

**2016-2017 Performance Indicator Report
Awards and Recognition Log**

Avoca schools, staff and students were recognized for many achievements over the course of the 2016-2017 school year. Many of those accomplishments reflect the excellence of the District’s instructional program, the efforts of a highly professional and dedicated staff and the drive of Avoca’s students to excel.

Of the awards and recognitions highlighted in this year’s log, two areas in particular stand out: educational excellence and fine arts. Between those two categories and some of the other forms of student achievement reflected in this list, it is readily apparent that Avoca is developing the “whole child” and living its mission of maximizing students’ unique potential.

2016-2017 Awards and Recognition Log

Date	Activity or Inquiry	Contact Person	Award/ Recognition
9-16	Janis Michael was invited to present at the 2016 Illinois Reading Council Conference in Peoria. Her paper was titled "Is the Medium the Message? Reading Comprehension and Technology." It examines research about the differences between reading text on a screen and reading on paper and discusses possible ways of teaching specific reading strategies for comprehending text presented on a screen in various forms.	Janis Michael	Instruction
9-16	CelebratingArt.com recognized 69 Marie Murphy students’ works during the 2016 summer selection!	Kelly Sabatini	Fine Arts
10-16	A group of students led by 4th grade teacher Janis Michael were invited to perform in the traditional storytelling style at Evanston Public Library’s 2nd Annual Storytelling Festival.	Janis Michael	Fine Arts
10-16	MM Varsity and JV Soccer: The JV team finished the year with 8 wins and 0 losses, and the Varsity team finished the year with 7 wins and 1 loss. Both teams won the North Shore Independent Conference.	Henley/ Bodzewski	Athletics
10-16	StartClass, an education site that “uses Graphiq’s semantic technology to deliver deep insights via data-driven articles,	Kevin Jauch	Educational Excellence

	visualizations and research tools,” gave Avoca West a score of 9 out of 10 based on educational characteristics including academics, class size, student:teacher ratio, etc.		
10-16	StartClass, an education site that “uses Graphiq’s semantic technology to deliver deep insights via data-driven articles, visualizations and research tools,” gave Marie Murphy a 10 out of 10 and ranked it as the number one middle school in Illinois!	Kevin Jauch	Educational Excellence
11-16	Great Schools!, a national nonprofit that rates schools and districts in order to inform parents, gave Avoca West a score of 10/10 for Test Scores and 9/10 for Student Progress.	Kevin Jauch	Educational Excellence
11-16	Great Schools!, a national nonprofit that rates schools and districts in order to inform parents, gave Marie Murphy School a score of 10/10 for Test Scores and 10/10 for Student Progress.	Kevin Jauch	Educational Excellence
11-16	Karah Roche was praised by the head of New Trier’s Performing Arts Department. When Mrs. Roche asked for tickets to see former MM students perform, she received the following: <i>Hi Karah, You can present this e-mail at the BO. You are entitled to as many comps as you’d like for any of the performances. Thanks for your EXCELLENT preparation of our incoming Freshmen.</i>	Karah Roche	Educational Excellence/ Fine Arts
11-16	Daira Tramontin invited movie producer and Avoca parent, Edward McDougal, to teach a storytelling workshop. An excerpt from an email he sent is below: <i>I really would like to commend you on the way you have worked with them so far to give them the tools to come up with such profound creative writing. As I talked with them, I could feel the backstory of what you have accomplished with them so far.</i>	Daira Tramontin	Educational Excellence/ Fine Arts
12-16	For the third year in a row Michelle Katz, cello, and Nancy Magill, viola, were musicians/participants in the Chicagoland Educators Orchestra at the Midwest Clinic International Band and Orchestra Conference. According to the clinic’s website:	Michelle Katz	Fine Arts

