

Upcoming Events

Fall Fundraiser Starts	Oct. 14
Sportswear Sale Ends	Oct. 17
PTA Meeting with BMI Presentation 7PM	Oct. 20
Membership Incentive	Oct. 21
Philly Zoo Assembly	Oct. 27
Hootenanny	Oct. 28
Fall Fundraiser Due	Oct. 31

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Star-Spangled Anniversary Celebration

On September 14, fifth-graders Brittany Ackerman and Marc Sortino raised the America flag and joined schools and communities across the United States by singing "The Star-Spangled Banner".

This event celebrated the anniversary of Francis Scott Key's poem, written 191 years ago on September 14, 1814. He wrote the stanzas that became "The Star-Spangled Banner" during the bombardment of Fort McHenry by British forces in Baltimore, MD.



Our ceremony made the newspaper! It was reported in the Morning Call's

September 15, 2005 edition.

[Information / PTA News](#)

From the Principal's Desk

In school we often think about helping children do better in reading, writing, math, science, social studies, and other subjects. Although this is important there are other skills we should try to teach our children.

I believe we should teach our children the value of hard work. Some people think "smart" is something you are born with while others believe you can "get smart". Studies show that these beliefs do matter. People who believe they can "get smart" are able to face a challenge.

If these people come up against a problem they can't solve, they don't give up. They don't say, "I was never any good at math anyway." Instead, they decide that they may just need to work a little longer, or try a different approach.

In contrast, people who don't value hard work are likely to give up. If they run into trouble, they give themselves all sorts of reasons why it isn't their fault. "I was never very smart in math anyway."

How can parents give children "get-smart" messages? Try these:

- "I know you can do it if you keep trying."

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"Another important trait to develop in children is responsibility."

Are you an Avona Stepper?

Reminder to join PTA. To date, we have 103 members. No class has met the 50% incentive. Time is running out, October 21st is the last day for the incentive.

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We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.wilsonareasd.org/pta/avona

From the Principal's Desk *continued...*

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- "You've worked really hard on your spelling. Before you know it, you'll learn those words."
- "You're not going to give up until you get it, are you? I'm impressed with your hard work."
- "If you work on your science fair project every day this week, you're sure to be proud of the result."

When you talk about the things you have done, make sure you send the same "get smart" messages. Tell your child you type so fast because you've practiced since you were 15. Or point out how proud you were when you finished painting a room.

Source: Deborah Stipek and Kathy Seal, Motivated Minds: Raising Children to Love Learning, 2001

Another important trait to develop in children is responsibility. What does responsibility really mean? A responsible person is respectful, honest, courageous, and in control. Here are some ways to encourage those traits in your child:

- **Respectfulness.** Kids need to be concerned about themselves and others. Help your child consider feelings. For example, "How could that decision make your friend feel?" "How would it make you feel about yourself?"
- **Honesty.** Although being truthful is sometimes hard, it feels worse to deceive. Talk with your child about how honesty leads to trust. Set a good example by admitting mistakes. Make it a family habit to apologize, learn from things, and move on.
- **Courage.** Standing up for beliefs can be scary. Preparing your child by role-playing tough situations. Explain that it's normal to be intimidated. Encourage her to make good decisions despite her fear. That's a real sign of bravery.
- **Self-control.** Life is full of temptations. Kids benefit when they are patient and calm. If your child is angry about something, for example, help her weigh the pros and cons of possible reactions.

Sources:

Deborah Stipek and Kathy Seal, Motivated Minds: Raising Children to Love Learning 2001)

"Helping Your Child Learn Responsible Behavior," Parenthood.com

BMI Presentation Oct. 20

Please join Andrea Grube, Avona's school nurse and Lisa Lutes Virgilio, PLMS's nurse, on Thursday, October 20th at 7:00 pm for their presentation on Body Mass Index. The state has mandated screening for students K-4. Come and listen on how that will be done and what we can do

at home to get our students lowering their BMI.



[Activities /Other Events](#)

Connect!

Once again I have listed the menu path on our website at the end of each article. This is done in case you wish more information on a subject.

Need to see what's being served for lunch? Get it at: <http://www.wilsonareasd.org/PTA/AVONA>

PTA Meeting Notes

The September 15th PTA Meeting was held in the Avona School Library at 7pm. Highlights include:

- The 2005 - 2006 school year budget was voted in.
- Mr. Wright announced that the school raised over \$1,000 for the American Red Cross for the Hurricane Katrina Fund. Also, the school will be collecting supplies along with Easton School District to help a school down south which has become overwhelmed with students from the New Orleans Area.
- Recycle cans have been placed in all classrooms to start recycling paper.
- Book Fair did better than projected but less than last year.
- Membership drive is on its way with an ice cream

party for classes with over 50% participation.

