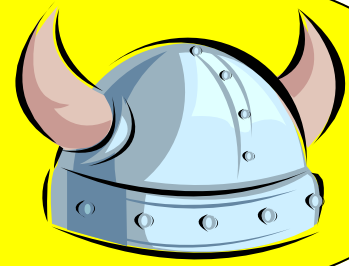


The Viking Voice



Issue 09

January 25, 2012

We Hope You Like the New Viking Voice Format

In the Issue:

- * News from the 6th Grade
- * Math Matters (Note from Mrs. Baker)
- * Victorious Vikings
- * PTA Announcements
- * Pennies for Patients
- * Variety Show Information
- * Back Page Photos

P.E. Save the Dates!!

Monday, March 5th:

3rd & 4th Grade 3 on 3 Basketball

Monday, March 12th:

5th & 6th Grade 3 on 3 Basketball

June 25th—29th:

Summer Sports Camp



Sixth Grade News

This week brings the end of the quarter, a time for refocus & restocking supplies. The 6th grade teachers always like to remind everyone at this time of year to work to maintain/improve those strong study and organizational habits that lead to good grades and preparedness for middle school. Scheduling a specific time of the week to organize binders and place papers in the proper folder is helpful. In addition, keeping current with an assignment book and visits to Blackboard.com should also assist students and parents in being up to date on what is due. It takes a good amount of practice, but if they use these habits consistently, the on-going routines can really make a difference.

The classrooms have heated up with a flurry of activities. For the December HRP project, each child made a snowflake with each point of the flake containing a sentence to summarize their independent reading. In spite of a lack of snow, the sixth graders have begun a personal narrative about an 8-foot snowman. As the assignment progresses, each



child will create his own picture book of the tale to share with his/her first grade buddy in early February. In science, the focus has been on energy forms and sources. A presentation by Bob James from NOVEC completed the unit on Jan. 23. In math, you may hear your child rapping or chanting about properties. They have been learning applications and recognizing examples in a variety of different forms—algebraic, numeric, pictorial, & practical. Ask them to teach you. In social studies, colonial America is the focus. Maybe the long weekend would be a good time to take a field trip to one of the area's historical sites to truly experience colonial history.

Mathematic Matters: A note from Mrs. Baker (Mathematics Specialist)

Last week's mathematics informational sessions for parents of students in grades 3-6 were a huge success. To recap, for those who could not attend, information regarding the new mathematics Standards of Learning (SOL) was shared. One of the biggest changes is the increase in cognitive demand that has become apparent in both the standards and the state assessment. Teachers at Virginia Run are being provided with opportunities to collaborate and discuss data throughout the school year. Additionally, teachers are being provided with resources that match the new standards as soon as they are becoming available. While the entire state of Virginia is in a transitional year with identifying resources that match the new standards, the teachers and administration at Virginia Run are doing everything they can to support both parents and teachers in this difficult transition. This support includes: time for collaborative team meetings, informational sessions for both parents and teachers, and support from the math resource teacher to identify resources that are aligned with the new standards.

Parents shared concerns about student frustration with homework. Parents also identified their own frustration in not having the resources to assist their students with mathematics homework. These concerns will be discussed and brought to the staff's attention within the next few weeks.

It is important to remember that the changes occurring are new to all of us, teachers, parents, and students. As we all become more familiar with the new standards our frustration should diminish, and there should be an increase in resources for everyone. We will continue to work together as we adapt to the new standards and share strategies and resources as they become available.

For the complete presentation, including parent resources that were identified to assist your student with homework in grades 3-6, please log onto FCPS 24-7 (a.k.a. Blackboard) and click the "VRES School Information 2011-2012 Course," then click the "Math Resource" button. The resources shared at the informational sessions are in the "Understanding the Math" folder.

Attention Virginia Run Families

As a part of Virginia Run's initiative to "go green" and save money, we have decided to move from publishing hardcopies of our bi-weekly newsletter, The Viking Voice, to only posting them on the Virginia Run Elementary website www.fcps.edu/VirginiaRunES. We will also be using the Keep in Touch (KIT) system to alert you to new postings to keep you informed about our school, PTA events, and activities.

The Viking Voice will no longer be sent home in the Wednesday folders unless you indicate on the form that you would still like to obtain a hard copy of the newsletter.

Please return this form to school ASAP.

—————cut and detach here—————

Yes, I would like to receive the newsletter through the Virginia Run website.

No, please continue to send a hard copy of the Viking Voice.

Parent signature _____

Please print here _____

Student name _____

Grade _____

Teacher name _____

**** IF YOU HAVE NOT RETURNED YOUR FORM BY JANUARY 31, 2012, YOU WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE CONSIDERED ELECTRONIC RECEIPT ONLY. ****

Our Victorious Vikings

Congratulations to these students for being

KIND, SAFE, and RESPONSIBLE

Kindergarten: Ryan B., Summer R., Mia T. & James T.

