

The Maple Valley -Anthon Oto Schools' Newsletter

February 2014

Volume 11 Issue 5

From the Desk of the Superintendent: Steve Oberg

Dear Iowa parents,

Reading is essential to your children's success in school and in life. In Iowa, we are working to make sure all children read well by the end of third grade, which is the pivotal time when students go from learning to read to reading to learn.

Research shows that children's third-grade reading skills can predict their future success, and proficient readers are more likely to graduate from high school and earn a good living. However, nearly 1 in 4 Iowa third graders did not meet reading expectations last year, according to state test results. We must help our students improve their reading skills.

That's why identifying struggling students starting in kindergarten and providing intensive intervention form the centerpiece of a 2012 state law to improve literacy. Iowa's new early warning system for literacy is helping schools across the state screen students, monitor their progress, and provide reading interventions in preschool through third grade.

Making sure parents or guardians are notified when their children need help and providing resources that families can use at home also are part of Iowa's 2012 law. I want to be sure you are aware of a state website where you can find those resources:

<https://iowacore.gov/parents-community>

This website includes a link to great materials provided by the Iowa Reading Research Center that will help you understand and work with your child on specific literacy skills. You can easily find activities based on your child's grade level or reading skill on the center's Family Resources page:

<http://www.iowareadingresearch.org/literacy-resources/teacher-family-resources/>

It is critical for us to work together early – especially in kindergarten, first and second grades – to make sure students develop the skills they need to succeed in reading. Starting in May 2017, children who are identified as substantially deficient in reading by the end of third grade must attend a summer reading program, or they will be retained in third grade unless they qualify for an exception. Prevention, not retention, is what everyone wants.

Giving Iowa students a world-class education is critical in today's knowledge-based economy, but that's not possible unless they can read. I look forward to working with you on this historic effort to help Iowa children read by the end of third grade. Thank you for helping us to meet this goal.

Respectfully,



Brad Buck, Ph.D.
Director, Iowa Department of Education

MVAO School Improvement News *from Patti Ryan and Shari Blake*

Annual Progress Report - Science

Long Range Goal: All K-12 students will continue to improve achievement in science. Growth will be measured by the percentage of students who score at the proficient level or above (41st percentile or above using national norms) on Iowa Assessments Science Test in grades 3-9 and 11.

The plan for meeting goals is for teachers to more deeply understand the Iowa Core Curriculum so that they become more effective teachers of science skills and concepts. Monthly professional development sessions have been scheduled to address this need. Middle school science teachers have adopted Pearson's Interactive Science modules for use with students in grades 6-8 beginning with the 2011-12 school year. High school science teachers have adopted new learning materials for all science classes beginning with the 2011-12 school year as well. One major adaptation is the use of two reading levels of Biology textbooks in order to address both reading comprehension needs while learning science concepts. To address the learning environment our teachers will meet as building level teams monthly to collaborate regarding the climate of the school and classrooms, specifically regarding bullying prevention, during the school year. We know how the classroom climate and social-emotional stressors affect learning. Our intent is to create a positive and safe climate in which our teachers gain valuable instructional time and our students achieve at higher levels.

2013-14 Science Goals: AOMV 8th grade science - 96% proficient MVAO 11th grade science - 95.5% proficient

Our data shows:

Gr. 08 Less than proficient = 20.8% Proficient = 64.2%, Advanced = 15.1% out of 53 students tested.

Gr. 11 Less than proficient = 17.0%, Proficient = 68.1%, Advanced = 14.9% out of 47 students tested.

Levels based on the Iowa Assessments Science test administered during the 2013-14 school year. We did not meet this goal.

Additional Data shows:

Teacher Grades/Report Authentic Assessments - Science

Grade 5- 100% Average of Quarterly Grades A, B or C

Grade 6- 100% Average of Quarterly Grades A, B or C

Grade 7- 81% Average of Quarterly Grades A, B or C

Grade 8- 88% Average of Quarterly Grades A, B or C

MVAO High School graduation requirements include 3 year-long Science classes, 2 of which are General Science/Physical Science and Biology. Below is the pass rate for the first-time students in the courses in grades 9 and 10. (Does not include students repeating the course)

Grade 9- 98% General Science

Grade 9- 88% Physical Science

Grade 10- 76% Biology

Since we did not meet Iowa Assessment goals:

As we progress in our Authentic Intellectual Work professional development at the Middle School and High School we believe the efforts teachers are putting forth will show in student achievement across all areas in grades 6-12. An emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) areas will need to become more prevalent across our K-12 science programs. Project Lead the Way Pathway to Engineering is in the 5th year at the HS and we've seen a growth in enrollment in the beginning courses, but a decrease in the number of students completing the 4-year strand. The MS now offers Project Lead the Way Gateway to Technology courses, but these are still not offered for all MS students as an exploration. We will work to create a schedule that allows all students to be part of the PLTW classes at the MS. Engaging students with STEM content in a hands-on curriculum will be key to gaining ground in science achievement.

