



CALENDAR:

- February 9:** PTA Meeting (7:00-9:00 pm) in the Library
- February 9-13:** Teacher Appreciation Week
- February 13:** Kindergarten Heart Day (9:00-10:30; 1:30-3:00)
- February 16:** Presidents' Day Holiday — NO SCHOOL
- February 19:** PTA Cultural Arts Assembly: "HOTMINUS"
- February 27:** PTA Read-A-Thon Ends
- March 2:** Read Across America Day
- March 3:** Grade 5 SOL — Multiple Choice
- March 4:** Grade 5 SOL — Direct Writing
- March 10:** 3rd Grade Field Trip to GMU—Center for the Arts (9:30 am -12:00 pm)
- March 11:** 2nd Grade Math Field Trip to the National Building Museum
- March 16:** PTA Meeting (7:00-9:00 pm)
- March 24:** Rising 7th Grader Orientation at Thoreau MS (9:00-11:00 am)
- March 27:** PTA Fun Fair
- April 2:** 5th Grade Field Trip to the Museum of Natural History
- April 3:** Student Holiday — NO SCHOOL
- April 6-10:** SPRING BREAK

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

"FEELING GRATITUDE AND NOT EXPRESSING IT IS LIKE WRAPPING A PRESENT AND NOT GIVING IT." ~ WILLIAM A. WARD

Dear Community,

With Valentine's Day around the corner, there is no better time for me to communicate my love and appreciation for our fantastic school community! I want to express my gratitude to...

...our children! I am so amazed each day at the numbers of students who enter our building filled with smiles and hugs, and are willing to share their happiness with their teachers and friends. I count on the sideways hugs (sometimes with a little breakfast or lunch left on my jacket) to propel me through the day.



...our staff! I cannot begin to express how hard our staff members work to care our children. You may not know this, but most teachers work 10 – 12 hours a day to ensure that each of our children learn. Our office staff, custodial staff, cafeteria staff,

and bus drivers work to keep our children safe and to create and maintain a positive learning environment. Congratulations to our school for being presented with the highest award in the state of Virginia – The Governor’s Award for Educational Excellence! This was achieved by the hard work of our staff, students, and community.

...our families! We are so fortunate to have an army of volunteers working for our school both at home and in our building. I know I speak for our staff when I thank each of you for your on-going support of our school. We will never be able to communicate how deeply your efforts touch each of us as we work together to benefit our children.

Please take the time during Teacher Appreciation Week to express your appreciation to your child’s teacher. A hug, a thank you note, and a kind word cost very little, but are the most valuable gifts we can give.

Warm regards, Jeanette



It's Elementary...

On January 9, students enjoyed a presentation by “Mad Science of Washington” (a PTA Cultural Arts Assembly).



2nd grade learned about Habitats and Life Cycles during an in-school workshop on January 13.

The Kindergarten classes “chilled out” on Snow Day (January 14th) with treats and crafts.

The 6th grade visited the American Art Museum in Washington on the 14th.

On January 15, Kilmer Middle School’s “Power Team” spoke to our 4th-grade students about making good choices and saying no to drugs.

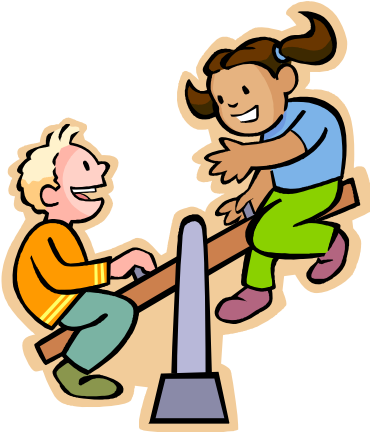
The PTA kicked off its annual Read-a-thon on 1/30.

The **Lost & Found** (located in the back of our cafeteria) is FULL of jackets, gloves/mittens, hats and other items!



PLEASE check it for any items that have not made it home. 😊

Counselor's Corner, by Mrs. Gross



I would like to take this opportunity to share some observations and ask for your input and help.

We are so fortunate here at VES to have an active and engaged student body. Most of our students come to school with a positive attitude and work hard during the school day.

However, I've noticed a change in the way students talk about each other. Kindergarten children are referring to each other as "sexy." Second graders are discussing "breaking up" with boyfriends and girlfriends. While we expect 5th and 6th graders to have relationship questions and interests, there is very sexual and adult language being used.

This makes me concerned. What do you think? Do you notice this in your house...your neighborhood? Do you want to have a roundtable conversation and discuss strategies? Let me know your thoughts and I am happy to facilitate a conversation.

As always, I am happy to meet with you and talk about your individual child's academic and/or social and emotional progress. Feel free to contact me at (703) 937-6031 or at Beth.Gross@fcps.edu.

Take care.

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- 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.

Classes that have earned 3 or 4 Golden Plates...



Vienna Elementary is awarded the 2009 Governor's Award for Educational Excellence! This is the highest honor under the Virginia Index of Performance (VIP) incentive program created by the Virginia Board of Education to advance Governor Kaine's "competence to excellence." To qualify for the award, schools must meet all state and federal achievement benchmarks for at least two consecutive years.

ATTENTION PARENTS of 5th-GRADE STUDENTS

Since July 2006, a booster dose of **Tdap** (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis) **is required for all students entering 6th grade** if at least five years have passed since the last dose of tetanus-containing vaccine. The recommended age for the booster is 11-12 years of age, but 'Boostrix' may be given at age 10.

Please check your child's vaccination record and send in the documentation from the doctor for the Tdap booster as soon as possible; this paperwork must be in the school office in order for your child to enter 6th grade. If your child has not received this booster as of yet, please contact your doctor to make an appointment or visit the Health Department where school-required immunizations are free of charge. Bring a copy of your child's vaccine record to the appointment.

Health Department District Offices are located at:

HRDO	1850 Cameron Glen Drive, Suite 100, Reston, VA	703-481-4242
JWDO	3750 Old Lee Hwy, Fairfax, VA	703-246-7100
FCDO	6245 Leesburg Pike, Suite 500, Falls Church, VA	703- 534-8343

CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH MONTH

The two major oral health diseases are tooth decay (dental caries) and gum (periodontal) disease. Both diseases are influenced by nutrition and diet. Nutrition plays an important role in the development of teeth and oral tissue. Dental caries result from the interaction between the tooth, oral bacteria, and dietary carbohydrates (sugar and starch).

Plaque is a sticky film of bacteria that forms on our teeth and turns the sugars and starches in our food into acids. These acids act on the tooth enamel and cause tooth decay. If high acid-producing or sugar foods (raisins, cookies, cakes, potato chips) are consumed, they should be eaten with meals, not as snacks. Cheeses, popcorn, raw fruits and vegetables are low acid-producing food and make healthy snacks.

To prevent dental disease, remember to:

1. Brush teeth after every meal with fluoridated toothpaste.
2. Floss teeth daily.
3. Visit the dentist and dental hygienist regularly.
4. Eat a nutritionally balanced diet.
5. Avoid foods that stay in the mouth a long time & stick to teeth (raisins, hard candies, caramels).