



THE BLACKBIRD BUGLER

MR. THOMAS B. REARDON, PRINCIPAL

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 2

OCTOBER 2009

PARENT NIGHTS A SUCCESS!

Happy Autumn! The season is certainly upon us, and we are certainly in full swing here at Voorheesville Elementary School! As you can see from the pictures, we've been quite busy, hosting a caravan of cyclists from the Bike Ride for Missing Children last Friday, September 25th. Over 70 cyclists came through our parking lot, cheered on by our students and staff to continue their journey throughout the Capital Region. I am also proud to announce that we've raised over \$190.00 for the organization, which will be used to produce posters and publications for missing and exploited children. What a testament to our school community and spirit.

We are also pleased to welcome our new librarian. Mr. Michael Puspurs will be taking over for Ms. O'Donnell as of October 1st. Ms. O'Donnell's work here as VES has been astronomical, but she will be relocating to be closer to her family. Mr. Puspurs comes to us from North Albany Academy, which is part of the Albany City School District. He earned his Bachelors in English and Masters Degree in

Information Science from University at Albany. Please join me in welcoming Mr. Puspurs to our team!

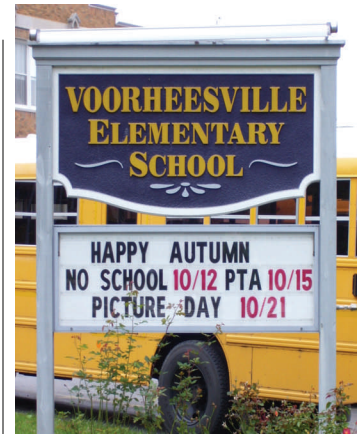


Mr. P reading with Mrs. Nowik's class.

Having had the privilege of addressing all parents during our three open houses regarding parent involvement and communication, I am proud to report the success of these evenings. We had over a 97% attendance rate! Once again, I encourage you to remain involved in our Voorheesville family! Continue visiting our website, emailing and contacting us via phone. We want to hear from you! I've been very impressed with the traffic the Principal's Corner has

been receiving.

We have a great deal of activities heading our way! The Voorheesville Blackbird Paradise Garden Committee has been readily preparing for the First Annual Harvest Festival, set for Friday, November 6th. This will be a promising evening of tasting creations made with the finest ingredients from our very own garden, crafts, activities, which will culminate with a lively barn dance suitable for all ages. If you're interested in volunteering or contributing to this wonderful event, please contact Bri McAlevy at vvillegarden@gmail.com.



UPCOMING DATES OF INTEREST

- Oct. 12th—Columbus Day—NO SCHOOL
- Oct. 13th-24th - Bookfair (evenings)
- Oct. 15th—PTA Meeting at 7 pm.
- Oct. 21st—Picture Day.
- Oct. 30th—Team Building Day



Cross Country Is Off and Running!

For the months of September and October our fourth and fifth grade students participate in cross country running at the Swift Road Park.



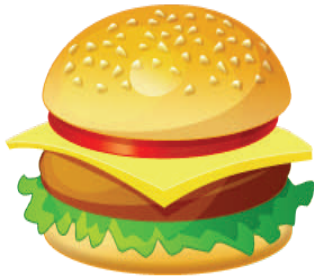
Excited to be back again this year!

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Please use the following directory for your convenience:

Voorheesville Elementary School	765-2382
Thomas B. Reardon, Principal	
School Nurse:	
Colleen Bracket	765-2382 Ext. 506
Kid's Club Program (afterschool)	765-2043
Cindy Abelseth, Director	
Transportation Department:	
Mike Goyer	765-2382 Ext. 508
Priscilla Clark	765-2382 Ext. 521

DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS TO HOST MCREARDON NIGHT AT MCDONALD'S!!



Mr. Reardon will be working at McDonald's! Voorheesville Chapter of Dollars for Scholars will be hosting its semi-annual fundraiser on **Wednesday, October 7 from 5-7PM** at the McDonald's restaurant on the corner of Western Avenue and Church Road in Guilderland. A portion

of all sales during **McReardon Night** will go toward scholarships for college-bound seniors. Please note: purchases *must* be during the 5-7PM time period to be included in our fundraising. As always, thank you for supporting DFS! With your help, our chapter provided almost \$10,000 in scholar-

ships to the Voorheesville Class of 2009. Some colleges even matched the scholarships we awarded. If you are interested in joining this worthwhile organization, please contact Laurie Lysenko at the elementary school (765-2382 X517) or Tim Kelley at the high school (765-3314 X205).



