



The Viking Voice

Issue 01
September 9, 2009
Attendance Line: 703-988-8989



Virginia Run Elementary School
15450 Martins Hundred Drive
Centreville, VA 20120 703-988-8900

Principal's Corner

Welcome back once again! As we begin another year, I want to share our vision for our school and your children. We strive to insure that Virginia Run Elementary School students, staff, and parents work together to provide a place of active and positive learning by demonstrating respect and accepting responsibility for themselves, others, and the school environment.

As we greet a new year we look back and see a stable faculty with previous friends returning and new colleagues arriving. We see many familiar families whose youngest will be with us this year and families brand new to the community. We see a school of 730 students and think that this is a lovely small tight-knit family. We all look forward to a great school year as we recommit ourselves to our schoolwide mission:

- To offer a comprehensive instruction program as outlined in the Program of Studies that maintains the highest level of academic achievement and maintains Virginia State accreditation
- To provide a safe and nurturing environment in which children feel free to take educational risks that result in individual students success
- To ensure that students will take responsibility for their learning, behavior, and each other.

So off we go and we thank you for the privilege of working with your children.

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT IS EARLY THIS YEAR!!!

We want to make sure that you have a chance to get to see all our specialists as well as classroom teachers. Learning Support teachers (special education) will be available from 6:30-7:15 p.m. on one of the nights listed (see next page). Specialists (art, band, music, p.e. etc.) will be available in the library from 6:30-7:15 on Wednesday, September 16.

(Continued on page 2)

W
E
L
C
O
M
E
B
A
C
K
!



First General PTA Membership Meeting
Wednesday, October 7th.
(more information to follow)

Virginia Run Elementary
PTA
everychild.onevoice.®

Principal's Corner (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

This is a great opportunity for you to meet all of us at the school who will be working with your son or daughter every school day for the rest of the year. At Virginia Run, we value parent involvement because you are the most important people in your son's or daughter's life. We believe that all do a better job with our students if we communicate throughout the year.

Back-to-School Night will put you in personal touch with the teachers and other school staff who will be working with you to ensure your son's or daughter's success. We look forward to seeing you at Back to School Night.

Here is the schedule:

Wednesday, September 23: Grades K-1-2-3 and Learning Support Teachers:

6:30—7:15 p.m.	Mrs. Bundens (LST) Mrs. Pendlebury (Speech) Ms. Weathers (LST) AM Kindergarten in classrooms	Ms. Coad (LST) Ms. Mirro (LST)	Mrs. Leberstien (LST) Mrs. McDevitt (LST)
7:15—7:30 p.m.	PM Kindergarten gathers in library 1st grade in classrooms 2nd grade in classrooms 3rd grade in classrooms Opening announcements via TV		
7:30—8:30 p.m.	Classroom sessions PM Kindergarten transitions to classrooms		


Wednesday, September 16: Grades 4-5-6 and Specialists as listed:

6:30—7:15 p.m.	Mrs. Roberts (SBTS) Mr. Ginger (P.E.) Mrs. Alvarez-Keefer (Art) Mrs. Bonanno (Strings) Mrs. Atanasov (ESOL) Mrs. Conley (Librarian) Ms. Weathers (LST) Ms. Tarr (Band)	Ms. Nunley (Reading) Mrs. Dull (Computer) Ms. Devaul (Art) Mrs. Harms (Band) Ms. Gartlan (G/T) Mrs. Hoyesen (LST) Ms. O'Brien (Music) Ms. O'Banner (Band)	Mr. Antoncic (P.E.) Mrs. Sieber (LST) Mrs. Everton (Music) Mrs. Leonard (Counselor) Ms. Harrison (LST) Mrs. Trupo (LST) Mrs. Cottrell (Counselor)
7:15—7:30 p.m.	4th grade in classrooms 5th grade in classrooms All 6th grade in the cafeteria Opening announcements via TV		
7:30—8:30 p.m.	Classroom sessions		

* * *


I know that the forms included in this Envelope keep you busy for many, many hours, but they are VERY important to the smooth functioning of the school. Please take the time to fill them out carefully just as soon as you can. The Emergency care card is critical so that we can reach you or another adult beginning even on the first day of school.

