

Avon Community Unit School District 176

August 31, 2011

September 2011 Newsletter

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Welcome back!

The school board, administration and staff at Avon CUSD 176 would like to welcome everyone back to school! Although as in most years there have been a few hiccups, the school year has begun fairly smoothly.

We are happy to welcome a number of new staff members this year. They are: Ms. Brazelton,

high school science; Mr. Clawson, high school social science; Mrs. Gravina, high school English; Mr. Ridenour, junior high language arts and social studies; Mr. Saviste, junior high science; and Mrs. Seabarkrob, junior high special education. Also moving from part time to full time is Mrs. Rakestraw, district music.

Reorganization Update

The Committee of Ten continues to move closer to filing a reorganization petition with the Regional Office of Education.

The Committee met Thursday, August 25, 2011 at Avon High School to discuss the steps remaining in the process. The Committee heard from Hancock/McDonough Regional Superintendent John Meixner regarding the steps that will be required to place the petition on the ballot. His office must receive the petition during the week of September 22 in order to begin filing hearing notices required by law.

Once the petition is filed with the Regional Office of Education, the Regional Superintendent is required to hold a public hearing on a predetermined schedule. The date and location of the public hearing will be announced shortly after the petition is filed with the Re-

gional Superintendent.

Once the Regional Superintendent 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.





RIF Funding Cut

Stephanie McKinley-Miller coordinator for the Reading is Fundamental (RIF) program at Avon Elementary School received word in late June that **all** Federal funds had been cut for the Reading is Fundamental program. We were informed that if we could obtain local funding we could continue our program.

For the last two years we have operated as a locally funded program meaning that

100% of the monies come from local funds. In order to continue this program we have joined the RIF National Registry and pledge to give at least one book to each Elementary child. By doing this we qualify for discounts from book publishers making our money go farther.

Our hope is to raise enough money for two books per child per year. Two years ago donations from individuals and organizations allowed us

to do just that not for one year but two.

The cost for the program per year is \$600 for books and about \$50 for incentive materials. If you or your organization have questions or would like to make a donation, please contact Mrs. M&M at Avon Elementary School – 465-3851.

“To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here.”

Changes in Illinois Law

Each year at this time, schools and municipalities around the state of Illinois are grappling with new laws and procedures that have been passed by the Illinois legislature and signed by the government. Although many of the changes are procedural and are often unseen by the community, a few directly affect students and/or their parents. Here is a short synopsis of those from this year's legislative session.

1. Chronic truancy is now defined as being absent without legitimate reason for 5% of the previous 180 days, or 9 days. This is half of the previous law. It was

in effect on passage. (Public Act 97-0218)

2. Governor Quinn overrode the legislature's mode of payment for Regional Superintendents. For this reason, Regional Superintendents are currently working without pay. In some cases, the Assistant Regional Superintendents have taken jobs elsewhere, leaving Regional Offices of Education short-staffed. This was in effect July 1, 2011, and will continue until at least November when the legislature meets in veto session.
3. A new law is in effect re-

garding electronic threats. The law allows for suspension or expulsion of students in regard to threats posted on an internet website. 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6, 105 ILCS 5/34-19

4. A new law provides for a school district to authorize the use of an Epi-Pen on a student if the student is in need and has a prescription on file. Avon CUSD 176 will work with parents for whose students this is a concern. 105 ILCS 5/22-30, 410 ILCS 620/3.21
5. The Human Rights Act has been amended to include under the definition of disability any mental, psychological or developmental disability, including autism spectrum disorders. 775 ILCS 5/1-103
6. A suspended or expelled student who enters a safe school zone is guilty of criminal trespass. Public Act 97-0547

Elementary Reading Focus

Avon Elementary School is making a strong focus on reading skills this year. The district has hired a reading/literacy coach/consultant, Mrs. Elaine Hull, and is moving to a Four-Block Literacy approach to reading, as developed by Cunningham and Allington. The four blocks that comprise the model are: Guided Reading; Self-Selected Reading; Writing; and Working With Words. In addition, the elementary will be working on a Western theme throughout the year.

Strategies for a Parent to Help Students Succeed in School

(This article was taken from <http://www.livestrong.com/article/208234-strategies-for-a-parent-to-help-students-succeed-in-school/>).

In addition to brains and books, there is another thing your children need to succeed in school: you, the parent. Parents play a large role in ensuring a child's academic success, according to the U.S. Department of Education. This means helping your child perform at her best, both physically and mentally. By emphasizing healthy choices and good study habits, you can help your child succeed in school.

Good Health and Energy

Caring for your child's physical needs is an important aspect of student success. This means making sure your child gets plenty of rest each night and eats healthy snacks and meals. A healthy lifestyle will give him the energy he needs to perform. Plenty of whole grains, protein, fruits and vegetables will give your child a good start, according to the U.S. Department of Education. Exercise also is vital, so your child will maintain a healthy weight.

Communicate With Teachers

Part of a parent's student-success strategy should include creating open lines of communication between you and your child's teachers. Communicating regularly with teachers has been shown to help children succeed, according to the University of Illinois Extension. This does not mean you have to call your child's teacher every night. However, it does mean you should join parent-teacher organizations and attend any regularly scheduled parent-teacher conferences. If you do have a question or want feedback, respect the teacher's personal time at home. Contact the teacher during school hours, and request that she call you back at a convenient time.

Set Up a Study Zone

Studying is accomplished best in a place where there's peace and quiet. This allows your child to focus on her studies, according to the North Central Regional Educational Laboratory. Find a comfortable place where she can sit and study. Minimize distractions, such as the television or loud music. Check on your child regularly to ensure she does not need assistance. While concentration is important, encourage her to take a short break if her studying

exceeds 45 minutes or an hour.

