

THE DEVIL'S HERALD

Avon Grove High School, West Grove, Pa.

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AG THON

Students raise \$13,000 for B+ Foundation



-Photo by Ashtin Rector

Avon Grove students danced throughout the night on April 5 to raise money for children battling cancer.

By
Ashtin Rector
Staff Writer

AG Thon was a success once again as 80 students attended the all-nighter in the gym to raise money to support children battling cancer.

Students raised money for the B+ Foundation which raises money to provide financial and emotional support to families of chil-

dren with cancer nationwide.

"The school looked great and it was great knowing that you helped out for a great cause," said sophomore Anna Provence.

The school managed to raise a total of \$13,329.69. People who didn't make it to Thon donated online.

Students filled the jungle-themed high school gymnasium from 9:00p.m. on Friday, April

5 until 5:00a.m. on Saturday, April 6. They participated in a variety of activities and tournaments and danced throughout the night.

"It was a great night because people I talk to in school...I was able to see [them] for the whole night at school," said sophomore Dylan Novak.

EDUCATION

Teachers instill life lessons throughout student journeys

By
Olivia Watson
Column

For many, school is a second home, as Avon Grove students spend about 1,260 hours a year in school. During this time there are teachers students like, some they don't, some that are tough, and some are inspirational.

For me, I've had many inspirational, amazing teachers. One that taught me how to be a better reader one that taught me that school isn't so hard after all, and one that showed me that the world is more than what is written in a history book.

These three teachers are just some of the amazing, inspiring, and wonderful teachers I've had while in the Avon Grove School District.

These teachers all have one thing in common: they all wanted their students to succeed, not just in school, but in life too. They also want to make a difference in the lives of their students.

Ms. Blancard, or Ms. B as I call her, is a third grade teacher at Avon Grove Intermediate School (AGIS).

"I became a teacher because I wanted to make a difference. I wanted to do something to help people. I have always loved working with children so combining all of those things led me to education. I am so fortunate because I truly love my job every single day."

Ms. Blancard teaches social studies and language arts. Her infectious smile and positive at-

titude made me always want to learn.

Even though I didn't have Ms. B in the classroom, she was my tutor and babysitter for about three or four summers. Ms. B taught me how to become a better reader, a better writer, and to become more open with myself and not compare myself to anyone.

Ms. B also says that, "The best thing about being a teacher are the unexpected moments. Whether it's a student finally getting a concept they have been struggling with, or a quick smile from any child. Every student I've ever had will always have a place in my heart. They have contributed to the person I am today and I am grateful for those memories."

Teachers just don't affect students' lives, but students also impact teachers' lives.

When I entered seventh grade, it was very hard for me. Going from AGIS to Fred S. Engle Middle School is a big change for all students.

In seventh grade Mrs. Maldonado was my science teacher, but she didn't just teach me about food chains and Darwin's theory of evolution. She taught me how to study and ask good questions.

Mrs. Maldonado would help me make flashcards and outlines, but now her students are teaching her how to make Kahoots and Quizzlets.

"Students have also provided me with awesome analogies of concepts being taught or have provided me with artifacts to share

with the class."

Mrs. Maldonado also taught me, and wants to continue to teach her students that, "It's ok to make mistake; just keep trying and learn from your mistakes. Never compare yourself; you are unique and it's ok to be different from your friends/peers."

When I entered ninth grade I was excited to learn that I had Mr. McCloskey for social studies. Known by his students as Mr. Mac, I was in for a surprise.

I had heard from many that his class involved taking a lot of notes, but what they also told me was about the amazing war stories and the hard core details about U.S. history.

"I really like it when I see a student who doesn't have the confidence, and then they go through the course and they start to build confidence. And when they leave they're telling me things I told them," stated Mr. Mac.