Students greet the cyclists from the Ride for Missing Children

REMINDERS

As we prepare for the briskness of the Fall weather (and sadly, shorter hours of daylight), just a reminder to make sure that your children dress appropriately for recess, including warm clothes and sneakers. With P.E. Recess taking place two days each cycle, we want to ensure your children are eligible to safely participate and enjoy this program.

I would like to take a brief moment to address the purchase of snacks in the cafeteria. Snacks (ice cream or bagged snacks) can only be purchased with cash, and are sold only at the end of lunch when the majority of students have finished eating their lunch. We always encourage our students to

the best of their ability to eat the main portion of their lunch, so that they are not simply eating snacks and non-substantive food. Though we have taken away the snack vending machine, snacks are still for sale at the counter, along with the 100% Fruit Juice slushies. If you have questions regarding the variety of snacks offered in our cafeteria, do not hesitate to contact me (treardon@vcsdk12.org) or Tim Mulligan, Director of our Food Nutrition Program at (mulligan@vcsd.123.org).

If signing your child in after an illness please stop by the Nurse's office prior to sending them to their class.



Wanna Win A Wii?

Join your friends and your community at a free

1 Mile Fun Run

for kids 12 and under and enter for a chance to win a

Nintendo Wii Console

Generously Donated by Wein Young Fenton & Kelsey

Saturday, October 24, 2009

10:15 a.m.

Voorheesville High School*

Moms and Dads and students over 12 can run in the

Annual Fall Classic 5K Community Road Race or Walk

*On October 24th at 9:30 a.m. at the Voorheesville High School**

(*note new location)

You Gonna Run?

KIDS' RACE APPLICATION

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!

Name: _____ Age: _____ Sex: _____ Phone# _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____

WAIVER: Please sign below

In consideration of my entry to this race, I hereby release and waive any and all claims for damages I may have against the Voorheesville Community and School Foundation, The Voorheesville Central School District, The Village of Voorheesville, The Town of New Scotland *and other volunteer community organizations(i.e.Ambulance Sheriff Boy Scouts Kiwanis)* involved in this event, and any and all sponsors and their representatives and any official or participant for any injuries I may suffer in conjunction with this race of Voorheesville Community and School Foundation, any sponsor, representative or participant. I also certify that I am in good physical condition and have trained for this race. Further, I hereby grant all permission to any and all the foregoing to use any

For more information or to volunteer contact Joanne Kehlbeck kehlbecj@union.edu

Chemistry - It's Elemental!

**Celebrate National Chemistry Week and the
140th Anniversary of the Periodic Table of the Elements**

Sunday, October 18th, 2009

NY State Museum

10 am - 4 pm

Free Admission!

Hands - on activities!

Mad Science Show at 1 pm

Poster Contest!

Cool Chemistry Demonstrations!

PTA Update

The PTA has been very busy already, organizing room parents in the elementary school and providing refreshments, and selling memberships and spirit wear at open houses in all three schools. Thank you to all those volunteering to help at the PTA table and to those who baked for the open houses. We couldn't do it without you!

Thank you to the breakfast crew!

Thank you to Mrs. Alden, Mrs. Relyea, Mr. Standish, Mrs. Hansen, Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Longden, and Mr. Hemphill, who made breakfast sandwiches for the Bike Ride for Missing Children; a special thank you as well to Mountainview church, for the help and for allowing us to cook in their kitchen!

Got spirit wear? We do!

If you are interested in ordering spirit wear (shirts, fleece jackets or vests, etc.), email jen-hampston@yahoo.com for ordering information.

Make the most of your parent-teacher conference! Presentation at the next PTA meeting on October 15!

Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 15 at 7:00pm in the elementary school library. Our first parent program will be presented at the October PTA meeting, and the topic will be parent-teacher conferences. Mr. Tom Reardon will be speaking on ways to maximize the effectiveness of the parent-teacher conference for the benefit of students, parents, and teachers! Join us!

The PTA Membership drive is ongoing... join us today!!!

If you did not join us at the open houses, *please* do so now!! Your membership is important to our PTA. Use the form below and mail it into the PTA in your child's folder.

PTA MEMBERSHIP –MAIL IN FORM

MEMBERSHIP IS \$5.00/PERSON, and BOTH PARENTS CAN BECOME MEMBERS.