2014-15 Science Goals: AOMV 8th grade science - 96.5% proficient MVAO 11th grade science - 96% proficient

Preschool Registration

The Maple Valley -Anthon Oto Preschools are looking ahead to next year. Please call the schools if you have a preschooler you would like to enroll. You will be receiving more information in the coming months. The Mapleton number is 712-881-1319 and the Anthon number is 712-373-5244. Thank you.

Mahlon Carothers, MV Elementary Principal

From the High School Counselor

By Mary Joan Dougherty

Parents of Seniors: if you have not requested an appointment to get help filing your FAFSA (for free state and federal student aid), please call the counselor's office right away to see if there are any openings for Feb. 7. "File Your FAFSA for FREE" is going to be run in a different format this year, with 3-5 families in the computer lab at one time, working on the FAFSA. The rep from the College Planning Center will still be available to get families started and to help with any questions. The sessions will run from 4:00-8:00 p.m., with appointments set up every hour. Call 881-1317, and ask for Mrs. Dougherty, to set up an appointment.

College Goal Sundays: For several years now, many locations across the state have offered free filing of the FAFSA on a designated day in February or March. If you need help filing your FAFSA and you can't make it to our own session on Feb. 7, go to: www.iowacgs.org, and click on locations to see what dates the event is being held around here. These appointments are on a first-come/first-served basis. Typically, events are held in Sioux City, Denison, and Storm Lake, in this area, as well as in many other locations across the state.

Pennies for Patients: During the month of February, the high school mentor groups will be participating in the "Pennies for Patients" campaign, raising money for the Leukemia/Lymphoma Society of Iowa. The groups will gather loose change, and any other monetary donations, to donate to this organization. Some groups may host fundraisers, outside of school time, to help raise money. The group who gathers the most money will be awarded a pizza party for their winning efforts. All groups raising \$100 or more will receive a banner to display from LLS, and all groups who meet the designated "school group goal," will receive treats during an upcoming mentor meeting. Please encourage your child to participate in collecting donations for this worthwhile cause.

Post-Secondary Enrollment Option: Any current sophomores or juniors who may want to take online college classes next school year must complete and return a PSEO application by March 15 of this year. The MVAO school policy is that students may only take courses that are not offered in our own curriculum. This does narrow down our students' choices some, but the counseling office has compiled a list of some of the classes that have been approved and successfully completed by our students in the past. Interested students must pick up the application in the counselor's office and return it there as well. If the course is a "transfer course" (any course not considered "vocational" in nature), the student must have been proficient on this fall's Iowa Assessments or must have at least a 22 composite score on the ACT Test. If neither of these qualifications has been met, the student can go to WITCC to take the CPT to try to achieve qualifying scores. ICN courses will be on course registration forms for next year. They are not part of this application process and deadline.

Remaining ACT Test Dates for this school year:

April 12 – in Mapleton – registration deadline March 7

June 14 – area locations – registration deadline May 9

Go to: www.actstudent.org to register for either of these tests. June is the final one for this year.

MVAO High School Principal, Dan Dougherty

Listed below are eleven strategies that are suggested to get students to read more. These are taken from a HSTW publication titled, Literacy Across the Curriculum: Setting and Implementing Goals for Grades Six Through Twelve.

11 Strategies to Get Students to Read More

- * Setting School-Wide Reading Goals
- * Promoting the reading goals
- * Getting school administrators to promote the goals
- * Develop reading lists
- * Using selected strategies across the curriculum
- * Drop Everything and Read!
- * Expecting students to read outside class
- * Using technology
- * Creating activities to motivate students
- * Involving the library media center
- * Establishing classroom libraries for each content area

Most of the strategies that are listed above are being implemented at the high school. It is no secret that students that read more, read better. The intent of the reading program is to create a culture for reading. As parents, please help us in our attempt to make our students understand the importance of reading and the impact it has on life long learning.