<p>***** PTA BOARD MEMBERS 2009-2010</p>			<p>Virginia Run Elementary  <i>everychild.onevoice.</i></p>
<p>* President * Vice President * Vice President * Treasurer * Recording Secretary</p>	<p>Cassie Eatmon Jennie Bush Debbie Leo Tricia Monroe Carole Gunn</p>	<p>703-263-0230 703-830-0329 703-815-9601 703-830-3882 703-803-7572</p>	
<p>*****</p>			



Fall Picture Days...

September 30 & October 1, 2009



DRESS CODE INFORMATION

Schools encourage positive attitudes toward dress while understanding that attire and grooming are the responsibility of students and their families. The "Dress Code" is addressed in our Fairfax County Public Schools *Student Rights and Responsibilities* and in our *Virginia Run Parent Handbook* as well. Forms of dress and grooming which are disruptive to the school instructional program, or that pose safety concerns are prohibited. Students are prohibited from wearing clothing that advocates breaking the law, promotes violence, encourages the use of controlled or imitation substances, or displays obscene/vulgar language and/or drawings. In general, apparel worn to school should be neat and clean and to the standards of decency. While it is not my intention to deprive students of their freedom of expression, there are some common items of clothing that present undue distraction or safety concerns.

- Halter tops, shirts that show the midriff, or shirts with spaghetti straps less than 3 fingers in width
- Shorts or skirts that do not reach the level of the thumb when one's arm is extended down to one's side.
- Tank tops with overly large armholes and necklines (commonly called 'muscle shirts')
- Clothing that displays advertising for alcoholic beverages or drugs
- Hats or visors (except for those special days when teachers give permission)
- Shoes/sandals that have no strap around the heel (in our experience, these often slide off on the stairs and cause accidents)
- Excessively baggy trousers
- Shoes with rollers or wheels

Students have physical education instruction two times a week and outdoor recess almost daily, weather permitting. For the safety of your child, tennis shoes (or the like) are recommended for P.E. Sandals (of any kind) are not acceptable at any time during P.E. If girls choose to wear dresses or skirts, they are asked to please wear shorts or pants under them while participating in P.E. or recess activities. I truly appreciate your continual support in helping children stay focused and safe during the school year.

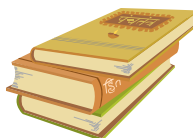
I want to tell you once again how privileged I feel to be able to work with and for your children. Both Mr. Pannutti and I look forward to seeing you in a casual atmosphere at the annual PTA picnic on Friday, September 11. We're eager to open the doors on another wonderful and successful school year.

New Parent Coffee

The PTA and administrators will sponsor a "New Parent Coffee" on Friday, September 18th from 9:15 to 10:30 a.m. in the cafeteria for all parents new to Virginia Run Elementary School. Childcare will be provided.

RSVP by contacting the main office at 703-988-8900.

Childcare will be provided.



Attention: All Summer Readers...

Did you remember to fill out your summer reading log for the Virginia Run R.E.A.D.S. program? Beginning on September 8th, there will be a collection basket for the forms in the Library.

Please drop your logs in the basket by Friday, September 18th. This is the last day that forms will be accepted. Students who read a minimum of five books will be invited to a special event to recognize their efforts in October. Details on the event will follow. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Conley or Christy Boyle at cjboyle@cbc.vacoxmail.com. Thanks!

Emergency Care Card Information

At the beginning of each school year, critical emergency care and contact information is collected from each child's family. This data is collected via an Emergency Care Information form for every student.

We appreciate your assistance in providing complete and current information. This year, you will have two options in returning your Emergency Care Information Form:

- Option #1 will be to fill out the blank form provided in this week's envelope
- Option #2 make changes online via Parent View, print a copy and return it to your child's teacher.

When the Emergency Care Information form is returned, we will update our Student Information System. Medical information will be reviewed and maintained by the Public Health Nurse.

We appreciate your assistance in completing and returning the form.

FLEX (Foreign Language Experience)

FLEX (Foreign Language Experience) at Virginia Run is Back!