NAME: (1) _____ NAME: (2) _____

ADDRESS: _____

Promoting Student Achievement at Voorheesville Elementary School

This is the purpose of our SITE BASE MANAGEMENT TEAM

Some of you may be aware of the Site Base Management Team (SBMT). Many, however, are not aware of this team, so we would like to introduce ourselves. This team is required by state law to provide a platform for shared decision making at each school location in every school district. Every school has its own team. The overarching purpose of the Site Base Management Team is to promote student achievement. Members of this team consist of faculty, staff and parents related to the school. Each group selects representatives from among themselves. Parent representatives are nominated and elected through the PTA (Parent Teacher Association). The current Site Base Team for Voorheesville Elementary School has 3 parents, 3 faculty and 2 staff members. It should be understood that anyone is welcome to attend the meetings which take place on a monthly basis.

Student Achievement is a significant and relatively broad mandate which incorporates many factors. For example, over the last couple of years, we provided input and guidance on several issues:

Renewed efforts toward a recycling program in the school, which is now in place.

Provided input and guidance for new report cards, which should be in place next year.

Provided initial response to the food allergies until it became necessary to have a dedicated district wide team to address the issue.

Addressed bullying and behavior issues, particularly those that arise on the bus. The proactive effort of the Principal and the Transportation Department has reduced the number of incidents and is creating a more positive environment.

Addressing the issue of volunteer confidentiality in the classroom – promoting both the active participation of parents and guardians in the classroom as well as the value of respect and confidence in our learning community.

If there is an area which you would like the Site Base Management Team to consider, which relates to student achievement at Voorheesville Elementary School, you are welcome to visit our meetings or you may pass along the item to the Principal or the PTA President, Jen Hampston (jenhampston@yahoo.com).

Sincerely,

Chad Hemphill on behalf of the Site Base Management Team

Odyssey of the Mind Information Meeting & Sign Up

Wednesday, October 14, 2009 – 7 pm
Elementary School Cafeteria

It's a new school year and a new Odyssey is about to begin! Odyssey of the Mind is an international educational program that provides creative problem-solving opportunities for students from kindergarten through high school.

Kids work in teams to apply their creativity to solve problems that range from building mechanical devices to presenting their own interpretation of literary classics. They then bring their solutions to a competition with other area schools. A special non-competitive program is available to students in K-2.

Learn more, talk to kids and parents who have participated, and sign up on Wednesday, October 14 at 7 pm in the elementary cafeteria. Get a sneak preview of this year's problem descriptions and find out more about Odyssey at www.odysseyofthemind.com.

Coaches needed! Students work in teams of up to seven kids coached by parent volunteers. Training is available! Please consider coaching or co-coaching if your child is interested in participating!

Odyssey of the Mind is sponsored by the PTA. For more information, contact Jean Mackay 439-1168 or mackay4@nycap.rr.com.

BOOK FAIR

Thursday, October 15 and Friday, October 16, 2009 5pm to 8pm
Saturday, October 17, 2009 10am to 2pm

Thursday, October 22 and Friday, October 23, 2009 5pm to 8pm
Saturday, October 24, 2009 10am to 2pm

THE SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR IS HERE THIS YEAR AT VOORHEESVILLE ELEMENTARY. IT WILL BE LOCATED IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM ACROSS FROM THE MAIN OFFICE FOR TWO WEEKS.

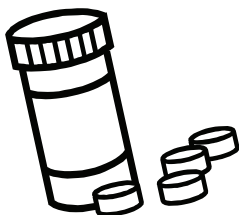
There will be child friendly activities available during Friday, October 16 (only) from 6:00pm to 7:30 pm, with chances to win free books.

YOUR CHILD'S LIBRARY CLASS WILL BE ATTENDING THE BOOK FAIR DURING THEIR REGULARLY SCHEDULED CLASS, HOWEVER PURCHASES CAN NOT BE MADE DURING THAT TIME.

BOOK FAIRS ARE DIFFERENT FROM THE ORDERS SENT HOME FROM TEACHERS. PRICES ARE AS MARKED ON THE BOOKS AND THERE IS 8% SALES TAX COLLECTED ON ALL SALES. WE ACCEPT CASH, CHECKS OR CREDIT CARDS.

Plan ahead - think of Christmas gifts.

Please contact Penny Alden at overlook@nycap.rr.com or 861-6087 if you are interested in helping during any of the times noted above.



November 6th the Voorheesville PTA Garden Project is hosting its

1st Annual Harvest Festival from 6-8:30 PM

For part of the festivities we will be in the lower cafeteria making art and crafts.

In preparation we are collecting objects that are often left at the curb as trash.

Film Canisters (tops and bottoms)

Pill Bottles (tops and bottoms)

Round Drink Tops (plastic or metal, soda, juice, water, iced tea, all colors, and sizes)