Scholarship Possibilities

**Scholarship opportunities will be posted in the government room and in the counselor's office. Most of them will also be posted in this newsletter (check the website during months when it is not received in the mail) and on MVAO Counselor Facebook page (just ask to become a friend). If a website is not listed, then they will eventually be saved in the "Scholarship Apps 13-14" folder on the MVAO student server or they may be emailed to students with a request.*

Go to: www.fastweb.com, www.icansucceed.org, and/or Scholarships.com for legitimate scholarship searches and websites. www.ihaveaplaniowa.gov is another source for scholarship searches

AXA Achievement & AXA Achievement Community – two separate scholarships – looking for driven, ambitious, determined students – go to: www.axa-achievement.com – only the first 10,000 applications for each scholarship will be accepted – deadline for one was Dec. 15 and the other is Feb. 1.

North Star Community Credit Union and Warren A. Morrow Scholarships – Morrow due Feb. 7; go to: www.iowacreditunionfoundation.org; North Star due April 1; go to: www.nscu.org.

Christina Hixson Opportunity Award for ISU – must be accepted at ISU, must have FAFSA filed by Mar. 1, and must have faced challenges of personal and/or financial hardship – go to: [www.dso.iastate.edu/hixson/application - deadline Feb. 1](http://www.dso.iastate.edu/hixson/application-deadline-Feb-1)

For 4-H members – remember the 2014 Iowa 4-H Foundation Scholarships at: www.iowa4hfoundation.org/scholarships - deadline Feb. 1

Iowa Scholarships for the Arts – for seniors who have shown outstanding ability in one or more of these areas: music, dance, literature, theater, traditional arts or visual arts; must also attend an Iowa college/university – go to: www.iowaartscouncil.org – deadline Feb. 3.

Grand Lodge of Iowa – looking for strong academic background, strong leadership, and financial need; an interview is required of the semi-finalists – download an app at www.grandlodgeofiowa.com – deadline Feb. 3

Iowa Newspaper Foundation – various scholarship opportunities for students going into fields such as journalism, photojournalism, communication, graphic design, marketing, PR, and the like – go to: www.inanews.com – deadline Feb. 4.

Western Iowa Power/Basin – for seniors or current college students – parents must be members of WIPCO – get an application at www.wipco.com (click on "member benefits" and then "scholarships.") – deadline Feb. 7

Siouxland Community Foundation – over 20 scholarship possibilities, although not all are for MVAO students – go to: www.siouxlandcommunityfoundation.org/scholarships.aspx - deadline Feb. 15.

WIMECA and BASIN – for students who live IN the towns of Mapleton or Anthon and who are electric customers of the local municipal utilities – apply for both separately – deadline Feb. 21.

Bill Ferns Alumni Scholarships – must be from the Anthon-Oto part of the school district; must have at least a 2.0 cum GPA and must have participated in at least one sport in high school – deadline Feb. 28.

Go to: www.iowacollegeaid.gov – click on “scholarships and grants” for several scholarship possibilities, including some for students who are or have been in foster care, students with great financial need, students who participate in the Iowa State Fair, students who are attending an Iowa Barber/Cosmetology school – most deadlines are March 1.

Iowa Federation of Women’s Clubs – several different scholarship options, but all are only for students planning to attend Iowa colleges or universities – see Mrs. Dougherty – deadline March 1.

Iowa Automobile Dealers Foundation – for students going into automotive or truck-related students, such as: technician training, body shop/collision repair, diesel, new vehicle sales, parts sales, accounting, or business administration – deadline March 3.

Grand Lodge of Iowa Technical – for students enrolling in community college or tech school – will look at academics, communication skills and financial need – download an app at: www.grandlodgeofiowa.com – deadline March 3.

Pioneer Seed – from **Bill/Sandy Ortner** – min cum GPA of 2.75 and must be planning a career in an ag-related field – deadline March 28.

Joan Hoaglund Memorial – for CURRENT MVAO GRADS who are in college majoring in education and who will be a sophomore, junior or senior next year – application is on the school website under “Special Announcements” – deadline April 1.

Lloyd and Rachel Olson Memorial – for current seniors or MVAO grads who are in college already – may apply based on academics or financial need or both – application available on school website under “Special Announcements” – deadline April 1.

Vesper Lodge Masonic – given to students in Monona County schools – looking at financial need, academics, activities, leadership – deadline April 15.

Woodbury County Cattlemen’s Association – must live in Woodbury Co and plan a career in an ag-related field; parents or student must be members; must have at least a 2.5 cum GPA – deadline May 1.

Maple Valley-Anthon Oto Foundation – various opportunities for scholarships – 1) if students sold 20 Duck Race tickets OR if they can find two new annual members, they may apply for a \$1000 scholarship; app available in counselor’s office; deadline April 4. 2) Find a new Lifetime Foundation Member (costs member \$1000) and student receives automatic \$500 scholarship. 3) Find a new Lifetime Pledge member and student receives the amount of the initial pledge, up to \$500, in scholarship money. 4) Sell 20 new annual memberships and receive an automatic \$500 scholarship. Options 2, 3, 4 do not have a strict deadline, but to be announced at graduation, should be completed by May 5.

