

Vansville Elementary School



Home of the Wildcats

Tom Smith
Principal

October 2010

Shawna Holden
Asst. Principal

From the Principal's Desk

We continue to have a great opening this year. Parents, students and staff have been very supportive of our initiatives thus far. We had a tremendous showing at our Back-to School Nights and an impressive showing at our first PTA. For those that came, thanks so much! For those that did not, we hope to see you at the next PTA meeting. Remember our meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month beginning at 6:30 pm Vansville Time.

I also want to thank the many, many volunteers that have helped out in the cafeteria and in the classrooms. We are definitely setting the bar high for all the other volunteer programs in the county.

Teachers just finished publishing the first quarter progress reports. Students should be bringing them home the first week of October.

Lately in the news, there has been a great emphasis on what is wrong with our nation's public schools. Regardless of the media hype, our students, teachers and parents are doing a great job!!! That needs to be recognized and celebrated. Let us prove the "nay-sayers" wrong by being proactive and supportive of each other. Is there room for growth? Absolutely! However, we will celebrate our accomplishments and the great work our Vansville Family is doing and improve on those things that need strengthening. Always remember we all have the same goal of student achievement and with the continued support, our students' will once again show that they are the best!!



Paw PRIDE

We are very excited that the Paw Place store is open this week. We are pleased to see the positive response we have received from parents, students and teachers for our Paw PRIDE at Vansville. Keep up the Paw PRIDE. Don't forget to practice your Paw PRIDE Pledge.

Dates to Remember

- *Oct. 5 – Progress reports released
- *Oct. 14 – Half day – 10:55am dismissal
- *Oct 15 – No school
- *Oct. 29 – End of 1st Quarter
- *Nov. 13 – 9:00– 11:00am 1st Annual Walk for Health



Testing Dates:

- OLSAT for 1st grade Oct. 12 and 13
- FAST Science Oct. 18 5th grade only
- FAST Reading Oct. 19 & 20 3rd – 5th
- FAST Math Oct. 22 & 25 3rd – 5th

Paper Recycling

Our school is recycling paper! Our new recycling partner, Paper Retriever, recycles our paper into newsprint for local newspapers (the Baltimore Sun, the Washington Post, etc). This means Paper Retriever only wants certain types of paper. We do get paid for the paper, so the more we recycle the more we make. In order to continue this program, we need to recycle at least 2 tons of paper a month. We will be doing "paper drives" to encourage students, parents, staff, and the community to bring in paper from home (daily newspapers can really add up).

Here is what goes in the bins: newspaper, magazines, catalogs, direct mail, office paper, student notebooks, shredded paper in clear plastic bags. Paper with staples and notebooks with a metal spiral are fine.

The recycle bin is green and yellow located behind the community center.

Guidance Counselor

Welcome to another school year. I am Ms. Hopkins, the Professional School Counselor at Vansville Elementary School for the 2010–2011 school year. I may be reached at 301–931–2830, ext. 3008, and email address: Diane.Hopkins@pgcps.org. I am available Monday – Friday, 8:00a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Students may request to see me about: doing better in school, getting along with others, coping with changes, feeling good about themselves, making decisions. I look forward to working with students and parents this year.

**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...

Once again, we are collecting Tennis balls for classroom chairs!

Third Grade

Our third grade students have gotten off to a great start this year!

We are currently reading selections from the theme, "Off to Adventure." Continue practicing Reading strategies that are listed on the back of your Reading Logs. In Science, we are currently in Chapter 2, "How Animals Live." Students will learn that adaptations help animals survive. Also, in Math we have launched our geometry unit. Please review key concepts with your child daily.

KINDERGARTEN

As part of our science curriculum, the kindergarten classes have been learning about living /nonliving and how plants and animals grow and change. We are looking forward to our first field trip on October 21st to Green Meadows Farm, however we will not be able to go without at least 4 parent chaperones from each class. Please help us make this trip possible! All chaperones must have completed the PGCPS background check or fingerprinting process. If you are able to go on this trip with us, please let your child's teacher know as soon as possible!

Pre-K and Head Start

We are very excited about working with you this school year. To assist your student in a smooth transition to school:

* Please be aware that the extra clothes sent into school should abide by the dress code.

* Please check your students backpack every night for important information and wonderful work they have completed in school. Please remove those items that do not have to be returned to school. We are very excited about our field trip on October 12th to Green Meadows Petting Farm. We will be finding similarities between what animals can do and what we can do. We are also excited that we will be picking and bringing home pumpkins from the pumpkin patch.

The next theme we are exploring is My Family, My Community. We will be talking about our family members and people who help us in our communities. We will also be counting objects (0-10) and identifying numerals (0-10). Please keep reading to your student and practicing to write their name.



NURSE'S NOTES

Do you want to know two ways you can help your child do his or her best at school? Make sure he or she is getting nine hours of sleep on school nights, and provide a well-balanced breakfast. Studies have shown kids are better equipped to handle the challenges of schoolwork and have better social behavior when they are well rested and have a nutritious breakfast to start their day.

Important reminder to Pre-K and Kindergarten Parents: Your child's HEALTH INVENTORY is due. This form was in your registration packet and must be completed by a physician. For those parents that have not returned the form, please do so by October 29, 2010. Please call the school nurse for questions or to request forms. Thank you, N. Maxfield, RN, 301-931-2835

First Grade

In Science, first graders are learning about habitats, where plants and animals live. In the beginning of October, we will start a new reading theme called: Surprise! In Math, students are learning strategies for addition and subtraction. Remember to read daily for 20 minutes.



Reading Announcements:

Vansville Readers and Writers are on the move!! On **October 7th** our Pre-k & Head Start classes will participate in **Read for the Record**. Our little ones will be treated to a read-aloud by guest presenters and they will receive a treat for being attentive listeners.

The teachers and students at Vansville will also participate in **National Day of Writing 2010!** Our entire school will engage in writing activities on **October 20th** and by the end of the day we hope to have a book of poems, short stories, journal entries, graphic novel pages, and much more to show that we believe in the power of writing!

Our 3rd annual **Story Book Parade** is tentatively scheduled for **October 28th**. Students will get to make their favorite story book character come alive as they dress up in friendly book related costumes and parade around the school for their teachers and peers to admire their "reading character." We want full participation so please encourage your students (regardless of age) to read a good book and come to school in "reading character." This promises to be a special day for the students. Happy reading!!