

Dec. 4, 2019



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

## Coming Up At Avery

### Dec. 9

Avery Parents for  
Racial Equity Meeting  
7-8 p.m.  
Avery Library

### Dec. 9-13

Fruit & Veggie Challenge

### Dec. 16

Gifted Nomination Deadline

### Dec. 20

Classroom Holiday Parties

### Dec. 23-Jan. 3

Winter Break,  
No School

## Fruit & Veggie Challenge

Avery Elementary will be competing in a Fruit and Vegetable Challenge next week starting **Monday, Dec. 9**. The first school to consume 800 fruit or vegetable servings win. Avery will be competing with other surrounding schools: Clark Elementary, Meramec Elementary (Clayton) and more.



## Avery Parents for Racial Equity Meeting Dec. 9

Avery Parents for Racial Equity will meet **Monday, Dec. 9** from 7-8:30 p.m. in the Avery library. Childcare will be provided for children ages 2 and older. Contact Tasha Taylor or Elisa Tomich at [averyequity@gmail.com](mailto:averyequity@gmail.com) with any questions.

## Green Tip of the Week – Air Pollution

Did you know that the St.Louis metro area is still ranked the 29th most polluted city in the nation? This is according to the 2018 “State of the Air” report released by the American Lung Association. It is a big problem that is hard to know how to do anything about. But recently a reader wrote in about a way we can help make the air around Avery nice and clear:

Turn those idling engines off at pick up!!

When the weather gets cold, it is hard to sit without the heat on, but as that reader wrote to me, "Every little bit helps."

Do you have any green tips to pass along? Let me know! You can reach me, Beth, at [connollybjm@gmail.com](mailto:connollybjm@gmail.com).

Don't forget to save your plastic caps for the playground picnic table!!

## Impact Aid Survey Form

To all our families that have already completed this survey, THANK YOU!

We really need to have a form returned from **each family** by winter break. Please return this form to your child's teacher as soon as possible. If you have not returned a form, another one

will be coming home with your child. You can also use the [electronic version of the survey form](#) and [transmittal letter](#).

## A Big Book Fair Thank You

Thank you to everyone who donated to All for Books and to our volunteers who helped make the book fair a success! And thank you to those who purchased books at the fair! A portion of the proceeds from the fair come back to Avery in the form of new books for the school library. All the students of Avery have access to more great books thanks to your support!

## WGHS Dance Team

The WGHS Dance Team (and their parents) are providing childcare during the Hixson Holiday House tour on **Sunday, Dec. 8**. It should be a fun afternoon for the kids, as we are planning on having crafts, games, light and healthy snacks, and a movie. This is for kids Kindergarten through 5th grade, and cost is \$40/child .... 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. (parents are welcome to drop off and pick up anytime between those hours).

See more information [on the flyer](#). Please [click here](#) for parents to register their kids.

## Caps Collection

The Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts at Avery are leading an effort to collect caps and lids to go toward 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.

## 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).

## 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.

## 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

[Voices with Vision All-Star Choir Audition Information](#)

[Boy Scout Troop 303 Tree Lot](#)

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