



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

Falcon Flyer

Principal's Corner

Dear VSE Students and Parents,

We are off to an amazing start to the 2011-2012 school year. We had wonderful attendance at Open House event and Curriculum Night. Your support and involvement in your child's education make a huge difference in student success. Thanks for all that you do to stay connected to your classroom teacher and for being committed to reviewing papers, practicing skills and returning daily homework. Go Falcons!

The Blue Springs School District has been awarded the bid to host the boys' and girls' Missouri State Soccer Championship tournaments. Because of this turn of events, we have had a district calendar change in order to accommodate the number of visitors and soccer players who will be coming to our community. **Friday, November 18th will now be a Professional Development Day for staff and students will not have classes.** We will now have class on February 21, 2012 rather than using that day as a PD day. We will continue to post reminders about the calendar change. Thanks for your continued support and cooperation.

Parent/Teacher conferences are fast approaching and we always expect to have 100% participation from our families. We know that you will make it a priority to meet your classroom teacher. Please pay close attention to the conference schedule because those twenty minutes will go by quickly!

Calendar Events for October

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Grandparent's/Special Person's Day | October 7 th |
| Fall Party in the new gym | October 14 th |
| PTA Unit Meeting/2 nd grade performance | October 20 th |
| Fall picture retakes | October 21 st |
| Parent/Teacher Conferences | Week of Oct. 25-27 |
| No School | October 27, 28, 31 |

Please feel free to contact me with questions or concerns at rmurry@bssd.net or by phone at 478-9899.

Sincerely,

Renee Murry



Thank you

for making Bus Driver Appreciation Day wonderful, the buses were full of yellow. The drivers were given a delicious breakfast after dropping the children off at school and the cards the children had made. For the bus ride home in the afternoon, each driver was given cold bottled water and a healthy snack.

Thanks for everyone's help – VSE PTA

PTA President

Dear Falcon Families,

Welcome back!!! I hope everyone is having a great beginning to the new school year. Let me start by saying -Thank You. It is an honor for me to serve as your PTA President for a second year and to represent VSE. Your PTA will be working hard this year to continue the successes our families, teachers and children are used to experiencing.

Thank you for joining PTA, volunteering, and supporting our children. VSE has reached our 100% Teacher/ Staff membership participation goal and are very close to reaching our 100% individual membership goal. Five classrooms have individually reached their goal and will be having a party.....this is Amazing!!!! (***It is not too late to join***-we have 12 classrooms with 5 or fewer memberships outstanding to reach their 100% and celebrate with a popsicle party). Innisbrook fundraising is all wrapped up. This is PTA's main fundraiser which allows us to provide many activities for the kids during the year. Entertainment Books sales begin on September 28th and run through October 12th.

Grandparent's Day is almost here. Fall parties are just around the corner. PTA has many fun projects coming up this half of the year, we hope to see you there! Thank you again for caring about the children. We can only make these wonderful opportunities available to our children with your help! If you would like more information about PTA feel free to contact me at 478-6409.

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.

Notice

This past summer at the PTA National Convention, the delegates voted to increase individual and business membership dues. To reflect this change, we will need to make an Amendment to our current Bylaws. The PTA Board has voted to increase our dues from the current \$5.00 to \$6.00 for the 2012-2013 school year.

Article V: Membership and Dues, Section 7

Currently Reads: Each member of this local PTA shall pay annual dues of \$5.00 to said organization. The amount of such dues shall include the portion payable to the Missouri PTA and the portion payable to the National PTA.

Proposed Change: Each member of this local PTA shall pay annual dues of \$6.00 to said organization. The amount of such dues shall include the portion payable to the Missouri PTA and the portion payable to the National PTA.

This proposed change will be presented at the Unit meeting on October 20th for a vote of the general membership. Thank you for your support.

Computer Data

The school year is off to a great start in the computer lab.