Pearl Hull Falk – for a student accepted at or currently attending University of Iowa – looking at character and academics – deadline May 1.

**PSEO/Online college credit classes - deadline for 2014-2015
School Year: March 15, 2014
Application available in Counselor’s Office**

Peer Pressure- Maria Andersen, Anthon Oto – Maple Valley Schools K-8 Guidance Counselor

At one time or another we've heard and possibly experienced some form of peer pressure. Peer pressure can occur at the elementary, middle and secondary level and as young as preschool. It can come in many forms and be harmful or helpful.

There are two types of peer pressure that affects children and they are, positive and negative. Positive peer pressure usually results in making positive choices. An example might be a student might be musically talented and encouraged by friends to join the choir. Negative peer pressure on the other hand results in making negative choices usually resulting in consequences. An example of negative peer pressure might be friends encouraging a student to attend a party where drinking occurs. In this situation the students might get caught and punished.

One of the main reasons children choose negative peer pressure is due to the fact they feel pressured to conform to the group. Their desire to fit in often causes them to make negative choices. It is very difficult for children and adolescents to avoid being pulled into negative situations, but with encouragement and assistance they can develop skills that they can use to avoid negative peer pressure.

As parents we can help our children make positive choices and learn refusal skills when dealing with negative peer pressure. Below are several strategies that can be helpful.

- Having an open relationship with children about their friends and activities.

- Keeping informed regarding the friends your child associates.

- Teaching children to say no and how to stand up for themselves in situations that may be harmful or dangerous.

- Disclosing personal experiences with peer pressure helps know you care and understand their fears and frustrations.

- Teach children refusal skills such as; changing the subject, making excuses that you're busy or have other plans.

- Nurture positive self concept and encourage self control.

File the FAFSA for FREE – MVAO senior families
Friday, Feb. 7 – 4:00-8:00 p.m.
Call Mrs. Dougherty to set up an appointment

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The Maple Valley-Anthon Oto Community Schools are equal opportunity/affirmative action employers. It is an unfair or discriminatory practice for any educational institution [defined any preschool, elementary, secondary, or community college, area education agency, or postsecondary college or university and their governing boards] to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, sexual orientation, creed, socioeconomic status (for programs), age (for employment), gender identity or marital status in its educational programs and its employment practices. Such discriminatory practices shall include but not be limited to the following practices: employment; participation in academic, extracurricular, research, intramural, and other programs offered by the educational institution. Nothing in this section shall be construed as prohibiting any bona fide religious institution from imposing qualifications based on religion, sexual orientation, or gender identity when such qualifications are related to a bona fide religious purpose or any institution from admitting students of only one sex.

Any persons having inquiries concerning the school districts' compliance with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title VII, Title IX, The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), § 504 or Iowa Code § 280.3 may contact one of the districts' educational equity coordinators: the Maple Valley-Anthon Oto K-8 Guidance Counselor, Anthon, Iowa (Phone 373-5246), or the Maple Valley-Anthon Oto Director of Curriculum at the MVAO Middle School, Anthon, IA 51004 (Phone 373-5246). Inquiries may also be directed in writing to the Director of the Region VII office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, 310 W. Wisconsin Ave.,

MAPLE VALLEY—ANTHON OTO FOUNDATION MEMBERS

YEARLY MEMBERS

Charter Oak Ag Supply	Lavonne Friedrichsen
Kraft Clothing	Ray Friedrichsen
John Babl	Carrie Gatton
Peg Bauer	Chad Gosch
Steve Bauer	Diane Gosch
Julie Bollig	Arvin Kafton
Charlene Boyer	Carole Kafton
Randy Boyer	Joyce Kafton
Carma Brouillette	Mark Koenigs
Doug Brouillette	Bette Koenigs
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Mike Bruning	Patty McCall
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Mahlon Carothers	Vivian Morfitt
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Rose Cloud	Kera Morgan
Mark Cloud	Pat Petersen
Daniel Comes	Dennis Petersen
Jenna Comes	Donna Petersen
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Tim Dougherty	Robert Schulz
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Lois Duncan	Ken Steffes
Lester Florence	Bette Stone
	Brittany Weber
	Kalli Weber
	Keith Zediker

