

Vansville Elementary School

Home of the Wildcats



Tom Smith
Principal

November 2010

Shawna Holden
Asst. Principal

From the Principal's Desk

It is with great excitement that we share with you the progress our children in grades 3, 4 and 5 are making as measured by the Formative Assessment System Test (FAST). This test measures the progress of each child in the areas of math and reading and in science for grade 5. This is a county mandated test that provides the school with student strengths and weaknesses. Scores are categorized by Advanced (A), Proficient (P), or Basic (B). The numbers below represent the percent of children at that grade level that scored in that category for that subject. I am confident that you will share our excitement when you see the results below:

Grade	Reading			Math			Science		
	A	P	B	A	P	B	A	P	B
3	27	48	30	77	16	7			
4	36	44	21	61	28	11			
5	34	38	26	53	31	16	56	31	13

The test is designed to predict student performance on the Maryland State Assessment administered in the spring. The state adds the percent advanced to percent proficient. Based on these remarkable results and children effort, we are on our way to exceeding the state standards. Thanks to all our families for their support and contributions...HOORAY!!!

The end of the first marking period is upon us. When your child receives their report card, please review it carefully to discuss their strengths and challenges. Should you have questions, always know that our teachers are available to discuss strategies for student improvement. November 12 is parent conference day. Please contact your child's teacher to arrange a conference.

For students in grades Pre-K, Kindergarten and 1st, the report card can be confusing. Please use the following to assist you with translating the report card.

PR – Proficient (90–100%) – Student can readily demonstrate indicator independently with no adult support

IP – In Process (80–89%) – Student demonstrates indicator occasionally or with some adult support

EM – Emerging (70–79%)

ND – Needs Development (69–50%) – Student cannot demonstrate indicator

TL – To be Taught Later

Students in grades 2–6 will receive letter grades of A, B, C, D, or E based upon individual performance according to the teacher's calculation of the students' performance each quarter. Each grade represents the child's progress:

A – Excellent (90% – 100%)

B – Above Average (80% – 89%)

C – Average (70% – 79%)

D – Below Average (60% – 69%)

E – Failure (less than 60%)

The codes AGL (Above Grade level), OGL (On Grade Level) and BGL (Below Grade Level) represent the child's current reading level.

PGCPS grading policy identifies the weights of each grading category: Assessments 50% of the overall grade; Class work 35% of the overall grade; Homework 15% of the overall grade.

Our students have had a tremendous start to the new year and I am confident that they will continue to put forth their best effort.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- ☞ November 5: 1st Quarter PRIDE Party
- ☞ November 7: 2am Fall Back – Don't forget to change your clocks!
- ☞ November 12: Parent/Teacher Conferences – No School for students
- ☞ November 13: Walk for Health at Greenbelt Lake from 9:00 to 11:00
- ☞ November 15: First Quarter report cards released

DATES TO REMEMBER

- ☞ November 16: STEM fair parent project night @ 6:30pm
- ☞ November 17: Picture Retake Day
- ☞ November 23: Turkey Trot to be held during specials on that day. All students need tennis shoes.
- ☞ November 24–26 : No School – Thanksgiving holiday
- ☞ December 6: K, 1st, and 2nd grade – In-house field trip Amber Brown is not a Crayon
- ☞ December 14: 4th grade will be going to the Baltimore Aquarium.

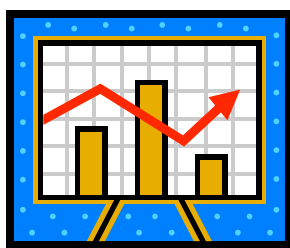
Professional School Counselor

The end of the first quarter was October 29. A few "Tips from 100 Ways You can Help our School (and your child) Succeed" from the Maryland State Department of Education.

1. Help your student with his/her homework.
2. Volunteer in the Media Center.
3. Help your child study for tests.
4. Schedule a Parent-Teacher Conference.
5. Talk with your child about school activities.
6. Read and respond to all correspondence sent from your child's school.
7. Praise your child's efforts.
8. Read with your child everyday.

FIRST GRADE

Our first grade students are learning about strategies to add and subtract. Practice Basic Facts with your child daily. Continue to read daily and practice retelling the story using details about the events.



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.

Important Dates:

Parent Project Night: November 16th at 6:30. Parents will be able to come and experience a project from beginning to end.

Make & Take: January 13th at 6:30. Teachers will be available to help with any last minute questions. Students will also have access to materials that will help them put together a beautiful board. Materials such as construction paper, glue, and computers will be available.

STEM Fair Set-Up: February 16. All finished projects must be in school by 8:00 am in order to participate in the fair.

Parent Preview: February 16, 5-7. If you would like to preview all of the projects please stop by the Vansville Community Center.

STEM Fair: February 17. If you are able to volunteer as a judge please contact Ms. Cobb at Kathryn.cobb@pgcps.org.

Questions? Your child's teacher will be able to provide specific information. Additional resources are also available at www.vansvillestemfair.wikispaces.com.

NURSE'S NOTES

Autumn fruits and vegetables are in season and this is a great time to encourage your child to eat healthy by including these foods in your meal plans. As you know, more fruits and vegetables and less junk food provides nutrition for healthy bodies and helps fight obesity.

REMINDER PARENTS: The PG County Health Department is scheduled to be at Vansville on Nov 22nd to administer FluMist. If your child happens to receive a flu shot somewhere else before Nov 22nd and you submitted a FluMist consent form to the school, **YOU MUST CALL THE SCHOOL NURSE TO REMOVE THE CONSENT FORM**, to prevent the child from receiving a second dose unnecessarily. Thank you, Ms. Maxfield, RN 301-931-2835



THIRD GRADE

For first quarter, third grade has been steadily working hard. We just finished FAST testing for this quarter and all of our students did their best. We are very proud of them. Also, the ecosystem projects for Science were out of this world! Many projects showed a great amount of work and creativity.

Celebrating Traditions is our new theme for Reading. Students are learning about different ways people celebrate in different cultures. Take the time to talk with your child about the different ways that people celebrate traditions in your family.