We began the year with a review of the rules for the lab and the names of the parts for the computer. The students in grades 2-5 have taken their baseline SRI and will take it again prior to the end of the first quarter.

The students have been to netsmartz.org and discussed internet safety. Cyber bullying was discussed with grades 3, 4, and 5. The kindergarteners have learned how to scroll with the mouse and when the mouse arrow turns to a hand it's time to click.

Constitution Day was September 16th, so all grades did an activity related to our constitution!

Here's looking forward to another wonderful year!

Dawn Elliott

Art Works

The beginning of the 2011-2012 year has begun and we are working hard. All of the classes are creating their *Identity Portfolios* to keep all future artwork safe. We have begun studying elements of art: shape and colors. We will be creating drawings, paintings, and watercolor projects to show our new knowledge of shapes and colors. I look forward to creating some more colorful creations soon! Everyone loves tie-dye. Cultural Arts did an amazing job with tie-dying again this year! Thanks for your support!

If you would like to donate used magazine, toilet paper rolls, or other crafty "junk" is welcomed! J

Mrs. Baldwin

Music Notes

2011-2012 VSE PERFORMANCES/PRESENTATIONS

- PTA October 20th – 2nd Grade Music Performance
- 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

DATES

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REMEMBER



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|--------------------------------|--|
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| October 14th | Fall Party in the new gym |
| October 20th | PTA Unit Meeting/2 nd grade perform |
| October 21st | Fall picture retakes |
| Week of Oct. 25-27 | Parent/Teacher Conferences |
| October 27, 28, 31 | No School |

Gym Shorts

All grades have been reviewing class rules and procedures. 3rd-5th grades have begun Health Related Fitness Testing. Test results will be available with grade cards at Parent Teacher Conferences. Please review them with your child; especially areas that need improvement. Fitness testing for 3rd through 5th graders, will take place again during the spring.

Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grades have been working on spatial awareness (and safety) by moving in free space by way of loco-motor movements (walk, run, jump, skip, line balance etc.), and animal moves (bear walk, crab walk, alligator crawl, frog jump, etc.). These activities are great for cardio and muscle strength. K-1st has also begun to practice a variety of ball skills and rope jumping.

Grades 2-5 have been reviewing and playing playground games: Four Square, Tether Ball, and Kickball. These are great classics that can be fun for the whole family. Football skills and drills are currently being practiced as well.

Parents/Guardians, thanks for doing all that you do to keep kids moving. Physically active kids grow up to be physically active, healthy adults. Stay active.

Mr. Audo

A Page From the Library

Birthday Book Club will begin October 3rd! If your child has a summer birthday, we will celebrate their birthday on their "half birthday" (example: June- December, July- January, August- February, September- March). Please make sure to make the check out to Voy Spears Jr. Elementary (not PTA).

The Fourth and Fifth grade students are already working hard on reading the 2011-2012 nominees! In order to go on the field trip, students must read 16 books by January 18th, 2012! The nominees required are: **5 Mark Twain Nominees, 4 Newbury and/or Caldecott Award Winners, 4 KC3 Nominees, and 3 Show-Me Nominees.** If your child gets the books from home, book fair, or the public library, those books still count (just have them fill out the forms in the library). Remember that the students have to do the reading (parents, grandparents, and teachers cannot read it to them!).

Kindergarten and 1st grade are learning the difference between fiction and nonfiction.

2nd and 3rd grade are learning about different sections of the library.

Book Fair is coming October 5th. More details are coming home soon!

Happy Reading!

Kristin Kitley

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!

Kindergarten

M is for marvelous, N is for nice, and F is for fabulous. These three words start with the new letters we have learned so far in kindergarten and they fit our new group of friends perfectly. Kindergarten has been working extra hard at learning how to be students in an elementary school. There are so many new rules to learn and our kindergarten friends are getting them down nicely.