FLEX Classes will be offered before school again this year in Spanish, German and Chinese. Please look for information on the FLEX program in the Wednesday envelope. Specific information about the classes being offered including the instructor and days will be provided the following week. Registration will be online again this year (first come, first served) and classes will begin early October.

Please contact Kim Guidash at kguidash@cox.net if you have any questions.

Virginia Run Elementary Back-to-School Picnic



September 11, 2009

5:00 -7:00 pm

Virginia Run Playground

Bring a picnic blanket or chairs, dinner for your family, and a dessert to share. Join DJ Curtiss for some family-friendly tunes and games as we kick-off the start of another great school year!

Volunteers needed on the day of the picnic for set up, attending food table, and clean up. Contact Ellen Beal at ellen@bjbeal.com to sign up for a 30-minute shift.

Volunteer/Visitor Computer Check-In

If you are planning to come into the school, either to volunteer in the classroom, have lunch with your child, or attend a meeting, you **MUST** register on the computer located in the office. If you are “working” at the school on a **VOLUNTEER** basis, please check in and out as a **VOLUNTEER**. If you are coming to visit your child at lunch and are not “working” or “volunteering” in some way, shape or form, then you must check **IN** and **OUT** as a **VISITOR**. There should be no reason to manually sign in anymore unless the computer is down. The only time you will manually sign in or out is when your child is **TARDY** or **LEAVING EARLY**. Thanks for your cooperation in this matter.



**2009-2010
BELL SCHEDULE (GRADES 1-6):
9:10 A.M.—3:50 P.M.**



Why Buy a School Lunch?



- Lunches reflect the Dietary Guidelines for Americans which recommend no more than 30 percent calories from fat, 10 percent calories from saturated fats, and limited trans fats, sodium and sugar.
- Lunches provide one-third of the Recommended Dietary Allowances of protein, vitamin A, vitamin C, iron, calcium, and calories.
- Age appropriate portions based on established federal lunch patterns.
- Several choices, salad lunches and milk available daily.
- Food is prepared and served under safe and sanitary conditions.
- Costs less than bringing an equally nutritious lunch from home.

Compare the costs of a lunch brought from home with school lunch prices and you will see that the school lunch is a bargain.

**Cost of a Sample Lunch from Home
Determined from prices at local grocery store 8/09**

	Elementary	Middle/High
Bread (white), 2 slices	\$.28	\$.28
Turkey slices, 3 oz	\$1.50	\$1.50
Potato Chips, (small bag)	\$.33	\$.33
Baby Carrots (6-8)	\$.30	\$.30
Red Grapes (20)	\$.63	\$.63
Milk, 1/2 pint (at school)	\$.60	\$.60
Bag, napkin, etc	\$.10	\$.10
Labor, 15 minutes	free	free
Total Cost	\$3.74	\$3.74
Lunch purchased at school	\$2.65	\$2.75
Savings	\$1.09	\$.99

Distribution of Literature and Fliers



To protect our children from becoming little advertisers and mail carriers, FCPS has clearly described the situation under which children may carry announcements home to parents. (Regulation 1367.1) Students may only carry fliers consistent with the mission of the school: education and the welfare of children. All nonprofit organizations are eligible to submit fliers in accordance with the guidelines below. Charitable solicitations, partisan political organizations, and commercial or profit-making enterprises are excluded with the exception of school-business partnerships and events. Students may not carry advertisements. Non-profit organizations such as the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts may only use the backpack system at designated times during the year. The fliers must be representative of something appropriate to the children and not violate any rules of decency, political campaigning, or marketing. These designated times are set by the school principal. At Virginia Run Elementary, the four dates that Wednesday envelopes may be used for carrying announcements from non-profit organizations:

September 16, 2009

November 18, 2009

February 3, 2010

April 7, 2010

All announcements/fliers must carry the following disclaimer:

These materials are neither sponsored nor endorsed by the Fairfax County School Board, the Superintendent, or this school.