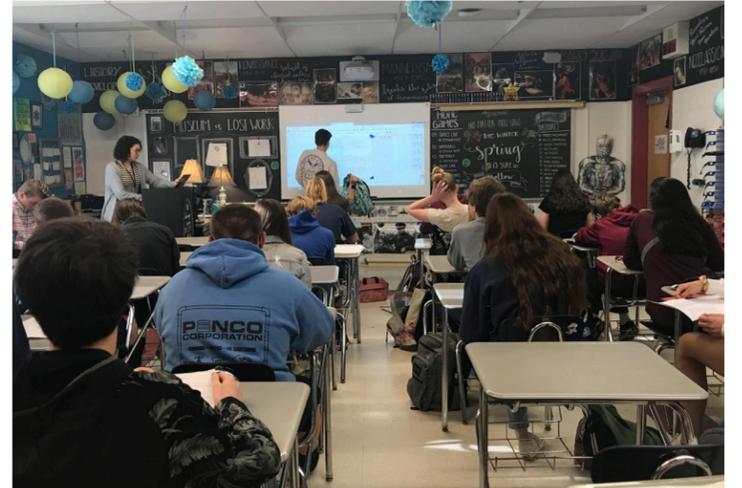
But most of all, Mr. Mac has taught his students life lessons that go beyond the classroom.

"You may not remember anything you learned, but you're going to remember how you were treated."

And from my experience throughout my school career, I have a feeling his advice is nothing but the pure, unadulterated truth.

EDUCATION

Closing the gap from middle to high school



-Photo by Abby Osborne

Ms. Young's freshman class is hard at work, reviewing their history outlines. Ms. Young is one of the teachers who helped start, and currently advises, the Freshman Mentoring Program.

By
Abby Osborne
Staff Writer

At 14, rose colored glasses are essential. A life-altering transition from the familiarity of Fred S. Engle Middle School to the large, grown up high school can seem quite daunting, so optimism is the key to survival. However, this optimism can easily be shattered once reality sets in and the glasses are put away.

Teachers like Ms. Gretchen Young, who teaches social studies, are working to keep this optimism intact and help ease the transition.

"I've noticed a higher rate of anxiety and a need to be a perfectionist from the students and a part of that comes from taking all honors classes and a more rigorous course load," said Ms. Young about the incoming freshman classes.

This trend that Ms. Young has observed over the years is one that is seen nationwide and is explored in an article by KQED, an NPR-member radio station. In this article, writer Holly Korbey includes the opinion from Camille Farrington, a University of Chicago Urban Education Institute researcher, who published the book, *Failing at School*, about the importance of ninth grade and the root of why so many kids dropout.

Farrington describes public high schools as "high stakes and intense" which leads to failure and can elicit a poor response from students thus leading students to "disengage" from the educational system since they see, as Farrington puts it, "the system rigged against them."

This cycle, to many, is a call for a reform within America's educational system. AGHS is one of these schools trying to ease the transition from eighth grade to ninth grade.

"The toughest part of transition is finding your way through the school and adjusting to the changes around you—whether that be in [the] curriculum or with the people around you and your friends," said

freshman Taylor Appleyard.

One of the ways AGHS is striving to alleviate potential stress and anxiety schoolwide is through implementing programs like Freshman Academy (which has been running for four years) and the Freshman Mentoring Program (which was newly created this year).

"We have a parent and a student come and spend about two hours in August just learning about the high school—how to get their lunch, where their classes are—and then we make sure they have an opportunity to come in and walk the school prior to the first day, so they can get at least settled in their environment," said Mr. Scott DeShong, Avon Grove High School principal.

The Freshman Mentoring Program is made up of current juniors and seniors who serve as mentors and role models for the freshman class in order to help their transition be more smooth.

In terms of the classroom, Ms. Young makes sure to always emphasize to her students that it's okay to fail and not get an A—a high contrast to middle school where she said students are just expected to complete the assignment rather than really learn the concepts.

"It's about growth. It's better to challenge yourself and not get a 100% and grow educationally rather than never be challenged and just get a 100%," said Young.

And that's her entire goal: she wants to make sure her students know failure is inevitable, but that's precisely what makes you grow as a student and a person. Failure is an indicator that you're trying and learning.

As contradictory as it seems, failure is those glasses. Failure is what helps students learn and grow which is what school is for. It may seem bleak and frustrating to fail at the time, but failure is, in reality, that silver lining—the bright shining hope that you, as a person, are learning and growing.

