



201 NE Anderson Lane
Lee's Summit, MO 64064
(816) 478-9899

Falcon Flyer

Principal's Corner

Dear VSE Students and Parents,

We are wrapping up first quarter and have most all parent conferences scheduled. We appreciate your time and valuable input during parent/teacher conferences! Working together as a team is an effective way to ensure student success. At VSE, we consistently complete 100% of our conferences. I am proud of our collaborative efforts and see that it benefits our school community and students each day. Please remember that students have Thursday, October 27th, Friday, October 28th and Monday, October 31st off. Teachers have a Professional Development Day on Monday, October 31st, but students do not have classes that day. I have listed some additional calendar dates below:

October 27, 28 and 31	No School for Students
November 23, 24, and 25	No School for Students
December 22-January 3	No School for Students

I want to praise your efforts this year about remembering the rule about no birthday "food" treats. We don't allow cupcakes, cookies or candy to be brought to school for student birthday treats. Many of our students have severe food allergies or are on restricted diets, so the elimination of "food" treats helps to keep our students safe. We also have students with latex allergies so we don't allow latex balloons in the building. If you would like, your child may bring in birthday pencils or stickers to share with their classmates on their special day. Again, I want to thank you very much for following these important guidelines and keeping our students safe!

Mr. Harris and I have been visiting with each grade level about the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program this month. We show a presentation about the Olweus Bullying Prevention guidelines which includes a scenario with students who are acting out a bullying situation. We offer a parent training in October for all of our new VSE parents. We have reviewed the Bullying Prevention Rules that are listed below:

1. I will not bully others.
2. I will stand up for those who are being bullied
3. I will include everyone
4. I will tell an adult at home and school

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me by phone at 478-9899 or by email at rmurry@bssd.net.

Sincerely,

Renee Murry

Donuts with Dad
December 2
8:15-9:00am."



PTA President

Dear Falcon Families,

Fall is here and VSE has many activities happening! Please watch for information in your child's Falcon Folder for upcoming activities and volunteer opportunities.

Thank you to all our Grandparent's Day volunteers. We took over 700 pictures and had a great turn-out for our "mini-book fair". Entertainment book sales have ended and our Innisbrook/cookie dough pick-ups are scheduled for October 26th. Memberships have reached a total of 573 individual and 15 business. We only need 38 more individual memberships to reach the 100% participation goal for our school. If you have not joined, it is not too late. Please consider signing up an extended family member as well, and help your classroom win a popsicle party!! Check out our website for updates and forms you can print.

Our fall party was October 14th. We are looking forward to Red Ribbon Week (October 24th-26th), the Mavericks mascot will be our guest speaker. Watch for information regarding our Winter Sportswear Sale in your child's Falcon Folder. VSE's Carnival has been rescheduled Friday, March 9th.

Your continued support helps our PTA grow and shows we are putting the children first. Thank you. If you would like more information about PTA feel free to contact me at 478-6409 or email colmbck@comcast.net.

Your PTA President,

Colleen Bock

2011-12

VSE PTA Officers

President

Colleen Bock

1st VP (Fundraising)

Wendy Sargent

2nd VP (District Events)

Shelly Demesko

3rd VP (Carnival)

Alicia Manade

4th VP (Membership)

Nanette Padilla

Treasurer

Jane Backhus

Secretary

Rachelle Appleberry

PTA Mission Statement

The PTA Mission is three fold:

1. To support and speak on behalf of children and youth in the schools, in the community, and before government bodies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children.
2. To assist parents in developing the skills they need to raise and protect their children; and
3. To encourage parent and public involvement in the public schools of this nation.

November



DATES

10

PTA Executive Board 9:30

16

Teacher Appreciation
(4th Grade)

2

17

PTA Board Meeting 5:30

REMEMBER

18

PTA Unit Meeting 3rd Grade
Writing Gallery 7:00

23-25

PD Day No School

Thanksgiving Vacation

Computer Data

The computer lab has been a busy place this month. Second through Fifth graders have taken the SRI for first quarter. Third, Fourth and Fifth grades have learned how to do Power Point presentations along with Word 2007. We hope to do some projects with them this year.

Kindergarteners are exploring their letter at starfall.com. First grade has visited Study Island. This is a program that can be used at home as well. The address is www.studyisland.com. The password is their student number.

Enjoy your time October 27th, 28th, and 31st!

Dawn Elliott

Art Works

We have been working hard in Art this past October. 5th is working on Aboriginal Dot paintings, 4th Grade is intently working on finishing up Geometric Pattern Value Scales, 3rd is mastering the art of the Greeks by creating their own War Vases. In the Primary grades we are getting into the messy fun chalk and watercolors while creating scarecrows and pumpkins.

