

THE POORE PAGE

JULY 2011

Welcome to the Poore Page. The Daily Record has been very nice to afford me this opportunity to provide an article to the paper once a month. The article will always find time to celebrate but it will also share topics about education that affect us nationally, in the state of Arkansas or that impact us right here in NW Arkansas. More than anything I hope this is an article to just talk about kids. What a great topic for us to think about each month.

The focus of this first article is tied to an event we all participate in each month called "First Friday." Bentonville Schools has joined the Downtown Bentonville and is now a full-fledged partner in helping host the "First Friday" in August. This seemed to be almost a no-brainer decision for the school district to join other community leaders in helping support all downtown activities. This month will be special. Every single one of our K-4 schools as well as all of our middle schools will host a booth at First Friday. What a great way to kick-off the school year and to allow our staff to welcome back students and parents. Now this in itself would be an attraction for most of you, but this "First Friday" will also include Sponge Bob and Dora. Yes, Hollywood stars will be right here in Bentonville. Couple that with music, fun activities and great food and this is an event that you don't want to miss. The final mix is a variety of vendors that will be there to support you in helping you complete your school shopping list or for working with you to support learning activities right from your home.

Finally, I would like to finish with a thought from the new guy in town. I hope you all realize that events such as "First Friday" are unique and that we are so blessed to live in Bentonville. Since I was hired I bet I have made 3-4 calls a week to my wife back in Colorado and to my parents to share the latest, greatest story from Bentonville. I think my friends in Colorado think I have lost it and have no grasp of reality. Fortunately, I now have had family and friends go through NW Arkansas and they have been able to confirm that my stories about this region are actually reality. I still remember the first night my Dad was here with me in May. On his first night he turned to me, had a tear in his eye, and shared how proud he was of me to land in a community such as this. The coolest thing is the next night; he turned once again to me and said he can't believe that he actually had underestimated the community and that it was even better than he had first believed. This has been my reality. Every day seems to be better than the last. Bentonville is an amazing place and I am proud to be a part of your community. See you all at "First Friday" on August 5.