- Avona will host its first ever Hootenanny instead of its typical Harvest Festival on October 28th.

The meeting minutes with full details will be posted on our website when they become available.



The Zoo is Coming!

Thanks to your fundraising efforts so far, the PTA is able to host an assembly presented by Philadelphia Zoo right at Avona Elementary.

On October 27th, the students will discover how some popular animals deal with the cold and how they spend the challenging winter months in the wild. Don't miss school this day!



Activities /Assemblies

Harvest Hootenanny

A Harvest Hootenanny has been arranged this year on October 28th instead of the usual Harvest Festival. The students have been learning square dancing during physical education class to prepare for this event.

The PTA has hired a caller to come in for the day to actually call out the square dancing. The students are really having a good time learning to dance. Your efforts for the PTA have contributed to the cultural enrichment of the students.



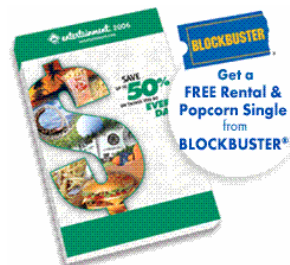
Information / PTA News

Entertainment Book Sale

Thanks to all those that have worked to make the Entertainment Book Sale another success. The sale raised over \$2,100!

The sale proceeds go to funding assemblies, class trips and other events the PTA sponsors at Avona Elementary School.

Thanks to Etta and Liz for all their hard work organizing the sale. Great work everyone!



Information / PTA News & Activities / Fundraising

Avona Christmas Ornaments

The Avona PTA still has just a few Christmas ornaments left from "The Old Avona" as it is often referred.

The ornament is pewter and circular in shape. It has a picture of the old school on the front. The ornament is dated 1954 - 1998. If you are interested, please contact Toniann Johnson at 601.559.3897. The ornaments are \$5.00 each.



Information / PTA News



Sportswear Sale

Again this year, Avona PTA voted to change the design for the sportswear sale. At the left is the new design. The sportswear will only be printed on royal blue shirts and pants. Sizes are available for children and adults.

The sportswear makes for a great Christmas gift for your child. It is also nice to have for such events as field day, class trips & assemblies. It looks awesome to see all

the children showing their school SPIRIT!

An order form went home with students on Friday September, 30. If you need an order form, you can download one in PDF format on the BackPack Express page located on our web site. Please show your school spirit!

[Information / PTA News](#)



Fall Book Fair

The PTA would like to thank all those who participated in the Fall Book Fair. The PTA was able to raise \$615 to go towards assemblies, class trips and the many other functions paid for by PTA.

Putting books in the hands of the Avona students and sending them on a new adventure through reading can not be more profitable than that.

Special thanks go out to Fran Zaragoza, Cathy Smyth, Toniann Johnson, Dawn Purcell, Liz Hanni, Stacy Izarek and Connie O'Neill for volunteering their time to make this event possible. The PTA would also like to acknowledge Mary Cummings, from Scholastic, for showing us the way.

[Information / PTA News](#)

School Store Volunteers Needed

School Store is about to start. On October 5th the School Store will be for the 3rd,4th and 5th graders. On October 19th the store will service 1st & 2nd graders.

As always, we are in need of parent volunteers to

spend just 20 minutes in the morning to help the students make their selections and help them pay for it.

If you are able to help, please contact Sheri Cawley at 610.559.0230. A list of other events is

posted on the web site under the Activities page. If you would like to volunteer for any of our other activities, please e-mail us at AvonaPTA@Yahoo.com or all Cathy Smyth at 610.438.3833.

[Activities / Volunteer - Opportunities](#)



Good Citizenship Award

Congratulations to Scott Barr for receiving the Principal's Good Citizenship Award.

Scott had found a \$20.00 bill outside at school.

Instead of just pocketing the money, Scott turned it in to his teacher.

Scott told her that he wanted the money to go to the Hurricane Katrina coin

drive if the money was not claimed. Great job Scott!



[Information / PTA News](#)

"Scott had found a \$20.00 bill outside at school. Instead of just pocketing the money, Scott..."

