

Oct. 23, 2019



Have a submission for the All-Star News? Send it to [Leslie Garrison](#) by 5 p.m. Sunday.

## Coming Up At Avery

### Oct. 24

Pumpkins in the Park  
3:15-4:30 p.m.  
Bell Park

### Oct. 28-Nov. 8

All for Books  
Coin Collection

### Oct. 30

Picture Retakes

### Oct. 30

WGSD Parent  
Safety Info Night  
7 p.m.  
Steger Auditorium

### Oct. 31

Classroom  
Halloween Parties

### Nov. 1

No School

### Nov. 11-14

Scholastic Book Fair

### Nov. 15

Women & Wine  
Fundraiser Social

## Yearbook Cover Contest Deadline is Nov. 9

This year's theme is "I Am Because We Are." Please submit the completed artwork on 8.5x11-inch white paper to Mrs. Telthorst by **Saturday, Nov. 9** with the student's name and grade on the back. The artwork can be worked on in art class or at home. Mrs. Telthorst has the entry sheet for students.

There will be a front and back cover winner.

## Complete the Avery Buzz Book Form!

The Avery Buzz Book is our yearly school phone book which includes class lists & contact information for Avery staff and families.

You can submit your information online by completing [the form here](#).

If you prefer to submit your information via paper, a form will be sent home with your child this week or [print this form](#). Please return completed forms to your child's teacher.

## Picture Retakes

All picture packages have been sent home. If you haven't ordered, it's not too late. Please order using the home slip printed with your child's picture and the order code provided with the proof.

Picture retakes will be held on **Wednesday, Oct. 30**.

## Trivia Night Committee Meeting

If you're interested in helping to plan the next Avery Trivia Night & Auction, which will be Feb. 22, 2020, we invite you to join the next committee meeting on **Tuesday, Nov. 5** at 7 p.m.

Email Leslie Garrison at [lesliekgarrison@hotmail.com](mailto:lesliekgarrison@hotmail.com) for more information.

## From the Green Team

Hello Avery Community! My name is Beth Connolly and I am a parent of two Avery fifth graders. As part of the Green Team, I will be sending out a small segment in each newsletter with a small thing you can do to improve the environment at school and in the world. I am a busy, working mom and I am writing from that perspective, so these will be very small

suggestions. I am figuring it out, just like all of us, so you will read no judgment from me. In fact, you may be further along in your journey to help the environment. If so, please share your tips with me: [connollybjm@gmail.com](mailto:connollybjm@gmail.com).

### **Breaking the Plastic Habit in School Lunches**

I used to love Ziploc baggies for the kids' lunches. I recycled and made lots of other environmental improvements, but, for some reason, I had a real blind spot when it came to them. They're just so convenient!! Unfortunately, the plastic that they are made from is not recyclable at all. That type of thin, filmy plastic is one of the main pollutants that ends up in our oceans and even inside the sea life.

This year, I have switched to reusable containers and paper bags instead. For paper bags, I like LunchSkins. I found them at Target. They cost more than they should, but there are a lot in the box. Each bag has a sticker that peels off so you can seal the bag and there is a little area on it where you can write notes for your kids (if you are not a hardened parent throwing your kid's lunch together as quickly as possible, like me.) The only negative is that chips and crackers are a little less crispy but not stale. There is another type of bag available at Whole Foods which is comparable. I have looked for paper lunch bags at Schnucks, but they do not have them. Hopefully, they will become more widely available.

Next week, I will share about reusable drink and food containers for lunches.

Until next week.... let's take little green baby steps.

## **School Board Seeks Applicants to Fill Vacancy**

The Board of Education is seeking applicants who would like to serve on the board until an election can be held in April to fill the unexpired term of Dr. Arnold Stricker, who has resigned. The board is asking interested persons to submit a cover letter and resume. You can find details [at this link](#).

## **Pumpkins in the Park**

Join Avery for Pumpkins in the Park!

- **When: Thursday, Oct. 24**
- Time: after school. 3:15-4:30 p.m.
- Where: Bell Park

This event is for families to decorate pumpkins, make crafts and enjoy the fall season! There will be a group walking to Bell Park that will meet in front of Avery immediately after school, or

feel free to meet there. Supervision will not be provided, so please stay with your children during the fun. We hope to see you!

## New Fundraiser Social Nov. 15

Avery Moms: Join us for Women & Wine, a night out with other moms to enjoy each other's company while raising money for Avery. The event is **Friday, Nov. 15** and is \$25 per person. See details and sign up on the [Avery Socials website](#) and pay to PTO PayPal or drop a check in the PTO mailbox at the school. Details about the party will be emailed to you after signup.