Read with Your Child

You can teach your child to be a good student by fostering a love of reading and making learning fun. If your child is younger, curl up with him in a comfortable chair and read some favorite books together. As your child gets older and reads on his own, ask him about what he is reading and what he likes about the book, suggests the Wisconsin Rapids Tribune. Encourage him to keep reading by making trips to the library a fun and special event.

“Studying is accomplished best in a place where there's peace and quiet.”

School Lunch Charges

For all parents of students who eat school lunches: after Labor Day, no student will be allowed to charge more than \$5 on his/her lunch account. Any parent with questions regarding the status of his/her child's lunch account may contact the school for more information.

Breakfast**Lunch****Breakfast****Lunch***Monday, September 5**No School
Labor Day**Tuesday, September 6*Cereal
Animal Crackers
JuiceNacho Supreme w/Toppings
Tomatoes
Corn
Applesauce*Wednesday, September 7*Waffles
Syrup
Mandarin Oranges
SausageGrilled Chicken Patty/Bun
Cottage Cheese
Peaches
Blueberry Muffin*Thursday, September 8*Cereal
Toast
Jelly
JuicePK-5 Deli Turkey Sandwich
Smiles Potatoes
6-12 Chef Salad
Breaded Mozzarella Stick
Apple Crisp*Friday, September 9*Breakfast Pizza
PineappleHot Ham Slice
Scalloped Potatoes
Carrots
Pears*Monday, September 12*Cereal
JuiceRavioli
Green Beans
Applesauce
Bread & Butter*Tuesday, September 13*Sausage Gravy
on Biscuit
Mandarin OrangesFajitas
Spanish Rice
Corn
Lettuce/Tomatoes
Chocolate Chip Cookie*Wednesday, September 14*Cereal
JuiceSteamburger on Bun
Cheese Slice
Pickles
Nacho Chips
Strawberries*Thursday, September 15*Cheese Omelet
Hash Brown
PearsChicken Nuggets
Mashed Potatoes/Gravy
Mixed Fruit
Spinach*Friday, September 16*Cereal
JuicePizza
Pineapple
Lettuce*Monday, September 19*French Toast
Syrup
Bacon
RaisinsCorn Dogs
Baked Beans
Applesauce*Tuesday, September 20*Cereal
JuiceHot Pockets
Lettuce
Mixed Fruit
Rice Krispie Treat*Wednesday, September 21*Egg, Cheese, Sausage
Biscuit
Mandarin OrangesTenderloin on Bun
French Fries
Pears*Thursday, September 22*Cereal
JuiceTacos w/Toppings
Corn
Apple*Friday, September 23*Breakfast Pizza
PineappleChicken Gravy on Biscuit
Peas
Peaches
Fruit Snack*Monday, September 26*Cereal
Juice
Toast/CinnamonSpaghetti
Green Beans
Pears
Wheat Sticks*Tuesday, September 27*Breakfast Burrito
Bacon
RaisinsFish Sticks
Macaroni & Cheese
Applesauce
Carrots
Cookie*Wednesday, September 28*Cereal
Juice
DonutHot Dog on Bun
Tator Tots
Sauerkraut
Peaches*Thursday, September 29*Sausage Pancake on Stick
Pears6-12 Baked Potato
w/Toppings
PK-5 Mini Sub
Broccoli
Apricots
Lemon Bars*Friday, September 30*Cereal
Juice
Pop TartPizza
Lettuce
Pineapple*All meals served with 8oz. milk and bread & margarine*

Avon Community Unit School District 176

September 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 <i>2:05p Dismissal</i> 6p FFB @ S.Fulton 6p HVB @ W.Central	2 <i>11:30a Dismissal</i> 7p VFB@ Rushville/ Industry	3 9:30a JFB @ Havana TBA HVB @ United
4	5 <i>No School Labor Day</i>	6 6p JVFB @ BPC 6p HVB @ Peoria Hts. 6:30p PTA Meeting	7	8 6p FFB @ BPC 6p HVB @ Cuba	9 TBA HVB @ CSC 7p VFB @ BPC	10 TBA HVB @ CSC 10a JFB @ Avon
11	12 6p JVFB @ S.Fulton 6p HVB @ United	13 5:30p JFB @ Camp Point Central 6p JGB @ BPC 6p HVB @ Avon	14 6:30p Board Meeting	15 6p JGB @ Macomb 6p FFB @ BPC 6p HVB @ Farmington	16 7p VFB @ Avon	17 10a JFB @ Abingdon
18	19 6p JGB @ Avon 6p JVFB @ Peoria Hts. 6p HVB @ ROWVA	20 5:30p JFB @ Avon 6p HVB @ Avon	21 Picture Day	22 6p JGB @ BPC 6p FFB @ W.Central 6p HVB @ Avon	23 Mid-term 7p VFB @ N.Fulton	24
25	26 6p JGB @ Hamilton 6p JVFB @ BPC	27 5:30p JFB @ BPC 6p JGB @ BPC	28	29 6p HVB @ Ridgewood 6p JGB @ Cuba 6p FFB @ BPC	30 7p VFB @ Lewistown	

www.highschoolsports.net
www.avonschools.us

Calendar is subject to change

FFB – High School Boys Freshman Football
HVB – High School Girls Volleyball
JFB – Junior High Boys Football
JGB – Junior High Girls Basketball
JVFB – High School Boys Junior Varsity Football
VFB – High School Boys Varsity Football