

THE BLACKBIRD BUGLER

MR. THOMAS B. REARDON, PRINCIPAL

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 2010



Bringing in the 2010-2011 School Year!



A most sincere welcome back to all of our Voorheesville Elementary School families, both new and old! We are very pleased to have spent the past three days getting acclimated to a new school year. The building is sparking, our classrooms gleaming, and our staff is more than ready to make this a phenomenal school year! One of our most immediate changes for this school year has been the placement of recess before lunch, which has received overwhelming support from our students and staff, who gain both recess and viable instructional time. Students who are unable to immediately finish their lunch also have the option to spend a few extra minutes in the cafeteria, as time has been built in between lunches.

As we begin the new year, we would like to take a moment to remind you of a few procedural items that assist us in providing your children with a safe learning environment.

School Starts at 8:50 and ends at 3:00 p.m.- If your child is late, please bring them to the Main Office to sign in. If you are picking your child up prior to dismissal, please come to the Main Office to sign them out. We will call for your child to meet you.

Dropping Off- When you are dropping your child off in the morning prior to the start of school, please let them out before the bridge on the right side of the car (so they can avoid crossing any portion of the parking lot). Our staff will

ensure they make it into school safely.

Parent-Sign In- We want you to always feel a part of our building, and welcome your involvement in our classrooms and activities. We do ask, however, that, when bringing your child into school, you allow them to walk to their classroom independently, without escorting your child. This makes for a better transition for your child, and also assists us in accounting for adults and students who frequent our building.

Absences- If your child will not be at school by 8:50 a.m., please alert the attendance office (765-2382 ext. 514). Once attendance is completed, we will begin calling all numbers to ensure they are safely at home. Contacting us prior will save you our phone call!

Lunch Information- Our school lunch is \$2.00. Milk can be purchased separately for \$0.40. Free and reduced meal applications, as well as detailed menu information can be found on our website (vcsdk12.org). Students will have 22 minutes to play and approximately 19 minutes to eat. Students are outside for recess on most days, so please help your child plan and dress accordingly.

Once again, it is a true pleasure to work with you and your children! We look forward to seeing you over the next two weeks for our Open House programming (see attached schedule), and relish the opportunity to see you visiting our building. The *Blackbird Bugler-*

will be published the first Friday of each month, along with various postings to the Elementary Principal's Corner on the District webpage. To stay current with information, please consider signing up for our School New Notifier (SNN), system, which allows you to receive important updates and announcements via email. Sign-up information can be found at vcsdk12.org.

Have a wonderful weekend, and we look forward to seeing you soon!

Thomas B. Reardon
Principal
treardon@vcsdk12.org



First day of Kindergarten for both student and teacher!

UPCOMING DATES OF INTEREST

- **9/15 - Parent's Night Grade K-1**
- **9/16 - Parent's Night Grade 2-3**
- **9/22 - Parent's Night Grade 4-5**
- **9/23 - High School Open House**
- **9/24 Bike Ride for Missing Children 8:50 a.m.**
- **9/28 - Middle School Open**



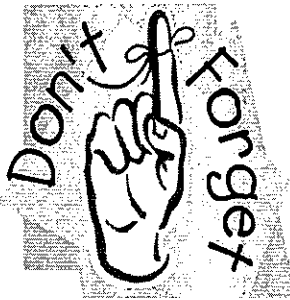
All smiles on the first day of school!!

REMINDERS CONTINUED

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

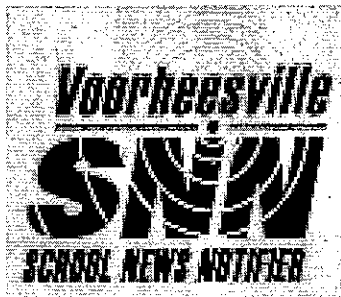
REMINDERS



We would like to remind all parents and visitors that there is **no parking allowed on public streets**. The town contacted us to remind us of this after the school musical. They received com-

plaints about people parking on front lawns. Please remember that if our parking lot is full, we are able to utilize the St. Matthew's parking lot.

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!