We are planning on making some fun 3-d art soon. If you have any magazines or toilet paper rolls to bring or (or any other fun "junk") we would appreciate the goodies!

Thanks

Mrs. Baldwin

Music Notes

Please note the remaining performances/presentations for this year.

- PTA November 17th – 3rd Grade Academic Presentation
- December 15th – *Choir on Fire* Performance
- PTA February 9th – 1st Grade Music Performance
- PTA March 15th – 4th Grade Famous Missourian Wax Museum
- PTA April 19th – Kindergarten Music Performance
- Concert May 3rd – *Choir on Fire/Art & Writing Fair*

Mrs. Gard

We Need Your E-Mail Address

In our continuing efforts to go green, we will be sending out volunteer communications for PTA sponsored events through e-mail rather than paper. We have compiled parents' e-mails through both the VSE directory and volunteer sign-up sheets that came home with your child on the first day of school.

If you have not provided your e-mail address through one of those documents, we do not have your e-mail address to add to our distribution list. If you are unsure if PTA has your e-mail, or would like to add your e-mail, please e-mail vsep-ta1@gmail.com and we will be happy to let you know.



Thank you in advance for supporting our green efforts!

Gym Shorts

All grade levels have been reviewing nutrition concepts, including food groups and nutrients. Parents and guardians: please be sure to ask your children what they know about food and healthy eating habits.

3rd -5th grades have finished fitness testing using the Fitnessgram Testing Protocols from Human Kinetics. Test results will be available during conferences. Stop by the PE office during conferences if you have questions.

Kindergarten -2nd grades have been working on a lot of things including throwing with opposition (stepping with the opposite foot) and skipping; these skills are difficult for some, so quiz your child to see what they can do. Kids have been tested on these skills. Results will be with teachers at conferences as well as in the PE office.

Jump Rope for Heart information will be coming home in November with students in grades 1-5. With parental permission, students will ask for donations to help fight heart disease and stroke. "Thank you gifts" are given for raising certain amounts of money. This is completely optional; I understand if parents have had enough of fund raisers, but this is a worthy cause. Very few of us have not lost a relative to heart disease or stroke. Stay active.

Mr. Audo

A Page From the Library

During the month of October, Kindergarten and 1st grade have been reviewing their letter of the week, authors, illustrators, and parts of a book.. 2nd and 3rd grade have been working on biography and autobiography, and the Dewey Decimal System. 3rd-5th grades have been working on biographies and autobiographies, how to use the Dewey Decimal System, and reading the 2011-2012 Nominees.

Just as a reminder, if your 4th or 5th grade student is planning to attend the field trip in March, all (16) nominees forms are due by January 18th. I will be placing our reservation for the field trip after school on the 18th.

Our Fall Book Fair was a great success and I enjoyed getting to see and know many of the grandparents.

Happy Reading!

Kristin Kitley

Note from the School Counselor

Guidance lessons this month focused on making healthy and safe choices. We discussed Red Ribbon Week and its importance; to renew our pledge to say "NO" to drugs and alcohol. The older students created a plan on how they would say "no" if anyone ever tried to persuade them to try drugs or alcohol. Some of the plans included taking a stand and walking away, using humor, reversing the pressure and suggesting something else to do besides drugs or alcohol. The younger students discussed healthy choices that we can make every day to stay healthy and strong; like eating fruits and vegetables, getting plenty of rest and exercising.

A big "THANK YOU" goes to Jenn Stotler and Stephanie Taylor for planning and preparing the Red Ribbon Week activities and special guests. Thanks ladies for all you hard work and time. ☺

Kerri Mears



October Author of the Month



Each month teachers will recognize students for creating an outstanding paper in some type of written form. The students recognized this month are listed below.

First Grade

Mrs. Diehl: Avery Albin
Mrs. Lasater: Cole Vest
Ms. Parker: Courtney Clark
Mrs. Spencer : Julia Gass
Mrs. Sutherland: Gabrielle Delplesh

Third Grade

Mrs. Ensminger: Ty Mauck
Mrs. Peeler: Jarrett Nordike
Mrs. Schneider: Lila Ellis
Mrs. Scranton: Emory Stotler

Fifth Grade

Mr. Callahan: Shona Devlin
Mrs. Corbin: Logan Abernathy
Ms. Sallee: Dane Workman
Mrs. Sommer: Erron Gray
Mrs. Talamantez: Amanda Smith

Kindergarten:

Kindergarten students will start in January.

