



# The Viking Voice

Issue 02  
September 21, 2011  
Attendance Line: 703-988-8989



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

### Calendar of Events:

- Oct. 5 at 7:00 p.m.  
- PTA Meeting
- Oct. 7  
- Fall Picture Day
- Oct. 10  
Columbus Day Holiday (School Closed)
- Oct. 10–14  
- Custodian Appreciation Week
- Oct. 17-21  
- Book Fair

## Principal's Corner

### The Principal's Blog Is Up and Running!

Please visit the Virginia Run Principal's Blog at:  
<http://virginiarunes.wordpress.com>.

You can also reach her blog on the Virginia Run Elementary School website at:  
[www.fcps.edu/virginiarunes](http://www.fcps.edu/virginiarunes).

Just click on "Principal's Blog".

This is a wonderful opportunity to see photographs and read about recent events at VRES. You are also able to log on and leave comments about the blog and take surveys so you have input into future events.



### Articles of Interest:

- Principal's Corner
- Emergency Care Cards
- PTA Membership
- PTA Meeting
- News from 6th Grade
- 2011 Virginia Run R.E.A.D.S.
- Fall Picture Day
- Giant A+ Bonus Bucks
- Building Use Reminder
- Attendance Policy
- Box Tops for Education
- Back-to-School Picnic

**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.

If you have already returned this information, we thank you. If you have not returned this information please make changes online via Parent View, print a copy and return it to your child's teacher. If you need another copy, please contact the main office at 703-988-8900, and we will send one home with your child.



## News from Sixth Grade



The sixth grade students are settling in to their routines, and most are adjusting well to the changes demanded of them by an entirely new system. Thank you for filling in the forms and returning them. We know it is a huge task.

Our Back to School night was held on Tuesday, September 13 in the cafeteria at 7:00. It was wonderful to see such great parent support.

All students have been reminded that they must have all the supplies requested by their teachers and must bring them to class as directed. Please check to see that your child has the necessary equipment to succeed.

This includes checking their planners daily. Some children have become accustomed to copying the assignment in the beginning of each class as they have been taught. However, others are not routinely following this procedure and are therefore not completing the assignments given in each class.

Please check your child's assignment notebook and/or <http://fcps.blackboard.com> (or Blackboard) for daily homework and announcements. Your child updated the password and practiced logging in this week. They should have this information in their planner. Please plan for 1-1 ½ hours of homework per night into their daily schedule. This is a necessity for success in 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

We know this is not an easy accomplishment, but by working with your child and stressing the importance of coming prepared, he/she will be successful. This success will translate in to "stamps." At the end of the month, check your child's stamp sheet to see how he/she is progressing toward those goals. Those children who have accumulated 200 or more stamps will be attending a special reward activity.

Thank you for all your support throughout the year. You are part of our team. Together we guide your child toward a successful year.

### Attention:

**On page 19 of the Parent–Student Handbook it states:**

**“All volunteers must have a negative TB test or chest x-ray on file with the school.”**

**This is no longer a FCPS policy.**



### 2011 Virginia Run R.E.A.D.S. Celebration



Mark your calendar! On Friday, **October 7<sup>th</sup>**, there will be a recognition celebration for students who participated in the R.E.A.D.S., Summer Reading Program.

**The deadline for returning completed reading logs was Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup>.** A permission slip to attend the Celebration will be sent home this week. Please complete your child's permission slip and return it to the Library by Wednesday, September 28<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help with the Celebration Event, please contact Christy Boyle at [cjboyle87@gmail.com](mailto:cjboyle87@gmail.com). Thanks!



**Fall Picture Day  
October 7, 2011**

**Volunteers Needed!**

**If you are able to volunteer please contact Laurie Lewis at laur\_lew@yahoo.com. Full day volunteers will receive a \$50.00 voucher and half-day volunteers will receive a \$25.00 voucher to be used towards their picture packages.**



**Building Use Reminder:**

Please remind children to keep their voices down while you are using the school building for your community activity.

We will have to cancel the building use if we receive complaints from the teachers because you are too loud. Also, any destruction of school property/items will be an immediate cancellation.

Thank you for your cooperation.



Please remember the Viking Voice is published bi-weekly.



**Attendance Policy**

The following is from Policy number 2232.2 differentiating between excused and unexcused absences.

**Excused Absences:**

*Absences during prescribed hours shall be considered excused absences for the following reasons: illness of the student, death in the family, medical or dental appointment, observance of a religious holiday, or any reasons for which the principal considers that exemption from attendance is in the best interest of the student.*

**Unexcused Absences:**

*Reasons for unexcused absences may include family and/or student vacations, child care situations, nonschool-related activities, missed school bus, or other reasons unacceptable to the principal.*

After the fifth consecutive unexcused absence, the school will refer the student to the attendance officer, who will contact the parent. If the student is absent an additional day after contact with the parent, a conference will be scheduled. If a further unexcused absence occurs, the attendance officer will file a complaint with the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court or initiate proceedings against the parent.