Remember to sign-up for SNN!

This will allow immediate email updates about events and procedures at V.E.S. Please visit <http://snn.neric.org/vcsd/> for further information.

New Faces at Voorheesville Elementary!

In addition to the over twenty new students who come to us from a variety of locations in and beyond the Capital District, we are pleased to welcome numerous new staff members to our family! **Julie Rossi** will be joining Ms. Lee and Mrs. VanWie in the Speech Language office suite, replacing Judy Hundemann. Julie comes to us from the Greenville Central School District, and is very excited to be working with K-5 students. **Caitlin Willsey** will be teaching first grade this year! A Berne born and raised native, she comes to us from the Cairo-Durham School District with experience at the first and second grade levels. **Laura Pasquali** will be substituting for Mrs. Jordan's second grade 6-8 week maternity leave. Laura, a Voorheesville native (class of 2005) has completed her Bachelors in Childhood Education, and is in the process of pursuing her masters degree, both at LeMoyne College. **Carolyn Losee** will be joining us from the Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk Central School District to teach Kindergarten. She comes to us with an experience, drive, and enthusiasm that stood out to all members of the committee. Carolyn possesses her Childhood and literacy certification, and is in the process of completing her Students with Disabilities certification. In addition to our new teaching staff, we also welcome **Susan Fry**, who will be working during lunch and recess as an aide, as well as **Liesl Bailey**, who will be filling in as a Teaching Assistant in the Kindergarten classrooms while Ms. Everett is on maternity leave. We welcome these new additions to our staff, who will serve to enhance our academic and instructional program.



Fall 2010 Garden Volunteer Schedule

The schedule is flexible, please let us know if you'd like to join us at a different time by contacting vvillegarden@gmail.com



Tuesday 4:30PM-6:30PM

Wednesday 8:30AM-10:30AM

Friday 9:00AM-10:30AM

We'll be gardening, greeting visitors, chatting with each other, and enjoying the fresh air. Absolutely no experience is necessary, we've even got gloves for you, all you need to do is show up. Blackbird Paradise is a great resource for our students and school community. Your contribution of a short amount of time will go a long way to positively affect your child's school experience. Please consider joining us for some gardening fun. Look for our upcoming newsletter for more garden happenings.

Parent Nights are Here!



Welcome Back! We are pleased to announce the dates for our Parent Evenings. This is your opportunity to get procedural and curricular information from your child's teacher. Ask lots of questions, but remember it isn't the time for conferencing about your child. Certainly feel free to ask for a conference if you need one, and a convenient time will be worked out between you and the teacher. Starting times of presentations are staggered to avoid conflicts. **Remember that parking is across the creek and will be very tight. St. Matthew's provides overflow parking. PLEASE DO NOT PARK ALONG ROADSIDES, AS THIS DOES DISRUPT TRAFFIC!** For those of you that have multiple children in varying grades, you only need to attend one general meeting as they will be the same for all grade levels. The agendas are as follows:

Wednesday, September 15th for Grade K and 1

6:30-6:50 General meeting for all Grade 1 parents in the large gym
7:00-7:40 First grade presentations in individual classrooms

7:05-7:25 General meeting for all Kindergarten parents in the large gym
7:35-8:15 Large Group Kindergarten Presentation in the Large Gym

Also available:

-Mr. Puspurs (Library) -Ms. Herzog, Mrs. Okoniewksi, and Ms. Lee (rm. 120)
-Dr. Morgan (Computer Lab) -Mrs. Hotopp (Computer Lab)

Thursday, September 16th for Grade 2 and 3

6:30-6:50 General meeting for all Grade 2 parents in the large gym
7:00-7:40 Grade 2 presentations in individual classrooms

7:05-7:25 General meeting for all Grade 3 parents in the large gym
7:35-8:15 Grade 3 presentations in individual classrooms

Also available:

-Ms. Luyckx (Computer Lab) -Mrs. Hemming (222)
-Mrs. Fiero (Computer Lab)

Wednesday, September 22nd for Grade 4 and 5

6:30-6:50 General meeting for all Grade 4 parents in the large gym
7:00-7:40 Grade 4 presentations in individual classrooms

7:05-7:25 General meeting for all Grade 5 parents in the large gym
7:35-8:15 Grade 5 presentations continue in Large Gym, followed by
individual classrooms

Also available:

-Mrs. Matheke (Computer Lab) -Mrs. Taggart and Mrs. Farrell (306 and 307)
-Mrs. Hammes (Computer Lab) -Mr. McCormick (Computer Lab)
-Mrs. Vitelli (Computer Lab)

We look forward to seeing you! Please call if you have any questions!

