

GALESBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

FOUNDATION FACTS

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Galesburg Public Schools

Foundation

P.O. Box 687

Galesburg, IL 61401

(309) 342-9229

www.gburgpsf.org

e-mail:

GPSF@grics.net

Reading @ the Crossroads III

Plans for **Reading @ the Crossroads III** are already in the works. Early next year Galesburg middle school students will be treated to a presentation by award winning author Avi. In 2005, when the committee began planning our first **Reading @ the Crossroads**, Avi was contacted. The committee was unsuccessful in booking him at that time. However after two successful R@C events Avi contacted District 205 and asked to participate in this project. It is rare for a school district our size to have the opportunity to present such a renown author.

Avi (Edward Irving Wortis) was born in 1937 in New York. His pen name of Avi was actually given to him early in life by his twin sister. He is a prominent American author having written nearly 70 books for children and young adults and is a winner of both the Newberry Honor and the Newberry Medal.

From the "Scholastic" website, Avi explains, "I take a great deal of satisfaction in using popular forms — the adventure, the mystery, the thriller — so as to hold my reader with the sheer pleasure of a good story. I want my readers to feel, to think, sometimes to laugh. But most of all I want them to enjoy a good read." Though the topics and the style of Avi's books range widely, one common thread unites them: They are all invitingly readable, even to the most reluctant readers.

Avi inspires students to be better writers themselves. He believes "Reading is the key to writing. The more you read, the better your writing can be." He tells students, "Listen and watch the world around you. Try to understand why things happen. Reason things out for yourself. Work to get answers on your own. Understand why you believe things. Finally, write what you honestly feel, then learn from the criticism that will always come your way."

Avi, who has always been fascinated by trains and was an avid model train builder in his youth, will be warmly welcomed in Galesburg March 15-17, 2010. He will make presentations to both Churchill and Lombard Middle Schools, as well as a public performance which is free and open to the community at the Orpheum Theater on the evening of March 16th.



Photo courtesy of Avi-writer.com

Avi - award winning author to visit in 2010

The **Galesburg Public Schools Foundation** is pleased to continue supporting this highly successful curriculum initiative. Joel Estes, Galesburg CUSD #205 Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction comments: "The **Reading @ the Crossroads** project has had an incredible impact on the literacy lives of middle school students in Galesburg. Not only have we seen our ISAT reading test scores rise at the middle school level, we have seen students become much more engaged with numerous authentic reading and writing activities. We believe that we are not only preparing our students for successful high school experiences, we are building a future generation of literate adults. The support which we have received from the **Galesburg Public Schools Foundation** has helped us to create miracles with these students. We are deeply indebted."

We thank you for your financial gifts to the Foundation through duck adoptions, donations and memorials—they make this innovative project possible.

Duck Dollars helping our schools...



The **14th Annual Rubber Duck Race**, held last September at Lake Storey, was a great success...thanks to all those who 'adopted' ducks this year! Though our sales were down a bit this year, we had a very successful and fun event that resulted in duck sales of over 7,300!!! Our goal is to give back to the schools the same amounts that we have given in years past.

We began our race with the 'Beach Fun Run' where nine school representatives competed for the traveling "**Ducky Award**". Teachers and administrators were taken through a course of fun tasks on the beach and then over to the water slide area where they flew down the slide and 'plucked' the winning ducks! New teacher Kit Baxter, of **Steele Elementary School**, won the Beach Fun Run and plucked this year's Grand Prize winner. **Lombard Middle School** won the "**Most Improved Duck Sales Award**" with an increase of nearly 75% over last years duck sales! The "**Top School — Most Ducks in a Row**" award was given to **Galesburg High School** for selling the most ducks of all the schools (*see photos*).

As one of our '**TOP DUCKS**', **Dick Blick** was very generous and their support and help is immeasurable. The **Register Mail** along with **Galesburg Broadcasting** were also key in our fundraising efforts. Our events this year included '*Celebrity Bagging*' at both **Hy-Vee** stores (*see photo opposite page*), along with our Telethon and radio Duck-a-thon. **Happy Joe's Duck Bucks** were again a great selling tool for the ducks...making your duck purchase FREE! Our little duck canisters popped up all around town at various restaurants asking to be fed with your spare change.



Photo courtesy of Sue Dickinson

**Chris Carpenter, Teacher,
Lombard Middle School &
Tom Wallace, GPSF
President with the "Most
Improved Duck Sales" award**

The hard work of our volunteers helped the Foundation raise nearly **\$20,000** that goes right back to our schools. The foundation board sets an amount per student to be given back to the schools each year. In addition, the schools PTO's or fundraising groups that sold ducks for their schools also receive money which totaled nearly \$4,700 from this year's race.

Grant requests for 2009 Duck Dollars are just now being received and we will let you know how the schools use this year's duck money in our next mailing. Budgets are shrinking and the duck dollars we are able to return back to the school truly helps fill the gaps in funding they're facing.

In 2008 we funded over **\$14,000** worth of projects, equipment and assemblies. Here are what several of the schools used their monies for: **Lombard Middle School** purchased 60 calculators to be used for ISAT (Illinois Standards Achievement Test) testing and for students who are unable to pay for their own.

At **King Elementary School**, teachers purchased several portable CD players complete with battery re-chargers which helped in their independent listening activities and are aligned with their School Improvement Plan and Illinois Early Learning Standards. In addition, several new library sets of novels, along with whole class sets of calculators and math manipulatives were also purchased.



