



The Viking Voice

Calendar of Events:

- Oct. 5
 - PTA Meeting, TONIGHT!
- Oct. 7
 - Picture Day
- Oct. 10
 - Columbus Day Holiday. School Closed
- Oct. 10-14
 - Custodian Appreciation Week
- Oct 13
 - Chick-fil-A Spirit Night
- Oct. 14-21
 - Book Fair

Issue 03
October 5, 2011
Attendance Line: 703-988-8989



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

Principal's Corner

Parents,

We had very successful Back to School Nights on Monday, September 12th and Tuesday, September 13th. I want to thank all the parents who took time from their busy schedules to attend this event and learn more about their child's instructional day. Research continually shows that parent involvement is an important factor in student achievement. Here are just some reasons it is important for parents to be involved in their child's education:

- When parents are involved in their children's education at home, they do better in school. And when parents are involved in school, children go farther in school—and the schools they go to are better. (Henderson and Berla)
- The family makes critical contributions to student achievement from pre-school through high school. A home environment that encourages learning is more important to student achievement than income, education level or cultural background. (Henderson and Berla)
- In 1994, the College Board found that reading aloud to children is the most important activity that parents can do to increase their child's chance of reading success.
- When children and parents talk regularly about school, children perform better academically. (Aston & McLanahan, 1991; Ho & Willms, 1996; Finn, 1993)
- Three kinds of parental involvement at home are consistently associated with higher student achievement: actively organizing and monitoring a child's time, helping with homework and discussing school matters. (Finn, 1998)
- The earlier that parent involvement begins in a child's educational process, the more powerful the effects. (Kathleen Cotton and Karen Reed Wikelund. "Parent Involvement in Education," *Research You Can Use*. NW Regional Educational Laboratory.)
- Positive results of parental involvement in their children's schooling include improved achievement, reduced absenteeism, improved behavior, and restored confidence among parents in their children's schooling. (Institute for Responsive Education. *The Home-School Connection: Selected Partnership Programs in Large Cities*. Boston: Author.)

Thank you for your attendance to Back to School Night.

Articles of Interest:

- Principal's Corner
- News from 1st Grade
- Victorious Vikings
- News from 5th Grade
- Class Picture Schedule
- PTA Meeting
- Counselor's Corner
- Fall Book Fair
- R.E.A.D.S. Info
- Holiday Shoppe
- Passport Club
- Chick-fil-A Event
- Energy Zone
- Community Use
- Reflections Art Program
- Punt Pass and Kick



Fabulous Fantastic First Grade

Trees, and pumpkins, and leaves... OH MY! We are flying off to a fun year, practicing fantastic strategies for reading and writing, playing fun games in math, and finding the fascinating places in our own backyards that will help us learn through nature.

Our Fall Field Trip Nature Walk will be on Wednesday, October 19. The rain date is Friday, October 21. We will walk through the beautiful Fairfax county Parkland, right near our school. We welcome any parents as chaperones while we explore the beauty in our own school's "backyard." Please complete and return the forms we sent home on Wednesday, September 28.

Pumpkin Math Day, a fun math activity that focuses on a range of important math skills, is on Monday, October 31. Pumpkins, about the size of a soccer ball, are needed for each class. Please let Ms. Choi, Mrs. Havey, Ms. Jones, or Mrs. Rommel know if you can donate a pumpkin.

Happy Fall!

The First Grade Team



No School on Monday,
Oct 10th, Columbus
Day – School Holiday!

Virginia Run Elementary
PTA
everychild.onevoice.®

PTA General Membership Meeting
TONIGHT!!

Where: Virginia Run Cafeteria
Time: 7 p.m.



VICTORIOUS VIKINGS AWARDS

Congratulations to these students for being

KIND, SAFE, and RESPONSIBLE

Kindergarten: Caroline J., Bella G., Ashna J., Luke B.

First Grade: Elle K., Johnathan P., Jalyn M., Neha S.

Second Grade: Stefany Z., Darius D., Shannon M., Zaynab M.

Third Grade: Andrew V., Tyler T., Zach D., Isabella G.

Fourth Grade: Ashleigh C., Catie Z., David B., John L.

Fifth Grade: Luke S., Helmand A., Kirsten C., Jonathan F.

