

Vansville Elementary School



Home of the Wildcats

Tom Smith
Principal

February 2011

Shawna Holden
Asst. Principal

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

IT'S COMING!!!! In a few short weeks, it will be Vansville's time to shine once again on the Maryland School Assessment (MSA). Students in grades 3, 4 and 5 will be assessed in mathematics and reading. Students in grade five only will have an additional assessment in Science. The dates for the test are:

March 8 and 9, 2011 – Reading

March 15 and 16, 2011 – Math

The Science test is computerized and will be assessed from March 29– April 15, 2011. It is essential that all students be in attendance for the state tests for it is required by law.

Please make sure your students get a good night sleep and healthy breakfast in order to prove to the state that they are the BEST!!

To find out more about MSA, please visit mdk12.org. This site is provided by the Maryland State Department of Education. It includes how students will be assessed, what the assessment covers and how it is scored.

Vansville staff and students have been working very hard to learn the necessary skills, not only to be successful on MSA but also to be prepared to move further in their education. To celebrate their hard work, we will be having an MSA Spirit Week, February 28 – March 3.

The concluding act will be our Pep Rally on the 3rd. More details will be sent home in the upcoming weeks.

ALL PARENTS AND VOLUNTEERS please note that on test dates, parents/visitors will not be permitted past the front office until after the testing is concluded. Testing is usually over by 11:00. This is due to the fact that testing materials will be throughout the entire building and such measure must be taken for test security. Therefore, if you normally walk your student to class, you will have to say your goodbyes at the front door. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

YEAR BOOK

This year our school will have its very first yearbook!! The Year Book will celebrate our great students and staff. We are currently sponsoring a yearbook Cover Contest. Students can be part of making this happen. We want the students to design the cover. All students can submit a drawing for the contest. Show your "Paw Pride" by submitting your drawing.

Contest Rules and Guidelines:

1. The drawing must be on an 8 ½ inch by 11 inch white copier paper.
2. All writing that is added to the design must be spelled correctly.
3. Include your name, teacher's name, and grade on BACK.
4. Your theme or image should reflect Vansville and our beliefs. This should be a cover that all ages can enjoy and understand.
5. All drawings must be submitted to your teacher by 02/11/11.

Be creative and come up with something the entire school will enjoy. This contest is to be done at home by the student who submits the entry. The winner will be chosen by a panel of teachers and staff members.

We are still negotiating the price of the yearbook. We will let you know as soon as it is determined.

From the Guidance Counselor

"Career Day"

Our school "Career Day" is Friday, April 8, 2011. If you would like to be a part of this event, please contact me at Diane.Hopkins@pgcps.org. Your input is appreciated.



Dates to Remember

- Feb. 8: Class Picture Day
- February 8: ESL Family Night 5:30–6:30pm
- Feb. 8 – PTA @ 6:30pm
- March 8–9: MSA Reading Test
- March 15–16: MSA Math Test



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News from inside the classroom...

ESOL Family Night

The ESOL department is hosting a Family Night on February 8 from 5:30 – 6:30.

We will be demonstrating BrainPop ESL. Parents will learn why BrainPop ESL is a fun way for students to learn English through animated movies and activities.

When: Feb. 8, 2011, 5:30 – 6:30
(Before PTA)

Where: Vansville Computer Lab

Who: ESOL Parents and Students

Access the site at home:

www.brainpopesl.com

username: vansville1

password: brainpop



Fabulous First Grade

Our First Graders are busy learning how to tell time. Practice using analog and digital clocks telling time to the hour and half hour. Our next unit will be graphing.

In Reading we are finishing up our “Home” theme and will begin our “Animal Adventures” theme. Keep reading daily with your child to continue excelling in reading and practice retelling the story using details to tell what has happened in the story.

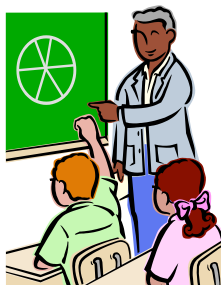
Also, practice basic addition and subtraction math facts daily for memorization.



Students should be using

www.tickettoread.com and

www.firstinmath.com at home to help build reading and math skills. These websites have been paid for by Vansville. If you have any questions, please direct them to your child’s classroom teacher.



VANSVILLE NIGHT @ CHEVY’S

Vansville will be having fundraiser at Chevy’s in Greenbelt from 5:00–9:00 pm on Monday, February 28. Hope to see you there!

Box Tops and Campbell’s Labels

Please send in Box Tops and Campbell’s soup labels. The class that collects the most will earn a special treat at the end of the month. You can find out what store items have the labels needed to help raise money for Vansville.

Box Tops: www.boxtops4education.com

Campbell’s Labels for Education:

www.labelsforeducation.com/

Afternoon with Lady Terps Basketball

Sunday, February 13 at 2:00.

All Students will be provided with a voucher for a free ticket to the game. Tickets for the parents are \$10.00 each. All information is included on the ticket voucher.

STEM Judges Needed!!!

If you are able to volunteer to be a judge for the school’s Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Fair on Thursday, February 17 from 8:30–1:00 please contact Ms. Cobb via email at kathryn.cobb@pgcps.org.

From the PE Department

The Vansville FIT Club starts on Mondays beginning February 7, 2011. For those students that were accepted, they must have sneakers and perhaps a water bottle to hydrate. Those students who did apply but were not accepted were put on a waiting list should openings occur in the future.