's announcements

are much more entertaining because we can add music and voice overs. I think they are also easier to understand as we add both visuals and the text under the pictures." Once the announcements for the day are completed, they are uploaded to the district's VBrick system and teachers can access them in the morning on their ActiveBoards. Students and staff watch the announcements each morning. The feedback has been very positive. Our students are learning valuable skills in both technology and collaboration. When you have some time, visit the Troy webpage at www.avonlakecityschools.org/troy and take a look at our student made announcements!

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AT AVON LAKE HIGH SCHOOL

The Avon Lake Marching Shoremen recently traveled to Orlando, Florida where they performed with seven other bands in the half-time show at the Champs Bowl. They also performed in the Universal Studios Macy's Parade while in Florida. Go Marching Shoremen!

Also, success on the gridiron and the soccer field equates with academic excellence at Avon Lake High School. The Southwestern Conference champion Shoremen were recently recognized with academic **All Ohio** status by the Ohio High School Football Coaches Association. Only 20 of the more than 700 high schools in Ohio qualify for this award. And in soccer, both the Shoremen and Shoregal Varsity Soccer teams earned the NSCAA Team Academic Award given by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America. Well done!



Kindergarten Round-Up!

Kindergarten registration packets will be available for pick-up at our four elementary schools in mid-February. Completed Kindergarten packets need to be brought back to the appropriate elementary school on the following "Round-Up" days (adults only, please):

Tuesday, March 6	Redwood
Wednesday, March 7	Eastview
Friday, March 9	Erievew
Thursday, March 15	Westview

(all dates from 7:30-11:00 am)

If you have any questions, please contact our Registrar, Laura Wismer at 933-0984.

NEW SCHOOL EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

ALERT LOCKDOWN INFORM COUNTER EVACUATE

Fire drills and tornado drills are a part of the many enduring memories we have from our years in school. Not only do we all remember the drills themselves, but most of the procedures have changed very little through the years. This is also true of the newest emergency procedure practiced through the school year by our students—the lockdown.

Past practice for lockdowns has been fairly simple—staff locked their doors and turned off the lights. Students would move to a part of the room where they could not be seen and huddle quietly until they were given the "all clear" notice. The premise was to not bring attention to your presence and hopefully any intruder would leave you alone. This strategy changed after the Virginia Tech incident in 2007. From this tragedy a new strategy was developed that will now be used at all Avon Lake City Schools—the ALICE plan.

The philosophy behind the ALICE plan is to utilize technology and information in ways that allow staff and students to make informed decisions, to remove as many people as possible from the **DANGER** zone, and to provide realistic training so that those in the **CRISIS** zone have options available to enhance their chances of surviving. Training for staff and students will take place this school year, and full implementation of the program will begin with the 2012-2013 school year.

EVENTS AT REDWOOD

Redwood has been using Apple iPads to implement new technology into various lessons in each grade level. Students play interactive and fun games while learning various reading and math skills. This has been a great new educational resource for our staff and students this school year.

Redwood also held its first reading challenge over the holiday break. Each student who participated and read at least 120 minutes received a bookmark. The top two students at each grade level who read the most minutes will be attending a Lake Erie Monsters game in a suite. Redwood students read a total of 132,754 minutes over the holiday break.

Redwood students participated in and broke a Guinness World Record for the most people doing jumping jacks in a 24-hour period. Groups around the world jumped for one minute to help earn the title. The event was organized by National Geographic Kids.



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AVON LAKE CITY SCHOOLS
175 Avon Belden Road
Avon Lake, OH 44012



Avon Lake Board of Education

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DEAR AVON LAKE COMMUNITY,

Avon Lake City School Board would like to again say thank you for the support our community continues to show for our schools and students. This appreciation is not only for the financial support which has allowed us to offer consistent high quality learning opportunities for all students, but for support at all grade levels through volunteering, fund raising, tutoring, and all other activities which give our students benefits which many other school districts and children do not receive. The success of our graduates is a compilation of the years they have been in the classroom and experiences they have had through the support of the Avon Lake community both inside and outside of school. We look forward to the continued collaboration of school and community to the betterment of our students and city.

The School Board is excited about the re-election of Ron Jantz and Pam Ohradzansky to the Board. They have been an important part of our past success and will be invaluable resources in the future. Congratulations to Jim Stobe, our newly elected Board Member. We are looking forward to Jim's future Board participation. He brings excellent experience to the Board and will be an important piece to our school district's future success.

We would also like to express our gratitude and wish all of the best to exiting Board Member,

Greg Palmer, and retiring Treasurer, Denise Holcomb. Greg's dedication, hard work, and knowledge will be missed. Denise's expertise has been a driving force in keeping Avon Lake fiscally responsible. Her outstanding yearly audit record is a testament to her skill as a Treasurer.

Across the whole educational spectrum our students have seen tremendous results. From scholarship dollars earned to local, state, and national awards received, our students have excelled. Our schools have been rated among the top in the state and in the nation. All of our success means added opportunity for our students and community in the future.

We are excited about the innovations that are being implemented and will be implemented at our schools. We are proud of our past success and are pleased at where our students are in 2012. We also know that "being on the right track," will only get you run over if you do not keep moving. The BYOD initiative (Bring Your Own Device) which we are piloting at Avon Lake High School this semester allows students to safely bring their "smart" devices (laptops, tablets, phones, etc.) from home to use in class, study halls and during free time. This is just one example of how Avon Lake City School District is working to not just maintain the high quality educational programs we currently

have, but to use all resources available to continue offering programming and opportunities that meet the needs of students in the 21st century.

Again, thank you to all our stakeholders for past and future support. This is an exciting time in education. As always we invite you to be a part of this great endeavor by visiting our schools or attending the many public activities our students participate in throughout the year. If you have any questions concerning the schools, please contact Bob Scott at (440) 933-6210, robert.scott@avonlakecityschools.org or any of the School Board Members. Go Shoremen and Shoregals!

Avon Lake Board of Education

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