Avona Pictures

Last year I was shown a postcard that had several professional pictures of the school. These pictures were commissioned by DWKCB, the Architects of Avona School for use in a presentation.

I contacted DWKCB and asked if the original pictures were available, and they were! DWKCB graciously worked with the photographer to get us permission to use these pictures.

One of these pictures is on the front page of this newsletter and the main page of our web site. You can see more by choosing 'Our School' from the Information menu.

These school photos were provided courtesy of Tom Bernard Photography, 610-296-9289 & DWKCB Architects, www.dwkcb.com.

A special thanks to David Conly at DWKCB Architects who put in the extra effort to make these pictures possible for us.

[Information / Our School](#)

Birthday Club

Our School Guidance Counselor, Mrs. Kaye, invites fifth graders to a Birthday Club. Students celebrating their Birthday during the month are invited to attend lunch with Mrs. Kaye and their other Birthday buddies. They will sing "Happy Birthday" and be able to pick a treat from the Goodie Jar.

[Information / PTA News](#)

Class Reunion

Avona held a class reunion on September 5. Students left their homeroom and visited their teacher and fellow students of last year. They shared vacations they took, their summer activities and discussed the class they are in now.

Fifth grade teachers took the kindergarten students into the all purpose room to share a classical game of duck duck goose. Fun was had by all.

[Information / PTA News](#)

Avona Recycles

The Avona PTA has ordered Recycling cans for all classrooms. This will help students get in the habit of recycling. These cans are being purchased with the Office Depot Gift Card the PTA was awarded last year from the PA State PTA for its increase in membership for the 2004 - 2005 school year.

[Information / PTA News](#)

Katrina Coin Drive

Avona held a coin drive to collect money for the Hurricane Katrina victims.

Mr. Wright promised to match the donations received during the first week (up to \$200). So far Avona has raised \$1,091.76 which includes Mr. Wright's matching gift of \$200.

Thank you to all our students for the generosity and ensuring that Mr. Wright is now \$200 lighter.

[Information / PTA News](#)

STUDENT WARNING

Please remember to cross the street only in the areas with a crossing guard. It is not safe to cross the street at any other place due to the number of cars and busses on the roads at arrival and dismissal time.

Parents, if you are with your student, also cross at the guards to teach them the right way for days you are not with them.

Thanks for your cooperation



5th Grade Bio – Poems Mrs. Cosslett's Class



Kaitlyn

Shore, friendly, athletic, fun
Sister of Kevin
Lover of art, reading, riding my bike
Who feels glad you are my teacher, happy I'm in 5th grade, excited because a Nintendo DS
Who needs family, friends, and love
Who gives hugs to my friends, kisses to my family, presents to my neighbors
Who fears the dark, snakes, spiders
Who would like to visit Maryland, Florida, California
Resident of Wilson



Kuronya

Emily

Happy, smart, tough and tomboyish
Sister of Ben
Lover of arts, crafts, and karate
Who feels happy when my brother's not home, good when at karate and happy when at the beach
Who needs friends, family, and love
Who gives gifts to friends, hugs and kisses to family
Who fears snakes, spiders, and bees
Who would like to go around the world, get married when I get older, and be a karate teacher
Resident of West Eaton

Purcell

Jonathan

Tall, funny, brave, hardworking
Brother of Amanda and Cotey
Lover of biking, videogames, hiking
Who feels happy to go outside
Who needs my mom
Who gives hope in God
Who fears getting sick
Who would like to go to Tornado Alley
Resident of Glendon

Schober

Trevor

Athletic, cool, funny, nice
Brother of Ryan, Cassie, and Steph
Lover of sports, hanging out with my friends, and eating cheeseburgers
Who feels happy I'm in 5th grade, upset I lost my soccer game, happy I have Mrs. Cosslett
Who needs my friends, my family and my home
Who gives 100% no matter what, my nephew lollipops, kids on my soccer team advice
Who fears break-ins, robbers, and the news
Who would like to meet the Eagles, go to Penn State, and get a scholarship
Resident of Wilson Borough

Trittenbach

Megan

Shy, athletic, funny and new in the neighborhood
Sister of Kathleen and Michael
Lover of shopping, dancing, snow boarding, and hiking
Who feels happy when I play with kittens, passionate when I am with my family, and wonderful when I shop
Who needs my family, my cats, and my friends
Who fears the wiggles, spinach, and boys
Who would like to go home after school, hike, and shop
Resident of West Eaton

Walsh

