



Principal's Newsletter

A Nationally Ranked High School

A Message from the Principal...



Happy New Year! It may be 75 degrees and sunny in Southern California, but they don't have the comfort of sitting by the fire enjoying the beautiful snowflakes falling while sipping on a delicious marshmallow filled cup of hot chocolate. Ahhh Ohio!!

Having survived the first semester, we stand ready to finish the school year with confidence. My hope is that you, too, will look forward to the challenges of the new semester. Build on your achievements and put away your past disappointments.

Parents, please continue to reinforce good attendance habits with your son/daughter. Attendance and accuracy of attendance is extremely important in school. Excessive absences may result in missing work, which is difficult to make up, losing continuity in school work, an irresponsible attitude toward daily obligations, and failure in school.

Unfortunately, in high schools across the country, students have been involved with bullying other students via the internet. "Cyber Bullying" is when the internet is used to make fun of other people. Sometimes the "Cyber Bullying" act of "making fun" has become so serious that criminal charges, school discipline consequences, etc. have taken place. Approximately 40 percent of high school students have reported incidents of being "Cyber Bullied." You may want to take the time to discuss this very serious and growing concern of "Cyber Bullying" with your son/daughter. To learn more about "Cyber Bullying" please refer to www.cyberbullying.org or www.bullyingside.org. Also, please

refer to the "Bullying Prevention," information that is included in your student's planner.

Please be sure to check our high school website on a regular basis for up-to-date important information. For example, some of the items included within our high school website are our calendar of events as well as our "Senior Calendar of Events." In addition, GradeBook Wizard is also utilized as a form of communication regarding important and helpful information. If you have not registered your e-mail account via GBW, you can do so by logging into your student's account. Click on the left side of the page where it says 'Set email'. If you have forgotten or lost your login, you can email gradebookwizard@avonlakecityschools.org your student's name, grade and your email address. You will receive an e-mail back within 24 (work) hours with this information.

Each newsletter includes a "SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENTS" section. If there is something your son/daughter is involved in (in or outside of school) that deserves recognition, please share your good news and e-mail information to Mrs. Liesa Wetzig, Principal's Secretary, at liesa.wetzig@avonlakecityschools.org or have your son/daughter drop it off in our main office. The newsletter submission of articles deadline for the remainder of the school year is March 12, 2012.

It is our desire that the second half of the school year be excellent for all. If you need to meet with a guidance counselor, assistant principal, or myself, please do not hesitate to contact us. We suggest that parents

call first to schedule appointments before coming in so that you will not experience any delays.

Please note many of our students' academic and athletic accomplishments listed throughout this newsletter. Additional important information included in this newsletter is as follows:

- Calendar of Events, Ohio Graduation Test Information, and PSEO Meeting Information.

We look forward to seeing you at the spring parent conferences that will take place on Thursday, February 16, 4:30-7:30 p.m. and Wednesday, March 14, 3:00-7:00 p.m. In the meantime, here's wishing our Shoremen and Shoregal families an enjoyable and stimulating New Year!

Stay warm, the sound of birds chirping will be here before you know it!

~ Dr. Walker

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2011-2012 ALHS CALENDAR

Thursday, February 16	4:30-7:30 pm Parent Teacher Conferences
Monday, February 20	NO SCHOOL - Presidents' Day
March 12 - 16	OGT Testing
Wednesday, March 14	3-7 pm Parent/Teacher Conferences (<i>Early Release</i>)
Friday, March 23	End of Third Grading Period
April 6 thru April 13	Spring Break (<i>School resumes Monday, April 16</i>)
Saturday, May 19	Prom - Cleveland Brown's Stadium
May 23, 24, 25	Senior Final Exams
Monday, May 28	NO SCHOOL - Memorial Day
May 30, 31 and June 1	Final Exams for Grades 9, 10 and 11
Friday, June 1	Mandatory Commencement Practice for Seniors 8am-1pm
Friday, June 1	Last Day of School for Grades K - 11
Saturday, June 2	Commencement 6:30 pm

PTA Meetings are held in the Commons at 6:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month.

School Emergency Procedures

We all have many enduring memories from our years in school. Safety drills are a common experience that we all share from those school days. Fire drills and tornado drills have been a fabric of all schools since their inception.

