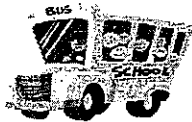


# THE BLACKBIRD BUGLER

MR. THOMAS B. REARDON, PRINCIPAL

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 2011



2011-2012: The Beginning of Inevitable Success



A most sincere welcome back to our all of our Voorheesville Elementary School families, both new and old! We are very pleased to have spent the past few days getting acclimated to a new school year, new teachers, and a new routine that promises to be exciting! The hallways and walls are pristine, and our staff is more than ready for the adventures of the next 176 days. You will notice a different look to our main hallway. A glowing green, it is a true symbol of the vibrancy of a new school year. Voorheesville Elementary School is anything but bland, and now, our colors represent this commitment.

As we begin the new school year, we would like to take a moment to remind you of a few of the procedural items that will 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 then call for your child to meet you in the main hallway.

**Dropping Off-** When you are dropping off your child in the morning, please let them out before the bridge on the right side of the car (so that they may avoid crossing any portion of the parking lot). Our

staff will ensure they make it safely into the building. The quicker the process, the more we can avoid potential hazardous traffic back-up, which puts pedestrians and our students at risk.

**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. This makes for a better transition for your child, and also assists us in accounting for all those that frequent our building.

**Absences-** If your child will not be in school by 8:50 a.m. and you are aware of this in advance, please call 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 to your home or work.

**Lunch-** Our school lunch prices have been raised to \$2.25, with milk remaining \$0.40. Free and reduced meal applications, as well as detailed menu information can be found on our website (vcsdk12.org). Students will have approximately 22 minutes to play and 20 minutes to eat. Students are outside for recess most days, so please help your child plan and dress accordingly (always assume

they are going outside for recess!).

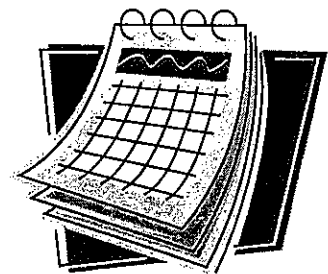
Once again, it is a true pleasure to work with you and your children! We look forward to seeing you over the next two weeks for our Open House programming (see attached schedule for specific grade-level information. We relish the opportunity to see you visiting your building.

In an effort to consistently improve our means of effective communication, please look for updated Elementary Principal's Corners on our website, as well as notifications through our School News Notifier (SNN) and Twitter services. Sign-up information can be found at vcsdk12.org.

Have a wonderful start to the school year. I look forward to seeing you soon!

*Mr. Reardon*  
Thomas B. Reardon  
Principal

Check out [VCSdk12.org](http://VCSdk12.org) to view our live district calendar.



## UPCOMING DATES OF INTEREST

- **9/12 - BOE Meeting 7:30 HS LGI**
- **9/14 - Parent's Night Grades K-1**
- **9/15 - Parent's Night Grades 2-3**
- **9/21 - Parent's Night Grades 4-5**
- **9/27 - High School Open House**

## 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:**

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



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 complaints 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.

**PARENTS:** Please be sure to use the sidewalks 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.**

## REMINDERS

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!

### PLEASE NOTE:

In order to save paper, this will be the only printed copy of the *Blackbird Bugler*. From now on, all copies will be sent via our School News Notifier Service, which is a free service that will send publications directly to your email. Also, do consider following us on Twitter, for concise, up-to-date information. For more information, please visit [vcsdk12.org](http://vcsdk12.org) for more information.

If you would still like to receive paper copy of this monthly newsletter, please contact the main office and we will ensure a copy is sent home with your child each month.



**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.

Hey, Girls!!!

Are you interested in finding out about Girl Scouts? All girls K-12 are invited to come join us at the library for an information session. We would love to meet you to talk about all the pathways available in Girl Scouts.

Troops, Individual members, Programs, Camps - - Girl Scouts is what you make of it!! Come check us out!

Adult volunteers are always needed as well. You don't have to have a daughter to want to help girls grow in Courage, Confidence and Character. We are looking for everything from troop leaders and teen mentors to one time program volunteers. Not comfortable working directly with the girls? We have behind the scenes needs in our organizational Service Unit level. We definitely have a place for YOU. Come and Join us on Monday, October 3, 2011 6:30pm - 8:00pm.

