



Avenal Elementary School
Avenal, CA

November 1, 2013
Volume 1, Issue 1

Newsletter

Mr. Horn, Principal Mr. Yocum, Student Support Coordinator

Fall Highlights 2013-2014

Welcome



Welcome back to school students, parents, teachers, staff, and members of our community! I hope the summer break was restful for all of you and we are ready to come back together and focus on the new 2013-2014 school year that awaits us. A new school year is like a blank canvas and it will be interesting to see what we each individually choose to paint on our canvas this year. I am hoping the creative juices will be flowing and we will finish a beautiful life



Transitional Kindergarten



This is our second year doing TK - or Transitional Kindergarten! Last year was our first year doing TK. Those 25 students are looping (staying with) their teacher for TK2 and learning the second half of the California State Standards for Kindergarten. We will have one class of approximately 25 TK students who are slightly younger than their Kindergarten brethren in the TK1 class. These students in TK1 will receive the first half of the Kindergarten standards spread out over the entire year.



Academics

As we move forward academically into 2013-2014, we will continue to work hard at Avenal Elementary School to expand student achievement and to close learning gaps when identified. We are doing that by continuing our Journeys classes in 4th-6th grades. The Journeys classes are dynamic English Language Arts classes in 4th-6th grades that are targeted interventions to close specific student gaps. We are using common formative assessments in all classes at every grade level to help drive instruction and make decisions on where student intervention should take place. Successmaker and Lexia are proving to be successful programs and we are adding a Blended 21st-Century Learning program to help service our 6th grade population of 150 students. Each student will be checked out a laptop computer to do ELA and Math core curriculum in the classroom and homework at home. The 6th grade teachers are piloting the McGraw Hill digital common core platform.



Avenal Elementary School
Avenal, CA

November 1, 2013
Volume 1, Issue 1

Newsletter

Mr. Horn, Principal Mr. Yocum, Student Support Coordinator

Fall Highlights 2013-2014



RTI

In keeping with our theme of intervention this year we are continuing a 45 minute period for RTI - or Response to Intervention. Our RTI period will offer students additional time to learn the essential standards that they were not able to master in the regular course of time in ELA or Math. Students that did master the essential standard will be offered an extension period for Science and/or History during this 45 minute period. We will offer an academic after school program the first week of October and it will run from 2:20 pm to 3:20 pm three days a week.

Student Achievement



As we journey together through the 2013-2014 school year, we will strive for high student achievement. We believe that all students can learn and we hold each other accountable to make sure students are learning every day, in every classroom. We are committed to supporting our students as they work toward achieving their full academic and social potential. We dedicate ourselves to providing a quality education to every student by creating and delivering a rigorous curriculum and instruction program in every classroom, every day. We maintain high expectations for achievement and behavior. We are committed to continually seeking to improve our instruction for our students. Students at AES are encouraged to show their *Wildcat* pride by doing their best in all that they do, all of the time!



Partnership

At Avenal Elementary School, we believe that it takes a partnership between families and the school to make a difference in our student's lives. We hope that as a parent, you will become involved in our plan for school improvement as we continue to monitor student achievement and set high expectations. We encourage parents to get to know their child's teacher and the class routines. Set aside time each day to ask your student about the things they are learning at school. Please make time to attend the English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC) meetings at the last Friday of each month. You are also invited to attend the School Site Council (SSC) that is the last Thursday of each month. Together we can do great things!



Avenal Elementary School
Avenal, CA

November 1, 2013
Volume 1, Issue 1

Newsletter

Mr. Horn, Principal Mr. Yocum, Student Support Coordinator

Fall Highlights 2013-2014

Library



We started the 2013/2014 school year providing all teachers with appropriate grade level classroom curriculum. Library opening date for classes was Sept 16. Engaging student's grades k-2nd by reading thematic stories such as Library etiquette, pumpkins, seasons act. Cataloged lap tops for our sixth graders with the help of our sixth grade teacher Mrs. Cazares. Lap tops were then checked out to sixth graders and went smoothly with the great team work of Mr. Horn and Mr. Yocum. We had the scholastic book fair on back to school night that was a huge success and provided lots of books to our students. We had our very own board member Ms. Leticia Lopez volunteer at our book fair. AES staff is so very involved and ready to help with anything and in any way they can in our library.

