



THE BLACKBIRD BUGLER

MR. THOMAS B. REARDON, PRINCIPAL

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 6

FEBRUARY 2011



PLOWING THROUGH MIDWINTER AS VES!



As we wrap up the second quarter and first semester of the 2010-2011 school year, I want to once again thank you for the opportunity to lead Voorheesville Elementary School. Being at the exact mid-point of the school year, it is difficult for me not to want to reminisce and reflect upon the great work and citizenship exhibited by our staff and students on a daily basis. From the consistently rigorous, participatory academic instruction that your children are a part of each day to their role in making our school, community, and world a better place than they found it, your children have certainly taken full advantage of the academic and social programming offered by VES. As previously mentioned, we have recently concluded the second quarter, and have generated report cards to be sent home with students via the return envelope next week. You will have noticed that special areas (Art, Music, and P.E.) will report for quarters 2 and 4. You will also notice the use of the narrative box (in lieu of parent conferences), as well as some layout/wording changes which will differ from what you observed during quarter one. Like

any advancement, though we have made significant progress in the accuracy and standardization of our report cards, these are truly a work in progress, and we will continue to modify in order to continuously improve upon our means of providing information to you. Please know that regardless of the instrument, your questions, comments, or concerns are always welcome, and we do invite you to contact your child's teacher or me should you have any questions (both large and small) regarding the information set before you.

Frequent, consistent two-way communication is the backbone of any school-community. As referenced in my initial Open House Speeches, this is your child's second home, and your active participation in our program is what fosters our success. Whether it's through volunteering in your child's classroom, attending a PTA meeting, or simply providing feedback (both positive and constructive) to us regarding an issue or program, please consider our doors and ears always open! One of the most recent ways you can voice your opinion is through our current online

parking survey (available through the Principal's Corner at (<http://vcsdk12.org/EL/PrincipalsCorner.htm>)). If you haven't signed up for our School News Notifier system yet, I highly encourage you to do so, as this will allow you to not only receive important notifications, but also a reminder to view the Principal's Corner when it is updated. I highly encourage you to visit this website often, as it does provide me with a means of informing you of our school events and observations in between Bugler issues.

As we prepare to transition to Spring and begin our budget conversations, I also encourage you to participate in our District-Wide Budget Meetings. Please see the side panel for dates, times, and locations.

Once again, your positive support and communication, coupled with the dedication of your children and our staff has made the perfect recipe for a school and community working together. Here's to a wonderful second semester and beyond!

Thomas B. Reardon
Principal
Voorheesville Elementary
School 518-765-2382



Students from Rachel's Challenge working and having fun together! If you would like further information about Rachel's Challenge please go to the district website and click on the Rachel's Challenge link found under guidance and then elementary school.

Upcoming Dates of Interest

February 7th - 7:30 pm BOE Meeting HS LGI

February 17th - Site Based Meeting 6:00 pm PTA Meeting 7:00 pm

February 21st-25th Winter Recess

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
Attendance Office:	
Deann DellaPenta	765-2382 Ext. 514
Kid's Club Program (afterschool)	765-2043
Cindy Abelseth, Director	
Transportation Department:	
Mike Goyer	765-2382 Ext. 508
Priscilla Clark	765-2382 Ext. 521



St. Matthew's Fifth Grade Faith Formation class is collecting food and personal items for Senior Citizens in the Voorheesville area. There will be a box placed outside of the Main Office at VES to collect items. They will be collected from February 9th -18th. Some suggestions are:

- Soup (instant or canned)
- Crackers / Cookies (packaged)
- Coffee / Coffee Mugs / Tea
- Playing Cards / Note Paper / Stamps
- Soap Warm Lap Blankets

REMINDERS



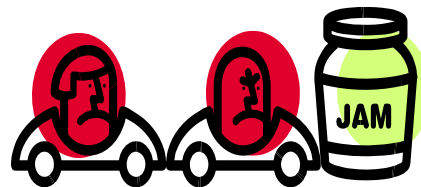
VOORHEESVILLE ELEMENTARY KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Parents are asked to call **Mrs. DellaPenta** at the **Voorheesville Elementary School** (765-2382 ext 514) or e-mail at ddella@vcsdk12.org if you have a child who will be entering Kindergarten in September of 2011.

Children must be five years of age on or before December 1, 2011 to register.

There will be an information meeting on **March 17th, 2011 at 7:00 pm. (Parents only).**

Kindergarten registration and screening process will be explained. At this time you will schedule a time to have your child screened on April 26th or 27th.