Sixth Grade: Megan M., Kelly M., Matthew H., Kyle D.

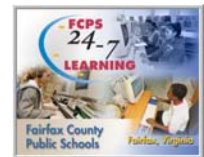
Fifth grade is off to a fabulous start!

In the classroom we are excited about diving into decimals and examining the Earth's layers in math and science. We are getting ready to explore Ancient Mesopotamia in social studies, and we have been talking about book responses and book recommendations in language arts in order to prepare us for enjoying a wide variety of genres. It has also been fun having visitors like Mrs. Leonard and Mrs. Gartlan come to our rooms. Finally, we are happy to announce that the tradition of Greek Dodge Ball lives on! We have been having an awesome time at lunch recess playing together.



Please check your child's assignment notebook and/or <http://fcps.blackboard.com> (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.

If you are wondering how to help us help your child, please ensure that he/she is reading every night and he/she is practicing multiplication facts. These are definitely two keys to success in fifth grade. Stay tuned to see what other thrilling activities fifth grade has planned for the future!



Breakfast Program

Breakfast is the most important meal of the day. Studies show when a student eats a balanced breakfast their attendance and behavior improves. Students will be able to pick up a "Grab and Go" breakfast for \$1.50. Students on free and reduced meals receive breakfast for free. Please remind your child if they arrive to school late, they can still go to the cafeteria and get breakfast.

COUNSELORS CORNER

Our school counselors, Angie Leonard and Emily Habermeyer, look forward to supporting your child in school this year. The counselors provide monthly guidance lessons in each class and also offer small group and individual counseling as needed.

The counselors, along with our school social worker, will be offering small group sessions throughout the year. The groups are varied and can help students better understand their feelings with friendships, improve social skills, and different academic needs. Groups usually meet once a week, for about 6 weeks, during the students' lunch time.

Please feel free to contact either counselor with any questions or concerns that may come up throughout the school year. We are here to help your children in any way.

Angie Leonard (supports grades K, 1, 3, 5): ARLeonard@fcps.edu, 703.988.8924

Emily Habermeyer (supports grades 2, 4, 6): EAHabermeyer@fcps.edu, 703.988.8951



Virginia Run R.E.A.D. S. Recognition



The R.E.A.D.S. Celebration will be Thursday, October 6, 2:00 – 3:45 in the cafeteria. If you have any questions, please contact Christy Boyle at cjboyle87@gmail.com. Thank you.

MENTORS NEEDED



In addition to the mentor program that we currently have with the Westfield High School students, we are looking for some wonderful adults who enjoy working with children!

In order to become a mentor you would need to obtain a TB test and visit the FCPS Human Relations department for a badge. Once those tasks are completed, Mrs. Leonard and Mrs. Habermeyer will provide all necessary training here at Virginia Run. Being a mentor can make such a positive impact in the life of a child.

If you are interested and/or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact either Mrs. Leonard or Mrs. Habermeyer for more information.

Musical Greetings!

The school year is humming with music. Mr. Tyler and Mrs. Everton are very excited about their programs this year. They are currently recruiting 5th and 6th graders to attend chorus. Please consider joining chorus if you are in the 5th or 6th grade. There is no audition and practice occurs during the school day.

Many more musical updates will follow throughout the year!

Sharon Everton

703-988-8946

Jeremiah Tyler

703-988-8964

2011 Virginia Run Pass, Punt and Kick Competition



Mr. Ginger & Mr. Antoncic are proud of the 500 students who participated in this year's VR Pass-Punt-Kick Competition. Below are our top scores. The winners will move on to the upcoming regional contest.

