

# Avon Community Unit School District 176

September 30, 2011

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## Business Name

### Reorganization Update

The Boards of Education for the Abingdon, Avon, and Bushnell-Prairie City school districts approved the consolidation petition for the three districts at their respective September regular meetings. The petition was filed with the Regional Superintendent for McDonough-Hancock schools, Mr. John Meixner, on Friday, September 23, 2011.

Now that the petition has been filed with the Regional Office of Education, the Regional Superintendent is required to hold a public hearing on a predetermined schedule. The public hearing will be held Thursday, September 27, 2011 at 7:30 pm in the Avon High School gymnasium. This is an opportunity for public testimony on the petition to be heard by the Regional Superintendent. The community is invited.

Once the Regional Superinten-

dent has held the hearing, he has 14 days to review the petition and determine whether to accept the petition. If the petition is accepted, it is then passed on to the State Superintendent for a determination period. If the State Superintendent approves of the petition, then the petition can be filed with the County clerks for the March 2011 election ballot.

As a reminder, the Committee of Ten has proposed the following configuration for the new district: the high school would be located in Bushnell; the junior high school would be located in Abingdon; and each town would retain its own elementary school. In addition, the Committee of Ten has recommended that the new district's Board of Education be elected from seven equally populated sub-

districts.

For more information, please see the Committee of Ten's website at <https://sites.google.com/site/abingdonavonbpc/home>. A large copy of the election map is being passed around the three districts' unit offices, and is currently available in the Avon unit office.

If you have questions, you may contact members of the Committee of Ten as noted on the Committee's website. You may also contact the superintendent's of each school district for factual information regarding the proposal or for the individual districts as currently constituted.

Finally, please register to vote and place March 20, 2012 on your calendar. Your input and participation in this process is crucial! Thank you for your comments and input.

### Volleyball for the Cure

BPCA Volleyball will be hosting a "Volley for the Cure" against Lewistown on October 6<sup>th</sup>!

Volley for the cure was created as a way to honor and celebrate the heroic fight against breast cancer. The promotion is dedicated to all the men and women who have been touched by breast cancer with the hopes that this devastating disease will one day be cured.

We are requesting that the community try to "PACK THE PLACE" for this event! Show your support by wearing your pink!! Throughout the night there will be a number of activities to help raise money for the Susan G. Komen fund. We thank you in advance for your support and involvement in this event!



“The teen years are difficult for all, but for some, the growing pains are particularly painful. “

## Teen Health

(This article was excerpted from <http://www.kidica.com/raising-children/teen-health/>)

Isn't it funny - as children grow into teenagers, they seem to reach out for a parent's help less and less. Yet those difficult teenage years are a time when monitoring your child's health becomes even more important, as the issues can become increasingly serious.

The teen years are difficult for all, but for some, the growing pains are particularly painful. From dealing with acne to dealing with depression, talking about sex to developing a self-image, many teens get lost along the way - and not surprisingly, so do many parents.

Although your child may not always be forthcoming with their problems, being aware of the warning signs can help you stay on top of any situation that may arise. If you're not quite sure what to look for, we can help. Our articles on teen health issues like eating disorders, addiction and sexual health are

full of advice from people who know what they're talking about - and who realize the importance of sharing it.

Communication is key when it comes to your teen. Letting your child know that you are always there for them and that they can come to you with anything is the best way to keep them safe and healthy.

### Major issues in teen development

It's not easy being a teen. Aside from the usual hassles of puberty, sexual development, braces, acne and growth spurts, which can be difficult enough to handle, some teens face more life-threatening issues, such as teen depression, bipolar disorder and eating disorders (anorexia and bulimia). These issues further complicate the trials and tribulations of an already-fraught period of development, and the "normal" aspects of puberty can make these more serious illnesses that much harder to handle.

To make matters worse, the teenage years are generally a time for establishing boundaries and asserting one's individuality and independence. Couple that with the embarrassment and even shame that most teens—and even parents—feel around these issues, and it's no wonder that so many teens suffer in silence.

You don't have to let your teen be one of them. Open up a dialogue with your teenager before the teen years even start, and make sure your child has the information he or she needs to understand and negotiate the physical, mental and emotional changes of puberty. Listen carefully to your teen even when he or she isn't talking directly to you. Don't take comments about suicide, feelings of worthlessness or negative body image as offhand remarks—take them as potential signs of larger problems. And, of course, don't be caught unawares. Educate yourself about the major issues facing today's teens.

## Fifth Grade News

This year in fifth grade has been busy. Since fifth graders are the oldest students in the elementary school, they are role models to the younger students. They have learned to raise and lower the flag, deliver milk for snacks, and lead the school in the Pledge of Allegiance and the Avon School Pledge. The class has two gerbils for class pets named Tank and Alvin. In Art, they have been creating cave paint-

ings. Students have been learning how to play instruments. Also, they have had a math enrichment class. In reading and science, they have been studying the Earth's structure and doing natural disaster reports. In PE, they have been learning soccer skills. They are looking forward to more activities to come.