HERALD SPORTS

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TRACK AND FIELD

On the run to D-1

Track star Jeff Billig is preparing for the big stage



Jeff Billig ran a 10.88 100 meter dash for his personal best, and is only 0.4 from an Avon Grove High School record.

By
Ben Younger
Staff Writer

The kid is flying! Oh wait, he's just picking up and putting his feet down really fast.

Avon Grove senior Jeff Billig will be running next season at NCAA Division 1 school Xavier.

Billig was a good baseball player at one time, but feels like track was his best fit, and the stats prove it was the right decision.

"The transition has been harder than most people think. At times I do miss baseball, but I'm doing another sport that I love just as much."

Last season, Billig along with his relay group, Carson Bogda, Tyler Boyd, and Andrew Addiego, broke the 400 meter relay school

record by finishing with a time of 42.61.

In Billig's sophomore year, he and the rest of his relay team qualified for states, however, they ended up being disqualified due to uniform displacement.

In his final year with the Red Devils, Billig is more determined than ever to get to states.

"I set the goal for myself to run at states and break the 100 and 200 record at the school. I am currently injured, but I'm itching to get back to running and help build this program."

Avon Grove track coach, Mr. Kyle Broadbent, has been very impressed with Billig.

"Jeff and I have developed a very good good relationship over the past four years. He has volunteered to help out with track

for younger kids. I always know I can count on Jeff to work with the sprinters if I am off with another event group," Broadbent said.

Losing Billig will be a start of a rebuild next season, and Mr. Broadbent is fully aware.

"I have faced the fact that next season we will have to rebuild, losing Jeff (Billig) and Carson (Bogda) as well is leaving spots open in the 4x100 (relay)."

"It makes me sad that AG track is coming to an end. Getting yourself better athletically while being around the people you love is something special. It's a great time to run with your best friends," said Billig.

Even though his time is limited with the Devils, Billig will forever have an AG track legacy, and Xavier is lucky to have him.

BOYS TENNIS

Court is now in session Tennis team hopes to win at Ches-Monts

By
Matt Sullivan
Staff Writer

It started like many other sports at Avon Grove, with tryouts. Players go out and try their best to win the starting roles on the team, but yet, only 3 could come out on top in the singles category.

At the end of tryouts, Joe Yarborough, Ben Nelson, and Hayden Webber earned the top spots.

Doubles were still up for grabs, and after Yarborough, Nelson and Webber were penciled in, that left five other spots. Andrew Lisi, Aydan Hannon, Isaac Meth, Brady Buchwald, and Max Dolan all filled those roles.

Coach Christy set the doubles pairings: Joe Yarborough and Ben Nelson as the first doubles team, Isaac Meth and Aydan Hannon at the two, Andrew Lisi and Brady Buchwald at the three, and Hayden Webber and Max Dolan at the four.

Those roster spots aren't just given, they are earned, and someone like Hayden Webber has proven to be a strong veteran on the team. Since he was a freshman (a senior now), he has played doubles his entire career.

"This past summer he played a ton. [He] got a lot better at singles, more composed, hitting starter shots, and did a really good job at improving his game," said head coach Kyle Christy.

Hayden wasn't the only one that improved though, Aydan Hannon also put together quite the underdog story. And just like how he was pleasantly surprised with Hayden, Coach Christy felt the same way about Aydan.

"He went from not even playing in a lineup last year, to playing number one doubles this year. So, the improvement and the time that he put in during the offseason is a credit to exactly what he has achieved this year."

Coach Christy considers many factors when creating doubles pairings.

"[I] look at them based on skill and ability, who they would play well with, and pair them up in doubles...Who's strong at the baseline, who's strong at the net, and try to pair them up because that will result in the most amount of wins."

Coach Christy has plenty of experience in making the difficult decisions.

"I've played tennis for a long time. This is going to be 13 years of playing this year. I've been playing since i've been in fifth grade, and I played [NCAA] Division 2 tennis at college in Bloomsburg University."

Tennis is not always a team sport. The different singles and doubles matches break the players apart, so as a coach, it is his responsibility to try and bring ev-

eryone together in some way.