All announcements/fliers must be approved by the administration in advance, allowing at least 3 days turn-around time. Upon receiving approval, the organization is responsible for supplying the copies (in sets of 30) to the school by the Tuesday preceding the designated envelope. PTA materials and announcements must also be approved in advance, but are not restricted to the three dates listed above. No materials carried by children may promote improper behavior or political opinion. After approval, materials may also be displayed in the parent information area in the front of the lobby.



General Rules for Kiss 'n Ride

**"DO NOT PASS, DO NOT PARK,
DO NOT LEAVE YOUR CAR"**

Important General Rules to follow for Kiss 'n Ride:

We would like to review our Kiss 'n Ride policy. Upon arrival at the Kiss 'n Ride area, students must exit and enter the car from the passenger side. No students are allowed to cross in front of the Kiss 'n Ride traffic line to go to a parent waiting in the parking lot.

At dismissal, if a parent is holding up the Kiss 'n Ride line because their child is late coming out of the building, the parent is to move up along the curb area in front of the SACC door. This allows the rest of the cars to flow through the Kiss 'n Ride line and gives the parent the opportunity to wait by the curb for their child. Students whose parents are late picking them up are taken to the office to wait for their parents after all of the other Kiss 'n Ride students have been picked up. Parents are to come to the office and sign their child out. Please adhere to these guidelines as your children are our number one priority.



Is your child going to be absent or late?

Please call the attendance line at 703-988-8989 each and every day as soon as you know that your child will be absent or late. Make sure to leave your child's name, his/her teacher's name and the reason for their absence in the message. Please be specific with the reason. If your child has an illness, please identify his symptoms, e.g. fever, vomiting, sore throat, stomach ache, diarrhea. This is also the time to request homework. Please indicate whether you will pick the homework up after 4:00 p.m. in the office or if another child or sibling will bring it home.

Great American Fundraiser

Help take the bite out of budget cuts by supporting the PTA's annual fundraiser! Because of the generous support of the VRES community we have been able to provide many programs and technological enhancements that simply aren't provided for by the county. This year the PTA has been asked to provide 2 additional SmartBoards, 16 mobile netbook labs and replace numerous printers in addition to all the items that the PTA traditionally provides for the school. Things like.....

Back to School Picnic; Newcomers Coffee; Bus Driver Appreciation; Bug Concert; Readers Theater; Sound Field System Owl Pellets; Bingo; Spirit Wear; Summer Camp; Passport Club; Mad Science; Teacher Appreciation; Community Outreach; Science Quest; Reflections; Armor Man; Brass Rubbings; Colonial Day; SmartBoards; Student Leadership Seminars; Professional Conferences; Movie Night; Student Directory; Yearbook; Odyssey of the Mind; Cultural Arts Assemblies; Volleyball Game; Safety Patrol Camp; Viking Singers; Lois Napier/Bird Speaker; Ancient Civilization Day; Roman Troupe; Gary Lloyd Storyteller; Mobile Computer Labs; Art materials; Mentor Works Program; Classroom Supplies; **Mutts Gone Nuts** to name just a few!!

We are excited to be partnering with Great American Opportunities for this year's fundraiser. Great American offers a wide variety of products and, with everything from gift wrap to house wares to jewelry, you can shop for the whole year! Take a moment to browse the catalogs and you're sure to find something. Some of the program highlights.....



- 2 catalogs & order forms in the packet you received at Open House.
- Over 100 products \$10 & under
- Online ordering for long distance friends & family with free shipping on orders over \$60 (see flyer in Wed envelope for more info)
- At least 40% of every purchase comes back to the PTA
- Exciting incentive program with daily drawings during the sale and an incredible prize week in Nov when every student who sells just 5 items OR turns in the Reach Out Booklet wins a ticket to a show by nationally known Magician and Card Thrower, Rick Smith Jr. as well as other prizes for top sellers. (see flyer in Wednesday envelope for more info)
- Reach Out Booklets due 9/14 for chance to win \$100 drawing.
- SALE ENDS on September 25

All orders are greatly appreciated and EVERY order counts! **THANK YOU!**



If you have any questions or would like to help with the sale please contact Mary Setash at 703-815-1337 or msetash@aol.com.