(Article written cooperatively by the 5th grade class)



## Strategies for a Parent to Help Student Learn to Read

(This article was taken in excerpts from <http://www2.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/reader/reader.pdf>).

Years of research show clearly that children are more likely to succeed in learning when their families actively support them. When you and other family members read with your children, help them with homework, talk with their teachers, and participate in school or other learning activities, you give your children a tremendous advantage.

Other than helping your children to grow up healthy and happy, the most important thing that you can do for them is to help them develop their reading skills. It is no exaggeration to say that how well children learn to read affects directly not only how successful they are in school but how well they do throughout their lives. When children learn to read, they have the key that opens the door to all the knowledge of the world. Without this key, many children are left behind.

### Becoming a Reader

Every step a child takes toward learning to read leads to another. Bit by bit, the child builds the knowledge that is necessary for being a reader. Over their first 6 years, most children:

- β Talk and listen.
- β Listen to stories read aloud.
- β Pretend to read.
- β Learn how to handle books.
- β Learn about print and how it works.
- β Identify letters by name and shape.
- β Identify separate sounds in spoken language.
- β Write with scribbles and drawing.
- β Connect single letters with the sounds they make.
- β Connect what they already know to what they hear read.
- β Predict what comes next in stories and poems.
- β Connect combinations of letters with sounds.
- β Recognize simple words in print.
- β Sum up what a story is about.
- β Write individual letters of the alphabet.
- β Write words.
- β Write simple sentences.
- β Read simple books.
- β Write to communicate.

### Talking and Listening

Scientists who study the brain have found out a great deal about how we learn. They have discovered that babies learn much more from the sights and sounds around them than we thought previously. You can help your baby by taking advantage of her hunger to learn.

From the very beginning, babies try to imitate the sounds that they hear us make. They “read” the looks on our faces and our movements. That’s why it is so important to talk, sing, smile, and gesture to your child. Hearing you talk is your baby’s very first step toward becoming a reader, because it helps her to love language and to learn words.

As your child grows older, continue talking with her. Ask her about the things she does. Ask her about the events and people in the stories you read together. Let her know you are listening carefully to what she says. By engaging her in talking and listening, you are also encouraging your child to think as she speaks. In addition, you are showing that you respect her knowledge and her ability to keep learning.

### Reading Together

Imagine sitting your baby in your lap and reading a book to him for the first time. How different from just talking! Now you’re showing him pictures. You point to them. In a lively way, you explain what the pictures are. You’ve just helped your child take the next step beyond talking. You’ve shown him that words and pictures connect. And you’ve started him on his way to understanding and enjoying books.

While your child is still a baby, reading aloud to him should become part of your daily routine. Pick a quiet time, such as just before you put him to bed. This will give him a chance to rest between play and sleep. If you can, read with him in your lap or snuggled next to you so that he feels close and safe. As he gets older, he may need to move around some as you read to him. If he gets tired or restless, stop reading. Make reading aloud a quiet and comfortable time that your child looks forward to. Chances are very good that he will like reading all the more because of it.

Try to spend at least 30 minutes each day reading to and with your child. At first, read for no more than a few minutes at a time, several times a day. As your child grows older, you should be able to tell if he wants you to read for longer periods. Don’t be discouraged if you have to skip a day or don’t always keep to your schedule. Just get back to your daily routine as soon as you can. Most of all, make sure that reading stays fun for both of you!

### What Does It Mean?

From the earliest days, talk with your child about what you are reading. You might point to pictures and name what is in them. When he is ready, have him do the same. Ask him, for example, if he can find the little mouse in the picture, or do whatever is fun and right for the book. Later on, as you read stories, read slowly and stop now and then to think aloud about what you’ve read. From the time your child is able to talk, ask him such questions about the story as, “What do you think will happen next?” or “Do you know what a palace is?” Answer his questions and, if you think he doesn’t understand something, stop and talk more about what he asked. Don’t worry if you occasionally break the flow of a story to make clear something that is important. However, don’t stop so often that the child loses track of what is happening in the story.

### Look for Books!

The books that you pick to read with your child are very important. If you aren’t sure of what books are right for your child, ask a librarian to help you choose titles. Introduce your child to books when she is a baby. Let her hold and play with books made just for babies: board books with study cardboard covers and thick pages; cloth books that are soft and washable, touch-and-feel books, or lift-the-flap books that contain surprises for your baby to discover. Choose books with covers that have big, simple pictures of things that she sees every day.

