

**2016-2017 Performance Indicator Report
Distinctive Impact Log**

The Avoca School District is an exceptionally well performing school district, and as such we feel that it is our responsibility to share our knowledge, expertise and efforts with others. Out of that desire to have a positive influence beyond our borders and to serve as a lighthouse district, the Distinctive Impact Log emerged.

Though our reputation for educational excellence in both academics and the fine arts have certainly attracted others to seek our expertise, the community should be most impressed by the efforts of the school district to serve others.

The following themes emerged from this data:

- Community Service
- Instruction
- Leadership

Date:	Activity:	Contact Person:	Topic:
9-16	Superintendent Kevin Jauch continues to serve on the Board of the North Cook Intermediate Service Center, an intermediate agency between the Illinois State Board of Education and local school districts. The Center performs regulatory functions as directed by statute and the Illinois School Code. This is Dr. Jauch's 6th year on the Board.	Kevin Jauch	Educational Leadership
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
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	A group of former students, now dispersed throughout the country, returned to visit Avoca West. The visit was in response to the passing of a former, beloved teacher who served as an activist for finding treatments for AIDS patients after leaving his classroom at Avoca West over 50 years ago. The group took a tour, shared stories of the teacher's impact on their lives, and made a donation to the PTC's Innovation Grants in the teacher's name.	Jessica Hutchison	Community Service
11-16	The principal of a middle school in Deerfield noticed Marie Murphy's strong math performance on the 2015-2016 PARCC	Matt Palcer	Instruction

	assessment and asked to come to observe and talk to the team.		
11-16	Based on the strong showing of Avoca West in reading on the 2015-2016 PARCC assessment, the superintendent of another New Trier Township school district contacted Dr. Jauch to ask if some elementary teachers from that district could participate in a site visit to Avoca West to observe our English/Language Arts program and instruction.	Kevin Jauch	Instruction
12-16	Elizabeth Weismehl was asked to give a guest lecture to an elementary methods class at North Park University on teaching children to sing. This is her fifth time talking to aspiring educators. A key aspect of her lecture is blending her philosophy of teaching students to sing with real world examples from Avoca West.	Elizabeth Weismehl	Instruction/ 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: <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>	Michelle Katz	Fine Arts
12-16	As a follow up to a visit from Caleb White in the fall, students organized a collection of needed materials to donate to <i>Journey's - The Road Home</i> in Palatine. This organization services families in transition, including those with children. They welcomed the outpouring of toiletries, clothing, and other needed supplies to share with their families. A monetary donation was also made to help support the efforts of the organization.	Jessica Hutchison	Community Service
1-17	Superintendent Kevin Jauch participated in a Consortium for Educational Change site visit for a system assessment for a Lemont School District.	Kevin Jauch	Educational Leadership
4-17	Both Avoca West and Marie Murphy students continued the tradition of collecting books for Bernie's Book Bank, which they have done consistently since 2013. Each year they strive to donate over 5,000 gently used books to be distributed to students in need in nearby communities.	Susan Geidner	Community Service
4-17	For the past two years Avoca West 1st graders have taken a field trip to the Bernie's Book Bank warehouse where they volunteer to help process books for distribution.	Jennifer Stump	Community Service
4-17	As a part of their mentoring program for new teachers in	Jessica	Instruction

	Deerfield, new staff members and their mentors visited Avoca West to learn about life at Avoca West.	Hutchison	
4-17	Marie Murphy families hosted 10 students from France for two weeks providing them with the opportunity to be immersed in American culture and observe the nuances of our school system.	Franciose Mishinger	Cultural Development
5-17	Matt Palcer, Andrea Bialk and Lori Sandler participated in a Consortium for Educational Change site visit for a system assessment for a Des Plaines School District.	Kevin Jauch	Educational Leadership
5-17	As a connection to the Avoca West Read-a-thon and in conjunction with Earth Day 2017, students at Avoca West planted seven trees on the Avoca West grounds. The trees were donated by the Wilmette Park District and help to illustrate the year's message that "everything big starts somewhere small."	Jessica Hutchison	Community Service
5-17	As part of their fundraising and philanthropic endeavors, the Marie Murphy Student Council raised approximately \$1,000 and for the LEARN Charter School Network.	Hyung Ro	Community Service
5/17	Following a visit from Brian Williams of <i>Think Kindness</i> , students at Avoca West recorded over 5,000 acts of kindness (as kindness ninjas) and participated in a shoe collection. The shoes, over 400 pairs collected, will be donated to children in Africa whose only barrier to education is their <i>lack</i> of shoes.	Jessica Hutchison	Community Service
5-17	8 th Grade students created over 175 "survival kits" for the homeless, thinking critically about such considerations as size, portability, conspicuousness, all while trying to incorporate six key components: liquids, food, protection from elements, hygiene, clothing, and a durable way to carry basics.	Matt Palcer	Community Service
5-17	Based on our academic success on PARCC, a high achieving Lake County school district requested the opportunity to conduct a site visit at Marie Murphy School to observe the middle school math program.	Kevin Jauch	Instruction
5-17	Two New Trier High School students served as mentors in sharing their interest of the natural world with students at Avoca West while earning credit for this work in their environmental studies classes at New Trier High School. The Avoca alumni presented lessons to 2nd and 3rd graders to better help them understand the connections between the needs of local animal life and the natural resources we find in our neighborhood yards and gardens. The High School students also worked with 2nd graders in Ms Lara's class to build an art display that will actually serve as a hotel benefiting pollinators like solitary bees.	Mellaura Johnson	Community Connection

	<p>These high school students also helped our PTC read-a-thon winners plant trees in the oak grove at Avoca West. They came on campus again to lead the 1st and 2nd grade winners in planting spring green vegetables in our garden box beds.</p>		
5-17	<p>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.</p>	Kelli Lane	Technology Leadership
6-17	<p>A former Avoca parent who is assisting with the launching of a private school outside of Hong Kong reached out to the Avoca Administrative Team to see if we would be interested in sharing our expertise with this new school and if Avoca would be interested in being a “sister school” for this new educational organization.</p>	Kevin Jauch	Educational Leadership