"We always try to encourage our players to communicate with each other. If they see their singles teammate on the court next to them, or see them make an awesome shot, we'll go ahead and mention something to them, and if they get down, we'll have the two singles player talk to our one singles player saying something like, 'Don't worry about it, it's not a big deal,' etc.

"The doubles players that we have, we encourage that after every single point they go and talk to each other, just so they reinforce what they are doing, and diagnose what the other team is doing to them, so they can react to it appropriately," said Christy.

With practices nearly every day, the players have a lot of opportunities to improve their game, and get to know their other teammates better. This time during practice can really benefit the players, and can help them get stronger as time goes on.

"I really like to get our guys just playing the game. Some coaches focus on technique and strategy, and I talk about those things while they are playing. I wait for them to make a mistake, or I wait for them to need a correction on a stroke or a swing, rather than drilling repeatedly over and over again the same stroke, because in a match the strokes that you're going to get aren't going to be the same as the one that's fed to you by a coach."

The one thing that coach Christy wants his players to take away from being on the tennis team is that, "I would really like them to look at the improvement that they have had and in just two, two and a half months of playing tennis, and I can see the improvement that they have made in just that short amount of time. I would like for them to imagine how much better they can get if they stay consistent with the sport throughout the year. If they went to open hits, go to clinics, or just played with a friend during the summer, how much better they can get and how much the team could improve over just the timespan of a year."

GIRLS LACROSSE

Lady Devils struggle

Senior Emma Lytle scores 100th goal

By
Zach Humphreys
Staff Writer

The Lady Red Devils have struggled to win more than they have lost this season.

They claim wins against Marple Newtown, Sun Valley, Oxford, and Kennett, and outscored those opponents 67-33.

Although they are a dominant scoring team, AG has lost to Spring-Ford, Central Bucks West, Rustin, Downingtown West, and Downingtown East by a combined score of 82-46.

After a sluggish start, head coach Lee Krug believes the team will get through the season and perform better than they currently are.

"Something that we have been trying to fix are the number of turnovers defensively and offensively. But tonight, the girls were really working hard to get loose balls," said Krug after losing to Downingtown East 15-12 on April 9.

Although the team has been struggling, senior captain Emma Lytle recently scored her 100th career goal.

"Emma is a very good attack player and she's been steady and an aggressive player for Avon Grove even before I was here," said Coach Krug.

Coach Krug and the girls believe the season will turn around later in the season and they hope a great season awaits.

**Girls Lacrosse
Schedule & Results**

(As of April 12)

- March 22 vs. Marple Newtown W (22-8)
- March 26 vs. Spring-Ford Loss (20-12)
- March 28 at Sun Valley Win (15-10)
- March 29 vs. CB West Loss (16-10)
- April 2 vs. Rustin, Loss (15-10)
- April 4 at D'town West, Loss (16-2)
- April 6 at Oxford, Win (16-2)
- April 9 vs. D'town East, Loss (15-12)
- April 11 vs. Kennett, Win (14-13)
- April 12 at Lower Merion, Win (17-6)
- April 15 at Unionville
- April 17 vs. Oxford
- April 23 at Coatesville
- April 30 at Henderson
- May 1 vs. WC East
- May 3 vs. Oxford
- May 4 vs. Haverford
- May 7 at Bishop Shanahan

Upcoming Events

Les Miserables
April 26, 7:00p.m.;
April 27, 3:00p.m.; May 3,
7:00p.m.; May 4, 7:00p.m.

Exams
AP Exams: May 6-10 and
May 13-17
Literature Keystones: May 13
& 14
Algebra Keystones: May 15 & 16
Biology Keystones: May 20 & 21

Concerts
Jazz: May 10, 7:00p.m.
Orchestra: May 14, 7:00p.m.
Band: May 15, 7:00p.m.