Don’t be upset if at first your child chews or throws a book. Be patient. Cuddling with the child as you point to and talk with great excitement about the book’s pictures will soon capture her interest. When your baby becomes a toddler, she will enjoy helping to choose books for you to read to her.

As your child grows into a preschooler and kindergartner, the two of you can look for books that have longer stories and more words on the pages. Also look for books that have repeating words and phrases that she can begin to read or recognize when she sees them. By early first grade, add to this mix some books designed for beginning readers, including some books that have chapters and some books that show photographs and provide true information rather than make-believe stories. Keep in mind that young children most often enjoy books about people, places, and things that are like those they know. The books can be about where you live or about parts of your culture, such as your religion, your holidays, or the way that you dress. If your child has special interests, such as dinosaurs or ballerinas, look for books about those interests.

From your child’s toddler years through early first grade, you also should look for books of poems and rhymes. Remember when your baby heard your talking sounds and tried to imitate them? Rhymes are an extension of that language skill. By hearing and saying rhymes, along with repeated words and phrases, your child learns about spoken sounds and about words. Rhymes also spark a child’s excitement about what comes next, which adds fun and adventure to reading.

### Show Your Child That You Read

When you take your child to the library, check out a book for yourself. Then set a good example by letting your child see you reading for yourself. Ask your child to get one of her books and sit with you as you read your book, magazine, or newspaper. Don’t worry if you feel uncomfortable with your own reading ability. It’s the reading that counts.

When your child sees that reading is important to you, she may decide that it is important to her, too.

## High School Student Council News

October Newsletter information from Student Council

Homecoming is right around the corner! October 3-7<sup>th</sup> Watch out for Tarzan, Jane and lots of wild animals roaming the halls with the theme Jungle: Born to Be Wild!

The Student Council has been very busy creating a fun and exciting week for the high school students to enjoy! Each day the high school students will have opportunities to dress up, play games, and earn spirit points for their class. It's a Spartan spirit fight to the end!

### High School Homecoming Week Activities:

Monday: (Oct. 3)—Celebrity Day! (Dress like your favorite famous person)

Tuesday: (Oct. 4)—Time Warp Day! (Each class will dress from a different decade:)

Freshman: 1950's  
Sophomores: 1960's  
Juniors: 1970's  
Seniors: 1980's

Wednesday: (Oct. 5)—Redneck Day (Dress like a redneck)

Thursday: (Oct. 6)—Jungle Day (Dress as your favorite jungle creature)

Friday: (Oct. 7)—Spartan Spirit Day! (Show off your Spartan Pride and wear RED, WHITE, and BLUE!)

Homecoming Skit Night will be **Wednesday, October 5 at 7:00 pm** in the High School Gym. Come cheer and laugh for the best skits and

chants performed by each class.

Who will be crowned Homecoming Queen?

### Homecoming Game Day Festivities:

Face Painting by the Senior Class Attendants in the morning at the Elementary and Junior High

High School Cook-out for Lunch

1<sup>st</sup> Annual Spartan Olympics will be held after lunch at the football field.

Homecoming Parade @ Bushnell 3:30pm (Parade participants need to line up @ 2:30 B-PC HS)

Homecoming Football Game @ Bushnell 7:00 pm

### Homecoming Dance:

The Avon High School Student Council is proud to present

Homecoming Dance: **Jungle: Born to be Wild Saturday, October 8, 2011 from 7:00-10:00 p.m. (At Avon)**

Cost: \$3 Single \$5 Couple

Coronation at 9:00 p.m.

Avon High School Blood Drive

Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center

When? Wednesday October 12, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m.

Where? Avon High School Gym

To set up an appointment to give blood please contact Ms. Brazelton (309) 465-3621 Ext. 212 or [cbrazelton@avonschools.us](mailto:cbrazelton@avonschools.us)

## Kindergarten News

The Kindergarten class is working hard on their sight words and learning to read short sentences. In Math they are sorting, making patterns, writing numbers and solving word problems. They are a hard working group. Every Friday we have decided to have "Crazy Fridays." We have had shoeless Friday, Crazy Color Friday, Snow cone Friday, and Alphabet Friday and for the last Friday in

September we are having Silly Number Day Friday. The children help come up with the Friday ideas.

On October 13 the kindergarten class plans to attend a program at Western Illinois University. It is titled "Thaddeus Rex. It is a musician who entertains with a wild mixture of rocking' tunes, hilarious antics, and an enthusi-

asm for reading. He travels with his best friend, a 7 foot dinosaur named "Rock."