CONGRATULATIONS

Boys 8-9

1. Ryan L.-180
2. Kyle W.-170
3. Raymond B.-170
4. Erick V.-170

Girls 8-9

1. Katie C.-120
2. Keeley R.-100

Boys 10-11

1. Joe C.-250
2. Thomas B.-230
3. Jacob E.-220

Girls 10-11

1. Avery M.-170
2. Ally R.-160

Boys 12-13

1. Spencer B.-250
2. Alex C.-230
3. Matthew C.-225

Girls 12-13

1. Kelly M.-180
2. Carly D.-160

Class Picture Schedule

Main Lobby

- 9:30 – Schutt
- 10:00 – Harlow
- 10:30 – Darif
- 11:00 – Herbert
- 11:30 – Poch
- 12:30 – Pugarelli
- 1:00 – C. DelGrosso
- 2:00 - Choi
- 2:30 – Zapf
- 3:00 – Trimble

Upstairs Foyer

- 9:30 – Wayne
- 10:00 – Petry
- 10:30 – Antoncic
- 11:00 – Schilling
- 11:30 – Giffuni
- 12:30 – Chodoronek
- 1:30- Rommel
- 2:00 – Jones
- 2:30 – Weidner
- 3:00 – Morrissey

Little Theatre

- 9:30 – Smith
- 10:00 – H. DelGrosso
- 10:30 – Frattini
- 11:00 – Tate
- 11:30 – Rhee
- 12:30 – Anderson
- 1:00 – Havey
- 2:00 – Wyland
- 2:30 – Proulx
- 3:00 – Bower



Virginia Run Fall Book Fair:



Reading is Out of this World!

Mark your calendar for this very popular and exciting event! The Virginia Run “Reading is Out of this World” Book Fair is coming to the library October 14th - October 21st. The book fair is a great way to support the school and purchase new and exciting books for the whole family. Profits from the book fair help our school purchase equipment and books and supports reading enrichment programs like Virginia Run R.E.A.D.S.

The Book Fair will be open on the dates listed below. We will have one Family Night with evening hours on Tuesday evening, 10/18.

Friday	10/14	9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Monday	10/17	9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Tuesday	10/18	9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. – <i>FAMILY NIGHT!</i>
Wednesday	10/19	9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Thursday	10/20	9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Friday	10/21	9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (FAIR CLOSES)

If you are interesting in being a volunteer at the Book Fair, please contact Amy Jeffries at asp4@cornell.edu. Thank you and see you at the fair!

FCPS Introduces New Online Scheduling System for Community Use of Facilities

Citizens who organize meetings for scout groups, homeowners associations, or religious or cultural organizations will be able to use a new, online scheduling system to reserve Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) facilities beginning Monday, October 17. Community Use, an online facility use scheduling system, will replace the current building use paper application (ADM-20) process and provide a quicker response time for community use requests. To begin, a meeting organizer must register online to become an organization event coordinator (OEC). Once approved, an OEC can submit facility use requests for one or more organizations. Some features of the system include:

- * Ability to view public events on the calendar and to check availability of space before submitting a building use request.
- * Automatic routing of requests for approval to appropriate school personnel and notification to OEC of event status.
- * Simple access to view, print, and download frequently used facility-use-related documents such as usage policies and fee charts.

More details—including a training manual, online tutorial, and other pertinent information—will be available at 5 p.m. on Monday, October 17, on the Community Use section of the FCPS website at www.fcps.edu/fts/comuse.

Yearbook Needs Your Pictures!



If anyone at VRES takes pictures at school during a school sponsored event, activity or club, the Yearbook Committee would love to have a copy for our Yearbook. Photos must be from school sponsored events, clubs or activities only.

If you have photos to submit, please put them in an envelope marked “yearbook pictures” and send to your child’s teacher or the main office. If you have questions about what photos can go into the Yearbook, please contact Robin Osterhout at 703-815-9230 or robin.osterhout@gmail.com. Unfortunately we will not be able to return your pictures.



Reflections Art Program

Celebrate your talents

Are you looking for a way to express yourself and show others your talent as a **photographer, artist, writer, composer, choreographer, or film producer?**

Participate in Virginia Run Elementary School's PTA Reflections Program!

The 2011-2012 Theme is "Diversity Means....."

Defined as "the condition of being different; differing from one another, unique"--diversity is all around us in many forms. **Participate in this year's 2011 Reflections Art Project by thinking about what Diversity Means.....to you.**

Create an original piece of artwork in one of six categories: **Musical Composition, Dance Choreography, Film Production, Photography, Visual Arts, Literature**

Put on your dancing shoes, grab a camera, or pick up a pen or paintbrush and create! It'll be fun!

All Artwork will be displayed and students will be recognized for their participation. First place entries will move on to the District-level. If you would like to learn more about Reflections and see some of the amazing art projects, check out www.ptareflections.org. **Entry forms are available in the office!**

Entries due Friday, October 21st!

