

**2017-2018 Performance Indicator Report
Distinctive Impact Log**

The Avoca School District has a reputation as an exceptionally well performing school district, and as such we relish the opportunity to share our knowledge, expertise and efforts with the greater educational community in order to positively influence the learning and teaching experiences of others. Out of that desire and feeling of responsibility to have a positive influence beyond our borders and to serve as a lighthouse district, the Distinctive Impact Log emerged.

The list below demonstrates the many ways that Avoca staff members generously go above and beyond their regular duties to offer advice, direction and support. However, it is important to note that we do these things because we enjoy them. Everyone listed here considers themselves to be an “educator.” We value learning, whether it is our own or someone else’s, and professionally we have chosen to serve.

Readers will note that “leadership” is a theme that is pervasive throughout every aspect of this data, specifically instructional and educational. Those affiliated with Avoca School District 37 should be proud of the generosity and spirit that is reflected in the list below.

Date:	Activity:	Contact Person:	Topic:
9-17	A teacher from a southwest Chicago suburban school district, who was researching instructional strategies as a graduate student, reached out to Marie Murphy School based on their previous, exceptional academic results to ask for early access to their PARCC writing scores in order to study best practices in writing instruction.	Matt Palcer	Instructional Leadership
9-17	A former Northwestern University graduate and current band/orchestra teacher in a northern school district, who had previously observed Mary Rudzinski’s classroom, reached out to her at the beginning of the school year for advice and mentorship. Over the course of the year, not only did they discuss a variety of classroom related topics, but Mary was also able to arrange for the contribution of some used instruments to support that program.	Mary Rudzinski	Mentorship
10-17	The Program Manager for Educator Certification and Leadership Development from National Geographic asked Janis Michael to share her knowledge of and expertise in their Educator Certification Program at the National Council for Social Studies conference. Part of Janis’ charge will be to share with other educators how her participation in the Explorer Classroom Program, as well as the Explorers Festival Challenge, have positively impacted her classroom instruction.	Janis Michael	Instructional Leadership
10-17	Marie Murphy School collected just under \$1,700 for hurricane relief during this year’s annual Coin Wars, donating it to Heart to Heart International after researching the many options.	Shannon Wright	Community Service

11-17	Avoca hosted its 11th Annual Veterans Day Pancake Breakfast. This event brings in many community veterans and their families who greatly appreciate the homespun recognition. Several of the veterans take the opportunity after breakfast to visit classrooms and speak to children about their experiences and what it means to be a veteran.	Todd Webster	Community Service
11-17	Avoca West became the first elementary school promoter chapter of Best Buddies . Best Buddies is an international organization that exists typically in middle through high schools and even on college campuses. In those areas, typical (students without intellectual or developmental disabilities) students are partnered up with students with intellectual or developmental disabilities to form strong peer relationships. Avoca West is the first and only elementary school chapter in all of Illinois.	Caroline Henson and Erika Slagel	Social Leadership
12-17	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 7th 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 Leadership
12-17	A student from Walworth Barbour American International School in Israel, where Mary Rudzinski used to teach, asked Mary as part of the student's senior project to be a contributor to her high school senior project, "Music as a Pro-Social Force." Mary Skyped with the student and answered questions pertaining to her experiences and philosophy of teaching.	Mary Rudzinski	Educational Leadership
1-18	Jessica Hutchison presented "Utilizing an iPad Pro to Maximize Productivity and Visibility as an Administrator or Coach" at the 2018 Illinois Computing Educators Conference.	Jessica Hutchison	Technology Leadership
1-18	Janis Michael was selected to contribute to the Transatlantic Educator's Dialogue (TED), a collaborative program that involves discussion among teachers from the U.S. and many E.U. member countries. It is an opportunity for shared exploration and examination of a variety of educational topics, such as immigration, educational equality, active teaching methods, and issues related to identity and difference. It is sponsored by the European Union Center and College of Education at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.	Janis Michael	Educational Leadership
2-18	Jessica Hutchison recorded a podcast for Better Leaders Better Schools , an educational professional learning community dedicated to educational leadership, which will air in June.	Jessica Hutchison	Administrative Leadership
2-18	Kevin Jauch was contacted by District Administration, a national	Kevin Jauch	Technology

