

Vansville Elementary School



Tom Smith
Principal

Home of the Wildcats

November 2011

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Asst. Principal

From the Principal's Desk

As we conclude the first quarter and approach Parent Teacher Conference Day on November 11, please review this article from College Bound to assist you with having a productive conference.

Parent-Teacher Conferences Make the Most of Your Meeting

You and your child's teachers are partners in easing your child's transition to adulthood. Your combined support will help keep your child on track to achieve educational and career goals.

Get Involved

Being involved in your child's school is important — it lets your child know that you are interested. Stay informed about your child's classes and activities, so you're better able to provide help and guidance when needed.

Meet with your child's teachers for a brief chat at the beginning of the school year. A good relationship makes it easier for you to work together if issues arise during the year. Your child's teacher can also help you understand what your child experiences every day and inform you about schoolwork and responsibilities.

Talk to Your Child Beforehand

Ask your child if there are questions or concerns you should discuss with the teacher, or any likes or dislikes about the class. Let your child know what you plan to talk about — when students are involved in decisions about their education, they are more likely to take responsibility for their work and performance.

Ask Questions

To make the most of your time, jot down any questions you may have before your meeting. Some questions you may want to ask:

- ☞ How has my child performed in your class so far this year?
- ☞ What skills and knowledge is my child developing in your class?
- ☞ How do you determine grades?
- ☞ How can you and the school make sure my child is appropriately challenged?
- ☞ How can I help my child succeed in your class this year?

Discuss Any Special Circumstances

Aside from any questions you have, it's also important to let your child's teacher know about specific concerns you have or any special circumstances that might affect your child's schoolwork. Update teachers or the school counselor if any major changes occur in your family; alert them if your family is going through difficult times.

Keep an Open Mind

You may find the teacher has constructive criticism about your child. Keep an open mind about the teacher's comments. Neither your child nor the teacher is perfect, so if a problem arises it's important to consider both sides of the story. The best solution is one that helps your child succeed in school.

Follow Up

Take notes during your meeting so you can recall important points that were made. Tell your child what you discussed and if you and the teacher made any decisions or came to any conclusions. Set up another meeting with the teacher, if necessary, to monitor your child's progress or to discuss any continuing issues or concerns.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- ☞ November 5: 2nd Annual Walk for Health
- ☞ November 6: Clocks "Fall Back"
- ☞ November 10: The Reptile Man and Report Cards Released
- ☞ November 11: Parent/Teacher Conferences
- No School for students

DATES TO REMEMBER

- ☞ November 21: Picture Retake Day
- ☞ November 21: Turkey Trot
- ☞ November 23-25 : No School - Thanksgiving holiday
- ☞ December 6: Holiday Concert at 6:30pm

Student Government Association is collecting!

The student Government Association has begun to coordinate the collection of Box Tops and Campbell's labels. Each class will have collection boxes or bags in their classroom. The class collecting the most for the month of November will earn a no homework pass. Please be sure that box tops and labels are trimmed and that expiration dates are current.

Walk for Health

The Walk for Health is this Saturday, Nov. 5 from 9:00-11:00 at Buddy Attick Park (Greenbelt Lake) in Greenbelt. Come out and enjoy a day of fun and exercise with your family!



Hall of Heroes

In celebration of Veteran's Day we will honor those that serve by putting pictures in our "Hall of Heroes." Students are asked to bring a photograph of family members that either serve or have served in the military, police department or fire department. If possible the family member should be in uniform. Students should put their name and teachers name on the back of the photograph so it can be returned to them at the end of the month. The photographs can be given to Mrs. Donn or Ms. Hopkins beginning Monday, November 7th.



Vansville Paw PRIDE News

We have had a great start to the 2011-2012 school year. This year we implemented the use of punch cards to show our PRIDE. Each student is given a punch card and can earn punches based on their PRIDE at school. Students can then redeem their punch cards for prizes or enter a drawing. We had our first drawing on Friday October 28th, 2 winners were drawn, Ryen Hicks from Ms. Heilman's class and another student from 1st grade. Two students were also selected from each class that participated in the drawing and received a gift certificate for a free children's entry to Medieval Times at Arundel Mills. We are very excited to announce that on November 10th, The Reptile Man will be coming to our school for those students how have shown their PRIDE everyday. Student allowed to attend have not gotten any PS74's or have less than 2 MIR's (Minor Incident Report). Please discuss with your student what our PRIDE means to them and how they show it everyday. If you have any questions about how you can support our Paw PRIDE at Vansville, please contact Mrs. Plue at tina.plue@pgcps.org.

Vansville Fit Club

The Vansville Fit Club will be commencing the week of November 5th for students in grades 4-5 and will meet on Mondays from 2:15-3:15. Students in grades 2-3 will meet on Thursdays from 2:15-3:15 starting the week of November 14th. Each group will meet 20 times throughout the year. Forms will be given out soon and each group will be capped off at 25 students. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Monjes at jason.monjes@pgcps.org. Thank you!

Music Department

The Holiday Concert will be coming up on December 6th at 6:30pm in the Multipurpose Room. Instrumental music and 4th/5th Grade Chorus will be performing for the concert.

Terrific Third Grade

Third grade teachers would like to thank our students for a job well done during the first quarter. Students worked very hard on the Mathematics FAST with the majority of students scoring proficient or advanced. More work is necessary on Reading comprehension as evident on the Reading FAST. As the second quarter begins, please set goals with your child to make improvements in areas of weakness and strengthen areas of proficiency. We look forward to meeting many of you on November 11th for the upcoming conference day. Also, please note that the third grade students have started a new Reading theme, Celebrating Traditions. Students will celebrate their family traditions by selecting from one of the following projects: creating a quilt from fabric or paper, interviewing a family member, showcasing a traditional game or song, or bringing in a family artifact. Projects are due on November 21st.