



# The Viking Voice

Issue 07  
November 30, 2011  
Attendance Line: 703-988-8989



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

## Calendar of Events:

- Dec. 5—9
- COPS Collection
- Dec. 7
- PTA Meeting
- Dec. 7
- Chorus Winter Concert
- Dec. 8
- PTA Holiday Shoppe
- Dec. 23—Jan. 2
- Winter Vacation

## Articles of Interest

- Principal's Corner
- Victorious Vikings
- First Grade News
- Holiday Shoppe
- PTA Reflections
- C.O.P.S.
- Chick-fil-A Spirit Night
- Sixth Grade Field Trip
- First Grade Luncheon
- Kindergarten Feast

### ATTENTION

*The school office will be closed during the winter break from 12-23-2011 through 1-2-2012.*

*We will resume normal office hours (8:00-4:30) on Tuesday, January 3, 2012.*

## Principal's Corner

Dear Parents,

Due to inclement weather or other emergency situations, it may be necessary to change school schedules. On the very rare occasions when this occurs, every effort is made to notify parents through public means of communication including posting on the FCPS website at [www.fcps.edu](http://www.fcps.edu), radio, TV (channel 21 and commercial stations) and our electronic out-reach system (Keep In Touch). If you are not connected through Keep In Touch and you would like to be, please visit [www.fcps.edu/kit/](http://www.fcps.edu/kit/).

It seems inevitable that at the moment an emergency closing is announced, you may be stuck in traffic on the Beltway or on your way into town for an evening event and unable to get home quickly. So the most important way you can prepare for emergency situations is to make plans in advance with neighbors and friends. Please make your plans now and make sure that your children know what they are to do if they were ever to arrive home and find no one there. Make sure that you have a plan with neighbors if you are unable to make it home in time.

FCPS has four options to choose among: (1) run school on a normal schedule, (2) keep schools closed for the day (which includes all activities in schools), (3) open two hours late, and (4) close two hours early. FCPS personnel make every effort to decide before 5:00 a.m. whether to close or delay schools, but sometimes, the decision comes later and media release of the closing happens as soon as possible.

- **School is closed:** all activities in school buildings and on school grounds are canceled.
- **Late opening:** there is no supervision available for students from 9:00-11:15 a.m. unless they are enrolled in SACC on a regular basis.
- **Late opening on a Monday:** the school runs on a Tuesday-Friday (full day) Schedule.
- **Early closing:** students may not have the opportunity to call home to make their own arrangements before dismissal. Please have a plan in place.
- **Early closing:** students will walk or ride home on buses that serve their neighborhoods in the morning. If you are making alternate plans for your child in the case of an early closing, please send your request in writing to the teacher and the main office. Make sure that your child is aware of this alternate plan.