Second Grade

Mrs. Collier: Abby Cooper
Mrs. Kennedy: Brandon Duong
Mrs. Peve: McKenna Riggles
Mrs. Piedimonte: Alex Kochman
Miss Tinsley: Lily Taylor

Fourth Grade

Mrs. Carrender: Jackie Wilson
Mrs. Casement:: Keone Slaughter
Ms. Miles: Jack Klassen
Mrs. Smith: Audrey Kelly



Happy Writing!

Kindergarten

Fall has been fantastic in kindergarten! We have had fun doing pumpkin activities, learning about bats, and forming words with our vowel letter Aa. We are learning how to make good sentences in our writing and have learned about good thinking while we're reading. Metacognition is a big word for us, but we are using it! We enjoyed our first party in the gym with our Fall Party! We had lots of fun. We are looking forward to our first fieldtrip to Kaleidoscope. Kindergarten teachers are looking forward to meeting with parents soon and sharing all the wonderful things your child has learned.

First Grade

First grade has been busy enjoying the greatness of fall this month! In writing, we have learned how to be metacognitive thinkers. Using metacognition means we "think about our thinking" to help us better understand stories we read. We also have been working hard in our Pathway groups to segment words and spot the vowel when we read and write.

In writing, we have learned good writers organize their ideas and stay on topic. We also learned how to use nouns, verbs, and adjectives to liven our writing pieces.

Math is becoming especially exciting in first-grade! The students have learned a variety of addition strategies and how to skip-count by 2s, 5s, and 10s. Throughout the school year, please practice skip-counting at home, both verbally and in written-form. Also, please use the addition flashcards sent home as homework throughout the school year to memorize the basic addition facts.

Lastly, Grandparent's Day was also a big hit in first-grade. We appreciate all of those who helped to make it such a GREAT success! The memories created on this day will surely last forever! We would also like to thank PTA and the first-grade parents for their hard work organizing and working the Fall Party. The first graders had a BLAST and couldn't stop talking about the fun activities.

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Second Grade

2nd grade students have been enjoying a fabulous fall! During Communication Arts, we have been working on a variety of skills, including vowel sounds, suffixes, antonyms and plurals. As we spend time in Reader’s Workshop, we are finding out more about making connections. We’ve learned about text-to-text, text-to-self and text-to-world connections. Encourage your child to share the connections he/she makes when reading together at home!

We’re continuing to focus on conventions in our writing. Conventions include correct capitalization, punctuation and spelling. We’ve worked on writing the following four types of sentences: statements, questions, commands and exclamations. As we write, we are working hard to include details to make our writing clear, and help the reader visualize what we’re writing about.

It’s exciting to learn so many new things in Math too! We have had lots of practice with number sentences that demonstrate the associative and commutative properties. We’ve also found out about repeating and growing patterns, as well as place value (ones, tens and hundreds).

2nd graders made interesting discoveries and observations as we learned about sound in Science. It’s been exciting to learn about vibration, pitch and volume.

During our Social Studies time, we are learning about Christopher Columbus.

Thank you for all of your help with our PTA fundraisers. We appreciate your involvement! We are also grateful to you for making the fall party a huge success. The boys and girls had a wonderful time! We look forward to seeing parents at the Parent/Teacher conferences.

Third Grade

October has brought a lot of learning and fun to 3rd grade! We have been busy this month learning about our schema and how making connections to the text we are reading, can help us understand the story better. We have really been working a lot on how to put our thoughts into writing—as this is an important third grade and beyond skill. We have also used our creative sides to really make our mental images come to life! Good readers use their five senses to make movies in their mind when they read...and we have had some fantastically detailed mental images in 3rd grade. Our third graders have had a LOT Of fun with this comprehension strategy. In math, we have learned all about place value, number sense, and addition with regrouping. We have been busy

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PTA Reflections

2011-2012 Theme: “Diversity Means”

Create an original work. Be recognized.

Deadline for entries: Wednesday, November 30, 2011

The Reflections Program is open to all grade levels .

