



THE BLACKBIRD BUGLER

MR. THOMAS B. REARDON, PRINCIPAL

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 5

JANUARY 2011



A NEW YEAR - A NEW ENTHUSIASM!



Welcome Back! I hope you found this holiday season restful and rejuvenating! Though the weather continues to send a chill through our bones (particularly last week during our maiden snow storm), the days are getting progressively longer, and soon we'll be speaking of summer plans!

The weeks prior to the holiday season were filled with hands-on learning in classrooms, charitable projects (which culminated with a building-wide food drive for the New Scotland Food Pantry), and class celebrations recognizing the amazing accomplishments of the first half of the school year! The power and strength of our music program was certainly illustrated prior to vacation, during our Annual Holiday Sing-a-long on Wednesday, December 22nd. Our K-5 community gathered once again for a preview of our fifth grade concert, which will take place on **Wednesday, January 19th at 7:00 p.m.** Thanks to the direction of Dr. Morgan and Mrs. Matheke, all of our students had the opportunity to hear the concert line up of our chorus, band, and the premiere of our hand bell choir! Thanks to a generous donation from the Voorheesville School Community Foundation, VES is the proud owner of a complete set of hand chimes, which will be used in all general music classes and for concert purposes. One could have heard a pin drop during the crisp, clean performance of various holiday favorites. The Voorheesville Chimettes (the staff hand bell players) also graced the performance with a closing rendition of *America the Beautiful*.

As we continue to progress through the 2011 school year, we would like to take the opportunity to encourage you to share your talents, interests, and areas of expertise with our students. Attached to this issue you will find a handout asking you to consider offering a session after school on a topic of your choice. Our *Go Beyond* series was extremely successful last year in providing students with opportunities from Juggling to learning the basic mechanics of bridge building. The possibilities are truly endless, and we will certainly work with you to develop a program that fits your needs and schedule. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me!

I want to thank you for offering your input on the recently-posted *Elementary Principal's Corner*, which solicited your feedback regarding the offering of a second parent conference period in the Spring, and moving to trimester reporting period to allow for this second conference opportunity. Your support was overwhelming, but also provided us with some helpful suggestions to ensure such an academic and chronological transition occurs seamlessly. As we look to make this change for the 2011-2012 school year, please don't hesitate to provide us with any further feedback or comments.

The winter season is also the start of our budget planning process for the subsequent school year. I highly encourage you to stay informed, and attend Board of Education meetings. your involvement in our school truly makes a positive impact!

Once again, as we approach the mid-point of the school year and the end of the second quarter, I want to once again thank you for allowing me to lead such a successful community building. If there is anything I can ever do, never hesitate to let me know!

Have a wonderful, warm January!

Tom



Just a sampling of some of the delicious lunch choices that are offered in the cafeteria.

Thomas B. Reardon
Principal
Voorheesville Elementary
School

518-765-2382



Enjoying our musical assembly right before break.

Upcoming Dates of Interest

- January 10th- BOE Meeting- 7:30 p.m.
- January 14th- Grade 5 Activity Night 7-9 p.m.
- January 17th- No School (Martin Luther King Day)
- January 19th- Elementary Winter Concert 7:00 p.m.
- January 20th- Site Based Meeting 6:00 p.m./ PTA Meeting 7:00 p.m. Elementary School Library

January 21st- Early Dismissal 11:50 a.m.

January 28th- Quarter 2 Ends (Report Cards distributed the following week)

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

REMINDERS

Please join us for a
Garden Planning Meeting
 Thursday, January 13th, 9:30 AM
 Vvillegarden@gmail.com *for details*



ATTENTION PARENTS: **The Kids' Club** and **The Kids' Club II** located in Voorheesville Elementary School, has immediate openings afterschool. Openings are available in grades three through eight. Our program offers a wide variety of activities including: athletics, arts, crafts, dramatic play, and clubs (i.e. skiing, bowling, culinary, etc.). Homework assistance is offered daily. If interested please contact: **Cynthia Abelseth @ 765-2043.**

Odyssey of the Mind Teams Off to a Good Start!