Please help us prevent parking lot back-ups by dropping off students without getting out of your vehicle. If you need to assist your child further, we do ask that you park your car so that others can continue to drop off and exit. Thank you for your cooperation!



Mr. Feck working with Mrs. Lendrum's students.



Drum Building 101

After learning about communities and the jobs within them, as a part of their social studies curriculum, first graders in Mrs. Lendrum's class were treated to a session on drum building. Jim Feck, a parent of one of the students, came in to teach the class about building drums. He brought several different types of snare drums to look at and taught about how the different kinds of shells are made. Students then worked with Mr. Feck to build a snare drum for the school to keep. They started with a shell that Mr. Feck had pre-drilled the holes in, and were able to add all of the hardware using a cordless drill (yes, each of the kids ran the drill with Mr. Feck's assistance). The children all signed the inside of the drum before the drum head and final components were attached. They then learned how to tune the drum so that it would be ready to be played. The children were in awe! They each had a chance to play it. The class went with Mr. Feck to present the drum to Mrs. Matheke (music teacher and band director), who will house the drum here at school. The drum will be available for children to use for years to come!



Photo A: A 4th grade team considers its strategy for solving a technical challenge during the Odyssey of the Mind workshop.



Photo B: Students show off their monster as the workshop kicks off.

Odyssey of the Mind Workshop Helps Students Think Creatively

Teamwork, creativity, and fun were on tap for Voorheesville’s eight Odyssey of the Mind teams on Saturday, January 22, at a “Spontaneous Workshop” held at the elementary school. More than 50 students from Kindergarten through middle school attended. Teams rotated through a series of activities designed to help them prepare for the regional Odyssey of the Mind tournament on March 5, 2011.

Teams began with the task of making a monster using scraps of colored paper. Though each team began with the same materials, the results couldn’t have been more different—and ranged from flat constructions to cone shaped creatures to pop-up creations. Other activities encouraged students to come up with original stories, improvise, and take risks to solve a variety of problems.

The workshop came at an ideal time, as teams have less than six weeks to go until “show time.” Both students and coaches came away with a better sense of their team’s strengths and ways to improve.

Many thanks go to the workshop’s volunteer judges: Chrissi Young, Diana Straut, Rozanne Summerson, Dan Mackay, Gwen Spicer, Bri McAlevy, Steve Relyea, Donna Parker, and Jason, Beth and Maya Herr!

Thanks are also due to this year’s coaches for their dedication and hard work with our teams: Jeannie McDonnell, Elizabeth Longden, Darcy Morrison, Judy Strauss, Dan McCrea, Laura Smith, Shanna Anderson, Christine Urschel, Jen Hotaling, Kristine Gravino, Melissa Achille and Tricia Putman

Jean Mackay

Odyssey of the Mind Advisor

You’re Invited!

Odyssey of the Mind Dress Rehearsal

Monday, February 28, 2011

6:30 pm

High School PAC

Come and see our Odyssey of the Mind teams perform their creative solutions to this year’s Odyssey challenges. The evening will include eight performances that showcase each team’s original scenery, costumes, and stories. From unusual money making schemes to travels with classical book characters, you’re sure to be impressed. For more information, contact Jean Mackay at mackay4@nycap.rr.com.

**VOORHEESVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
129 MAPLE AVENUE
VOORHEESVILLE, NEW YORK 12186**

PHONE: (518) 765-2382
FAX: (518) 765-3842

THOMAS B. REARDON
Principal

ROBIN JACOB
Director of Special Education

February 2011


Dear Families,


Happy New Year! Mr. Reardon and I would like to invite parents to resume our parent book discussions, having had a terrific beginning and excellent conversation in the fall with our first text, *Born Digital*. Our next book, entitled, *Boys and Girls Learn Differently, A Guide for Teachers and Parents*, by Michael Gurian examines how girls and boys learn. The book examines the latest research in brain science as it relates to educating boys and girls. It is our hope that we can discuss leading edge practical strategies, and the potential for more fully engaging children in their own learning.

If you are interested in participating, please complete and return the bottom portion of this form by February 11. We would like to meet on March 3, and March 31, both Thursdays. Sessions will meet from 6:00-7:30 in the Elementary Library Media Center.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to let us know.

Sincerely,


Thomas Reardon
Principal


Suzanne Paulson
School Counselor

Names (s) of Parent Attending

Phone number

e-mail

Oldest Child's Homeroom