Photo courtesy of Sue Dickinson

**Tom Wallace, GPSF
President presents Brett Wolfe,
GHS Assistant Principal the
"Top School —
Most Ducks in a Row" award**

Steele Elementary School used their money to help purchase Study Island for use in grades 2—5. This web based program is used for ISAT preparation and as an aid in the Response to Intervention process. Students find topics organized with a lesson, assessment questions, and explanations. The mastery of these topics help students gain confidence when taking the ISAT.

(continued next page)

More re“duck”ulously good news...



Lynn Armstrong, GPSF Board Member,
Tara Bahns, Churchill Dean of Students,
Karen Hawkinson, GPSF Board Member,
Marilyn Mol, Churchill Assistant Principal
& Diane VanHootegem District 205 HR
Director get ready to “man” their shift at
our Celebrity Bagging event at HyVee!!

importantly helping our schools and students with your generous donations!

Nielson Elementary School renewed their program entitled "Reading A-Z". This website offers short reading books for teachers to use in a guided reading format in small groups. Books can be printed and sent home with the students for additional practice at home. They can also be customized to include the child's name as a character in the story.

Cooke Elementary School held their annual Reading Night last February and we were able to supply books for that night along with Readermainia Books.

As our largest annual fundraiser, the Foundation wants to say ‘thanks’ to all who helped make our Duck Race successful. **Thank you** for coming out, having fun and most



Students from Knox College's Tennis Teams came out to Lake Storey to help ‘tag’ our little ducks. Volunteer help is always great to have!

A special **THANK YOU** to our **Top Sponsors** and **Quacker Backers**...we ask that you keep them in mind when you need anything!

TOP SPONSORS:

Blick Art Materials
Comcast Spotlight
Galesburg Register Mail
Galesburg Radio Center

F&M Bank

First Midwest Bank
Galesburg Cottage Hospital
Galesburg Toyota Honda
Happy Joe's
Hy-Vee Food Stores
Kehoe Eye Care
Lakis Ford Dodge
Mangieri Electric
Midstate Manufacturing

Midwest Bank of Western Illinois

OSF St. Mary Medical Center
RSM McGladrey, Inc
Sunrise Rotary of Galesburg
Tompkins State Bank
Verizon Wireless
Wells Fargo Bank
Western Illinois Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery
Yemm Chevrolet Buick GMC Chrysler Jeep

QUACKER BACKERS:

Bruce Foote Chevrolet
Crop Production Services
Elks Lodge #894

We also want to thank all those who donated prizes, certificates, time and freebies. It is these people and companies that make our race the success it is!

Memorials...

Selecting an organization to donate to is a very personal decision. We'd like to thank all those that choose to make the **Galesburg Public Schools Foundation** the recipient of their friends and loved ones memorial donations. This year, memorial donations were made in the names of *Therese Lanzon, Marilyn Hawkinson, Morris Chapman, Louise Hogan and Gladys Blythe Rader*. These monies are used to help our students in many different ways. Our condolences are extended to the family members and friends for their loss and appreciate them thinking of the foundation.

We are only as good as our Volunteers & Supporters and...
WE ARE GOOD!
Thank you for your support!

Donating in today's economy...

We are fortunate to have a community that sees the need in helping our local educational system with their generous gifts. The Foundation believes that effective community support is needed to provide the best educational opportunities for our children. When you make a donation to the GPSF, you're saying that you won't accept an average education in our community....that your children deserve the best. Those that don't have children in schools, know that strong public schools promote strong communities and that their donations help shape the future of Galesburg.

There are many different solicitation methods of Annual Giving...each a vitally important process that helps form the financial backbone of our Foundation. Whether you have 'adopted a duck' during the Duck Race, our largest fundraiser, sent in a memorial after the loss of a loved one or remembered us during our Annual Support Campaigns...for those donations, we say **thank you!**

Planned Giving is another way to donate to the Foundation. Planned Gifts are popular because they can provide valuable tax benefits and/or income for life. Most bequests are made through Wills, Life Insurance and Retirement Plans. Donors should contact their attorney and/or tax advisors to get information on the benefits of these gifts. **Matching gifts** from your employer is yet another way of doubling your donation to the Foundation. Please check with your employer to see if they offer this option. All gifts to the Foundation are **tax-deductible**.

Every gift, no matter the size, makes a difference.

Who Are We...

The **Galesburg Public Schools Foundation** is a chartered, 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt not-for-profit foundation. The purpose of the Foundation is to raise funds to supplement educational, extracurricular and interscholastic programs in District 205, and to strengthen the relationship between the public schools and the community.



Thank you for your past support of the **Galesburg Public Schools Foundation** programs. Educators today face many challenges. The opportunities for youth today are limited only by the quality of their education. We hope you will continue to support the Foundation in its endeavor to enhance our youth's education...an education that prepares them for the next step in their lives and gives them the desire to be lifelong learners.

Help us Help our Students Succeed!

Yes, I want to support GPSF's innovative educational opportunities for all District 205 students.

My **tax-deductible** investment in education is: \$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 other.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Year Graduated: _____

My gift will be matched by _____ (company name). Enclosed is my employers matching gift form.

I would like to volunteer my time or services to help the Foundation.

WINTER 2009

Please clip and return with your **tax-deductible** gift to:

Galesburg Public Schools Foundation (GPSF) P.O. Box 687 Galesburg, Illinois 61401