

# CUB CHATTER

November 2018 / Volume 12 / Issue 4



As we begin to start to move into the holiday season, I'd like to take this opportunity to say how thankful I am for the opportunity that Avery Elementary has given to me and my family. I find myself at a bit of loss to know where to begin to list all of the wonderful people that make Avery and its community the family friendly environment that it is.

So to all the faculty, staff, administration, volunteers, students and families of AES "Thank You" and enjoy your Thanksgiving!

*Janna Miller-Sanders, AES PTA President*

## Avery Elementary Executive Board - 2018 – 2019

Janna Miller-Sanders -	<a href="mailto:jm24012@yahoo.com">jm24012@yahoo.com</a>
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### IMPORTANT DATES

STEAM Night – 11/15

Thanksgiving Break – 11/19 – 11/23

Holiday Parties 1 & 2 – 12/18

Holiday Parties 3 & 5 – 12/19

Holiday Parties K & 4 – 12/20

Elf Day – 12/21



<https://www.facebook.com/AveryPTA/>



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# CUB CHATTER



Thank You!

**To all of the women and men who take time to volunteer at Avery Elementary School... thank you!** It all counts and it all matters. It is hard to know the impact you have on the lives of those you help. Copy parents give teachers a few more minutes that can be spent helping a child. Back-to-school volunteers offer a friendly smile and make new parents feel welcome. Room Parents help plan and arrange fun learning activities for the kids to enjoy. Your roles play a large part in the experiences our children have at school on a daily basis.

The Avery PTA has had two big events recently; the Superhero Scramble and the Variety Show. These could not have been done without the awesome volunteers who spent so much time, energy and thought into making both of these events a success. A big shout out goes to Angela McDaniel and Kristy Drake for making the Superhero Scramble a safe, exciting and successful fundraiser for the school; and also to Carrie Gilliam for all her hard work that went into making the Variety Show a big hit. We are so appreciative of you!

We applaud each and every parent, grandparent and community member that said "YES" this year and volunteered. **You make a difference in the lives of the teachers and students at Avery Elementary!**

**Remember – You can raise \$\$ money \$\$ for our PTA while shopping for the holidays!**



I know we all love to shop Amazon especially during the holiday season and you can help the PTA when you do. Use the AmazonSmile webpage during cyber days, completing your gift list and even for your last-minute purchases. When you do you can earn .5% for every qualifying purchase to give back to Avery.

Follow the link below: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/26-0784738> or when you login to smile.amazon.com choose Avery ES PTA as your charitable organization.



Don't throw your holiday shopping receipts away until you Shoparoo. It is an easy way to fundraise for the PTA. You just download the app, snap a picture of your receipt and earn. Make sure to link to Avery ES PTA and select your cubs' current grade.

**The app is available for Android and Apple products.**



**BINGO** night is in March – we'd love extra helpers! If you're interested, please email [averycubspta@gmail.com](mailto:averycubspta@gmail.com)



## Math Superstars:

Superstars, please remember to put your first, last, and teacher's name at the top of your paper each week.



Celebrate your child's birthday by having their name in lights!

You can wish your Avery Cub a "Happy Birthday" for all to see on the Avery marquee in the front of the school for the entire week.

Just fill out the Birthday Marquee information form with your student's name, date of birth, \$10 and return it to school. Don't forget to take a photo!

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## BOX TOP BULLETIN



### Easy ways to sneak Box Tops Clipping into your holiday plans!

- Cook your holiday meal in a Reynolds® Bakeware Pan.
- Look for Box Tops on Annie's® baking mixes.
- Use Ziploc® storage containers for extra holiday leftovers.
- Keep holiday party guests satisfied with Chex Mix™ and Nature Valley™ snacks.
- Paper Mate® Pens make great stocking stuffers!

See a full list of Box Tops products at  
[BTFE.com/Products](http://BTFE.com/Products)

Thanks For sending in your Box Tops!  
Our school will receive a check soon!



### Congratulations!

The September Box Top Classroom winner was Mrs. William's class with 993 valid Box Tops clipped!

Her class received a frozen treat and she chose an item from her class wish list! A total of 4,372 Box Tops were turned in for the first contest.

The October Box Top Classroom winner was Mrs. Thrower with 2023 valid Box Tops clipped. Her class will receive their frozen treat and she will choose an item from her class wish list! A total of 6,952 Box Tops were turned in.

Our first Box Top submission was sent in at the beginning of November. Thank you to everyone who sent in all those last-minute submissions to make sure we didn't lose any that expired! The next date to watch for while you are clipping is December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018. We will send in another submission at that time!

### Avery Elementary Box Top Goals:

- 1) To raise \$5000 for our school to be used for professional development.
- 2) 100% participation – even just one Box Top per student makes a difference.

If each student sent in 100 Box Tops, it would mean over \$10,000 for Avery's amazing kids and teachers – We can do this!!!

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**Congratulations** to the County level winners for this year's Reflections Competition!