PS Arts



.P.S. Arts would like to thank all the parents that have inspired their little artists to be more creative. P.S. Arts has made sure students know "We have the freedom to imagine. We have the power to create." In inspiring that P.S. Arts' theme for this year has been Expanding Our Universe: Exploring Our Dreams, and we have been doing just that. In art class the student artists' art projects have *expanded their universe* by allowing them to artistically travel to India through creating Mehndi art hands. They have also been creating Indian art elephants using different media such as tempera paint, markers, and graphite pencils. We are looking forward to *exploring our dreams* through our new unit on the famous painting *Starry Night* by Vincent Van Gogh; students will create an installation type of collage collaborating with each other to get it done just right--can't wait to see it displayed! We will also be learning about how the different seasons change our weather, plants, and temperature in art while creating beautiful art projects to take home to decorate for these holiday seasons.



Band

The music program has been progressing very well here at AES. 4th grade students have been attending once per week learning about the fundamental aspects that make up music. They have worked through clapping and counting rhythms and have moved into reading and singing melodies, which will resume throughout this second trimester. The 5th and 6th grade band classes have been reviewing the basic aspects of reading notes and rhythms, as well as learning about the implementation of sharps and flats. Instruments will continue to be loaned out throughout November as students continue to show their knowledge and understanding of rhythm and melody. I look forward to a wonderful second trimester and a wonderful year.



Avenal Elementary School
Avenal, CA

November 1, 2013
Volume 1, Issue 1

Newsletter

Mr. Horn, Principal Mr. Yocum, Student Support Coordinator

Fall Highlights 2013-2014



Student Support Coordinator Office

Hello from the Student Support Coordinator's office. We're off to a great start this year! Student achievement is up for the 4th year in a row, positivity in our school culture is still on the rise, and we're continuing to try to introduce new student and staff recognition programs/events.

So far this year, we've had six **Student of the Month** assemblies, where we have recognized those students for academic excellence and **Character Counts** traits of "**trustworthiness**" and "**respect**". We have also held two 5th/6th grade dances, where the kids have had a chance to show their moves and hang out with their friends. We just got through distributing the products sold from our first, very successful, school wide **fund raiser**. The students are about to enjoy their second round of **Perfect Attendance** lunches in the cafeteria, where they enjoy a restaurant type setting on the stage with music, decorations, and a special lunch treat. **Fun Fridays** are in full swing also. Each grade level gets a little free time and a special treat on their Fun Friday. First time through were snow cones, and now that it's getting a little cooler, fresh, hot popcorn is on the menu.

Please feel free to call or stop by if you have any questions and/or concerns. My door is always open.....Mr. Yocum



Avenal Elementary School
Avenal, CA

November 1, 2013
Volume 1, Issue 1

TK/K Grade Newsletter

Mrs. Crass, Mrs. Llamas, Mrs. Orozco, Mrs. Rosas, Mrs. Sandoval

TK-K Fall Highlights 2013-2014



August

In the month of August, one of the highlights was the success of our Fall Orientation. Having the students come the day before school and meet the teachers was very beneficial in helping the students to be calmer and less scared on their first day of school.



September

During the month of September, the students were able to enjoy their first Fun Friday and were very excited to eat their snow cones and talk with their friends about the different flavors and colors they were eating. The students also got excited about the rewards they were receiving because they were excelling at Lexia. A majority of the students were already passing the 2nd and 3rd levels by the second month in school!



Fire Prevention Week and I-Ready

The beginning of October was Fire Prevention Week; the teachers and staff were appreciative that the Avenal Fire Department came out and taught the students about fire prevention. The students liked learning about fire prevention as well as the hats and stickers they received from the Avenal Fire Department for being such good students. The students also easily adapted to their first session of i-ready and worked hard do their best.