In Math we have been working on counting and printing our numbers. We also spent a couple of weeks reviewing shapes. In Reader's Workshop we are learning what it looks like to be a reader. Fiction and nonfiction literature has also been a main focus during our Reader's block. Kindergarten has been very busy in Writer's Workshop setting the tone. It is important and respectful to others to make sure to be extra quiet when writing. Social Studies got off to a wonderful start with an "All About Me" unit. It was so fun to learn new things about our new friends.

The beginning of the year in kindergarten is always so much fun. Making new friends and learning all kinds of new information is the wonderful life we live. If you pass by our hallways you are sure to hear the sweet sound of excited learners. We are off to an amazing start and are looking forward to the days ahead!

First Grade

First graders are off to a fabulous start this year! Learning new rules and expectations can be very hard work, but the students are getting the hang of how first grade operates pretty quickly!

In reading, students are reviewing sounds from Kindergarten and taking daily trips to "Vowel Town." We have discovered MANY new vowel sounds! Learning these sounds will make reading and spelling easier for your child; you will notice his/her reading and spelling skills improve throughout the year as he/she learns more sounds and their spellings.

An important role in our writing time is learning the proper way to write each letter and how to hold our pencil correctly. Also, students learned how to write constructed responses. A great way to work on this at home is when asking your child a question, requesting he/she answer your question by restating it. For example, when you ask, "What did you eat for lunch today?" your child responds with, "At lunch today I ate..."

During math, first graders are exploring numbers and their relationships to one another, as well as reviewing the days of the week and months of the year. While driving to your evening activities, ask your child to tell you the days of the week and months of the year in order.

In first grade, we rotate social studies and science units. In social studies, students have learned about America, including the responsibilities of citizens and the American symbols. We are ending end September with a study of the famous "Johnny Appleseed." In science, teachers introduced the scientific process and conducted experiments to demonstrate each step of the scientific process.

As you can see, the first graders are working hard! We invite you to come down our hallway to view their great work. The first grade teachers are looking forward to a wonderful year in first grade! Thank you for sharing your child with us.

Second Grade

We are having a "super September" in 2nd grade. All of us have enjoyed getting reacquainted with old friends and making new friends. We've learned guidelines for lunchtime, our classroom, the playground and the hallways. Reader's workshop has kept us busy. We've worked together to create anchor charts to guide us. Writing has been interesting and we have been learning about the trait "Ideas." We've learned that our writing needs to be focused on one main idea, and be supported with interesting details. In Math we are learning so much about problem solving. We're also practicing with addition facts and comparing numbers. It's been great to learn about maps and globes in Social Studies. During Science class we will be discovering what a scientist is. We'll practice using our five senses to make observations. Our PTA performance is on Oct. 20 and we look forward to seeing everyone there! Thank you for your involvement and support.

Third Grade

The year is off to a wonderful start in third grade! Teachers have worked hard to create positive classroom environments where brains are free to grow. In Reading, students have learned about the reader's workshop format and have worked hard being metacognitive during reading. They know that the **text + thinking = real reading**.

Third grade teachers have also been setting up a writer's workshop. Students are beginning to learn about choosing good ideas and will soon select the idea for their personal narrative. This big piece of writing will be showcased November 17th at the third grade Writing Gallery.

Third graders have started Math by learning about place value to the 10,000s place and rounding numbers to the 100s place. They have also been busy adding entries into their math journals!

Our Social Studies unit this quarter was Communities and Cultures. During this time, students learned about their classroom communities, procedures, and each other.

As you can see, third graders have jumped right into the school year! We would like to thank our fabulous third grade parents for their help in making the transition from summer to 3rd grade a success! We look forward to a great year!