Laraine W. Edwards  
Principal

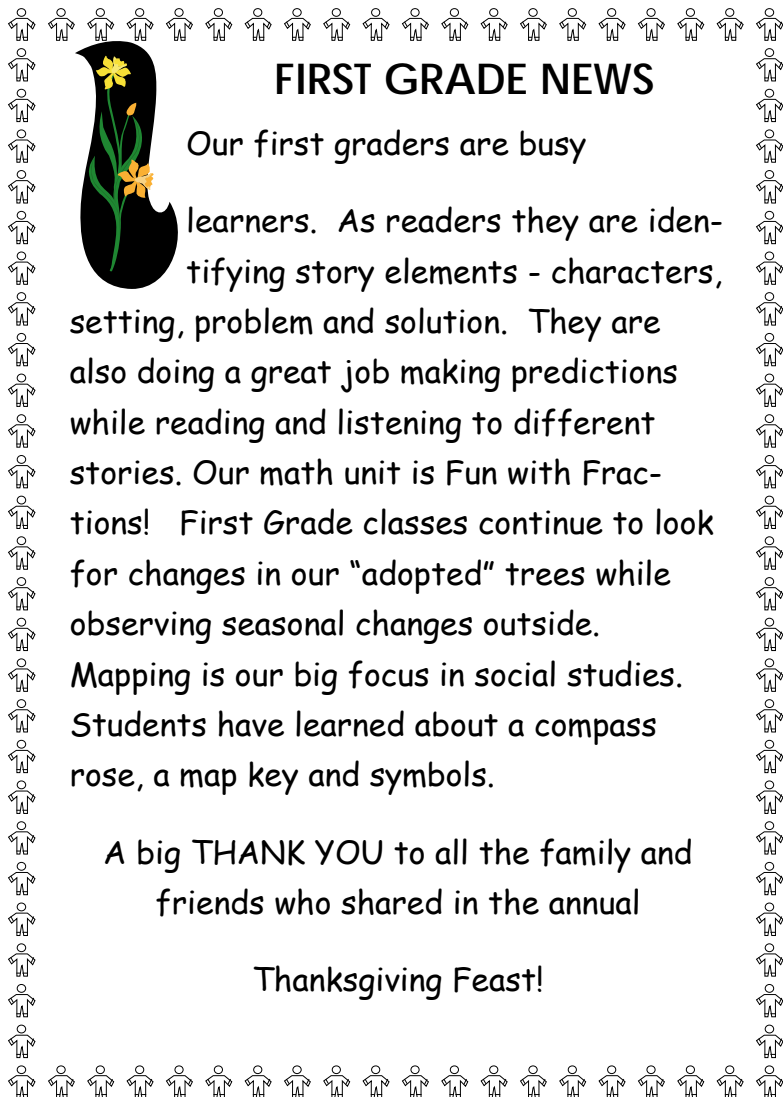


# VICTORIOUS VIKINGS AWARDS

**Congratulations to these students for being  
KIND, SAFE, and RESPONSIBLE**

Kindergarten: Angel M., William D.  
First Grade: Myriam L., Matthew F.  
Second Grade: Julia V., Harrison B.  
Third Grade: Katherine C., Jacob M.  
Fourth Grade: Ainsley R., Daniel B.  
Fifth Grade: Haley K., Matthew K.  
Sixth Grade: Ana C., Bryan C.

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.



## FIRST GRADE NEWS

Our first graders are busy

learners. As readers they are identifying story elements - characters, setting, problem and solution. They are also doing a great job making predictions while reading and listening to different stories. Our math unit is Fun with Fractions! First Grade classes continue to look for changes in our "adopted" trees while observing seasonal changes outside. Mapping is our big focus in social studies. Students have learned about a compass rose, a map key and symbols.

A big **THANK YOU** to all the family and friends who shared in the annual

**Thanksgiving Feast!**

## The 2011 White House Ornament Sale was a HUGE Success!

The PTA sold 450 ornaments with the profits going to support our school.

Thank you for participating!



## Please Check the Lost & Found

Our "lost and found" is accumulating. Please check for any items your child (ren) may have lost. The "lost and found" is located in the cafeteria. Please check into the main office before proceeding to the cafeteria.

## Head Lice (PEDICULOSIS) Information

Outbreaks of head lice are common among children in schools and day care, affecting all social and economic groups. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), current evidence does not support classroom or school-wide screening for head lice to reduce the number of head lice infestations among school children. Excluding children from school because of head lice is not recommended. Students diagnosed with live head lice should be treated and then be allowed to return to class. “No-nits” policies that require a student to be free of nits before they can return to school are not recommended.

### What are symptoms of head lice?

- Itching and scratching usually occur on the back of the scalp and neck and behind the ears.
- Sores on the head caused by scratching will be noticeable.
- Visible lice or nits.
- Remember: **NITS STICK ON THE HAIR.**
- Some children may have no symptoms.
- Don't confuse dirt or dandruff with nits.

### Does the household environment need to be treated?

Routine cleaning of the child's environment, including washing recently used clothing, bedding and linens in hot water is recommended. Items that cannot be washed should be sealed in plastic bags for **2 weeks**. You should vacuum carpeting, upholstery, and car seats.

### Who should I notify if my child has head lice?

- Pediatrician
- School Clinic
- Playmates and close friends outside of school

### What if I don't get rid of head lice after treatment?

Consult your pediatrician or inform the school clinic.



**For further information call:**

703-246-2411

TTY 703-591-6435

Visit our Web site: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd)



## The holidays are right around the corner... So is the *Holiday Shoppe!*

The Holiday Shoppe is a “store” set up in our Gym where students can shop with a helper and have their gifts wrapped all in secret!

**The Holiday Shoppe will be December 8,  
from 5:30-8:30 p.m., with special hours for our younger students.**

We need quite a few volunteers to help with the shop:

- Set Up
- Cashiers
- Table helpers
- Gift Wrap



We also need older student volunteers to escort our younger clients through the Shoppe. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Erin Thornburg at [epthornburg@fcps.edu](mailto:epthornburg@fcps.edu) or Tamara Russler at [russlers@verizon.net](mailto:russlers@verizon.net).