Seven teams of students from kindergarten through fifth grade, and one middle school team, are participating in Odyssey of the Mind this year. The students have begun practicing their creative problem solving skills as they prepare solutions to this year's Odyssey challenges. Each team will work (and have fun!) from now through early March, when they present their solutions at a competition with other schools in our region. Odyssey of the Mind inspires and nurtures creativity and rewards teams for imaginative ideas, innovative solutions, and teamwork. Many thanks to all the parents who volunteered to coach our teams this year—the program depends on you! *Odyssey of the Mind is sponsored by the Voorheesville PTA.*

Here's a look at this year's challenges and teams:

Money Maker (K-2)

The team must create and present a humorous performance about a Money Maker character that tries to make money from wild ideas.

Team A	Team B	Team C
Haden Anderson	Liam Hotaling	Leon Fitzjarrald
Connor Smith	Sadie Hotaling	Bryce Henkel
Damon Mazuryk	Jimmy Gravino	Gabrielle Putman Dowd
Jack Mattfeld	Aiden Strauss	Anthony Achille
Sarah Mattfeld	Griffin Boehlke	Edie Schaeffer
Maeve Owens	Bridget Longden	Molly Schroeder McAlevey
Eileen Sun	Meghan Hebert	Ellen Huang
<i>Coaches: Laura Smith and Shanna Anderson</i>	<i>Coaches: Jen Hotaling, Kristine Gravino, Elizabeth Longden</i>	<i>Coaches: Melissa Achille and Tricia Putman</i>

As Good as Gold...berg- The team must present an uncomplicated existing item that is used in a simple and effective way to complete a real life task. The team then has to create their own device made out of an unnecessarily complex series of components that will perform the same task as the existing item.

Rachel Crawford

Abby Parker

Emma Hampston

Cole Anderson

Tess Urschel

Michael Urschel

Coaches: Shanna Anderson and Christine Urschel

Le Tour Guide- Teams must present an original performance where a character from classical literature acts as a Tour Guide and makes three stops, including one that will be a team-created location.

Team A	Team B	Middle School Team
Lily McDonnell	Erin Young	Sadye Goldfarb
Camille McDonnell	Daniella McCrea	Erik Patak
Ian Longden	Luke Straut	Ben Mackay
Grace Summerson	Michael Strauss	Alex Relyea
Joey Gravino	Alexis McCrea	Lydia Parker
Nick Summerson	Emma Parker	<i>Coach: Jean Mackay</i>
Daniel Curran	Marisa Herr	
<i>Coaches: Jeannie McDonnell and Elizabeth Longden</i>	<i>Coaches: Judy Strauss and Dan McCrea</i>	

Full Circle- The team must create and present a humorous performance where something changes form or appearance at least three times and eventually undergoes a final change where it returns to its original form and appearance.

Hannah Boehlke
Elizabeth Morrison
Angela O'Connor
Regan Dennis
Cassidy Dennis
Coach: Darcy Morrison

Go Beyond

Help us to help our students "Go Beyond" the basic school curriculum and have some fun. The Site-Based Management Team is looking to start an after school activity series for students of all grade levels. Some ideas for after school classes could be:

Learn To Juggle

Engineer A Bridge

Basic Balloon Animals

Snow-shoeing (the school has a set of 25)

Astronomy/Constellations

Other: _____

We are looking for many more of your fun-filled and educational ideas for this series. Each session would run as a one-time event from 3:00-4:00 after a school day. The sessions would be designed to give students a quick introduction to a skill, activity, or subject of interest.

If you feel that you could help us out with ideas or participation, **please fill out the form below and return it to Mr. Reardon as soon as possible.** We will then work out a schedule that is good for the volunteers who can help with a given session.

____ I would like to lead a "Go Beyond" class on

____ I would like to help someone who is leading a class.

Name: _____

Phone: _____