Home & School CONNECTION[®]

Working Together for School Success

September 2010

Voorheesville Elementary School
Mrs. Paulson



SHORT NOTES

Numbers at a glance

Stay in touch with your youngster's school by keeping phone numbers of teachers, the school counselor, and the school office handy. You might post a list on the refrigerator or a bulletin board. Also, add them to your cell phone so you'll recognize the number if a staff member calls.

DID YOU KNOW?

There's more to good vision than seeing clearly. When your child reads, his eyes must work together and be able to track, or follow, a line of text. Since many children have undiagnosed eye problems, talk to your youngster's pediatrician if he struggles with reading. The doctor may suggest a complete eye exam.

In the news

How can your child stay up-to-date on current events? Clip or print articles that you think are appropriate for her age. Then, leave them by her breakfast plate or on her bedside table for her to read. Also, let her see you read the news, and talk to her about what's going on in the world.

Worth quoting

"All great achievements require time."
Maya Angelou

JUST FOR FUN

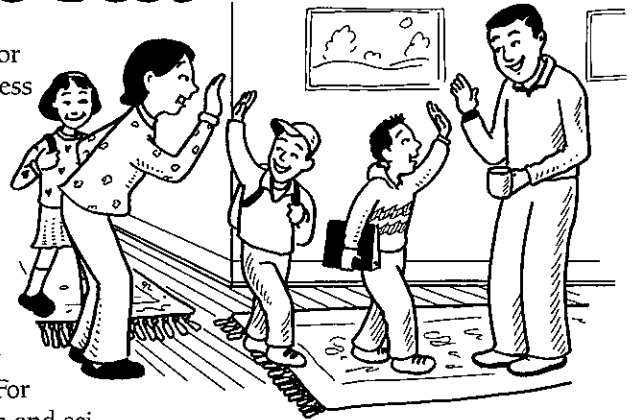
Q: What has no hands or feet but climbs high at night?

A: The moon.



Expect the best

Setting high expectations for your child is a key to his success in school. Set the tone for a great year by letting your youngster know what you expect from him—and helping him see what he can expect from himself.



Be realistic

Match expectations to your child's abilities and interests. For example, if he's strong in math and science, you can expect him to earn good grades in those subjects. Then, consider overall standards, such as finishing his work on time, listening to his teachers, and doing his best. Finally, think ahead to long-term plans. You may feel it's important that your youngster go to college or volunteer in the community, for instance.

Be clear

Remember to communicate your expectations to your child. You can weave them into everyday conversations. *Examples:* "We'll play catch after you do your homework" or "The science fair is coming up. I can't wait to see your

project." Talk regularly about long-range expectations, too. Your youngster will see himself as a future college student when you say things like, "You'll be able to learn more about that when you're in college one day."

Be supportive

Work with your child to help him meet your expectations. For instance, provide materials for his projects and help him set aside time to work on them. Let him know that you expect his best and that you're certain he can do it. You'll build his confidence and encourage him to make it happen. ♥

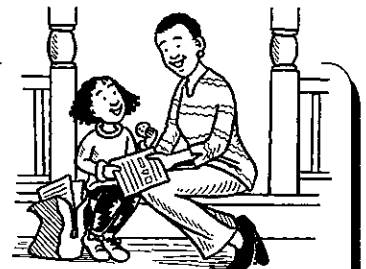
After-school chats

"What's in your backpack?" Greet your child with this question, and you'll discover a lot about what she does in class.

● Set aside time each day to go through her papers. Try to do it first thing after school when her day is fresh in her mind.

