

Vansville Elementary School

Home of the Wildcats



Tom Smith
Principal

January 2012

Shawna Holden
Asst. Principal

From the Principal

The New Year has started off on a very positive note. I would like to share a blog that was posted by a substitute we had at the beginning of 2012. It was her first time working with us at Vansville. She took the time to publish her experience in the blog below and I thought it was worth sharing.

It's 2012! A Happening Worth Mentioning

Conversations concerning the status of today's classrooms and their day to day operation are not few. They don't often contain much brilliance or even hope. As a substitute teacher, I've had the good fortune of being able to teach, from time to time, rather than monitor and manage behavior. However, this past week's experience was huge!

I have to tell you that my chest rose and beamed with delight as I witnessed student after student fully engage their studies and revel in, of all things, LEARNING!!! I kid you not! They were alert, excited, interested, and even responsive! The day was simply magical!

This very special yet unassuming school sits right in the midst of Prince Georges County, Md. Parents, administrators, faculty, staff, and students, when you read this, don't take your brilliant beam for granted. Continue to strive for excellence. Excellence, in turn, will continue to exude from your halls and walls! It will be a most pleasant fragrance for the soul. In the end, you will be an attraction that draws others to you. Perhaps, dear school community, you've earned a place in history for "such a time as this." I want to personally thank you!

This is not only a tribute to our staff but more to our children and you as the parents. We appreciate all!



Nurse's Notes

Reminder to parents that received a Grant Form from the SMILE Dental Office: Please complete the form, making sure you sign and date, and return it to the school nurse as soon as possible. If you indicated you needed financial assistance, we must receive the grant form in order to provide dental services to your child.

Thank You, Nurse Cookie 201 221 2225

Vansville's Attendance

Parents are reminded that school starts at 7:45. Parents that are dropping off their children may begin doing so as early as 7:25. We have been experiencing a large number of tardies and repeat offenders. Students with excessive tardies may be referred to the office of Pupil personnel workers for follow-up. WE NEED YOUR HELP BY GETTING YOUR CHILDREN TO SCHOOL ON TIME!!!! Our attendance and tardies are monitored. It would be a shame that we excel academically but our excellent work is tarnished by excessive tardies. TO AVOID THE

Dates to Remember

- January 16: No School - Holiday
- January 20: End of 2nd Quarter
- January 23 - No School
- January 26 - STEM Kick-Off 6-7pm
- January 30 - Chevy's Tex Mex Fundraiser from 5-8pm
- February 3: 2nd Quarter Report Cards released
- February 13: ½ day for students
- February 20: No School - Holiday
- March 27 - STEM

Be on Time!



School
starts at
7:45!

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



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News from inside the classroom...

Vansville's 5th Grade Chorus

5th grade chorus members will be traveling to the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts Wednesday, January 18th to compete in the PG County WinterFest adjudication.

We wish them luck as they



Box Tops 4 Education

Congratulations to our winners for the month of November for the most Box Tops and Cambell's Labels for Education collected! Mrs. Jacobs' 2nd grade class and Mrs. Plue's Kindergarten class were the winners. Each student in these two classes earned 2 punches on their paw punch cards! Please continue to send in box tops and labels. Vansville just

received a



Vansville's Spirit Night at Chevy's

On January 30, Vansville will be holding a fundraising night at Chevy's Tex-Mex in Greenbelt. Fundraising is from 5-8pm. Bring in the flier that will be



STEM Fair!

The Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Fair is back! Everyone at Vansville ES will be participating in a project. Students in grades PreK-2nd grade will complete a project in their classroom, and all 3rd-5th graders will complete an individual project at home.

The STEM Fair will be on Friday, April 20. STEM Fair

Kick Off will be from 6-7 on January 26th. A STEM Fair Make & Take night will be on

March

MSA TIPS

In preparation for MSA in March, you can continue to review all the skills in Math and Reading during the first and second quarters. Review how to answer Reading and Math BCR questions. For additional resource, parents can go to www.mdk12.org. Click the Maryland School Assessment tab under Assessment for public



Kindergarten

Winter is here, and it has been snowing in the kindergarten hallway! Please come take a look at the kindergarten students' wonderfully creative "Snow Friends!" In January, we are looking forward to two special events -- a magic show by professional magician and Vansville dad, Eric Henning (father of Ian in Mrs. Mitchell's class) and a visit by Channel 4 News Meteorologist Doug Kammerer to help us learn about weather and his job as a



PE Department

Just a reminder to parents and students, that with the inclimate weather, students are still responsible for having sneakers on their