Avenal Elementary School
Avenal, CA

November 1, 2013
Volume 1, Issue 1

1st Grade Newsletter

Mrs. Arroyo, Mrs. Beltran, Mrs. Groves, Mrs. Ross

Fall Highlights 2013-2014

Common Core



The First Grade at AES dove deep into Common Core Math early in the First Trimester. The teachers collaborated on getting the books and materials to be able to implement it, spending a lot of time on game-making and playing the games together as we had done in the TCOE training. The students have been enjoying the games and hopefully are getting a much deeper understanding of number concepts from 0-120 in the First Trimester before moving on to Operations and Algebraic Thinking in the Second Trimester.



We are deploying for ELD and re-arranged the classes once the CELDT testing was completed in October to accommodate the improvements over last year's scores. We are using Repeated Interactive Read-Alouds for both ELA and ELD. The teachers are enjoying being able to share fine literature and picture books with their students again.

ELD



AES Bee Population

Over the past 5 years or so a bee population had taken over inside the walls outside the windows of our First and Second Grade Hallway. A beekeeper was called in this October to remove the bees without harming them. We had a unique view outside our large picture windows for several days as the beekeeper worked with smoke to calm the bees, then tearing away the wall and giving them a bee box to inhabit instead. We watched him as he finally coaxed the queen into the box and then the thousands of bees that spent several days migrating from the wall to the box. Talk about Teachable Science Moments! The beekeeper told us there were about 25 pounds of wax and honey inside the wall!



Avenal Elementary School
Avenal, CA

November 1, 2013
Volume 1, Issue 1

1st Grade Newsletter

Mrs. Arroyo, Mrs. Beltran, Mrs. Groves, Mrs. Ross

Fall Highlights 2013-2014

PS Arts



Our PS Arts teacher, Mrs. Renteria, is doing a fine job giving our First Graders Art experiences and lessons in the short time she has with them. They love going to Art once a week. We're working on Indian Art, including lessons based on intricate henna drawings and the Indian symbol, the elephant.

Library



Our Library is looking wonderful due to the hard work of our Librarian, Mrs. Sierra. The atmosphere is very inviting now. The books are in order and the students are able to find which books they want.



Red Ribbon Week

Red Ribbon Week has just passed. All the First Grade participated in the activities, including the door-decorating contest. Mrs. Beltran's class won with their scary spiders hanging in a web with the saying, "Bullying Stings...Friends Like to Hang Out Together. Say NO to drugs."



Avenal Elementary School
Avenal, CA

November 1, 2013
Volume 1, Issue 1

2nd Grade Newsletter

Mr. Boehm, Mrs. Castillo, Ms. Denton, Mrs. Riofrio

Fall Highlights 2013-2014



Life Cycles

Second-grade has been learning about the life cycles of bats, plants, pumpkins, and frogs and toads. We have been reading books and doing fun activities that pertain to the latter. Some of the classes planted beans and watched them grow. Others are going to do activities with pumpkins. We have done numerous writing activities and art projects



Math

In Math we have been doing numerous activities that pertain to place value, digits, number lines, fact families, comparing numbers, and many other math activities that enhance Math skills. Number talks have become a daily routine. Also, Math journals are being used. Small group activities are being used to reinforce the learning of new concepts.



ELA

In ELA we have been learning numerous skills that help second-graders become better readers. Some of the skills include Spelling patterns, phonics, multiple-meaning words, parts of speech, and the parts of sentences. We have also been doing opinion writing about community helpers



ELD

For ELD we have been doing Science, community helpers, and Social Studies.

Fun activities include Halloween activities, a pumpkin party, and other seasonal activities. Some classes have been involved with Red-ribbon week activities such as door decorating and essay writing. The winning class gets an ice cream party. The school carnival was a fund raising activity. Each class celebrates student birthdays in different ways



Avenal Elementary School
Avenal, CA

November 1, 2013
Volume 1, Issue 1

3rd Grade Newsletter

Mrs. Bancroft, Ms. Carey, Mrs. Montoy, Ms. Navarrette

Fall Highlights 2013-2014

Welcome and 9-11



Third grade is pleased to welcome our newest member, Ms. Navarrette. She comes to us from Kettleman City Elementary School and is fitting in quite nicely.

To commemorate 9/11, all of the third graders met together to sing patriotic songs and talk about what happened that day. Their rendition of God Bless America was fabulous!



Crafts

As an extension of The Keeping Quilt and The Talking Cloth, students made colorful quilts. Problem solving skills were incorporated in the designing of the quilt squares.