	magazine, regarding our Technology/Innovation Strategic Plan, which the author had found on-line and was duly impressed. The article, Smarter tech spending for schools:Measuring technology's ROI requires, vision, strategic planning and even some software, was published in the May edition of the magazine.		Leadership
2-18	Liz Zebro mentored two New Trier High School Senior Project participants. Both worked closely with a New Trier mentor and Ms. Zebro to develop an appropriate Project Proposal with clearly articulated goals. The goal of the Senior Project is to allow students to design and pursue a project of interest.	Liz Zebro	Mentorship
2-18	Amy Reimer passed along Jessica Hutchison's 100 Day Challenge to a family member who is also a teacher. That teacher tweaked the idea slightly, but has said that the response has been tenfold what she expected!	Jessica Hutchison	Instructional Leadership
3-18	The principal from a neighboring school district reached out to Matt to ask if she could send over her new science teacher and social studies teacher to observe our veteran teachers in action.	Matt Palcer	Instructional Leadership
3-18	Dana Allen collaborated with two New trier High School students on their senior project, allowing them to come in to observe her class with an eye towards the psychological impact on the physical learning environment and its contribution towards positive student/teacher relationships.	Dana Allen	Community Service
4-18	Janis Michael was one of 15 applicants selected for the National Geographic Educator Community steering committee, an advisory group to assist in monitoring discussions on the society's educator community and support the Society's efforts in producing content for the online community.	Janis Michael	Educational Leadership
4-18	Avoca West Elementary School was selected as Best Buddies Illinois' Promoter Chapter of the Year!	Caroline Henson and Erika Slagel	Social Leadership
4-18	Avoca staff members presented on a variety of technology topics at the New Trier Township Innovation and Tech Expo. Janis Michael was scheduled for multiple presentation of <i>Opening Classroom Doors: Virtual Field Trips & Distant Mentors</i> ; Kelli Lane presented the following three sessions: <i>Smarter Google Searches</i> , <i>Break the Code</i> , and <i>Master Your Photo Library with Google Photos</i> . Kevin Jauch also served on the Superintendent's Discussion Panel with two other New Trier Township district leaders.	Beth Haugeberg	Technology Leadership
5-18	The National Council for Social Studies accepted Janis Michael's proposal to present at their national conference this fall in	Janis Michael	Instructional Leadership

	Chicago. Janis' presentation, Not Just White Men's Wars: America's Revolution and Civil War. According to NCSS, Janis "will be presenting with the best of the best."		
5-18	Staff from Oak Park School District visited Marie Murphy School to get a better understanding of the school's unique and effective master schedule.	Matt Placer	Educational Leadership
5-18	Ten students, seven undergrad music education majors and three masters candidates, from Northwestern came to Avoca West with their professor and a doctoral candidate to observe a rehearsal of the inclusive ensemble, Comunita. The students are taking a class which focuses on different learners and music. The professor and the doctoral candidate have already inquired about collaborating in the fall.	Elizabeth Weismehl	Educational Leadership
5-18	Francoise Mishinger worked with the French teacher at Skokie School in Winnetka to translate novels for the Fluency Fast Series for beginners.	Francoise Mishinger	Educational Service
5-18	Francoise Mishinger facilitated the French Reciprocal Exchange Program through which 3 students from France came to the US to learn about our school system and ways of life. This summer, 2 Marie Murphy students will travel to France for a similar experience.	Francoise Mishinger	Educational Service
5-18	Nicki Scozia mentored Senior Project participant Dina Kacila during her final quarter at New Trier High School. Dina worked closely with a New Trier mentor and Ms. Scozia to develop an appropriate Project Proposal with clearly articulated goals. The goal of the Senior Project is to allow students to design and pursue a project of interest.	Nicki Scozia	Mentorship
6-18	4th Grader, Justin L., independently, wrote a short primer for teachers and students about visual notetaking that shared some of the benefits of this technique as well as directions of how to use it effectively.	Janis Michael	Student Leadership
6-18	Early in the school, the Avoca West teaching staff created AW Staff Connection, a Google+ community, as a way of sharing exciting and unique things they were doing in their classrooms on a regular basis. 100's of instructional ideas and celebrations were posted, the impact of which is immeasurable!	Jessica Hutchison	Educational Leadership