

Nov. 20, 2019



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

## Coming Up At Avery

### Nov. 20

Science Fair Info Night  
6 p.m.  
Edgar Road Elementary

### Nov. 24

Spirit Wear Shop Closes

### Nov. 27-29

No School,  
Thanksgiving Break

### Dec. 8

Caroling Party

### Dec. 16

Gifted Nomination Deadline

### Dec. 20

Classroom Holiday Parties

## Avery Spirit Wear Closes Soon!

Show your school pride with an Avery Elementary shirt, hoodie, hat or sticker! View and purchase products online at [averyspirit.com](http://averyspirit.com). Get your order in before **Sunday, Nov. 24** -- be sure to stock up on holiday gifts!

## Get into Holiday Spirit with Family Caroling Party

The next Avery Fundraiser Social is for the whole family! Sign up to join other Avery families for a caroling party on **Sunday, Dec. 8**. \$20 per family -- all funds go to the PTO. See details and sign up on the [Avery Socials website](#).

## Caps Collection

The Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts at Avery are leading an effort to collect caps and lids to go towards recycled plastic picnic tables for the front lawn of Avery. The PTO will cover the additional cost associated with making the tables as long as students can bring in the necessary number of caps. 550 pounds are required for each 8-foot table, so let's get collecting!! A collection box is waiting for your plastic at the entrance to Avery.

Please make sure caps and lids are clean and fall into these categories:

### **Acceptable Caps Examples - Recycle #2, 4 or 5**

medicine bottle caps (info packet removed), drink bottle caps (soda, water, juice, sport drinks, milk jugs), flip-top caps (ketchup), detergent caps, spout caps (mustard), hair spray caps, spray paint caps, toothpaste caps, ointment tube caps, deodorant caps, baby food caps, apple sauce pouch caps, shampoo/conditioner caps

### **Acceptable Lids Examples - Recycle #2, 4 or 5**

cottage cheese container lids, cool whip container lids, mayonnaise jar lids, coffee can lids, yogurt lids, cream cheese container lids, peanut butter jar lids, butter container lids, ice cream bucket lids under 8 inches, Pringles lids

## Avery Auction Sponsorships & Donations

Make plans to attend the 2020 Trivia Night & Auction, Mardi Gras Masquerade, on **Feb. 22, 2020!** Registration will open in January. The committee is currently looking for individuals and businesses (or families or classrooms!) to sponsor the event and provide donations. For more information about sponsorship opportunities, please email Jessica Gatewood at [jessicagatewood@gmail.com](mailto:jessicagatewood@gmail.com).

Donations can be traditional auction items but also services (landscaping or mowing, babysitting, cleaning, cooking, etc.) ... think outside the box! Contact Heidi Bolzenius at [heidi\\_bolzenius@att.net](mailto:heidi_bolzenius@att.net) if you have an idea for an auction item.

## Green Committee Tip of the Week

This week's green committee tip is simply this: Do NOT put your plastic grocery bags in the regular recycling.

According to all my reading on recycling -- which has increased a lot since I began writing these tips -- one the biggest obstacles in single stream recycling is thin plastic bags. Not only can they not be recycled, but they can really slow down and interfere with the process.

If you still use plastic bags (because you always forget your reusable ones like I do) take them to plastic bag recycling collection containers only. Those can be found outside of most grocery stores. Don't forget to add the newspaper bags and bread bags!

Here's why: (via earth911.com)

- Plastic bags are among the most common sources of marine debris, where they can be mistaken as food by birds and fish.
- Plastic bags don't biodegrade, meaning it will take hundreds of years for them to decompose in a landfill.
- Recycling a ton of plastic bags (about 450,000 bags) saves 11 barrels of oil.

If you have any tips for the Green Team, send to Beth Connolly at [connollybjm@gmail.com](mailto:connollybjm@gmail.com).

## Gifted Program Deadline Approaching

Student nominations for both the Academic and Fine Arts Gifted programs are due **Monday, Dec. 16**. Anyone may nominate a student. The district has four universal screenings of students in grades 4th, 6th, 8th (this year) and 2nd grade (beginning the fall of 2020). The district allows one parent nomination during a child's tenure in the WGSD. Additional information about the WGSD Gifted Program may be found [online](#).

The Academic Gifted Program services students in 2nd - 12th grade. Students turning in forms by the deadline will be evaluated for academic program services this school year. Nominations received after Dec. 15, 2019, for the academic program will be accepted but students will only be evaluated for services this school year if time allows.

The Gifted Fine Arts Program services students in 3rd - 8th grade. Screening for the Gifted Fine Arts program is held once a year in the winter. This year, the Gifted Arts Evaluation dates are February 27 and 28, 2020. Therefore, second grade students interested in the program for third grade must be nominated in second grade. Please also be aware that late forms will NOT

be accepted for the Gifted Fine Arts Program.

Forms for both programs may be obtained from the gifted specialist at your child's school, or online through the district website. If you want to nominate online, here are the direct links: [Academic Gifted nomination](#) and [Gifted Fine Arts nomination](#).

Feel free to contact the gifted specialist at your child's school or me if you have any questions. Pamela Washington, Ph.D., District Gifted Coordinator, [washington.pam@wgmail.org](mailto:washington.pam@wgmail.org).

## How Inclusive is Our School?

Avery Parents for Racial Equity would like your feedback on how Avery can be more equitable and inclusive for all children. The committee is partnering with a team from Lindenwood University to conduct a survey. Participation is voluntary and if you choose to fill out the survey, please [click this link](#). We thank you for your time and opinions so we can make the Avery community a more supportive environment.

Thank you,  
Elisa Tomich and Tasha Taylor  
Co-Leaders of Avery Parents for Racial Equity

## Ras Jones Awards at MLK Celebration

Ras Jones was a civil rights activist and leader in Webster Groves who is honored through the MLK Community Celebration essay/arts program. Students this year are invited to submit projects based on the theme "Building Character" and that reflect on Dr. King's identification of "true education" as "intelligence plus character."

Awardees will be invited to read from essays or say a few words about their arts projects, at the 2020 Community Celebration, the evening of January 19; each awardee will also receive a gift towards purchasing a \$50 savings bond. All projects submitted will be displayed at the event, at Steger Sixth Grade Center/Henry Givens Jr. Elementary School.

See [the flyer](#) for more information.

## Science Fair Info Night

Come learn about the science fair and how to complete a project on **Wednesday, Nov. 20** in the Edgar Road Elementary library at 6 p.m. If you cannot attend or would like more

information, please contact district science fair coordinator, Shayla Pott, at [pott.shayla@wgmail.org](mailto:pott.shayla@wgmail.org).

## New Student Grant Opportunity

All of the money raised from the Kona Ice days will be reserved for student grant ideas on how to serve the community outside of Avery. Students can come up with an idea of how to benefit others outside of Avery with their families, friends or teachers. Please turn in grant ideas to classroom teachers, who will then pass them on to PTO. Students will be asked to attend a PTO meeting to present their idea.

## 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

[Boy Scout Troop 303 Tree Lot](#)

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