Not only do we all remember the drills themselves, but most of the procedures have changed very little through the years. Lining up and filing out quickly and quietly. The "safe route" posted by the door. Learning how to duck and cover as students line the halls with their heads against the wall. Routines that we practiced over and over because seconds matter and lives could be saved.

We could all return to school today and fall into line with the students if the fire alarm sounded because the routine is so familiar. That familiarity is what teachers and school officials are hoping for. Practicing routines makes for familiarity. Familiarity reduces the likelihood of panic if the day comes when the emergency procedure is not a drill.

All of us hope that the emergency procedures that students practice every month are never needed. We drill routinely hoping that we are wasting our time, hoping that the drill will never be used in a true emergency.


This is also the case with the newest routine that schools must practice every year. If you went to school before 1999 you most likely never did an "intruder" drill. If you have been a student since the Columbine incident you are likely familiar with the "lockdown" procedures that schools have implemented since that time.

Past practice for lockdowns has been fairly simple. When staff was notified of a possible intruder they 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." 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. The

staff and students of Virginia Tech followed the normal lockdown rules and because of this many lives were lost. From this tragedy a new strategy was developed that will be used at all Avon Lake Schools in the future. As always we hope we never have to use our new emergency plan, but if we do we feel that this routine will best serve our students and staff.

We call this the A.L.Ⓢ.C.E. plan.

A L E R T	GET THE WORD OUT! USE CLEAR, CONCISE LANGUAGE TO CONVEY THE TYPE AND LOCATION OF THE EVENT.
L O C K D O W N	NO CHANGE FROM CURRENT PROCEDURES, ALLOWS AGGRESSIVE USE OF CURRENT TECHNOLOGY AND PROCEDURES.
 I N F O R M	COMMUNICATION ALLOWS FOR GOOD DECISION MAKING.
C O U N T E R	APPLY SKILLS TO DISTRACT, CONFUSE, AND GAIN CONTROL. AGGRESSIVE RESPONSE VS PASSIVE RESPONSE.
E V A C U A T E	LEAVE THE DANGER AREA TO AVOID CONTACT WITH AN INTRUDER

Guidance Department 440-933-8135

10th Grade, 9th Grade H-P **Lisa Lefèvre** opt. 1 lisa.lefevre@avonlakecityschools.org
 11th Grade, 9th Grade Q-Z **Mike Kaminski** opt. 3 mike.kaminski@avonlakecityschools.org
 12th Grade, 9th Grade A-G **Megan Sislowksi** opt. 4 megan.sislowksi@avonlakecityschools.org

OHIO GRADUATION TEST

The Ohio Graduation Tests will be administered at Avon Lake High School during the week of Monday, March 12, 2012 to all sophomores, and also to juniors and seniors who need to pass one or more sections of the tests. Regular classes will have a delayed start to provide an optimum testing environment for both the 10th grade OGT and the 9th grade diagnostic test. The schedule for the exams is as follows:

Monday 3/12/12 Reading
 Tuesday 3/13/12 Math
 Wednesday 3/14/12 Writing
 Thursday 3/15/12 Science
 Friday 3/16/12 Social Studies

The purpose of the OGTs are to ensure that students who receive a high school diploma demonstrate at least high school levels of achievement; measure the level of reading, writing, mathematics, science and social studies skills expected of students at the end of the 10th grade; and meet federal requirements for high school

testing (Ohio Department of Education). The OGT tests have approximately 35 multiple-choice questions and up to eight constructed (written) response items covering material through the end of 10th grade that students must complete within the 2 ½ hour time limit.

The curriculum of all five areas tested by the OGT has been aligned to the state's academic content standards. Avon Lake High school has also begun using a 9th grade diagnostic OGT test designed from previous years' 10th grade test. Our staff is using the data from this practice test to help drive the instruction for courses and individual students while also using OGT review books in specific subject areas to supplement their instruction. We also have an OGT intervention tutor who is working with those 11th and 12th grade students who have not passed all five sections as well as with students in the 10th grade who did

not perform at passing levels on the 9th grade diagnostic OGT.

Additionally, students also have access to Study Island, a state assessment preparation program, which is available to them via its website at www.studyisland.com.

Every student has a username, which is the first initial of their first name, their entire last name @ALHS. For example, if your son is George Bernard Shaw, his user name would be gshaw@ALHS. The Password is test. Once you log in you can change the password. The Ohio Department Education Web Site also has some great resources for both parents & students available at <http://ogt.success-ode-state-oh-us.info>. We encourage students to take advantage of these resources and to please visit the Ohio Department of Education website at <http://www.ode.state.oh.us> (Click on "Testing and Assessments" and then "Ohio Graduation Tests" for more information) or feel free to contact your counselor at the high school.