You must have a rule packet to participate (Available in the school office & bulletin board)

Dance Choreography

Literature

Photography

Film Production

For de-
tact:

Visual Arts

tails, con-

Musical Composition

Susanna Wegner-susannawegner@yahoo.com • Jill Renzulli-jdrenzs@yahoo.com • Jill Vaughan-jillrvaughan@gmail.com

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mathematicians! Our science unit has brought us lots of information about our matter unit—solids, liquids, and gases. Our little scientists have had fun realizing what the world around them is made of. As 3rd Grade Authors, we have been studying how to start a good narrative story and what makes a good idea. We are preparing for our Third Grade Writing Gallery Night on November 17th at 7pm (more information to come). We have had so much fun this month with Grandparents/Special Friends Day—it is SO AMAZING to see the amount of support our critters get from their family members/special friends on this day. Wow! We also enjoyed getting to see the play “Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day” at the BSHS Theater for our Arts Partners sponsored field trip. And of course, how can we forget the Book Fair!? Thanks to all the parents who helped out with our Book Fair—it is such a fun event for students that gets them even more excited about reading!

Fourth Grade

Hard to believe that the first quarter is already over. Time flies when you are having fun in 4th grade. We had a blast with our grandparents and special friends earlier in the month. We sure had a “spook”tacular time at the fall party as well. Thank you PTA! The fourth graders have also done a great job donating items for Community Unity week and raising money for United Way. Everybody loves a spirit week! We are looking forward to the upcoming Red Ribbon Week activities. In the classrooms, our fourth graders have been very busy in every subject. In communication arts, we have become experts at making mental images and using our schema, so we will be moving onto inferring. The 4th graders have been working really hard on creating creative stories and coming up with great leads with our writing. We had fun inferring in science with a fun investigation that went along with the book Earthlets. The students learned what the difference is between inferences and observations. They have also been learning about animal adaptations. In social studies our fantastic fourth graders will learn more about our early government, colonies, and important American documents/symbols. In math the students did a great job with reviewing addition and subtraction. We are ready to tackle multiplication and division. Watch out here we come! Stay tuned for next month’s amazing news on our Fantastic Fourth Graders!

Fifth Grade

It’s hard to believe we’ve already come to the end of our first quarter in fifth grade. Already, we’re noticing a lot of academic growth in our students. Second quarter brings new opportunities for learning. In Reading Workshop, we will continue to study the comprehension strategies. Our current focus is on the skill of questioning. However, we will soon move on to inferring. Good readers oftentimes read between the lines or infer about the book. These inferences allow us to have a deeper understanding of the text. In Writing Workshop, we will continue with our study of the traits of writing. Currently, we are learning how to express our voice in our writing. Next, we will continue with the importance of fluent and varied sentences in our pieces. Math continues to keep us on our toes! Second quarter is no exception as we begin with long division. Many of the algorithms we learn in fifth grade are tricky if the basic facts have not been mastered. Extra review at home is always helpful for students. The students are also excited because we have officially begun rotating to a different class for Science. This brings an added responsibility for our fifth graders because they need to be on top of what their Science teacher expects of them. Of course, our team communicates with one another about student progress in Science, but we want the students to learn how to manage this transition independently as well. Finally, we have ended our government unit. Students learned some valuable study skills as they prepared for their Social Studies test. Second quarter in Social Studies is our geography unit. Students will learn all fifty states and their capitals in this unit! Most importantly, thank you to all of our parents for their continued support in their children’s education.

VSE thanks the following PTA Business Members for their support!

ELITE MEMBERS

County Line Auto Parts
Krystyn Roberts 697-3535
1828 NW US Hwy 50, Kingsville, MO 64061

STAR MEMBERS

Great Clips for Hair
Georgia James 524-8448
933 NE Woods Chapel Rd,
L.S., MO 64064

Candy City
Mike Patel 668-2235
Independence Center

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Pete Patel 350-0131
4555 S Noland Rd,
Indep., MO 64055

Galen Boyer Buick GMC
Dan Boyer 252-9800
3107 S. Noland Rd.
Indep., MO 64055
www.galenboyer.com

Blue Ridge Physical Therapy
Mike Woodward 795-6999
4900 S Arrowhead Dr, Ste B, Indep., MO 64055
www.BlueRidgePTKC.com

Edward Jones Investments
Jon Klassen 816-833-7049
3801 S. Noland Rd, Ste C,
Indep., MO 64055
www.edwardjones.com

1LK Communications
DJ Good 694-1280
5212 NE Holiday Dr, L.S., MO 64064
www.LKOnline.Com

VIP MEMBERS

Saint Joseph Breast Center
Mary Williams 943-3173
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CB's Lawn Service
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3323 S. Prescott Ave, B.S., MO 64015

Aquatic Solutions
Rob Kenley 679-2702
144 L St, Lake Lotawana, MO 64086

SNAP Fitness/Studio GX
Jack Cannon 524-8555
631 NE Woods Chapel Rd
www.snapfitness.com