RTI

Finally, the focus of RTI has been answering questions with details from the text. While more work is needed, some of the students are showing a lot of progress!



Avenal Elementary School
Avenal, CA

November 1, 2013
Volume 1, Issue 1

4th Grade Newsletter

Mrs. Bonilla, Mr. Nugent, Ms. Sorrick,

Fall Highlights 2013-2014

Welcome



The fourth grade team is excited to welcome their newest teacher to their grade level, Ms. Sorrick.

Ms. Sorrick brings with her many years of experience teaching fifth and sixth grades here at Avenal Elementary. She



Castles & Missions



The fourth grade has applied for a grant to go on a field trip to Hearst Castle which will incorporate learning about California history. We are also hoping to make our regular field trip to Mission San Luis Obispo to bring to life our Social Studies unit on California Missions.



SumDog National Champions

One of our highlights so far this year is that our fourth grade class won a nation-wide math competition put on by the "Sum Dog" web site. The competition involved the students each answering 1,000 math questions. The school with the highest percentage of correct answers is chosen as the winner. Our class was number one with an average score of 94% correct.



Avenal Elementary School
Avenal, CA

November 1, 2013
Volume 1, Issue 1

5th Grade Newsletter

Mr. Frazer, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Kohns,

Fall Highlights 2013-2014

Welcome



The fifth grade team at AES welcomed Mr. Frazer into their ranks this fall, reuniting three of the fifth grade staff from 2008-2009. We began working together during the summer months, collaborating with fifth grade teachers from around the district.



Common Core

Much of our work this fall has been focused on developing routines and strategies to ensure we are meeting the new Common Core Standards. We are utilizing the new i-Ready® Assessments and Progress Monitoring Tools as well as other formative assessments to inform our intervention planning.



ASB

Many of our students are learning about student government through their participation in ASB. Students are appreciating events and activities designed to reward their hard work, including Fun Fridays, Award Assemblies, Dances, and daily prize drawings.



Team

We have a strong team, dedicated to working together for the good of all our students, every day. We are looking forward to a year filled with high achievement and fun times!



Avenal Elementary School
Avenal, CA

November 1, 2013
Volume 1, Issue 1

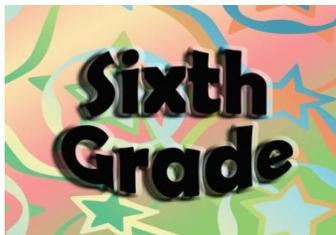
6th Grade Newsletter

Mrs. Bement, Mrs. Randall, Mrs. Summers, Mrs. Cazares, Mrs. Rahl

English

This trimester in ELA, 6th grade has focused on the CCC Standards RI1, RL4, and W3. Teachers have been modeling how to provide text evidence, find main idea and details in expository text, analyze text, have collaborative conversations in small groups, and write personal narratives.

Students have been working in collaborative groups or pairs to find text evidence to support their answers and opinions. They have been exploring the text features and finding the main idea and supporting details of expository text. They are comparing and analyzing texts that focus on the same topic (essential question).



They are practicing grammar skills, such as: forming complete sentences, combining sentences, and quotations to write personal narratives with strong openings.

Students are being held responsible for participation, collaborating, and culminating projects. All of which are tied to each unit of focus.

Math

This trimester in Math, 6th grade has focused on the CCC RP3 and NS4. Teachers have been modeling how to apply appropriate mathematical practices to persevere and solve real world problems.

Students have been exploring real world problems by completing inquiry labs, case studies, and researching careers that use math. Students have also been exploring their online tools by using online manipulative and tutorials.

Science

Teachers have been guiding students through science concepts, such as, plate tectonics, Earth's layers, continental drift, plate boundaries, views of Earth today, maps and globes, and global positioning system.

Students have also been taught the scientific method and are completing individual or small group science projects, which they will display at the beginning of December for Science Day. Each project requires that they complete each step in the scientific method and display

Upcoming Events

Winter Program 12/19/13 @ 1:05pm in the cafeteria

Can Food Drive 11/4/13-11/20/13

Pizza Fundraiser Starts 11/6/13

End of Carmel Apple Fundraiser 11/13/13