



VALOR

Avail Academy Newsletter

Voice

Summer 2022



WHAT WE BELIEVE

Mission: Avail Academy provides quality education that is fully integrated with a biblical knowledge of God and his world, supporting Christian parents and the church in nurturing children as disciples of Christ.

Vision: Avail Academy will thrive as a provider of distinctively Christian elementary and secondary education and will lead the larger community to adopt Christian education as a priority.

Values: Cultural Connectedness, Thoughtful Discipleship, Nurturing Community, Transforming Education, Opening Opportunities

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As another year draws to a close, it's easy to count the many blessings that God has so graciously lavished on Avail throughout the year. Among these incredible gifts, I give God thanks for the staff and faculty that God has called to serve at our school. I also give thanks for all of you who so faithfully serve Avail through offering your gifts and talents through your prayers, your time, and your financial support.

I hope you have had the opportunity to witness the many ways in which the staff have joyfully served daily in supporting the efforts of educating our children. I hope you have also had the opportunity to see our faculty equipping and shaping young hearts and minds to use their God-given talents to glorify their creator in service to others.

The Avail team often comments on how incredibly blessed we are to serve alongside you all - a community of supporters who are dedicated to the mission and vision of providing Christian education for children and families to bring glory to God. Whether you are near to the campuses or far away, your prayers and support are very much felt and coveted in the work that happens at Avail daily. What a joy it is to serve God together in this way!

It is our prayer that the stories and pictures in this newsletter connect you to what God is doing through Avail as we seek to bring glory to Him in all that we do.

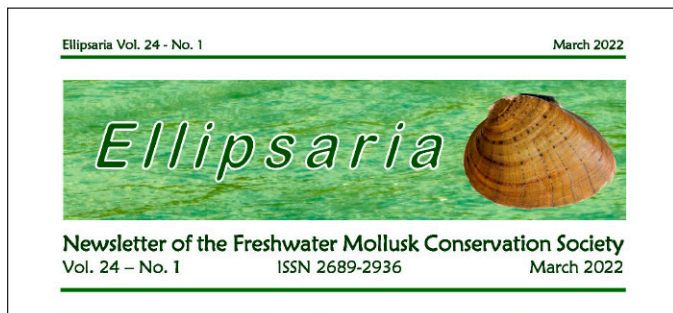
In Christ,

Bethany J. Schuttinga, PhD
President



HIGH SCHOOL FRIDLEY CAMPUS

Science in the News: Congratulations to science teacher, James Vande Glind, and his students in their work they completed on mussel research in collaboration with the University of Minnesota and Macalester College. An article was published in the *Ellipsaria!* Newsletter and the June Newsletter of the Freshwater Mollusk Society. The article was titled, “*Lampsilis siliquoidea* Suitable Host Fish Relationships”.



click photo to link to the article

Boys Basketball: For the second year in a row, the Avail High School Boys Basketball Team won the Section 4A Team Academic Award! This special award is sponsored by the Minnesota Basketball Coaches Association (MBCA) and was awarded to the Avail Academy Boys Basketball team for holding the highest average GPA in the entire athletic section. The average team GPA was 3.661 at the time of submission.



HIGH SCHOOL GO PROJECTS 2021-2022

Covenant Living: Avail Academy 10th grade students have been studying poetry this semester. Some of the questions they explored included...Where does poetry come from? and What is poetry for? Our deep hope is that students begin to see the ways the gift of poetry gives us insights into God's world. About mid-way through the semester, a unique opportunity came up that helped students see and experience answers to these questions that they did not expect. During the GO Project on Thursday mornings, 10th grade students had been meeting with assisted living residents from Covenant Living in Golden Valley, and they decided to interview them. We wanted our students to get to know their partners better--to listen to them share stories about their lives, what was important to them, what growing up was like for them, what wisdom they had to share. We decided to use that information and write a poem as a way of honoring them and their story. So after drafting the poem and interviewing them for a second time, students framed their poems and gifted them to the residents. Students read the final poems to the residents on Thursday, May 19 and presented the framed poem to them as a gift. Covenant Living was joy-filled on the day we shared our poems, a reminder that our greatest joy is found when we use God's gifts to bless others.

By Wendell Schaap





Hope for the Community: Students help feed Blaine residents and the surrounding community by assisting with food distribution every week; packing bags with food, loading the bags into cars, and bringing joy to both those receiving the food and the other community volunteers.



Arc's Value Village: Students helped sort donations, displayed the items on the sales floor, and assisted customers in locating items at the New Hope Arc's Value Village store. Each time they served, students would learn more about how their work helped raise dollars to fund programs to support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



Government Class: The 11th & 12th-Grade U.S. Government & Politics class engaged in a mock Constitutional Convention. Each of the students were assigned a historical delegate to represent at the convention. Students enjoyed getting to know the unique personalities of these historical figures! Every Friday the students enter the Convention session and debate various political issues. The students prepared speeches, asked questions, made proposals, and came to an eventual consensus through voting or committee work. At the end, the goal is to come to an agreement on a finished Constitution. Through this process, students were able to interact firsthand with the Constitution and learn many of the realities of politics.



