

Vansville Elementary School

Home of the Wildcats



Tom Smith
Principal

September 2009

Shawna Holden
Asst. Principal

From the Principal's Desk

As we continue to celebrate our 2009 MSA test scores we are anxiously looking forward to our students proving once again what they can do and they can do it right!! Eighty-eight percent of our students in grades 3-6 scored proficient or advanced in reading. This exceeded the state standards by eleven percentage points. In mathematics, 86% of the students scored proficient or advanced; exceeding the state standard by 13 percentage points. For attendance, our average daily attendance was 97%. The state standard was 94%. Therefore you can see that our students, staff and parents' hard work paid off. Vansville is indeed a school to be recognized! For a further breakdown of our scores, please visit www.mdreportcard.org.

To continue this pattern of excellence, please make sure your child comes to school to learn by getting to school on time, getting a good night's rest, doing their homework and bringing their A game to school.

We always welcome our parents to volunteer in our school. Please make sure you have the PGCPS background check. Information pertaining to this may be found on our school's webpage and in our Family Handbook.

You are encouraged to stay in constant communication with your child's teacher. Working together, we will continue to make a difference.
- T. Smith



Nurse's Notes

It's that time of year when fall allergies flare up and often trigger asthma in our children. Please provide the school nurse with your child's asthma medications and doctor's orders ASAP. Remember, if a student has an asthma attack at school and we do not have medication for treatment, we call 911 and send the child to the emergency room. Let's work together to keep our kids safe at school. Thank You, Naomi Maxfield. RN

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

Gorgeous Prince George's Day!

This fall Vansville Elementary will be participating in Gorgeous Prince George's day. We will be organizing a group of volunteers to help plant trees, shrubs, and flowers. Here are the details, so mark your calendars!

Gorgeous Prince George's Day
Saturday, October 17, 2009
8:30 - 11:30 - Planting at Vansville
12:00 - 3:30 - Celebration (food/music) at Bladensburg Waterfront Park

Contact the school's office to sign up. We hope many of you can make it to this event to help beautiful our school!

Dates to Remember

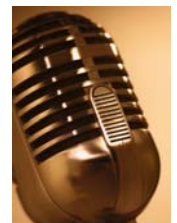
- ☞ Sept. 21: 3rd Grade – Mrs. Danzy's class – Owens Science Center
- ☞ Sept. 22: 2nd Grade – Ms. Coleman's class – Owens Science Center
- ☞ Sept. 23: 2nd Grade – Mrs. Rosenberger's class – Owens Science Center



From the Guidance Counselor

"Welcome to a new school year." I am Ms. Hopkins, the Professional School Counselor assigned to Vansville Elementary School. My office is located in the Main Office. As the Professional School Counselor, I help students to: (1) do better in school, (2) get along with others (3) cope with changes (move, death, divorce, etc.) (4) feel good about themselves (5) makes decisions and (6) understand feelings. I also talk with students individually and in small groups, work with teachers and other specialists, meet with parents and visit classrooms. I may be reached Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 3:00

p.m., at 301-931-2830, ext. 3008,
email: Diane.Hopkins@pgcps.org.



Instrumental Music

Lessons for all beginner musicians started. Beginners are working on learning how to assemble their instruments, hold them properly, create a characteristic sound, and care for them. Second-year musicians have been working on reviewing the basics. All students must be fully supplied by their next lesson so everyone can continue to progress. Also, instruments must be brought home the same day as the lesson. This is a year-long class with mandatory after-school concerts in December and the Spring. For more information on the program, supplies and books needed can be

found at: <http://members.thinkport.org/JMurray>.



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News from inside the classroom...

First Grade

In science, we have been learning about living and nonliving things. We hatched Brine Shrimp in salt water. In math, we will begin to learn about addition and subtraction sentences.

Please read 20 minutes every night with your child. When finished reading, discuss what the story is about trying to remember as many details as the student can without looking back in the story.

Library Media Center

Have you been CARDED? September is the National Public Card Sign Up Month and the first class to have 100% of its students owning a public library card will receive a prize. If your child already has a public library card please send it with them or a copy of that card so that the Media Specialist may vary the information. The contest begins on September 21st and goes until September 30th, 2009.



Third Grade

The third grade students will be going to Owens Science Center this month to learn about plants and different biomes. The third graders are observing, and collecting data to determine how fast different seeds (pinto beans, radish, sunflower, and corn seeds) can germinate.

Fifth Grade

Science: Our fifth graders have been busy classifying vertebrates and invertebrates in science class.

Math: In 5th Grade Math, we are learning concepts in algebra. Substituting the variable and solving equations is just the beginning!

Sixth Grade

All 6th graders should read at least 30 minutes nightly and practice math facts for at least 15 minutes. It is imperative to their success that students are reading and are fluent in basic math facts. Students should have textbooks covered at all times.

Classroom Websites

How many times have you wondered what was needed for the classroom? Stay up-to-date with your child's teacher's website



GRADE/CLASS	TEACHER	WEBSITE
1	BEVERIDGE	http://teacherweb.com/MD/Vansville/MrsBeveridge/
1	JACOBS	http://www.teacherweb.com/MD/Vansville/AprilJacobs
2	COBB	www.mscoobb.wikispaces.com
2	COLEMAN	http://mscoleman.educatorpages.com
2	ROSENBERGER	www.mrsrosenberger.wikispaces.com
3	CURTIS	http://MrsPamCurtis.educatorpages.com
3	MCRAE	http://www.scholastic.com/classhomepage
3	SOTO	http://web.me.com/carlosdsoto
4	BLALOCK	http://www.teacherweb.com/md/Vansville/MrsBlalock/
4	HEILMAN/FOCHLER	http://www.scholastic.com/classhomepage
5	MAYHEW	http://www.mayhew.educatorpages.com/
5	PAYTON	http://payton.educatorpages.com
6	MCFADDEN	http://soniamcfadden.educatorpages.com
6	NOWLIN	http://www.nowlin.educatorpages.com/
INST MUSIC	MURRAY	http://members.thinkport.org/Jmurray
PE	DONN/MONJES	http://www.vansvillepe.wikispaces.com/
PK	LESTER-WELLS	http://wlesterwells.educatorpages.com/
VOCAL MUSIC	DELANEY/WEHINGER	http://vansvillemusic.educatorpages.com/