First Grade: David M., Emma L., Sophia J. & Christopher P.

Second Grade: Brandon D., Erin M., Sydney A. & Dylan N.

Third Grade: Jordan K., Chelsea N., Kendall C. & Ryan B.

Fourth Grade: Jonatan V., Katherine C., Sharon P. & Raul S.

Fifth Grade: Emily B., James B., Deanna K. & Braeden A.

Sixth Grade: Cristian S., Rachael D., Lily W. & Noah E.

Names are selected by random drawing at each grade level from all Victorious Viking slips earned by students each week. Names may not be drawn on weeks shortened by holidays.

Upcoming PTA Events

Ever wonder if there's a way to improve the school lunch?

Come and hear about "Real Food for Kids" at the next PTA meeting!

As the local face of the national wellness movement, Real Food For Kids is committed to working in collaborative ways to increase the quantities of healthy foods in Fairfax County Public Schools and supporting programs that educate our students and their families on making healthier lifestyle choices.

Also on the agenda:

2012 Fall Fundraiser

--After a much enjoyed year off, the PTA will need to fundraise once again to support all the programs that make Virginia Run great. Join the discussion and help decide which fundraiser is chosen.

Social Event Planning

--Have a new idea? Or just want to help out with the tried and true Movie Nights, Bingo Night and Dances? It's

up to us to make next year exciting and memorable for our children!

Science Quest

--Let's do it again! Last year, we paired Science Quest with the Book Fair and both events enjoyed higher attendance than usual. Come help plan this much anticipated and very educational event!

Please join us at 9:30AM on Wednesday, February 1, 2012, in the Cafeteria.

COPS Collection ~ Pennies for Patients

The week of February 6th-10th, we will be collecting 'Pennies for Patients', in support of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS). Since 1994, students and educators throughout the United States & Canada have raised over \$172 million in support of the LLS mission to cure blood cancers and improve the lives of patients and their families.

All you have to do is collect coins and other donations, put them in your



collection box and bring them back to school to add to your classroom collection box. So, start looking under cushions and car seats and dig through your backpacks and pockets...every penny counts!!

Look for more information and student collections boxes to come home in your child's Wednesday folder on February 1st. For more information on the LLS, please visit their website: www.lls.org

Sponsored by the VRES PTA

Variety Show

Attention Virginia Run Students: **The Variety Show is just around the corner!**

The 2012 Virginia Run Variety Show will be on Friday, March 16th. We are excited to announce that the show will be held at the Westfield HS Auditorium this year!

An Information Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 2nd from 3:55 - 4:30 in the cafeteria. All students who want to participate in the show need to attend. Act Participation Forms and Permission Slips will be handed out at this time. Performers are limited to one act and acts must be no longer than 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ minutes. **Sixth Grade students that wish to audition for the MC positions should be prepared to showcase their personality by sharing several jokes or performing a short monologue at the February 2nd meeting.** Sixth grade students are also needed to help backstage as production crew members. Interested students should attend the Information Meeting. Additional information will follow, but please mark your calendars for the following important dates:

Thursday, February 2nd (3:55 - 4:30) Information meeting in cafeteria. Auditions for Sixth Grade MC's (4:30 - 5:00)

Friday, February 10th Act participation forms and Permission Slips due in main office.

Thursday, February 16th (3:55 - 5:30) Practice for grades K - 3 in cafeteria.

Thursday, February 23rd (3:55 - 5:30) Practice for grades 4 - 6 in cafeteria.

Thursday, March 1st (3:55 - 6:00) Practice for all grades in cafeteria.

Thursday, March 8th (3:55 - 6:00) Practice for all grades in cafeteria.

Thursday, March 15th (4:15 - 7:00) Dress Rehearsal at Westfield High School Auditorium.

PARENTS MUST PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL.

Friday, March 16th Arrive at Westfield Auditorium by 6 PM. Show starts at 7 PM.

After the first couple practices we will send out a list with the order of acts so you can better predict the time your child will be going on stage. *Your patience is greatly appreciated.*

The length of the practice times may vary depending on the number of students and acts participating. *We ask that parents be available to pick students up if practice ends early or arrange for carpools to ensure your child has a ride home.* Thank you in advance for your flexibility.

If you are interested in helping with the Variety Show, please contact Lisa Hart, lisahart1@yahoo.com or Mindy Conway, minconway@verizon.net. We need parent volunteers to help the night of the show and to help with ticket sales.

Back Page Photos



Kindergarten Fire Safety



All-County Chorus



**M
A
D
SCIENCE**

