



CALENDAR:

- December 9-11:** Book Fair (9:00 am-3:00 pm) in the Library
- December 10:** Winter Concert (7:00-8:30 pm) in the Gym
- December 11:** Mr. Wilson's Class Visits the Patrick Henry Library
- December 15:** PTA Meeting (7:00-9:00 pm) in the Library
- Dec. 24-Jan. 2:** Winter Break—NO SCHOOL
- January 5:** Classes Resume
- January 9:** PTA Cultural Arts Assembly: Mad Science of Washington
- January 9:** PTA BINGO Night
- January 12:** PTA Meeting (7:00-9:00 pm) in the Library
- January 13:** Habitats & Life Cycles Workshop for 2nd Grade (9:00 am-2:00 pm)
- January 14:** 6th Grade Trip to the American Art Museum (10:15 am-12:45 pm)
- January 15:** Kilmer Power Team Visits our 4th Grade (12:45-1:30 pm)
- January 15:** PTA Multicultural Night (6:30-8:30 pm)
- January 19:** Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday — NO SCHOOL
- January 20:** Inauguration Day — NO SCHOOL
- January 26 & 27:** STUDENT HOLIDAYS (teacher workdays)
- January 29:** 4th Grade to the National Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center

The calendar for the entire school year is on our website at: www.fcps.edu/ViennaES/

"SUCCESS IS A JOURNEY, NOT A DESTINATION"

The Vienna Times

Principal's Corner

No one has ever become poor by giving. - Anne Frank

The winter holiday is right around the corner; it feels as if Thanksgiving was yesterday! I hope each of you is looking forward to the wonderful celebrations during this time of year. No matter your family traditions, I know we can all agree that this season reminds us of how fortunate we are, and how we benefit from giving to others. My family was recently discussing that we are most grateful that we have jobs in this current economic climate.

We wish Ms. Tochterman a fantastic journey to Ethiopia to meet her new daughter. She traveled Saturday evening, December 6th, and we can only hope that she is bonding with Sitina as we speak! She will be back in the area in a week, but will be on leave until March 9th. She exemplifies the spirit of giving through her adoption of a child whose life will be forever changed by her new family. I do not currently have a "sub" for Melissa, but please know that I am always available to you, even if I need a moment longer to answer an email, or return a call.

We are so busy learning by doing through our entire school, and we are so pleased with the great Holiday Shop/Book Fair, and proud of the beautiful music performed by our children at our holiday concerts.

Take care, and have a wonderful winter break! Although we were empty-nesters during Thanksgiving, I am delighted that our two daughters and their husbands will be joining us for holidays (until we have to start "trading" with the in-laws...).

With warmest holiday wishes,

Jeanette

It's Elementary...

November Field Trips:	4th grade to Jamestown and Yorktown
	1st grade to Safeway
	Ms. Karen's Class to Patrick Henry Library
	Preschool Classes to the Tiny Tots Concert at Madison HS

Throughout the day on November 11th, Bruce Van Patter led dynamic Creative Writing workshops for all the grades. This PTA Cultural Arts event was brought back by popular demand.

On November 20th, for our annual Thanksgiving Luncheon, about 120 visitors joined the students for the traditional turkey-with-the-trimmings lunch. The Kindergarten classes had their Thanksgiving feasts on the 23rd. The pre-school classes had a special celebration on the 25th.

Great Thinking News from Judy Gartlan

Please check out the "Vienna Specialists" website and click on *ENRICHMENT*. Go to the External Link for the latest news concerning GT/Advanced Academics Program levels of service, screening process and referral information for the GT/Advanced Academics Center. Then challenge your family with Sudoku and Logic Puzzles in the Math folder. The Philosopher's Club offers an interesting question to think about and will soon have a "High Five Challenge" for all Vienna students to try.

Have a great December and happy thinking...

IMPORTANT

Please note that beginning on **January 1, 2009**, all **changes in student after-school arrangements must be made by 12:00 noon**. Any **emergency changes** in after-school plans after 12:00 noon **must be approved by an administrator**.

This change in procedure is necessary due to continued last-minute changes in student plans, and our continued concerns that we cannot ensure the safe departure of our students, which I have addressed in previous newsletters. Parents must provide written notification for any change in their child's after school arrangements; for play-dates, a parent of each child must provide notice.

I apologize for any inconvenience this may cause, but I am responsible for the safe return of students to their homes!

Please ask if you have any questions.

— Mrs. Black

- Every time you shop at **Office Depot**, Vienna Elementary can receive credit equal to 5% of the qualifying purchases to use for *free supplies!* Simply give the school's ID Number (**70105111**) when you shop in the store or on-line.
- Turn in your **Box Tops for Education** to school; it's an easy way to support Vienna Elementary. You can find them on a wide array of foods and home products.
- Do you shop at **Giant, Safeway or Target?** Register or renew your cards and designate Vienna ES:
 - Giant: <http://www.giantfood.com/aplus>
 - Safeway: <http://www.escrip.com/>
 - Target: <http://target.com> (*click on: Community, Education, Take Charge of Education*)

Counselor's Corner

By Mrs. Gross



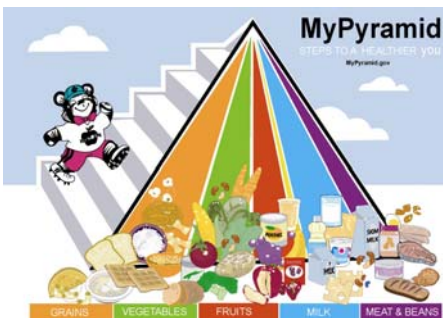
At this time of year, we have many things to celebrate: the holiday season; being with family; giving and receiving of gifts; snow; dinner around the fireplace.

We can also celebrate school successes: a successful transition to Vienna South; a well-earned grade on a test or project; reading independently; learning a vowel sound; understanding how to multiply or divide; earning a VVV sticker; receiving a golden plate.

I hope the month of December gives you lots of reasons, both large and small, to celebrate.

But, I am aware that this can be a stressful time for families as well. This year, in particular, with a troubled economy, families may be feeling some pressure. Please let us know if we can help you or your child manage stress. You can reach me at Beth.Gross@fcps.edu or at (703) 937-6031.

Take care.



HEALTHY TIPS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

- Choose a variety of foods from MyPyramid.
- Start the day with breakfast and energy to tackle all projects.
- Eat plenty of fruits and vegetables.
- Eat lighter meals at night.
- Remember to exercise 60 minutes per day.
- Eliminate night-time stress-related grazing.
- Go to bed feeling light not "full."
- Limit portion sizes of favorite holiday foods, especially desserts.
- Enjoy your feast, family, and friends.

More "Golden Plate" Awards...



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If you need to add money to your child's meal card, you can: give it to Mrs. Yaqub in the cafeteria; send a check with your child payable to *Vienna Food Services* (student's and teacher's name on the memo line); or go to www.myLunchMoney.com to pay on-line.

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