<b>Brooke Gilleland</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	Film Production
<b>Finn Bruce</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	Visual Arts
<b>Emma Pollard</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Literature



## CALLING ALL WRITERS!

The Avery PTA is starting to feature one student a month in our Cub Chatter with their original short story writing. If your child has a short story that they'd like to submit for consideration of being published in Cub Chatter, please send a copy to [averycubspta@gmail.com](mailto:averycubspta@gmail.com).

# CUB CHATTER

## ***Story of a Hero***

By Eason Runion – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

I like to read. My mom says that reading is a gift and that reading books or hearing a good story can take you places that you have never been. Today was not a regular day because just like she said, I was taken to places I had never been. I traveled to the Pacific Islands and watched soldiers on the bank of the ocean and heard planes and exploding things and smelled smoke.

My great-great uncle, Thomas “Lake” Runion, is a great story-teller. Not made up ones but true-life, real stories. I went to visit him, so he could tell me and my brother a story. His story begins with him as a 19-year-old boy in 1942 leaving for the war. This was just not any war. It was World War II. He did not know it then, but he would miss Christmas with his family for four years. He said he missed his Mama’s cooking at Christmas the most. She made great chicken and dumplings. He said she could really pick out a hen. When he told me this, it was sort of like he could still taste them. My stomach even started growling because it was dinner time anyway.

Uncle Lake was a Marine. He was tough. He served as part of the 8<sup>th</sup> combat engineers during World War II. He learned to take apart a rifle and put it back together as fast as lightning. He worked on airplanes like the B-26, C-118, C-54’s and later the C-119, C-130 and C-141’s. I had to look all of these up to see what they looked like. He even named them in order of when the military started using them. I thought that was impressive for a 96-year-old! I did have to repeat my questions because I wasn’t talking loud enough, and he couldn’t hear me that well. He said all he could hear was plane engines sometimes in his ears. I guess he just spent so much time around them.

During the war, one of his jobs was to carry fuel for flame throwers and carry satchels of dynamite and fuel to blow up caves where the Japanese were hiding and storing weapons. He called the fuel napalm. Some of the soldiers could throw the satchels inside the front of the cave like they were pitching a baseball. World War II was a hard time. I asked Uncle Lake if he was ever scared. He told me that one time he was, but he didn’t tell me anything else about it. I think maybe it was something sad that happened. But he smiled and said everyone was once young and foolish and he didn’t have a whole lot of time to be scared.

# CUB CHATTER

## Story of a Hero, Continued.

Uncle Lake saw it all! He was in Japan after Pearl Harbor and when the atomic bombs exploded he was sent in to help rescue people. He helped many prisoners of war and Christian missionaries to get out. The soldiers gave them hot coffee and soap as they were very dirty, hungry, thirsty and many were sick. He expected to be able to go home after three years and was supposed to get some kind of papers to get to go home but he didn't get to. The war had changed, and they needed more combat soldiers around D-Day and so he was there another year.

Finally, when he was able to go home, he rode a bus and walked some to Farner, TN trying to get back to his family. When he walked up to his house, his black and tan coon-dog, Poodler, met him in the yard! His mama said, she knew that someone was at the house that Poodler knew because he went crazy barking. I asked him if he was happy when he got home, and he said he was as "happy as a dead hog in the sunshine". I don't know exactly what that means, but he sure laughed a lot!

For the next 24 years he spent his life in the military as a soldier in the Army Air Corp and then the Airforce. He then worked at Lockheed in Georgia. He married his wife, Jerry Lou and they enjoyed almost 65 years of marriage together before she died in 2015. They had a family and I am sure his kids and grandkids got to go to many places too in their minds just like me today from his stories.

A hero is someone who makes sacrifices. They do something for someone else and don't think about themselves when doing it. Heroes are all around us. It could be a police officer, a fireman, a doctor, a teacher, a parent or even a kid! Today I heard the stories of a true war hero. When I asked Uncle Lake if he felt like a hero, he said no. He said he was just a pretty lucky fella' who was able to get through three different wars, World War II, Korean War and the Vietnam War. He only was hurt once and was able to continue to fight. His knee got really bad with a splinter from an explosion and he visited the doctor. The doctor told him he could get a Purple Heart. He told the doctor he would not accept one as some of his friends and other soldiers deserved one more because they were hurt badly or had even died. I think Uncle Lake was a really good friend and soldier.

# CUB CHATTER

## Story of a Hero, Continued.

Even though my Uncle Lake doesn't think he is a hero, I don't agree with him. I think he is a real-life hero right here around us. His life was spent defending our country. He protected many people. If you ever have the chance to talk to my Uncle Lake, you should. You should "come in and sit for a spell." Thank you to all our soldiers. Our freedom is because of heroes, like my Uncle Lake.

Narrative essay written by: Eason Runion

Information from my interview notes with veteran of World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War, Thomas Lake Runion, my great-great uncle.



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## Thank You PTA Community Sponsors!

We are so excited to partner with these PTA Community Sponsors for the 2018 – 2019 school year!