Spring Musical: The high school welcomed over 450 audience members this spring as the cast and crew brought to the stage beautiful, energetic, and moving performances of 'Annie'. A huge note of gratitude to all the students, staff, volunteers and GRACE CHURCH for their amazing help and support along the way and during the performances! We truly give the Lord all the praise for this year's high school musical season!



ELEMENTARY – BLAINE CAMPUS

6th Grade Math Masters: Congratulations to our 6th grade Math Masters students! A group of Avail 6th grade students competed in the Math Masters Competition on Friday, March 4 and placed 2nd in the team rounds. Special recognition to Nathan Nelson, who placed first in the regional competition and placed 4th in the state! In addition, Ezra Aune and Nathan Nelson placed 5th and 6th in the regional fact drill.

100 Days of School: The 2nd-grade class celebrated “100 days of School” by dressing up as if they were 100 years old. Other classes also celebrated with various activities and decorations.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

Kindergarten and 8th grade buddies go to Salvation Army: The students in Kindergarten and 8th grade walked to the Salvation Army to deliver the food that was brought in during the protein and personal care items drive. Our students were blessed to help meet a real need for real people in our community with the real work of gathering and delivering food items and personal care items to our neighbors. The Avail student body gathered 337.6 pounds of items!



Spring Musicals: 3rd, 4th, & 5th grade students performed a musical entitled, ‘Called’. The students challenged themselves and the audience to seek God’s calling for our lives. The Blaine middle schoolers performed their swashbuckling musical adventure, ‘The Pirates of Penzance’.

CAMPUS CONNECTIONS



2nd-Grade Pen Pals: The Blaine and Edina 2nd-grade students have been writing notes back and forth throughout the school year. The class from Edina visited the students at Blaine so that the students could connect and meet in person!



Middle School Track Meet: A track meet on Friday, April 30 was held at Kuhlman Stadium in Edina. Students from seven Christian schools participated including both of Avail Academy’s middle schools.



ELEMENTARY – EDINA CAMPUS

Zoo Project: Fifth graders, Gabby Johnson and Genevieve Kimmel’s MN Zoo ZOOMs Project was awarded 2nd Place in the ZOOMS STEM Design Challenge! The winners were selected based on their outstanding project presentations and use of the engineering design process. The winners were chosen out of nearly 4500 students across MN who participated in this contest. Their exhibit design for the gray wolf was selected as one of the top 30 projects submitted from students/schools throughout the state.



Math Masters: Congratulations to the Grade 5 Math Masters Team for their success in the recent Math Masters Competition! The Avail team placed fourth out of 31 teams that were competing in this event. Samuel Anderson placed 14th in the individual competition (out of 158 students) and Isaiah Kron placed 15th in the fact drill. This team was coached by Mrs. Julie Amen.



Concentrated Study: Our annual all-school “concentrated study” this year focused on the country of Peru. The study took place during the weeks of February 28-March 11. The students learned about the history, geography, and culture of this country.

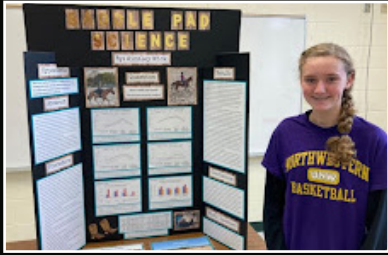
COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

The third grade business class invented a card game and sold copies of the game to other students at Avail Academy. This game was cleverly written and is being enjoyed by other children. This business class raised over \$300 through the sale of this game and they have decided to send this money to an organization that is supporting refugees of Ukraine.

STEM Lab: An initiative has been approved to turn the former elementary computer lab at the Edina campus into a new STEM Lab. We are looking forward to the many ways this redesigned space will enhance learning at Avail. Students will be involved with hands-on learning activities that allow them to apply technology, science, math and engineering skills and participate in real work done by real people in the field. This project is made possible by a group of anonymous supporters who are excited to be part of the growth and development of Avail’s educational efforts.

Spring Musical: The Middle School presented their musical ‘*Singin in the Rain*’ in early May. Congratulations to Mr. Ross (Director), the students, and many volunteers who put in several hours to make this a successful performance. The students did a great job of singing, dancing, and acting.





SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Science Fair Awards

Each year, hundreds of middle students from across Minnesota present original research to STEM professionals and compete for prestigious awards. These student received special recognition at the regional and state level.