## VRES PTA Membership Announcement

We are delighted to announce that as of September 15<sup>th</sup> **486 parents and staff members have joined together to support the educational program at school by joining the PTA.** It is not too late to join us as we help to provide funding for educational trips, programs, materials, technology and special events that are not available through the regular Fairfax County school budget. Membership forms are available online through the school website PTA link.

Our membership drive continues until the end of September. At this time several classes are in close competition for their choice of a donut/juice breakfast treat or an afternoon ice cream sundae treat. *Mrs. Tate's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class* has 71% membership, *Mrs. Anderson's, Ms. Pugarelli's and Mrs. Chodoronek's 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes* are all tied with 77% and *Mr. Del-Grosso's 6<sup>th</sup> grade class* is in the lead with 79% membership. Every membership makes a difference in this very exciting competition.

The next Viking Voice will contain an update in the membership totals. If you have already sent in your membership you should have received your membership card either at Back to School Night or through your child's Wednesday envelope. If you have any membership questions, please don't hesitate to contact Barb Castro, membership chair at [rcaastro6@cox.net](mailto:rcaastro6@cox.net) Please don't forget to send in your membership to join us in supporting our children's education.

***Together we can a make a difference.***

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### PTA General Membership Meeting

**When: Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Where: Virginia Run Library**

**Time: 7 p.m.**

Find out more about important school news, budget and treasurer's report, activities and open positions.

If you have any questions please call Kelly Bobek at 703-400-1810.

We look forward to seeing you!

### 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.

**Hope you are still CLIPPING and SHOPPING using the BTFE website!**



Our first collection date will be Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>. Keep in mind there is another simple way to earn money for our school through the Box Tops for Education program:

**Shop** — Shop at your favorite online stores through the Box Tops Marketplace<sup>SM</sup> ([btfe.com/marketplace](http://btfe.com/marketplace)). Up to 8% of each qualifying purchase is automatically donated to our school. There is no additional cost to your purchase and many exclusive deals and discounts can be found!

Step 1 - To begin you must sign up to support our school at <http://www.boxtops4education.com> It is easy and once you register, you do not have to do it again. Also, you can choose to not receive any additional emails from them.

Step 2 - Every time you shop online, start at the Box Tops for Education website, click on Earn and scroll down to Marketplace. There you will see a list of popular retailers like Old Navy, Gap, Lands End, Target, Kohls, Staples, Justice, Oriental Trading, Wal-Mart, Expedia, FTD, etc. If you are logged in through the Box Tops for Education website, a percentage of your purchase goes to our school. Our school can get money while you shop! Again, remember just log on through the Box Tops for Education website and shop MARKETPLACE. It is simple and an easy way to help our school.

So start saving! Additionally, we will have a collection mid-February and at the end of the school year in June. You can ask your family and neighbors to save too. These are everyday products that everyone uses. For a complete list of products or if you have questions regarding the Box Tops program, please contact: Lorraine Matier at [lpmatier@yahoo.com](mailto:lpmatier@yahoo.com).



## Register Your Giant Bonus Bucks Card for A+ School Rewards



Welcome to the start of a new school year and another A+ School Rewards. Starting October 6, 2011 through March 29, 2012, VRES will have the opportunity to earn cash through Giant A+ School Reward Program.

**All you have to do is:**

- **Fill out the form below and return it to the main office**
  - **Or Call 1-877-275-2758, enter Code 01856**
  - **Or log onto [www.giantfood.com](http://www.giantfood.com), enter Code 01856**

Remember, even if you registered your card last year, you must re-register this year for our school to receive credit. Attending to this simple process makes a HUGE difference to our school.

**We need your support.**

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ **AND/OR**

**Giant Bonus Bucks Number** \_\_\_\_\_



# Back to School Picnic—Sept. 16

Despite the chill in the air, the Back to School Picnic was a smashing success! There was face painting, balloon making, and lots of dancing. Our wonderful music teachers, Mr. Tyler and Mrs. Everton, were grooving out with the DJ and all the kids.

Special thanks to Joan Gorvett, Thia Kim, Susan Patterson, Carole Gunn, Liz Wruck, Mary Rubens and the Richards Family, Lisa Rennyson, Kari Cochran, Kelly Domas, Sandi Middleton, Brian Cutlip, Lynn & Ryan Heck, and the Horgan Family.