No registration necessary if you can come. If you can't make the date, contact our Recruitment Coordinator, Michele Reilly at 765-3411 for more information.

Location: Library Community Room Contact: Michele Reilly 765-3411 [michelereilly@yahoo.com](mailto:michelereilly@yahoo.com)

## What's happening in Blackbird Paradise?



Some of the sunflowers that were planted by second grade students last spring are now over 8 feet tall! Visit the garden to see all crops still growing in Blackbird Paradise.

More photos appear on the district website at [www.vcsd.neric.org](http://www.vcsd.neric.org)

# The Voorheesville Farm to School Initiative

A PTA sponsored Garden Project Program

## What is Farm to School (F2S)?

A program that helps students learn where their food comes from, how it is grown, and offers hands-on experiences with it, in turn making them more likely to accept new foods into their diet. F2S utilizes strategies that are designed to motivate and empower students to make healthy choices.

## Is the F2S Local Harvest Program Continuing This Year?

Chef Tim Mulligan and his team are pleased to prepare fresh, local produce again this school year. In addition, the F2S team will be available to provide in classroom taste tests, for teachers interested in participating, at the Elementary School. Please make note of the following dates:

### Taste Test Dates

Thursday, Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>  
Thursday, Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>  
Thursday, Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Thursday, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>  
Thursday, Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>  
Thursday, Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>  
Thursday, Mar. 15<sup>th</sup>  
Thursday, Apr. 19<sup>th</sup>  
Thursday, May 17<sup>th</sup>  
Thursday, June 7<sup>th</sup>

### Menu Dates

Friday, Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>  
Friday, Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>  
Friday, Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>  
Friday, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>  
Friday, Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>  
Friday, Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>  
Friday, Mar. 16<sup>th</sup>  
Friday, Apr. 20<sup>th</sup>  
Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup>  
Friday, June 8<sup>th</sup>



## Other F2S Activities to Watch For:

- F2S Logo Contest – an opportunity for grades 6 – 12 to get creative and win some prizes
- NY Farm to You Fest – a weeklong statewide celebration of local food and agriculture (October 3<sup>rd</sup>-October 7<sup>th</sup>)
- Kindergarten and First Grade Snack Program – a hands-on exploration of healthy snack choices
- USDA Chefs Move to Schools – Voorheesville F2S welcomes the partnership with Chef Brian Molino

## Interested in learning more?

Contact us at [VvilleF2S@nycap.rr.com](mailto:VvilleF2S@nycap.rr.com) and visit [http://vcsd.neric.org/garden/garden\\_home.htm](http://vcsd.neric.org/garden/garden_home.htm)

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**Want to receive important news & updates from Voorheesville Elementary?**

**We make it easy!**



★ New Text ★  
Messaging Feature!

Simply visit our district website, [www.vcsdk12.org](http://www.vcsdk12.org), and click on the SNN icon to create/update your SNN profile and/or the Facebook logo to go directly to the district's Facebook page. Visit the elementary webpage to access the Twitter icon.

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# 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 14<sup>th</sup> for Grade K and 1

6:30-7:05	AM Kindergarten parents visit in classrooms for classroom presentations
7:10-7:35	Kindergarten/Grade 1 general meeting for all families in Large Gym
7:40-8:20	First grade/ PM Kindergarten presentations in individual classrooms

**Special Subject Area Teachers will be in the Library Media Center**

## Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup> for Grade 2 and 3

6:30-6:55	General meeting for all Grade 2 parents in the large gym
7:00-7:40	Grade 2 presentations in individual classrooms
7:05-7:30	General meeting for all Grade 3 parents in the large gym
7:40-8:20	Grade 3 presentations in individual classrooms

**Special Subject Area Teachers will be in the Library Media Center**

## Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup> for Grade 4 and 5

6:30-6:55	General meeting for all Grade 4 parents in the large gym
7:00-7:40	Grade 4 presentations in individual classrooms
7:05-7:30	General meeting for all Grade 5 parents in the large gym
7:40-8:20	Grade 5 presentations continue in Large Gym, followed by individual classrooms

**Special Subject Area Teachers will be in the Library Media Center**

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

# 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.

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\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to lead a "Go Beyond" class on \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_