

Vansville Elementary School



Home of the Wildcats

Tom Smith
Principal

December 2009

Shawna Holden
Asst. Principal

From the Principal's Desk

We do hope you and your family enjoyed the Thanksgiving break and found the days full of family, friends and relaxation.

As we continue our path towards excellence, we continue to emphasize student responsibility with completion of work, especially homework. We need to make certain that students have the opportunity to practice the skills necessary to be successful in order to meet grade level requirements..

Morning Drop-off: We are very pleased to see the new drop-off procedures have DRASTICALLY decreased the length of the drop off line in the mornings. Prior to the implementation of the procedures, we would have cars backed up to the road well past 8:00...this is no longer the case. We appreciate everyone's understanding and cooperation. This procedure was discussed by parents at PTA and is very evident that it works. We ask that you respect our procedures and cooperate with staff directions. As a reminder: Students are not to be dropped off until the vehicle has past the crosswalk directly in front of the building. Vehicles are to pull to the end of the building or as far as possible prior to allowing children to disembark from the vehicles...remember they are not to disembark until after the crosswalk. Should you have questions/concerns regarding the procedure, please direct them to me via email and refrain from confrontations with the staff that are solely there to assist.

We had several students to be recognized today for perfect attendance and honor roll for the first quarter. They were treated to an incentive assembly that featured the Reptile Guy who brought, and hopefully took all away, many reptiles including a python, an alligator and a turtle. We look forward to having another incentive assembly for the second quarter.

We appreciate your continued support for our endeavors. Remember to stay in constant communication with your child's teacher and utilize the Parent Portal to view grades. On behalf of the staff, we wish you a joyous upcoming holiday season.

Tom Smith, Principal

SGA Representatives Have Been Selected

The first meeting will be 12/7 and 12/21 for the month of December.

The following students have been chosen:

Third Grade (5): Betsy Kuzhikat, Mikeisha Coker, Solomon Murphy, Esi Aggrey, Michael Johnson, Brittany Okeke, Miles Mallory, Edjanni

Mokonya, Malik McRae, Adaygo Ejekwu. **Fourth Grade (5):** Hannah Uche, Lindsay Bonney, Aryba Qureshi, Folajimi Olopade, Brenda LaTorre, Rodney Pennington

Angelique Mondesir, Jarren Wallace. **Fifth Grade (4):** Gerson Fuentes-Sanchez, Gabrielle Uillard Rashiq Choudhury, Clennie Murphy, Shanen Haigler, Chelsea Okeke. **Sixth Grade (4):** Michael Okeke Romar Taylor, Jeremiah Pittman, Umad Qureshi, Jessie Hodge, Henry Hernandez, Kaimon Morgan Orin Waaldijk. Congratulations!



Vansville BASELP (B&A)

The Vansville Before and Aftercare has a few spaces available. Any families interested should call us at 301-931-2860 to speak with Ms. Lynnette Logan.

HAVE YOU JOINED THE PTA?
MEETINGS ARE HELD MONTHLY AT
6:30 ON THE SECOND TUESDAY OF
EACH MONTH!!

Dates to Remember

Dec. 4-Reptile World Assembly for Honor Roll and Perfect Attendance

Dec. 8 – Grade 6 Annie Performance at 7pm

Dec. 10 – Grade 5 Annie Performance at 7pm

Dec. 15 – Winter Concert (Instrumental and Chorus) at 6:30pm

Dec. 17 – Science Fair Night at 6:30pm.

Dec. 8-17 – Vansville Book Fair – Fingerprinted

Volunteers are needed! If interested e-mail: Ms.

Pierce @ Alison.Pierce@pgcps.org

All performances will be in the multi-purpose room.

The Book Fair will be held in the Media Center.



Home of the Wildcats



News from inside the classroom...

Third Grade

In reading our third graders read Dancing Rainbows, a Pueblo Boy's Story. Students monitored and clarified while reading the selection in order to learn how dancing, rain, and rainbows were important to Curt and the Tewa Tribe.

Pre-Kindergarten

Pre-K will go on a fieldtrip to Port Discovery in Baltimore on December 11, 2009. Parents please replace the extra clothing that was sent in for your child at the beginning of school year and please make sure that the size is correct. As a reminder, please read to your child daily and ask them questions about the story.