Proms
Junior:
May 17, The Waterfall
Senior:
May 23, Drexelbrook

AG Life

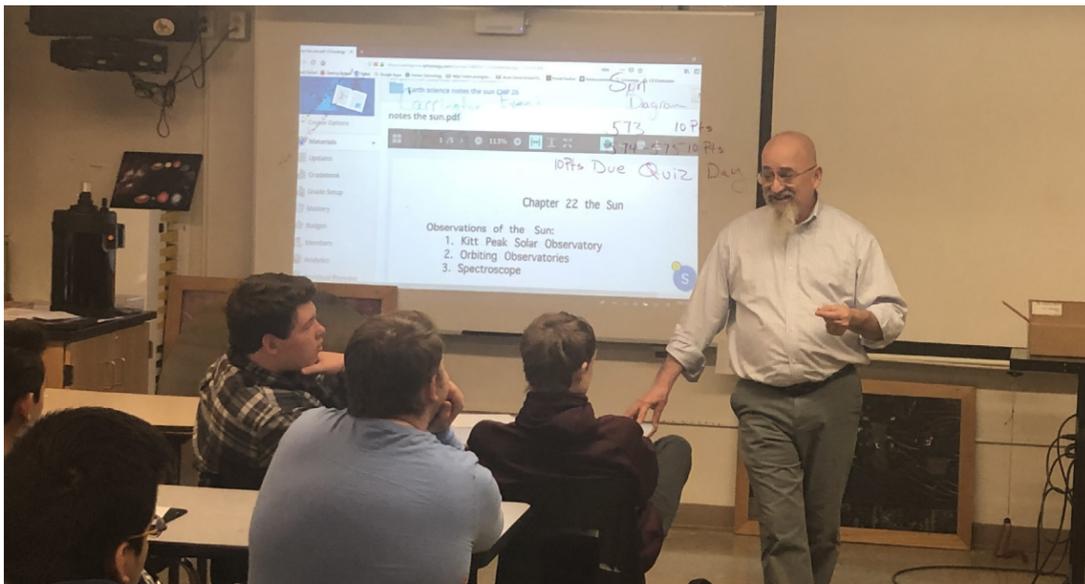
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PROFILE

SAYING GOODBYE

Mr. Canby's cosmic salutation



-Photo by Kieran Franke

Mr. Canby plans to live in Clarion County, Pa. once he retires and is currently building his new house there.

By
Kieran Franke
Staff Writer

"It's been a long road. It's been an interesting road. I have been here more than half my life. I am moving away. I am never going to be around this area again. But it has been interesting."

Mr. Canby was born in Clarion County, Pennsylvania in July 1960 to Glena and Melbourne Canby, his adoptive parents. He then moved back-and-forth to Georgia.

Mr. Canby and his wife will be moving back to Clarion County at the beginning of the summer. He has already started to build his house there.

Mr. Canby has been teaching at Avon Grove for 32 years.

Mr. Canby attended Clarion University and earned a bachelor's degree in Earth and space science.

Mr. Canby got an interview with Oxford High School in Clarion and was the front runner until the School Board decided to go with someone else.

Mr. Canby was referred to Avon Grove by the Oxford High School principal and AGHS principal Mr. Phil Pyle offered him a job two weeks after being rejected by Oxford.

Mr. Canby started teaching general science, which is now known as Integrated Science, and he also teaches Earth and Space Science. He started the course of Current Science over 20 years ago.

Many years ago, Mr. Canby was almost killed doing his job, as a teacher and a bus driver. He was driving the school bus to Baltimore where the band played in a parade.

"Me and a student went to get a hot dog at a stand on a corner. Four people are backing across the road toward the hot dog stand with eight other guys following them. One of the guys grabbed a metal potato chip rack and swung

it at the guys that were coming towards them. As he did, one of the guys pulled out a gun and shot the guy swinging the rack in the leg right in front of me."

The shot was so close that Mr. Canby "could see the flash."

He and his student immediately took off running for two blocks back toward the buses. The student squeezed the hot dog so hard that the bun and the meat were in between his fingers.

"I delayed the trip back to Avon Grove by about a half hour because I was shaking too much I couldn't push the clutch.

"The student I was with was a sprinter on the track team. I beat him back to the bus by about 30 seconds."

