



Akron Digital Academy Monthly Newsletter



Upcoming Events and Important Dates

February 12, 2012-COLLEGE GOAL Sunday sponsored by The University of Akron

February 14, 2012-Valentine's Day

February 20, 2012-President's Day, sites and offices closed

February 22, 2012-Parent Leadership Team Meeting--First Floor Evans, parent room

February 28, 2012-AVID Parent Conferences at Goodyear, 5:30pm-6:30pm

For more information regarding upcoming events contact Mrs. Jaunae Carter, Community Engagement Coordinator at 330-237-2241.

SES Tutoring is Now Available

Do you need extra help in Reading and/or Math? SES

Tutoring is a **FREE** program that provides after school tutoring to eligible students. If you are interested in boosting your reading and/or math skills, please contact Ms. Meghan Ryckman, Development Coordinator, at 330-237-2229 or check out our website www.akron-digital.com under the tab note to parents. There are a limited number of tutoring spots available. Once they are full, eligible students will be placed on a waiting list.

President's Day Fun Fact

Abraham Lincoln and George Washington's birthdays are both in the month of February. In 1971, a bill passed that unified the celebration of their birthdays into President's Day!



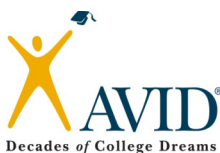
Shine Your Smile Day is a Success

The Smiles Program...mobile dentists arrived at ADA a little before 9:00am on Tuesday, December 20, 2011, to set up on the second floor in the Evans Building. This program provided examinations, cleanings, fluoride, fluoride gel, sealants, referrals, and oral hygiene education. All students, siblings, and children 18 months and older were invited to take advantage of the on-site dentist. By the end of the day the Smiles Program...mobile dentists had served over 19 students. Every person who saw the dentist got a free toothbrush and sticker. The Smiles Program...mobile dentists will be back in the 2012-2013 school year to serve our student population. Every student and child that saw the dentist left with a bigger, brighter smile.



Project MORE Has Begun

Project MORE is a supplemental reading program that has been helping children learn to read since 1999. Project MORE provides the flexibility to adapt to meet the needs of ADA's diverse student population. The Project MORE program officially started at ADA the week before winter break. There are 8 elementary students enrolled in the program and 13 volunteers. 8 of the volunteers are from our high school program and 5 are parent volunteers. The training for Project MORE volunteers was held in early December. Mrs. Rawling, the program coordinators states that "the program is off to a great start. Students and volunteers are excited about learning!". For more information on Project MORE please contact Robin Rawling, Project MORE Coordinator at 330-237-2219.



The AVID Program Starts at ADA

Akron Digital Academy has been working diligently to implement strategies that work to transform our schools, provide greater opportunity for our students and increase the pipeline of talented graduates to the community.

As part of that plan, ADA applied for and won a grant for the AVID College Readiness System. The AVID program will close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society. Twenty-six students started their first semester of the program on January 24, 2012. The students have agreed to the rigors of the curriculum and are excited about the possibilities AVID will provide.

Check ADA's website soon to find out more information about AVID and how your student might qualify.



Check Us Out on Facebook and Become a Fan!



Information About Student Aid, ACT and Vocational Programs

ACT—The next National American College Test (ACT) date is April 11, 2012. The deadline for registration is March 8, 2012. The cost is \$34. If you receive benefits from a government agency you may qualify for a fee waiver. Interested students should contact (or have your teacher contact) Mrs. Marano, Counselor at Evans. Mrs. Marano is available on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 330-237-2208.

FAFSA is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Students planning to attend college or any “after high school” education program (trade schools) need to complete the FAFSA online to be eligible for grants and loans to help pay for schooling. You can fill out the form yourself (parent and child), but to make it easier, the UNIVERSITY OF AKRON is sponsoring a **FREE COLLEGE GOAL** Sunday on February 12, 2012 at 2:00pm. This workshop will walk you through the FAFSA form and process. At the end of the workshop, you will submit your FAFSA form and be done with the process. For brochures and more information on how to sign up for the workshop please call Mrs. Marano at 330-237-2208.

Vocational Programs—Sophomores visited the vocational programs offered by the Akron Public Schools on January 26, 2012. Students who did not sign up for the visitation may see Mrs. Marano to make arrangement to possibly visit the programs at a later date. Students do not have to visit a program to apply for it, but it is a good idea to see if the program is a good fit for you.

Beech Brook Provides a Comprehensive Wellness Program for ADA Students

Akron Digital Academy has partnered with Beech Brook to provide counseling and wellness programming for all ADA students. Beech Brook is an agency providing services to children and families. The main campus is in Pepper Pike, with clinics in Cleveland, Lorain, Toledo and now in Akron. Beech Brook has been serving children in Northeast Ohio for over 160 years. They are a behavioral health agency that offers prevention, early intervention, and intensive treatment. At ADA, Beech Brook is offering individual counseling for all students, grades K-12.

Currently, Beech Brook has two therapists that work with our student population and are planning to add a third therapist in the spring. Students are generally seen on the days they regularly attend school, making the therapy convenient for the student.

Beech Brook has added the REACH program which provides intensive work with children in school, at home and out in the community, building the skills to function better in all aspects of a student’s life.

In the fall, Beech Brook offered the first in a series of wellness groups: *Holiday Survival Kit*, *Coping with Stress When the Holidays are Not-So-Merry*. An anger management group was started in January 2012 for high school students. Another group was started for middle school students. Groups are open to any ADA student.

Beech Brook therapists are available everyday, at school, for students to drop in to talk. Beech Brook counselors will also provide assistance when a student has a crisis or needs additional support for a short time.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss the needs your student may have you can contact the Beech Brook office located in the Evans Building at 330-237-2244.



Get to know your Race to the Top (RttT) Transformation Team

Get to know your RttT Transformation Team is a monthly series that presents biographical information on each member of the Race to the Top (RttT) Transformation Team. The members of this team will become experts in their application areas and be able to answer any questions about RttT. This month’s biographical sketch is on John Baker, Intervention Specialist in the Evans Lab. Mr. Baker brings to the Transformation Team over 31 years of educational experience.

He attended The University of Akron where he earned a B.S. in Elementary Education, Special Education K-12. Mr. Baker went on to earn his Master’s as an Intervention Specialist at Muskingum College. His specialty is with students who have learning disabilities. When Mr. Baker is not helping ADA students, he is working with the Tuscarawas Schools Credit Union as the Audit Committee Chair. He enjoys designing stained or leaded glass, bike riding, and hiking. Mr. Baker’s educational philosophy is that all students can learn. If the student doesn't learn the way you teach, teach the way they learn. Mr. Baker’s experience is a welcome addition to the Transformation Team. He will be a crucial, contributing member to the success of RttT.