Fifth grade Science students are now beginning a chapter on ecosystems. In our chapter on plants, we grew mustard seeds and found the xylem and phloem in celery stalks by using food coloring. All the students were impressed that we were able to find these tubes within a plant. Look for a biome project after Thanksgiving break. Mrs. Payton

Latino Corner

I am pleased to hear that the number of volunteers in our building is increasing! Thanks a lot for your great support to our school. Your involvement is really valued and appreciated.

As a Parent Liaison, my job is to provide parents all information about school policies and procedures, resources from the community, etc as well as to encourage their participation in all school activities. I'm the connection between teachers and parents. Don't hesitate to contact me to schedule Parent/Teacher Conferences. If you need an interpreter other than Spanish, please let me know.

Upcoming Events:

Health Fair-Dec.3rd-Martin Luther King Middle School-6:00-8:00PM- sponsored by MLK and Vansville Parent Liaisons- Don't miss it!
A lot of Vendors!

PTA meeting-Dec. 8th -6:30-7:30 PM

Winter Break-Dec. 24th-Jan. 1, 2010

Esquina Latina

Me llamó la atención la cantidad de voluntarios en nuestro edificio. Está aumentando! Muchas gracias por su gran apoyo a nuestra escuela, se aprecia y valora de verdad su involucramiento.

Como Padre Enlace, mi trabajo es proporcionar a los padres toda la información necesaria sobre los reglamentos y procedimientos de la escuela, proporcionar recursos disponibles dentro la comunidad, etc y también motivar su participación en todas las actividades de la escuela. No duden en contactarse conmigo para programar una Conferencia con Padres/Profesores. Si necesitarán otro intérprete de otro idioma aparte de Inglés y Español, por favor déjenme saber.

Próximos eventos:

Feria de Salud: 3 de Diciembre-Martin Luther King Middle School- 6:00-8:00PM- Auspiciado por los Padres Enlace de MLK y Vansville-No se lo pierdan!

Reunión del PTA-6:30-7:30PM

Descanso de Invierno-24 de Diciembre-1 de Enero 2010

Vansville is very excited to announce our **2nd Annual STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Fair**.

Last year our students were very successful and we can't wait to see what they are going to accomplish this year. All students in grades 3rd-6th must complete an individual project. For more information please visit www.vansvillestemfair.wikispaces.com. We are also looking for judges! If you are available the morning of February 24th and would like to help judge please, email or call Ms. Cobb.

Important Dates:

December 17th- Parent

Introduction Night

January TBD- Make and Take Night

February 23rd 8:00 AM- All

projects must be at school

February 23rd 2-5 Parent Preview Night

February 24th- STEM Fair

Calling All 3rd grade Cheerleaders

When: December 14, 2009

Where: Rm 109A (Ms. Coleman's room)

Time: 2:15- 4:00 pm sharp

Permission slips will be available on December 7 and MUST be returned by December 14.

Transportation must be provided by 4:00 pm.

** If student attends an aftercare program housed at Vansville please indicate that on the permission slip.

Vansville Book Fair

Vansville will be having the Book Fair in the Media Center. Students will be previewing materials on Dec. 7 and 8th. Students are allowed to purchase at set times during the school day. The book fair will be open at the following evening events at Vansville, PTA/ANNIE performances, the instrumental/chorus performance, and the science night. The book fair will be open for an hour before each performance.

Instrumental Music

The Winter Concert is Tuesday, December 15 at 6:30. Instrumental music students are to report to Mr. W's room at 5:45 in order to tune, warm-up and go to the correct area. Attire for musicians is a white top with black pants/skirt. Ties are acceptable for gentlemen and ladies may wear pants or a skirt of appropriate length. Please no jeans or sneakers for our musicians' formal performance. We're looking forward to performing for you!

Counselor's Corner

Thank you to the BETA Club for sponsoring the Holiday Food Drive. Twenty-Six Xerox boxes of food were picked-up by the Prince George's Food Bank, on November 19, 2009. Our students, staff and friends of Vansville really came through. This project will help feed some of the hungry people in our county. Well done, BETA Club for sponsoring such a worthy cause. As we begin the Second Quarter of the school year, we are asking parents to be vigilant in checking their child's backpack. Often teachers will send information home, and the student will return the next day with the same information. Communication between parent and staff at Vansville is vital to the success of all children.