	<p><i>“Chicagoland Educators Orchestra members represent music education excellence and dedication at every instructional level from grade school through college while also remaining active as performing artists through the numerous professional opportunities available within Chicagoland’s rich musical landscape.”</i></p>		
2-17	<p>District Technology Coordinator, Beth Haugeberg, earned her Apple Teacher Recognition in iPad, Mac, and Swift Playgrounds.</p>	Beth Haugeberg	Technology
2-17	<p>An exceptionally large number of Marie Murphy students were recognized by Scholastic Writing Awards:</p> <p>Silver Key:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Victoria Chan: Memoir First Night, Personal Essay ● Emilia McDougal: Memoir Piano, Personal Essay ● Chanel Pudrycki: Memoir The Holidays, Personal Essay ● Julia Stesal: Memoir The Great Truth, Personal Essay ● Emma Taylor: Providing New Hope, Journalism Clinical Trial ● Sarah Trunsky: Memoir Song 2016, Personal Essay <p>Honorable Mention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Alena Balassa: Memoir A Christmas Walk, Personal Essay ● Isabelle Hester: Memoir Scrambled, Personal Essay ● Dahee Lee: Memoir Journal In America, Personal Essay ● Chelsea Lu: Memoir Stereotype, Personal Essay ● Divya Mehta: Memoir The Last Time, Personal Essay ● Divya Mehta: Memoir Tiramisu: The Day I Moved, Personal Essay ● Emma Taylor: Memoir Starbucks Runs and Family Fun, Personal Essay 	Daira Tramontin	Educational Excellence/ Fine Arts
2-17	<p>Several Marie Murphy students were recognized by Scholastic Visual Art Awards:</p> <p>Gold Key:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Juliana Gurevich: Self-portrait, Painting ● Daniel Martinez: My Lola Then and Now, Photography ● Violet Cue: Into the Shadows, Drawing <p>Silver Key:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Juliana Gurevich: Roar, Drawing ● Chelsea Lu: Self-Portrait, Painting <p>Honorable Mention:</p>	Kelly Sabatini	Educational Excellence/ Fine Arts

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Juliana Gurevich: City Life, Photography • Davina Shin: The Great Blue, Drawing • Julia Stesal - Ceramics/ Owl Lantern 		
2-17	<p>Two Marie Murphy students earned national recognition in the 2017 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, demonstrating, “that they are among the most talented young artists and writers in the nation.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violet Cue: In the Shadows- Gold Medal, Drawing and Illustration • Daniel Martinez: Lola Then and Now- Silver Medal, Photography 	Kelly Sabatini	Educational Excellence/ Fine Arts
4-17	The Marie Murphy Science Olympiad Team took 2 nd place at the Illinois State Meet earning them a trip to the national competition.	Jim Gravagna	Student Achievement
5-17	Janis Michael applied for and was awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to attend summer History and Culture workshops specifically tied to Native American and African American Education from 1830-1960. This is Janis’ second grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.	Janis Michael	Grants
5-17	Amélie Paré Sinclair, a current seventh grader, won the Wilmette Beacon’s Mother’s Day Essay Contest.	Amanda Hoffmeister	Student Recognition
5-17	Upon returning from the 7th grade Springfield trip, Hyung Ro received an unsolicited, complimentary email from the staff at the Lincoln Souvenir and Gift Shop praising our students for being, “well behaved, well mannered and polite, which most certainly left a favorable impression of the school.”	Hyung Ro	Student Recognition
5-17	Kellie Lane was accepted into and completed a program to serve as an Authorized BreakoutEDU Trainer. BreakoutEDU, similar to an escape room, is a physical “game” where students work collaboratively while moving around the classroom to solve physical and digital puzzles.	Kelli Lane	Technology Leadership
5-17	The Science Olympiad Team placed 8 th in the nation. This marks the 7 th year that the team has finished in the top 10 nationwide.	Jim Gravagna	Student Achievement

5-17	<p>Nine different students medaled at the Science Olympiad National Championships in six different events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hovercraft: Dodge Adams & Eric Liu-2nd Place ● Crimebusters: Isabelle Hester & Chelsea Lu-3rd Place ● Rocks and Minerals: Isabelle Hester & Mia Moline-3rd Place ● Towers: Violet Cue & Ian Quan-3rd Place ● Wright Stuff: Zijun Deng & Brian Shen-5th Place ● Optics: Eric Liu & Brian Shen-6th Place 	Jim Gravagna	Student Achievement
6-17	<p>A former Avoca parent who is assisting with the establishment of a private school outside of Hong Kong reached out to the Avoca Administrative Team to request that we share our expertise with this new school and to ascertain if Avoca would be interested in being a “sister school” for this new educational organization.</p>	Kevin Jauch	Educational Leadership