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**Los dias festivos estan a la vuelta de la esquina  
...igualmente las compras para las festividades!**

Nuestra “tienda,” The Holiday Shoppe, esta cituada en el gimnasio donde estudiantes tienen la oportunidad de comprar, con la ayuda de uno de nuestros asistentes, y tener sus regalos envueltos, todo en secreto.

The Holiday Shoppe estara abierto comenzando el 8 de diciembre del 2011, de 5:30 a 8:30PM, con horas especiales para los estudiantes mas jovenes.

Necesitamos voluntarios para asistir en los siguientes labores:

- Arreglo del local (mesas, articulos)
- Cajeros
- Asistentes de Mesa
- Envoltura de los regalos

Tambien necesitamos estudiantes voluntarios para acompañar a los clientes mas jovenes durante sus compras de mesa en mesa.

Si usted esta interesado en donar su tiempo para asistir en el Holiday Shoppe, favor contactar a Erin Thornburg por correo electronico a [epthornburg@fcps.edu](mailto:epthornburg@fcps.edu), o Tamara Russler al correo [russlers@verizon.net](mailto:russlers@verizon.net).



## Congratulations to our Virginia Run Reflections Art project winners!

Entries from our school demonstrated this year's theme, "Diversity Means....." in the art categories of Visual Arts and Literature. Art projects were judged by professionals in the art field and the following students have won their category here at the Local Level and are moving to the next level:

### Visual Arts:

**Maddie T. won First Place** for her beautiful painting titled "The Diversity Flag."

### Literature:

**Cameron S. won First Place** in the Intermediate Grade Level for his writing effort.

**William S. won First Place** in the Middle Grade Level for his written interpretation.

**Congratulations, Maddie, Cameron and William!**



# C.O.P. December Collection

## Community Outreach Program (COP) Collection December 5 – 9, 2011

Our collection this quarter will be during the week of December 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>. We will be collecting **NEW**, unwrapped gifts for the children that **Our Neighbor's Child** supports. Our Neighbor's Child (ONC) is a non-profit, community-based organization, which started out in 1992 by providing holiday gifts for children in low-income families in western Fairfax County. Last year, ONC and their volunteers served over 2,300 children in our communities.

Please bring your new, unwrapped gifts to your classroom during the week of December 5th.

We will also need volunteers to pick up donations from the school and drive them to the ONC warehouse in Chantilly. If interested, please contact [suemurphy4@verizon.net](mailto:suemurphy4@verizon.net)

For more information on ONC, please visit their website:

<http://www.ourneighborschild.org/>

Thank you for your continued support of the Community Outreach program!





4412 Chantilly Place  
Chantilly, VA 20151  
(near Dulles Expo Center)

Let's Try Again!

**VRES Social Event**  
**Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**5:00 to 7:00 p.m.**

Rescheduled due to severe weather for our first event. Virginia Run will receive up to 15% of the selected sales between 5-7 p.m. Bring your family and friends for a great meal to support our school!

Watch for the Chick-fil-A cow who will visit VRES the afternoon of the event!

**Sponsored by Virginia Run PTA**



**SWEET NEWS...YOUR CHILD'S HALLOWEEN CANDY PUT TO GOOD USE!**



Dear Mr. Antoncic,

Thank you again this year for all the wonderful candy. We will use every bit of it in our Christmas stockings—and there will be more than 1,000 of them to fill!

A Child's Joy stuffed and distributed 1,200 handmade stockings last Christmas to children in Centreville, Chantilly, Falls Church, and Fairfax. The candy you donated last year found its way into each and every one of the stockings—and this year will be no exception.

Please thank all the children, teachers, and staff who added to this 'mountain' of goodies. Let them know that, because of them, over 1,100 children will be waking up Christmas morning with delicious treats in their stockings.

Without the support of people such as you, we could not accomplish this wonderful task.

Have a very Merry Christmas and a blessed and peaceful New Year.

Thank you again for supporting our efforts to provide Christmas stockings to so many deserving children.

Sincerely,

Michael P. Forgione  
President  
A Child's Joy

# FIRST GRADE HOLIDAY LUNCHEON — A GREAT SUCCESS!

The Thanksgiving Luncheon was attended by over 100 parents and grandparents! A special "thank you" to Shannon Rutter from Luck Stone Corp. for help



# Kindergarten Thanksgiving Feast and Native American Festival



The 6<sup>th</sup> grade class learned about wastewater treatment at the Upper Occoquan Sanitary Authority plant. If you have a 6<sup>th</sup> grader, ask about the “yuck” factor.



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