Avon Community Unit School District 176

# October 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 6p JGB @ BPC 6p JVFB @ BPC	4 5:30p JFB @ BPC 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Night 6:30p PTA Meeting	5 Homecoming Week 7p Skit Night @ HS Gym	6 FFA Soils CDE @ Abingdon 6p HVB @ Avon 6p JGB @ BPC	7 2:05p <i>Dismissal</i> 3:30p Homecoming Parade @ BPC 7p VFB @ BPC	8 7-10p Homecoming Dance @ Avon 9p Coronation
9	10 <i>No School</i> <i>Teacher Institute</i> 8a IMEA Auditions 6p JVFB @ Abingdon	11 5:30p JFB @ Beardstown 6p JGB @ BPC 6p HVB @ BPC	12 Student Council Blood Drive 6:30p Board Meeting	13 6p JGB @ Abingdon 6p FFB @ Lewistown 6p HVB @ Avon	14 7p VFB @ BPC Senior Night	15 8p HVB @ BPC Trny
16	17 6p JVFB @ Beardstown 6p HVB @ Knoxville	18 6p JGB @ NC-Warsaw	19	National FFA Convention		22
				20 6p FFB @ BPC 6p HVB @ Avon Senior Night	21 Quarter Ends 7p VFB @ Elmwood	22 10a HVB @ Avon
23	24 TBA JGB @ Sand Valley Trny	25 TBA JGB @ Sand Valley Trny	26 4p-8p Parent/Teacher Conferences	27 4p-8p Parent/Teacher Conferences TBA JGB @ SandValley TBA HVB @ Abingdon	28 <i>No School</i>	29
30	31 6p JGB @ W.Prairie					

**Breakfast****Lunch**

*Monday, October 3*  
Egg, Cheese  
& Sausage Muffin  
Applesauce

*Tuesday, October 4*  
Cereal  
Juice  
Toast

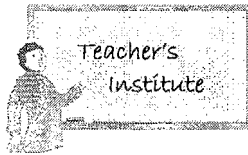


*Wednesday, October 5*  
Pancake & Sausage  
on a Stick  
Mixed Fruit

*Thursday, October 6*  
Cereal  
Nutri-grain Bar  
Juice

*Friday, October 7*  
Breakfast Pizza  
Pineapple

*Monday, October 10*  
*No School*



*Tuesday, October 11*  
Pancake  
Syrup  
Bacon  
Applesauce

*Wednesday, October 12*  
Cereal  
Juice  
Toast  
Cinnamon

*Thursday, October 13*  
Sausage Gravy  
Biscuits  
Pears



*Friday, October 14*  
Cereal  
Juice  
Roll

Grilled Cheese  
Ham Slice  
Sweet Potatoes  
Apricots

Fiesta Goulash  
Mixed Veggies  
Mandarin Oranges  
Bread Sticks

Hamburger on Bun  
Cheese Slice  
Pickles  
Potatoes  
Apple Crisp

Pepperoni Taquitos  
Lettuce  
Pears  
Pudding

Chicken-n-Noodles  
Green Beans  
Peaches  
Roll

Salisbury Steak  
Gravy  
Mashed Potatoes  
Spinach  
Peaches

Chicken Patty on Bun  
Pasta Salad  
Carrots  
Jello Cake

Chili  
Crackers  
Carrot Sticks  
Apricot Cups  
Cookie

Pizza  
Pineapple  
Roll

**Breakfast****Lunch**

*Monday, October 17*  
Egg & Cheese Omelet  
Hash Browns  
Apricots



*Tuesday, October 18*  
Cereal  
Juice  
Toast  
Jelly

*Wednesday, October 19*  
Waffles  
Syrup  
Sausage  
Mixed Fruit

*Thursday, October 20*  
Cereal  
Juice  
Toast



*Friday, October 21*  
Breakfast Pizza  
Pineapple

*Monday, October 24*  
Cereal  
Juice  
Toast

*Tuesday, October 25*  
Pancake  
Syrup  
Bacon  
Pineapple

*Wednesday, October 26*  
Cereal  
Juice  
Muffin

*Thursday, October 27*  
Egg Casserole  
Sausage  
Mixed Fruit

*Friday, October 28*  
*No School*

Hot Ham Sandwich  
Cheese Slice  
3-Bean Salad  
Peaches  
Fruit Snacks

Chicken Strips  
Mashed Potatoes  
Gravy  
Mixed Veggies  
Mandarin Oranges

Tortellini  
Pears  
Green Beans  
Strawberry Cake

Taco Lasagna  
Lettuce / Tomatoes  
Corn  
Applesauce

Rib Patty on Bun  
Baked Beans  
Mac-n-Cheese  
Applesauce

Nacho Supreme  
& Toppings  
Applesauce  
Corn

Grilled Chicken Patty  
Cheddar Rice  
Broccoli  
Peaches  
Cake

Country Fried Steak  
Mashed Potatoes  
Gravy  
Peas  
Apricots

Beef-n-Noodles  
Green Beans  
Pears  
Cookie



*All meals served with 8oz. milk and bread & margarine*