Several Fundraiser Socials are planned throughout the year, like Progressive Dinner, that raise funds for our school while building community among families. If you have an idea for a Fundraiser Social or would like to be a host, please reach out to Kim Wise at [kimberlykwise@gmail.com](mailto:kimberlykwise@gmail.com).

## Need Help with a Thanksgiving Meal?

Avery Families: If you are in need of help with providing a Thanksgiving meal for your family, please reach out to Anna Wallace at [wallace.anna@wgmail.org](mailto:wallace.anna@wgmail.org) by **Friday, Nov. 1**. We want to help ensure that all Avery families are able to celebrate with a meal together.

## WGSD Parent Safety Information Night

The Webster Groves School District will provide families with information about district safety initiatives, including:

- WGSD School Resource Officers will present an overview of 4E (intruder) training that we conduct with district staff and preview an elementary student presentation
- WGSD Superintendent Dr. John Simpson will provide updates on Prop E safety, accessibility, and space measures

When: **Wednesday, Oct. 30** at 7 p.m.

Where: Steger Auditorium, 701 N. Rock Hill Road

## Intro to STEM Using LEGO

New after-school activity now available!

- Open to Kids in K-2nd

- Tuesdays, 3-4:30 p.m.
- Oct. 29-Dec. 17
- \$128 for 8 classes (\$16 each)

[Click Here to Register](#) for LEGO Engineering!

Kids are already naturally gifted creators. Then they get added inspiration from our specially trained instructors. They dive into our massive collections of LEGO®. And while they build elaborate objects, structures and vehicles, they explore fundamental principles of engineering and physics. They also learn to collaborate and create without fear of mistakes. The experience is joyful, the impact long lasting.

For more info about what our after-school classes look like, [click here](#) or [see the flyer!](#)

## Avery Spirit Wear Available!

Show your school pride with an Avery Elementary shirt, hoodie, hat or sticker! View and purchase products online at [averyspirit.com](http://averyspirit.com).

## Marker Recycling

All around Avery Elementary, students and teachers will be collecting used markers that are ready to be discarded. The markers will be sent to a facility where they will be converted into clean fuel. This fuel can be used to power vehicles, heat homes, cook meals and more!

Please help support our efforts by sending your kids in with any used markers you may have around the house – even non-Crayola brands. Drop-off boxes will be located around the school for your child to deposit the markers.

See [this letter](#) for more information, or contact library aide Noreen Mayfield at [mayfield.noreen@wgmail.org](mailto:mayfield.noreen@wgmail.org)

## We Stories in the Library

The [We Stories collection](#) at the Avery Elementary Library features culturally diverse children's books and discussion kits to help parents initiate conversations about race.

The kits include 4-6 different books, suggested activities and a discussion guide. Each kit is centered on a different theme such as "Everybody Counts," "Girl Power," "Celebrating the Skin

You're In" and "Who are the People in Your Neighborhood." The We Stories kits are designed for parents and children ages 3-8 and can be checked out for two weeks.

See [this flyer](#) for more information. Learn more about the We Stories organization at [www.westories.org](http://www.westories.org).

## Read, Right & Run Marathon

Avery Elementary is participating in the GO! St. Louis Read, Right & Run Marathon program for the 2019-2020 school year. GO! St. Louis, a local non-profit organization, encourages individuals and families in the St. Louis region to adopt a healthy and active lifestyle year round.

The GO! St. Louis Read, Right & Run Marathon is a marathon program for children in grades K-8 that focuses on literacy, fitness, and character development. Students are challenged to **READ** 26 books, **RIGHT** the community with 26 good deeds and learn to set goals to **RUN** the necessary miles in preparation for their final race. After 26 weeks of hard work, the program culminates each year when the students complete their race day goals at the GO! St. Louis Family Fitness Day in Forest Park on **March 28, 2020**.

The [Parent Letter](#) has more information. If you're ready to register your student, [you'll find instructions here](#). For more information, contact Tim Velten at [velten.tim@wgmail.org](mailto:velten.tim@wgmail.org).

## PTO Buyout

Several years ago, the PTO decided to no longer ask parents to sell anything to help with fundraising. Instead, we do a PTO "buyout," which is a one-time direct donation to the PTO. We get to keep 100% of the funds, and every single penny will go back into Avery this year, with the bulk of money going directly to the teachers to help reimburse them for personal money they have spent on their classrooms!

Our goal this year is \$12,000!! This is the highest goal we have set! Please remember that EVERY dollar counts! It's not how much you can give, just that you give! You can donate through [the Avery PTO PayPal buyout link](#).

## Flyers

[Haunted House of Hoops Basketball Clinic](#)

[Glendale Firehouse Run | Oct. 27](#)

[Webster Groves Parent Advisory Council \(PAC\) Meeting Information](#)