Besides this exhilarating event, Mr. Canby will remember some of his favorite labs like the static electricity demonstration where he has students come up and put their hand on the static electricity machine with the metal ball which makes their hair fly up.

Mr. Canby's favorite parts of teaching is helping and connecting with at risk kids to turn their lives around over the years. When he is successful, the accomplishment puts a huge smile on his face.

"I also love to see that people are learning something new."

In addition to teaching science, Mr. Canby was the Freshman Class advisor and he started the Ski Club where he and other students would go skiing or snowboarding a few times each winter including a week-long trip to Vermont.

He also started the Rocket/Airplane club that studied aviation and made and launched model rockets.

Over the years, Mr. Canby has worked for six principals.

"The best principal I have ever worked for is the one we have now. I mean that. I am not just saying that because he is here now."

Mr. Canby was very sincere in

giving this praise of current principal Mr. Scott DeShong.

Mr. Canby is a huge Harley Davidson fan who has been to Sturgis, South Dakota for the annual Harley Davidson rally three times.

Mr. Canby's father was wounded in the Korean War and has been a devoted person in helping our country's veterans over the years.

Mr. Canby, along with his wife, are members of the American Legion Riders. He is a founding member of Post 720 in Clarion County.

The Riders help veterans in all sorts of ways. They are best known for helping to escort fallen soldiers with a funeral procession which includes American flags on their motorcycles alongside the hearse.

The riders also have grassroots lobbyists on the national, state, and local levels to support veterans.

The Legion also raises millions of dollars in donations at the local, state, and national levels to help veterans and their families during times of need and to provide college scholarship opportunities.

His efforts here will be missed by students.

"Mr. Canby makes school fun. Earth and Space is one of the only classes I look forward to going to everyday because I know I am going to learn and laugh within the same period," said junior Matt Hess.

"I learn a lot and he is the only teacher that kids want to always be asking questions," said senior Hayden Weber.

Mr. Canby would like to thank former AGHS principal Phil Pyle for hiring him; Larry Grugen, a former career counselor for teaching him what to and what not to worry about; Rich Scott-Harper, a former math teacher who helped him form his unique teaching style; Bill Schrader, a former special education teacher who gave him advice as a young teacher; and principal Scott DeShong.

Mrs. Schenker's farewell address



-Photo by Olivia Kunitsky

Mrs. Schenker has been teaching at Avon Grove High School for 30 years.

By
Olivia Kunitsky
Senior Editor

best part of it is the students. We have really nice students here. They work hard, they're pleasant, and they're fun," she explained.

She also added that she has enjoyed working with her colleagues in the social studies department over the years.

Although she has many amazing memories from her time at Avon Grove, the one thing that really stands out to her is quite simple, yet at the same time it embodies the essence of teaching and learning.

"When you see a student's eyes light up and they have really succeeded at something and when they've worked really hard and they're so proud of themselves, I think those are wonderful memories," she said.

During her retirement, she plans to relax, spend time with family, travel to the western United States, and do volunteer work with senior citizens and veterans.

Despite the fact that her historical timeline at Avon Grove is coming to an end, Mrs. Schenker has words of advice that she hopes will stay with students throughout high school.

"Be yourself. Take advantage of the opportunities that you have here. There are wonderful people here in both your peer group as well as teachers and administrators that will help you out."

As old students have moved on to bigger and better things and new students have begun their careers as high schoolers, as old traditions have been put to an end and new beginnings have come under way, one factor has remained constant at Avon Grove High School throughout the years.

That factor is undeniably Mrs. Schenker.

Mrs. Schenker has spent 30 years at Avon Grove teaching a variety of history-related courses, including U.S. History, World History, Civics, Government and Economics, Holocaust and Genocide Studies, and Street Law.

"They are all very exciting to teach and I love to teach every one of them," she commented.

Before she came to Avon Grove, she attended the University of Virginia and was even part of the first class there that had open admission for females.

Mrs. Schenker was a social worker in child welfare in Virginia and taught for a year at Oxford Middle School before arriving to her three-decade long home.

"My experience here has been extremely positive and it's been a wonderful career. I wouldn't have missed it for anything. I think the