



Reading at the Crossroads 2010



Once again, Churchill will be lucky enough to have a nationally known author visit us on March 16, 2010. Avi has written over 60 children's books including *Ereth's Birthday*, *Poppy*, *Nothing But The Truth*, and *The Fighting Ground*. That evening, the public is invited to hear Avi speak at the Orpheum Theatre.

According to the Houghton Mifflin website, as a young person, Avi was very intelligent and loved to read. However, he was a very poor writer because, as he later found out, he had dysgraphia, a disorder that causes him to reverse letters or to badly misspell words as he writes. Still, he wanted to become a writer, and over time he improved in spite of the challenge he faced. Today, even though he has won many awards, he still misspells words and makes other writing mistakes, but he rewrites every story many times to

try to catch them. Most important, he focuses on the story he wants to tell, not the mistakes he makes in telling it.

Avi enjoys telling many different kinds of stories — including mysteries, adventures, and fantasies — using many different forms. For example, his book *City of Light, City of Dark* is a novel-length comic book, the book *Who Was That Masked Man, Anyway?* is written entirely in dialogue, and *Keep Your Eye on Amanda* first appeared in weekly installments in newspapers. Avi says he doesn't set out deliberately to be experimental. He simply looks for the best way to tell the story he has in mind.

Asked how he gets his ideas, Avi responds, "Everybody has ideas. The vital question is, what do you do with them? My rock musician sons shape their ideas into music. My sister takes her ideas and fashions them into poems. My brother uses his ideas to help him understand science. I take my ideas and turn them into stories. Now, what do you think you'll do with your ideas?" You can learn more by visiting his website at www.avi-writer.com/

This visit is part of a cooperative yearlong focus on literacy. Money for this project has come from Galesburg Public Schools Foundation, Galesburg Community School District #205, the Sunrise and Noon Rotary Clubs, and the Illinois Reading Council.

Parent Teacher Conferences

**Tuesday, March 23 from 3:30 PM-7:00 PM and
Thursday, March 25 from 3:30 PM-7:00 PM**

Please contact the office at 342-3129 if you would like to schedule a conference with your child's teachers.

FISH Winners



December FISH Winners

Left to right:

Ms. Pepple (Staff), Michelle Peppers (7th), Gage Miller (8th), Mandy Peterson (6th), Ryan Atchley (8th), Cody Angell (7th), and Mrs. Savory (staff).

Not pictured: Ethan McCone (6th)



January FISH Winners

Left to right:

Kamrin Swarts (8th), Mr. Triplett (staff), Kevin Haneghan (7th), and Cody Dickerson (6th)

Churchill staff members do not report for morning supervision until 7:35 AM. During periods of rain, snow, cold or bad weather, we open the doors at this time. Please make sure your children do not arrive too early.

Unless students are with a teacher, they are to leave the building after school by 3:05 PM and should be off school grounds by 3:15 PM. Please make arrangements accordingly.

Absences Do Matter.....

A widely accepted principle in education is that student absences from school are costly to student learning. In fact, there is recent research that shows that the most significant factor to student achievement on tests like ISAT and PSAE are the patterns of student attendance.

Student attendance also generates funds for our schools. In fact, each day a single student is absent from school costs Galesburg C.U.S.D. #205 \$80.00 IN LOST STATE AID. In addition to that, due to State of Illinois regulations, when a student is tardy or leaves early for as little as 45 minutes the District is required to count them absent for half of a day, costing the District \$40.00 IN LOST STATE AID.

We realize that some absences are unavoidable, but please make sure that your child or children attends school on time whenever possible. Some tips to help us all:

- Schedule family vacations for times other than the established school calendar.
- Make doctors appointments before or after school.
- Focus on getting your child or children to school early as opposed to "right at the bell".
- If your child is sick in the morning but feeling better by noon, bring them back to school.

Good attendance is everyone's business. Working together our students can achieve more and our District can maximize its resources.

Churchill Front Drive

The driveway in front of Churchill is one way. Please enter through the south entrance only. Parking is allowed on the east side of the drive only. Please do not park on the sidewalk. For the safety of our students, the driveway in front of Churchill will not be open to cars from 7:30-8:00 AM and from 2:45-3:15 PM.

We appreciate your cooperation.