Fourth Grade

Fourth grade has had an exceptional start! We are excited about the awesome learning that will take place this year! We want to thank PTA for sponsoring our trip to School of Economics. Fourth graders learned a lot about interviewing for a job, making a business card and planning for a park while staying within a budget! And, thank you to all of the volunteers who helped us tie dye our t-shirts! Always a lot of fun! In Reader's Workshop fourth graders have been working hard on using their schema to making meaningful connections to the text. They have worked especially hard to explain that type of thinking in writing. In math, 4th graders have worked on place value, comparing and ordering numbers, making change and rounding numbers. They have already been very busy! In social studies they learned about how our country is divided into regions. They created an amazing flip book with interesting information on each of those regions. In science we are learning about the Scientific Method. Fourth graders are doing some very interesting investigations to learn more about conducting a scientific inquiry. In Writer's Workshop students have written in great detail about their "Dream Classroom", reviewed the six traits of writing and are working on some special writing for Grandparent's Day! As fourth graders they are very excited about new opportunities like Choir on Fire and Principals Honor Roll! Stay tuned each month for more amazing news on Fantastic Fourth Graders!

Read-a-Thon Update

The 1st annual VSE Read-a-Thon was a huge success. Our students raised over \$5,000!! This money is being used by teachers to add to their classroom libraries. The teachers and students are so excited about all the new books that they are receiving right now. Thank you to all the families that participated and encouraged their children to become lifelong lovers of reading.

Look for information coming home in spring 2012 about our 2nd annual Read-a-Thon.



Fifth Grade

Fifth grade is excited to be back at school. We have an amazing group of students this year, and they are off to a great start this year. In Reading Workshop, we have been busy learning about the important thinking strategies all good readers use when they are reading a book. Currently, we are focusing on the importance of met-cognition and our schema during the reading process. In Writing Workshop, we are exploring the six traits of good writing. Our focus right now is the writing trait Organization. In Math, we have begun this year reviewing place value in whole numbers and also learning more about decimals. Students are also learning how to use estimation strategies to add, subtract, multiply, and divide. Fifth graders love Social Studies, and first quarter studies our government system. Finally, Science is a popular subject in fifth grade, and students are beginning their first unit of study with their classroom teacher. However, in Science, students will eventually switch classes to experience a different unit with each fifth-grade teacher. Because we are busy with all of this learning, fifth graders are learning the importance of staying organized, being responsible for their work, and showing integrity in the classroom. These are important qualities for success in learning and life. A special thank you goes to all of our awesome parents who support their children's education. You are a critical piece of their success in school, and we appreciate your dedication.



September 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.

Kindergarten students will start in January.



First Grade

Mrs. Diehl: Hannah Frank
Mrs. Lasater: Avari Meyers
Ms. Parker: Marco Dumsky
Mrs. Spencer: Carson Drydale
Mrs. Sutherland: Kelsea Kilmer

Second Grade

Mrs. Collier: Hank Beaird
Mrs. Kennedy: Kelly Coonce
Mrs. Peve: Joe Eaton
Mrs. Piedimonte: Kennedy Hecker
Miss Tinsley: Radwa Islam

Third Grade

Mrs. Ensminger: Jayme Opdahl
Mrs. Peeler: Taylor Campbell
Mrs. Schneider: Carson Elliott
Mrs. Scranton: Christina Brown

Fourth Grade

Mrs. Carrender: Whitney Woods
Mrs. Casement: Hannah Tawney
Ms. Miles: Mackenzie Powell
Mrs. Smith: Justin Johnson

Fifth Grade

Mr. Callahan: Solomon Davis
Mrs. Corbin: Isiac Lor
Ms. Sallee: Abby Hankins
Mrs. Sommer: Alaina Wegner
Mrs. Talamantez: Chandler Chavez-Wells

Submitted by: Mrs. Peve



Happy Writing!

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

Film Production

Literature

Visual Arts

Photography

Musical Composition

For details, contact:

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

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

Baskin-Robbins
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

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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
1000 Carondelet Dr, KCMO 64114
www.stjosephkc.com

CB's Lawn Service
Chad Burkhardt 518-1394
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