

Dec. 11, 2019



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

Coming Up At Avery

Through Dec. 13

Fruit & Veggie Challenge

Dec. 12

Cub Scout Meeting

Dec. 16

Gifted Nomination Deadline

Dec. 20

Classroom Holiday Parties

Dec. 23-Jan. 3

Winter Break,
No School

Dec. 27

Avery Night at Rockin' Jump
4-8 p.m.

Jan. 6

School Resumes

Jan. 14

PTO Meeting
7 p.m.
Avery Library

Jan. 17

Mardi Gras Masquerade
Dress-Up Day for Trivia Night

Jan. 22

Trivia Night Registration Opens

Avery Trivia Night Kickoff



Make plans to attend the 2020 Trivia Night & Auction, sponsored by Jill Stokke of John Jackson Neighborhood Real Estate, on **Saturday, Feb. 22!** Registration opens **Wednesday, Jan. 22.** To kick off registration, Avery students are encouraged to dress up for the theme, Mardi Gras Masquerade, on **Friday, Jan. 17.**

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.

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 if you have an idea for an auction item.

Dec. 12, Cub Scout Pack Meeting

Things are poppin' for our December Pack Meeting, as we celebrate how a Scout is Cheerful! We'll be distributing Pinewood Derby Cars as well as prizes for popcorn sales. We'll also have our annual pie-in-the-face event; Cubs that sold a certain amount of popcorn will get to smooch a shaving cream pie in the face of a leader of their choosing...always a hit with the kiddos! Siblings are always welcome!

Questions? Contact Cubmaster Brandon Thurmon (bthurmon@gmail.com)

Winter Break Energy Burn!

By mid-break, you may be looking for an outlet for child's pent up energy. Join us for Avery Night at Rockin' Jump on **Friday, Dec. 27** between 4-8 p.m. For \$15, your child can jump for two hours. A signed waiver is required and available on the Rockin Jump website and will be sent home via backpack mail. Adult supervision is strongly suggested. Proceeds will benefit Avery Parents for Racial Equity. Questions? Contact averyequity@gmail.com.

When: Friday, Dec. 27 between 4-8 pm.

Where: Rockin' Jump, 7375 Watson Road

Save the Date for STEAM Night

STEAM NIGHT WILL BE ROLLING IN **Tuesday, Jan. 28** from 6:15-7:45 p.m. at Avery.

Come join your child in participating in a night of STEAM activities. This fun filled evening will include hands-on learning activities that support teamwork and problem solving in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math!

If you would like to donate to help make this night great, please [use this link](#).

Donations can be placed in the boxes right inside of the office or your child can bring them to the modular classrooms. We would love to have these donations by January 24. If you have questions about donations please email Jenn Pupillo: pupillo.jennifer@wgmail.org

In addition to grade level activities, The Novel Neighbor will host a small STEAM book fair in the library!

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

Fruit & Veggie Challenge

Avery Elementary will be competing in a Fruit and Vegetable Challenge through **Friday, Dec. 13**. 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.



Green Tip of the Week

I am writing this at the last minute because, like all of us this time of year, I am overwhelmed with holiday events and obligations. So I will be brief: One small thing you and your family can do to help the world is try to add more plants to your diet and eat less meat and dairy. CNN succinctly explains why:

"Research consistently shows that drastically reducing animal food intake and mostly eating plant foods is one of the most powerful things you can do to reduce your impact on the planet over your lifetime, in terms of energy required, land used, greenhouse gas emissions, water used and pollutants produced."

Just one or two meals a week can help. If you are cutting down on meat, I suggest making (or picking up) a cheese lasagna or having a fun Burger King Impossible burger blind taste test challenge. If you are trying to cut down on dairy, buy a few different dairy alternatives to try and find out which one you like the best. I have discovered that I like Oat Milk the best.

Whatever you choose, I wish you a warm family feast and a moment of peace in this busy season!

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

Do you compost? Tell me how you got started.

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](#).

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

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.

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

[Avery Buzz Book](#)

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

[Boy Scout Troop 303 Tree Lot](#)

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