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!**

PSEO MEETING - February 15, 2012

PSEO Meeting (Post Secondary Enrollment Options) for current 8, 9, 10 & 11 grade students will be held on Wednesday, February 15, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the ALHS Performing Arts Center (PAC).

Come to learn how qualified students can earn college credit while still in high school— at no cost to the student!

ALHS SPANISH CLUB



"'Tis better to give than receive." "It's the season of giving." Clichéd axioms are never more abundant than they are during the Christmas season. The Avon Lake High School Spanish Club, however, has found a way to get beyond words, and turn this holiday season into an actual season of giving. The club, which is overseen by Spanish teacher Natalie Gemelas, participated in the Adopt-A-Family program, collecting, wrapping, and delivering an incredible amount of gifts for those families less fortunate than their own. Each year while the collection is under way, Mrs. Gemelas hands out a list,

detailing what each family has asked for as Christmas gifts. The students then bring in what they can, and this year the result was greater than ever. Each student who brought in gifts did so of their own accord and at their own expense, and of those who didn't bring a gift,

many could be found helping to wrap and label each present after school. "It was a great opportunity to give back to the community, and to be able to do it with as great a group of people as this just made it that much better," says club officer Michael Butrey. In a season in which clichés are bandied about quite as often as any gifts, perhaps the best one to keep in mind is "actions speak louder than words." The Avon Lake High School Spanish Club certainly seems to be doing so, and the result is nothing short of miraculous.

Written by Zach Scott



ALHS French Club

The Avon Lake High School French Club made its annual Christmas caroling visit to Independence Village on Lear Road on December 13, 2011. For several years now, the French Club has been performing a community service project in which they create hand-made Christmas cards with French messages on the covers and good wishes in English on the inside which they hand deliver to residents at Independence Village. In addition to the card-making at school, a committed group of French Club members meet there and sing several Christmas carols in French during the residents' dinner hour followed by students going from table to table greeting residents and handing out their Christmas cards and candy canes. This year a dozen enthusiastic club members moved throughout the dining hall performing the French versions of O Christmas Tree, Light a Torch Jeanette Isabelle and Jingle Bells. Two members performed a moving duet of Silent Night in French. The residents were appreciative of the students' visit, applauded and graciously accepted their cards and candy canes. Before leaving the dining hall, the students sang a robust We Wish You a Merry Christmas in English. One resident asked to have the club sponsor come over so she could personally tell her how much she enjoyed the students' visit. As usual, the group did a second performance in the back dining hall, which was also well-received, for those residents who are in the Assisted Living area. The French Club members demonstrated the true meaning of the holiday season by giving of themselves and their time to others and enjoyed performing and handing out their gifts as much as the residents enjoyed seeing this great group of young people.

ALHS ART Students



ALHS ARTISTS happily participated in a day-long event sponsored by the Cleveland Institute of Art. The *NEXT* program, as it is called, is CIA's pre-college program aimed at introducing the professional world of art and design to high school students who are interested in pursuing a career in the visual arts.

The day opened with a panel discussion led by prominent artists. Then students worked busily in various media. Pictured here are Frey's students at workshops in silk screening, photo animation, plate etching, metal enameling, and glass blowing.

The goal was to help our students answer their questions about pursuing a career in art or design: How do I become a creative director, fine artist, illustrator, or a product designer? Thanks to the Cleveland Institute of Art, our ALHS students are surely off to a great start!

ALHS Band

The Avon Lake Marching Shoremen returned on New Year's Eve from Orlando, Florida where they performed in the half-time show at the Champs Bowl on Thursday, December 29th. Florida State won the game by going ahead of Notre Dame in the fourth quarter. The Avon Lake Marching Shoremen performed at halftime with seven other bands before a crowd of nearly 70,000.



The Marching Shoremen performed in the Universal Studios Macy's Parade the day before with record crowds in attendance. The students were also able to see Daytona Beach, Magic Kingdom, and Harry Potter World under sunny Orlando skies before returning to Avon Lake on New Year's Eve. The band director is David Eddleman and the assistant director is Chris Ewald. Go Marching Shoremen!