3M Young Inventors Award: Katherine Zylstra

3M Film and Materials Science, Manufacturing Technology and Engineering: Ainsley Mick

USDA Agriculture Research: Josie Dederichs

American Chemistry Society Award: Cohen Emmick

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Award: Sadie Hoekstra

Invitation to compete in the Broadcom Masters National Science Fair Competition:

Emilyn Bosch, Evelyn Danz, Cohen Emmick, Sophie Ertel, Hannah Grosser, Iona Heddle, Sadie Hoekstra, Ainsley Mick, Sadie Vietzen

Invitation to participate in the State of Minnesota Science Fair:

Daniel Beekman, Emilyn Bosch, Carsten Bruin, Evelyn Danz, Sophie Dederichs, Cohen Emmick, Sophie Ertel, Hannah Grosser, Iona Heddle, Sadie Hoekstra, Ainsley Mick, Sadie Vietzen, Kaitlyn Ziemer, Katherine Zylstra

Minnesota State History Day Honors

Several of the 8th Graders presented their projects at the Minnesota State History Day competition. There are five categories of projects that students can participate in. First through fifth place awards are given by the state of MN. The first and second place winners in each category from each of the 50 U.S. states advance to the National History Day competition. Avail Academy students received the following awards.

1st Place Performance: Iona Heddle, *"The Falkland Islands War: Failure of Diplomacy, Success of Debate"*

1st Place Research Paper: Natalie Hoekman, *"Fighting for the Right to Vote: Debate and Diplomacy of the Minnesota Woman Suffrage Association"*

2nd Place Exhibit: Levi Abbring, *"Capturing Kings Canyon: Ansel Adams and the Debate Over Conservation"*

3rd Place Research Paper: Hannah Grosser, *"The Armenian Genocide: A Failure of Diplomacy"*

3rd Place Documentary: Mercy March, *"The Korean War: A Failure of US-USSR Diplomacy"*

Honorable Mention Exhibit: Lauren Paradise, *"The Diplomacy if the White Rose: A Peaceful Stand in Nazi Germany"*

Honorable Mention Documentary: Charlotte Taylor, *"The Immense Endeavor"*

Honorable Mention Paper: Lily Stel, *"Women Airforce Service Pilots of World War Two"*

State Qualifiers: Avery Cantwell (Exhibit); Braden Huston and Micah Hagen (Documentary), Andrew Johnstone (Performance)



ALL CAMPUS NEWS

Avail Academy Basketball at Target Center: The 7th/8th Grade Middle School Boys Team, JV and Varsity High School Boys Basketball Teams faced off against the Nova Classical Academy Knights on March 4th!

Avail Academy Band Festival featured all three campus bands in a combined performance on Tuesday, April 5 at 6:30pm at the Fridley Campus.

Grandparents/Special Friends Day: We had such a fun time welcoming back Grandparents and Special Friends to our campuses. The students and grandparents spent time doing the various activities that teachers had planned on campus and had a special performance to highlight the day. We were grateful for all the grandparents and friends that attended!

Staff Years of Service:

Beekman, Kathleen	10 yrs
De Smith, Sarah	5 yrs
Krummen, Amy	15 yrs
Piehl, Jeff	5 yrs
Prater, Beth	5 yrs
Schuttinga, Bethany	5 yrs
Van Geest, Susan	10 yrs

PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Avail Academy continues to develop its network of business partnerships. If your business would like to partner with us as an Avail Accelerator, please contact Heather Wessman at hwessman@availacademy.org. If you make use of one of our business partners' services, thank them for their support of Avail Academy. We value the partnership!

Avail Accelerators

PLATINUM PARTNERS

Aaron Hall, Attorney
 Anduril Partners
 Bethel University
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 Highland Bank
 Letterman Sports
 The Mission AM 980 KKMS Radio/
 The Fish Twin Cities
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 Veil and Wild Orthodontics

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 Grant-Shannon Staffing
 The Platinum Group
 The Werth Group MN-
 Keller Williams Integrity Lakes

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fellowship Dinner: Mark your calendars for our annual Fellowship Dinner will be held on Saturday, November 12th 2022 at International Market Square. Our evening will include entertainment by comedian Daren Streblov, a special presentation exploring how God is at work in our classrooms and a time to fellowship with our community.

Avail Accelerators Business Coffee: Cory Wessman from Erickson and Wessman Law Firm hosted fellow Avail parent, Matt Norman, President & CEO of Norman & Associates, which offers Dale Carnegie programs throughout the midwest. The morning was spent learning about how Matt has implemented his faith in coaching business men and women across the midwest.

We will continue to host our Avail Accelerators Business Coffee in the fall of 2022 and spring of 2023

Do you know of someone interested in learning more about Avail Academy? **Schedule a Tour** to see our Blaine, Edina or Fridley campuses in action!

Would you like to be added to our Avail Academy email updates? Sign up at our website: www.availacademy.org.



It's time to start training
for the

VALOR 5K Challenge

Mark your calendar for
Saturday, October 1st
at the
Lake Harriet Bandshell

We have a fun morning
planned with our Avail
community!



**Avail
Academy**

Christian Education on Purpose

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