



THE BLACKBIRD BUGLER

MR. THOMAS B. REARDON, PRINCIPAL

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 2

OCTOBER 2011



AUTUMN IS IN THE AIR!



Greetings, and Welcome to autumn! With our open house series behind us (and an overwhelming 93% attendance rate), we have officially bid goodbye to a wonderful summer, and are in the full swing of an even greater school year! It was a pleasure seeing you over the past two weeks. Even more importantly, I am pleased you had a chance to experience a slice of the stellar program our staff puts forth for your child each and every day. Though this gave you an opportunity to explore our building, this is just one of the many occasions we hope you will visit.

In my open house remarks, I used Peter Reynolds' *North Star* picture book text to provide a metaphor for the journey you and your child will experience over the next ten months. Regardless of whether this is your first or final experience at the elementary school, I do hope you can make the connection between the journey of this boy

through the forest (with his many ups and downs), and your child's school experience. But, rest assured, both those ups and downs are supported by the staff of this building day in and day out, as we all share the same common goal of taking your child to new academic and social places that might never have seemed possible.

In this newsletter, you will again find a *Go Beyond* sign up form, and I highly encourage you to consider offering an after school class for a portion of our K-5 community. Whether it's a hobby, career, or something you believe would be of hands-on interest to an elementary child, we would be honored to host you! We will certainly assist you in designing and implementing the program. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.

You will notice a photo from our Welcome Back Spirit Assembly, which occurred two Fridays prior. This assembly not

only allowed us the opportunity to welcome over 20 new students to our VES family, but also to kick off our building-wide theme for the school year, which is based around the idea of Gratitude. We will be using *The Secret of Saying Thanks* by Douglas Wood, of which students will be reading during library classes. The potential for all of us to feel a sense of gratitude is captured in this text, and we look forward to taking advantage of this reflective point throughout our spirit activities. Once again, I thank you for being a part of this dynamic school-community relationship, and look forward to seeing you very soon!

Mr. Thomas Reardon
Principal



Our Welcome Back Spirit Assembly!

UPCOMING DATES OF INTEREST

- **10/10 No School - Columbus Day**
- **10/17 - Board of Education Meeting 7:30 H.S. LGI**
- **10/18 - PTA Meeting 7:00**
- **10/19 - Elementary School Picture Day**

REMINDERS CONTINUED

Please use the following directory for your convenience:

Voorheesville Elementary School 765-2382

Thomas B. Reardon, Principal

School Nurse:

Colleen Brackett 765-2382 Ext. 506

Attendance Office:

mross@vcsdk12.org or 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

PARENTS: Please be sure to use the side-walks at the end of the day when you pick your students up and are returning to your vehicle. **It is very dangerous to walk between the buses.**

A reminder from Ms. Brackett to 2nd and 4th Grade Parents:

If you have not yet submitted a physical exam form, please do so. These are mandated years to have this information on record. Any questions, please call Ms. Brackett.



**Dollars for Scholars McDonald's Night Wednesday
October 17th**

Come one, come all to our semi-annual Community Night at the Guilderland McDonald's on the corner of Western Avenue and Church Road. Voorheesville Dollars for Scholars will receive a percentage of all sales from **5 to 7 PM on Wednesday, October 6**. Please come see "Mr. McReardon" and meet some of our new faculty members. Events such as this enabled us to provide college scholarships for 15 members of the Class of 2011. We hope to see you there!

ATTENTION: If you are using the soccer field or playground after school hours, please be sure to dispose of your trash properly. Thank you!!



Remember to sign-up for

SNN/Twitter! This will allow immediate email updates about events and procedures at V.E.S. Please visit <http://vcsdk12.org> for further information.



Our 2011 - 2012 School Community!





Choosing Books in the Library: A Message from Library Media Specialist Mrs. Anne Rappoccio

The beginning of the year is always so full of excitement! Students enter a new grade, get a new teacher, and commence studying new topics. Best of all, they get to start checking out new books from the library! This can be quite a task with so many books available to them all at once!

In Library class we spend time talking about how to make sure that each student takes home a book that is “just right” for them. During this discussion we talk about all of the many ways a student can tell what will be the perfect book to take home. Do they like the cover? Did they read a book by the same author before? Do they read independently at home, or do they like to share their books with siblings and their parents? All of these questions go into book choice.

Every student at Voorheesville Elementary is as unique as every book in the library. Many students come to me with questions about what books to choose, or whether or not the book they have chosen is “just right” for them. The library staff and I help in any way we can to ensure students can find the books on the topics or genres they prefer.

There are many different reasons for each book a child chooses, and most of those choices come from their reading environment at home. We in the library are working very hard to ensure we get the right book into the hands of each child. Talking to your child about the books they bring home is the best way to understand what they love about these books and opens many discussions about reading and what you would love to see your child reading.

These discussions can lead to so many enjoyable discussions, whether your student is reading on their own or sharing the book with you. Thank you for taking a moment to take a peek into the Voorheesville Elementary School Library. If you ever have any questions about the book your child has brought home, or if you are looking for good ideas for what you can suggest to your child, please do not hesitate to stop by, call me or email me at arappoccio@vcsdk12.org.

Happy Reading!

Mrs. Rappoccio



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: _____