Important Dates

February

- 1-3 RIF Books Distribution
- 6 Math Counts Regional Contest
- 8 Churchill Spelling Bee Preliminary Round 3 PM
- 10 Churchill Spelling Bee Final Round during advisory
- 11 1:55 Dismissal-Teachers' Meetings
All-School Dance 6-8 PM
- 15 No School-President's Day
- 18-19 Drama Club Production 7:30 PM
- 20 Geography Bowl in Knoxville 1PM
- 26 Knox County Spelling Bee

March

- 1-12 ISAT Testing
- 12-13 IEMSA Solo/Ensemble Contests
- 15-19 Book Fair
- 16 Avi Author Visit
- 18 Miles of Smile Dental Screening
- 19 End of Third Quarter
1:55 Dismissal
Blood Drive 2:00 - 6:00 PM
- 23 Parent Teacher Conferences 3:30-7:00 PM
- 25 Parent Teacher Conferences 3:30-7:00 PM
- 26 No School

April

- 2, 5-9 Spring Break
- 19 Spring Pictures

May

- 27 8th grade recognition
- 31 No School-Memorial Day

June

- 3 No School-Teacher's Institute
- 4 Report Card Day
- 7-9 Emergency Days

ISAT 101

We've all heard that the ISAT tests are being given, but do you know what the ISAT tests are? Here is some helpful information to better understand the ISAT test and how your child do his or her best work.

What is it?

Standardized tests have been used to measure student achievement and ability for many years. Over the past few years, due to the passing of No Child Left Behind legislation, these tests have become more important than ever. All schools in Illinois are judged by how well their students perform on the Illinois Standard Achievement Test, and severe consequences will be imposed on schools when students do not meet standards.

What should parents be asking about standardized testing?

When will the tests be given? March 1 – March 12, 2010 at Churchill Junior High

What areas are being tested?

Subject areas tested in Illinois are Math, Reading, and Science. All 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students will take three sessions of Math and Reading. The 7th grade students will take two sessions of science. The 6th and 8th grade students will take 2 sessions of writing.

How will the results be used?

To measure how well our students have learned the standards in math, reading, writing, and science as compared to other children in Illinois.

How and when will I get the results?

Normally, we send results home with the students with their first quarter report card each year.

What can I do at home to prepare my child?

In the months preceding the test:

- Find out when the tests are to be given. Write the dates on your calendar and avoid scheduling appointments or trips during these times.
- Ask your teachers what you can do at home to help your student prepare.
- Encourage your child to read. The easiest and best way to prepare your child for doing well on tests is to read often, and then discuss what they read.

Right before the test:

- Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep. Provide a good breakfast.
- Have your child dress in layers - kids do better on tests if they don't have to think about how hot or cold they are.
- Don't be too anxious. Say, "This test is important. I know you will try hard and do your best." Your confidence will be contagious.

On the DAY of the test give your child these tips:

- Skip a question and move on if you don't know the answer. You can always come back later. Maybe you will be ready to answer that question then.
- Always answer the questions. An educated guess may be correct. No answer will always be wrong.
- Check your answers carefully. Make sure the numbers of your answers correspond to the numbers of questions on the test.

Great Website for ISAT samples:

<http://www.isbe.state.il.us/assessment/isat.html>

Free Internet Websites to help your child with math homework:

Ask Dr. Math - <http://mathforum.org/dr.math>

CoolMath Algebra - www.coolmath.com/algebra/

Frank Potter's Science Gems - Mathematics - www.sciencegems.com/math.html

Churchill Students Get The Message



On Wednesday, November 25th, Churchill students had the opportunity to hear the No Direction Home band. Lead singer Tyler Gordon, a former Abingdon High School student, shared the effects drugs had on his life. Tyler's sister became addicted to drugs and her abuse impacted the entire family. Students had the opportunity to see a video with interviews with Tyler, his parents and his sister telling the problems drugs caused for all of them. The good news is Tyler's sister is no longer using drugs. Sharing this message with Churchill students will hopefully allow them to see the effects of drug use on them as well as their families.



Churchill Geography Bee Winners

Winner: Jensen Rehn (left)
Runner Up: Gordy Foley



Martin Luther King Essay Contest Winners

Back Row: Breanne Norton, Lauren Feely,
Tommy King
Front Row: Hunter Smith, Hannah Smith,
Jack Dechow (1st place)



Churchill wishes to thank the following organizations for their support. We couldn't do these things with your help!

Galesburg Public Schools Foundation
Reading at the Crossroads
Special Assemblies

Galesburg Sunrise Rotary
Reading at the Crossroads
Parent/Child Book Club Funds

Galesburg Community Foundation
Reading at the Crossroads

Galesburg Sunrise Rotary
Reading at the Crossroads
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