● Look over your youngster's work together. Help her feel proud by pointing out something specific that she did nicely. For instance, if she shows you a picture of your family, you might say, "I like how you drew your brother playing chess and your little sister with pigtails."

● Have her talk through math problems or science experiments to show you what she's learned. She might explain how she finds the perimeter of a triangle or why ants dig tunnels, for example. ♥



Making friends

A new school year brings opportunities to reunite with old friends and make new ones. Use these tips to help your youngster build friendships—learning to work and play with others will help her do better in school and enjoy it more.

Reach out. Encourage your child to be on the lookout for classmates who share her interests. If she enjoys making friendship bracelets and notices a classmate wearing one, she might strike up a conversation about her hobby. Or help her



find an after-school activity (scouts, gymnastics) where she will meet children with similar interests.

Get in touch. Keep a class list handy, and let your youngster call to invite a classmate over. Before a friend visits, your child might brainstorm possible activities. When her guest arrives, she can ask, “Would you like to do magic tricks or play a board game?” Having a plan will help playtime go more smoothly.

Note: If your youngster is having trouble making friends, talk to her teacher. She may be able to suggest a classmate who would be a good match or offer ways to help your child feel more comfortable. ♥

ACTIVITY CORNER

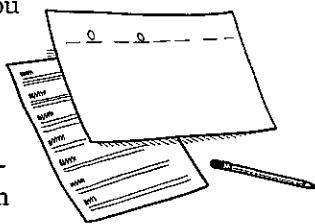


Guess the definition

Request a consonant or “buy” a vowel? This version of the popular game show *Wheel of Fortune* is a fun way for your child to study vocabulary in any subject.

First, have him give you a list of words and definitions from a textbook or a teacher handout. Choose a word. On a piece of paper, write a blank in place of each letter in the definition. *Example:* For “absorb,” you would write “_ _ _ _ _” (to soak up).

To play, you each begin with 25 cents. Have your youngster guess letters that go in the blanks—



consonants are free, and vowels cost 5 cents. The goal is to figure out the definition and name the vocabulary word before all the blanks are filled in. When he answers correctly, he gets a penny for each blank that remains. Then, let him give you a definition to figure out. Keep playing until someone runs out of money. ♥

Q & A

Keep moving!

Q: I've heard that a lot of kids don't get enough exercise. How can I be sure my children stay active?

A: Regular exercise—about an hour a day—can help your youngsters stay healthy and energetic. Walking or biking to school is an easy way to fit in physical activity if you live close enough to school and there's a safe route. You might ask other neighborhood parents about setting up a walking schedule. A different adult could accompany the children each weekday, or younger children might walk with older ones. Also, encourage your kids to combine exercise with playtime. In nice weather, they might play kickball or freeze tag outside. Indoors, they could dance to upbeat music or play active games like Twister or Cranium. To cut down on time sitting still, try to limit TV and video games to less than an hour a day.

Finally, let them see you being active, too. You could go swimming together or take a family hike on the weekend, for example. ♥

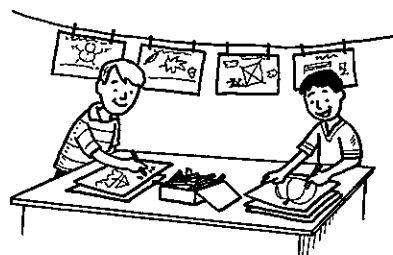


PARENT TO PARENT

Our family calendar

With both of our boys now in school and busy with activities, I knew our family needed a way to manage our busy schedule.

My husband suggested having the kids make their own calendar. So with software on a library computer, we printed calendar pages for September through June. The boys made a picture on construction paper to go with each month. For example, Eli drew a picture of his school for September, and Owen painted pumpkins for October.



Then, we helped them add important events from the school calendar, such as standardized test dates, school holidays, and the end of each grading period. We also penciled in their after-school activities and family events.

I stapled the pages together and hung our calendar in the kitchen. Now we

have the boys check it every evening after dinner. It helps us plan the next day and ensure that we don't forget anything. ♥

OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

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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: _____