LIFETIME PLEDGE

Class of 1972	Bill Hagerdon
Hometown Variety	Gloria Hausman
Jerry Bumstead	Mark Moser
Francis Bush	Rick Nichols
Barb Castle	Gay Patrick
Betty Castle	Byron Petersen
Gary Castle	DiAnn Rose
Michael Collins	Angie Schrunk
Chuck Corbin	Keith Schrunk
Marsha Craig	Jack Seuntjens
David Davis	Alice Uhl
Derek Dougherty	

LIFETIME MEMBERS

All School Reunion	Linda Kennedy
Class of 1973	Jim Kueny
Class of 1978	Judy Lee
Class of 1988	Edith Maier
First State Bank-Ida Grove	Nicolett Maier
First State Bank-Mapleton	Edward Maier
Hoffman Agency	Leonard Maier
Mapleton Community Club	Joanne Maynard
Mapleton Rotary Club	Mark Maynard
Mac's Chevrolet	Jerry McBride
PEO Sisterhood	Rick McBride
Phillips Jewelry	Tom McBride
Triple K Farms	Phillip McGarr
Valley Bank & Trust	Tom McNamara
Bonnie Banks	Larry Mordhorst
Jean Barry	Denny Muckey
Dennis Benson	Lawrence Nelson
Jessica Bruhn	Chris Oberg
Tom Cameron	Gloria Oberg
Bill Christensen	Jaime Oberg
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Paul Clausen	Sue Oberg
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Leo Dean	James Oberreuter
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Kay Elmquist	Keith Robinson
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Mike Flanigan	Mark Ryan
Tammy Flanigan	Frances Schmeling
Bernice Gahan	Amy Seuntjens
Paul Gahan	Hillary Seuntjens
James Gaukel	Matt Seuntjens
Mary Gaukel	Pete Seuntjens
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Sharon Hamann	David Sextro
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David Hamers	Leona Weber
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Mike Jensen	Della Wenger
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Kay Johnson	Robert Wright
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 C.H.N. Garbage Service, Inc.
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 Colbert's Market
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 Crop Production Services
 Danbury Review/Preview Printing
 DBA Anthon Market
 Dick Schleis, Auctioneer
 Divide Hill Road House
 Drees Digging, Gary Drees
 Eric & Jennifer O'Connell
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 Fireside Restaurant & Lounge
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 Grab & Go
 H & R Block
 Hawkeye Bar
 Hamman Construction, Mark Hamman
 Hoffman Agency
 Horn Memorial Hospital
 Horn Physicians Clinic-Mapleton
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 Jostens
 Lansink Tree Service
 Mac's Chevrolet-Find New Roads
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 Mapleton BP
 Mapleton Collision Center
 Mapleton Grain Co.
 Mapleton Greenhouse
 Mapleton Hometown Variety
 Mapleton Press
 Mahrt Construction
 Memories by Monica
 Mills Pharmacy
 New York Life, Ins., Bob Andre
 Nuture Your Body Massage- Emily
 Sandvold L.M.T.
 Pioneer Seeds/Bill & Sandy Ortner
 Rick's Computers
 St. Matthew's Lutheran Church
 Security National Bank
 Seuntjens Midwest Land & Auction
 Sexton Oil
 The Shooting Shop, Anthon, IA
 Titan Machinery
 Umbach Seed & Feed
 Valley Bank & Trust
 Welte Vault
 Western Iowa Coop
 Willow Vale Golf Course

Brock Auction Co., Darrell Scott, Auctioneer
 Danbury Agri Services & Charter Oak Ag Supply
 First State Bank Plus+of Battle Creek, Danbury, Ida Grove, & Mapleton
 Heritage Bank/Financial Services, Anthon
 Maple Heights Nursing Home, Apts., & Support

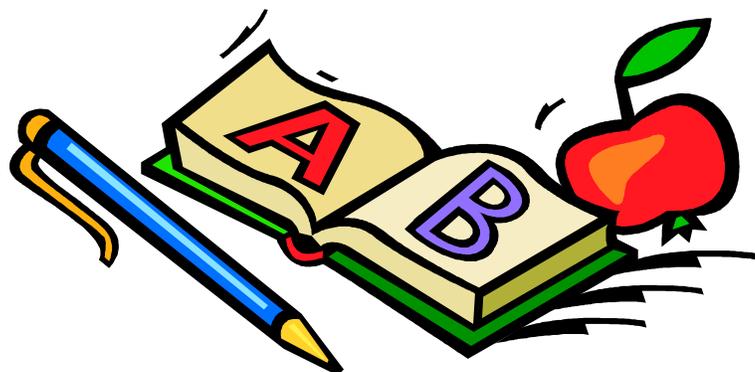
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