Personal Business Skills Class

What do I want to be when I grow up? That is what the students in Mrs. Birkby's Personal Business Skills class are trying to figure out! After taking career assessments and researching the careers of their interest, they then had an opportunity to spend a day with someone in that career. Below are some of the comments students had:

- * From this job shadowing, I definitely learned more in one day than I ever have before.
- * As for now, my mind still isn't made up about my future, but thanks to this project, I am now very interested in becoming a social worker.
- * Initially, I had quite high hopes for this career but after receiving some information, I am thinking it over a bit more carefully.
- * The time I spent helping and caring for these elderly people had quite an effect on me. Shadowing taught me the importance of caring for others in need and caused me to consider making the ability to help others key criteria for choosing my future career.
- * Having the opportunity to shadow a successful sports journalist like Mary Schmidt-Boyer, enabled me to see the possibilities of excitement at the pinnacle of a sport journalism career.



Mary Schmidt-Boyer & Emily Krause
at a CAVS game.

This opportunity not only gives the students an opportunity to explore a career, but also gives them a connection with someone they can use for their Senior Project, summer jobs, or an internship.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT



Thomas R. Barone, CAA
Director of Athletics
Avon Lake City Schools

Tom.Barone@avonlakecityschools.org

440.933.5164 ~ Office Hours Monday-Friday 8:30 - 4:30

Athletics continues to play an integral part of the educational process at Avon Lake High School.

Spring Sports Official First Day of Practice	
Baseball	February 20
Softball	February 20
Boys Tennis	March 5
Boys & Girls Track & Field	March 5

LOOK AHEAD
Jan- 14th-Swim/Dive Sr. Parent Night
20th-Wrestling Sr. Parent Night
26th-Ice Hockey Sr. Parent Night
Feb- 8th-Girls BKB Sr. Parent Night
17th -B BKB, Cheer, Dance, Pep Band Sr. Parent Night
Mar- 18th or 20th-Winter Sports Awards Assembly
31st- 16th Annual Track & Field Invitational

**Fall Sports
Scholars Athletes**

Cheerleading - Casey Wilcox
Boys CC - Johnathan O'Donnell
Girls CC - Maddie Furrer
Football - Michael Butrey
Boys Golf - Nate Venesile
Girls Golf - Mallary Koeth
Boys Soccer - Joe Villari
Girls Soccer - Jillian Strimbu
Girls Tennis - Mary Kate Maloney
Volleyball - Sarah Alflen

SHOREMEN & SHOREGAL ATHLETIC TEAMS EARN ACADEMIC ACCOLADES

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. **Brett Bass, Jake Young** and **Brad Brill** were named as individual student-athletes. Academic All Academic All Ohio is a true measure of the integration of academic achievement and athletic excellence. To qualify, the nominee must be recognized as a first team selection at the conference, county or district level while maintaining an A accumulative grade point average. Only 116 of the more than 35,000 high school football players in Ohio qualify for this prestigious award.

This was the fourth consecutive year the Shoremen football team was recognized as Academic All Ohio. To qualify, the grade point average of the top 22 lettermen are averaged and ranked. Only 20 of the more than 700 high schools in Ohio qualify for this award.

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.



Have a QUESTION? Contact Tom Barone at 440.933.5164 or email at Tom.Barone@avonlakecityschools.org or check us out on the Web at www.avonlakecityschools.org.

Spotlight on Students



Congratulations to senior:

Miki Wallace, won the Cheerleader of Cheerleaders Title at the 25th Annual Ohio Championship on Sunday, December 11, 2011 at Dublin Jerome High School. Six finalists were considered for this honor by an impartial selection committee with regard to a well-rounded set of criteria, including scholastic excellence, community service, athleticism, character, college goals, and the will to excel and promote genuine spirit in life and in cheerleading.



Ted Kilgore

Congratulations to juniors:

Ted Kilgore and **Alec Guay** from Troop 338 on achieving the rank of Eagle Scout in "The Boy Scouts of America." They were recognized in their Court of Honor on December 18, 2011.



Alec Guay



A Shoremen Shout-Out goes to junior, **Tom Sweeney**, for his performance as Jesus, the lead role, in St. Joe's Academy's performance of Godspell. This family friendly show included popular songs such as 'Day by Day,' 'All Good Gifts,' and 'Turn Back, O Man.' Great job Tom!