For more information, contact Beth Tweddle at bethtweddle@cox.net



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 here December 8, from 5:30-8:30 pm -
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 or



9-5-2-1-0 Zip Code to Your Health

To encourage student wellness, FCPS Elementary Schools are promoting 9-5-2-1-0 Zip Code to Your Health the week of October 17 – 21, 2011. Students will learn about healthy eating and exercise through this daily message. This program is a partnership with the Northern Virginia Healthy Kids Coalition. Teachers are invited to highlight the daily message in the classroom.

To:
Healthy Kids
Fairfax County
Energy Zone, USA **9-5-2-1-0**

BREAKFAST – A GREAT START TO BEING SMART

October is Breakfast Month in Fairfax County Public Schools. Breakfast is the most important meal of the day. It “breaks” the “fast” by replacing the energy reserves used overnight. School aged children especially teens are the biggest breakfast skippers. Research shows students who eat breakfast:

- Learn better
 - Are more alert and attentive
 - Are more likely to participate in activities
 - Eating breakfast may also reduce the risk of childhood obesity

If you have a breakfast skipper in your home, plan and offer quick nutritious choices such as juice, whole grain cereal and toast, breakfast bar, or bagels and milk or yogurt. Parents don't forget your own breakfast. You are a role model for your children.



VRES Social Event

Thursday, October 13th
5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

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

Look for a visit from the Chick-fil-a cow the day of the event!

Virginia Run will receive up to 15% of the selected sales between 5-7 p.m., so bring your family and friends in for a great meal to support our school!

Sponsored by Virginia Run PTA



150 ExxonMobil employees, retirees, and family members!

The ExxonMobil Foundation Volunteer Involvement Program (VIP) seeks to encourage volunteerism in the community on an individual or team basis. Grants are available to VRES when eligible individual participants or teams volunteer at least 20 hours of their time.

We are looking for participants willing to add their name to a list of *potential* volunteers for team grants. The individual time commitment is minimal. The benefit to the school significant.

Please contact Matthew & Thia Kim at thekims459@gmail.com to add your name to the team distribution list or to find out how the work you already do can be applied to an individual grants.

Save the Date!!!



Virginia Run Elementary Walk to help the Homeless

October 31, 2011, 1:35–2:50 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE! In order to raise awareness of the needs of the homeless in our community, we will be holding a mini-walk to help the homeless. The proceeds from our walk will go to Western Fairfax Christian Ministries (WFCM), a local organization that provides life essential support to those in need in Western Fairfax County.

Approximately 12,000 people are homeless in the Washington metropolitan area on any given day. In Virginia, 53% of these people are families; nearly one-quarter are children; and one-third of the regions' homeless adults are employed. The primary cause of homelessness in this region is lack of affordable housing. With your help, we can lower the incident of homelessness.

All students of Virginia Run are encouraged to participate in the walk to help end homelessness. Students are invited to get in the Halloween spirit early, by wearing a funny hat, wig or other head adornment as they walk.

Student permission slips will go home in the next Wednesday Envelope. Questions? Would you like to help with the Walk in any way? Contact Sue Murphy (suemurphy4@verizon.net)

Remember...Every foot counts!



Destination Text-Ploration FAQ



Who: You and Your Family

Where: Thomas Jefferson High School
6560 Braddock Road
Alexandria, VA 22312

When: October 22, 2011, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

What: Kids from pre-kindergarten through sixth grade can come to experience a day full of learning and literature. Stay for the whole day or just a part of it.

There will be a live book reading with a meet-the-author session, cultural demonstrations, fun reading and writing activities, and much, much more!

Passport Club



Passport Club is a geography club that meets once a month during lunch in small groups to learn about countries around the world. Application forms were included in last week's Wednesday envelopes. If your child would like to participate, please return the form or send an email to markcutlip@yahoo.com. It's never too late to join.

We are also seeking adult volunteers to lead each group. Being a Passport Club volunteer is a rewarding way to participate in your child's education. Training will be provided. Classes without a leader will not be able to participate in the program. For more information, contact Mark Cutlip at markcutlip@yahoo.com.

Come join us for a fun way to learn more about the world!