Voy Spears Jr. Elementary PTA January 2012

Falcon Flyer

201 NE Anderson Lane
Lee's Summit, MO 64064
(816) 478-9899

Principal's Corner

Dear VSE Students and Parents,

What an amazing winter we've had so far! The warm weather has been a blessing for outdoor recess and safe travel to and from school. When and if inclement weather does arrive, please remember that school cancellations would be announced on all major television and radio stations. In addition to television and radio announcements, the district uses an automated communication system that notifies students' residences regarding late starts, early dismissals, and school cancellations in the event of inclement weather. Please note the following tips and guidelines in order to effectively utilize this system:

Say "hello" and wait three seconds after speaking to allow the automation to activate. A large amount of background noise is often interpreted as speaking and the call will not activate. When district-wide calls are placed, the number that will appear in caller-ID is (816) 224-1307. Exercise patience as the system is designed to call parents and guardians of 15, 653 students in a matter of minutes when specific circumstances call for District-wide communication. If you do not receive a call, contact the office so our secretary, Mrs. Alsup, can correct the contact information in your student's file.

Please check out the VSE video on the Blue Springs School District's webpage. Visit www.bssd.net, go to the schools tab, elementary schools, and then Voy Spears Jr. Elementary. You will then find an arrow prompt that will activate the new VSE video. We are proud of the new video! There is also a District video on the main page of the website.

MAP testing is fast approaching! Our third, fourth and fifth grade students will taking the state test in April. A detailed testing schedule will be sent home soon. Please avoid school absences during the testing window. We need all students present to show what they know! Second grade students will be taking the Terra Nova test during the testing window. Parents can help support their students by ensuring students have plenty of sleep, eat a healthy breakfast, and encouraging their child to do their personal best.

Remember, students will have President's Day off on Monday, February 20th but school will be in session on Tuesday, February 21st. This is a change from our original school calendar. We hosted the State Soccer Championships in November and a calendar change was required. Thanks for updating your calendar!

As always, I appreciate your continued support and partnership in your child's education. The collaboration between home and school makes a tremendous difference in the success of our students. If you have questions or concerns, please contact me by phone at 478-9899 or by email at rmurry@bssd.net.

Respectfully,

Renee Murry

2011-12

VSE PTA Officers

President
Colleen Bock

1st VP (Fundraising)
Wendy Sargent

2nd VP (District Events)
Shelly Demesko

3rd VP (Carnival)
Alicia Manade

4th VP (Membership)
Nanette Padilla

Treasurer
Jane Backhus

Secretary
Rachelle Appleberry

PTA Mission Statement

The PTA Mission is three fold:

1. To support and speak on behalf of children and youth in the schools, in the community, and before government bodies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children.

2. To assist parents in developing the skills they need to raise and protect their children; and

3. To encourage parent and public involvement in the public schools of this nation.

DATES 2 REMEMBER

February

1	Counselor's Day
9	PTA Board Meeting 5:30/Founder's Day
	PTA Unit Meeting 1st Gd Performs 7:00
10	Valentine Party
15	Teacher Appreciation (2nd Grade)
20	No School
23	Bingo for Books 6:30 – 7:30

PTA President

Dear Falcon Families,

Happy New Year! I hope everyone enjoyed our holiday break. Please watch for information in your child's Falcon Folder for upcoming activities and volunteer opportunities in the New Year.

Congratulations to all of our Reflections participants. Thank you to Susanna, Jill R. and Jill V. for putting together our Reflections display and breakfast. Don't forget… January 27th is our PAFLE Movie Night. "Salute the School Week" is January 23rd-27th. In February, we will be celebrating Counselor's Day and PTA Founder's Day. Also, come play "Bingo" for Books on February 23rd. Please check out our website for updates and forms you can print.

PTA is very excited about this second half of the school year. We are working hard to reach our membership goals and to contribute to Voy Spears continued technology growth. Your continued support helps our PTA grow and shows we are putting the children first. Thank you. If you would like more information about PTA feel free to contact me at 478-6409 or email colmbck@comcast.net.

Your PTA President,

Colleen Bock

Family Movie Night

January 27th will be Family Movie Night.

So bring a blanket and a pillow, and come snuggle up to watch a movie with your family and friends.

Kids can get in the spirit by wearing their PJs to school.

Admission - $1.00 in advance or $2.00 at the door.

Watch for more information in your Wednesday folders

Computer Data

January has found the upper grade levels working on keyboarding. The middle row of the keyboard is finished and we are starting to move to the top and bottom rows of letters. Kindergarten learned how to open the internet and type in the website "address." They are very excited about this and are doing a great job with it. Happy New Year and welcome back.

Dawn Elliott

Art Works

The new semester is in full swing with Art**!** We are all working hard to finish up or fun art projects! We are moving into clay projects and the kids love to get their hands dirty as well as other 3-deminsioal projects. If you are willing to donate any old rolling pins, paper towel rolls, or any junk that would make a fun design in clay, I would greatly appreciate it!!! Thank you to all of you who donated cool whip containers and there is always room for more.

Thanks for all you do!

Mrs. Baldwin

A Page From the Library

The 3rd-5th grade classes have been studying research skills, reviewing bibliography information, and studying MLK and the Presidents.

The K-2nd students have been learning about Martin Luther King and the Presidents as we celebrate both holidays. 1st grade is also beginning to check out chapter books (that are just right for them). Nominee readers in 4th and 5th grade will be getting permission slips for the field trip after Jan. 20th. Be watching for that in the next week.

With winter here, a great idea for a "family night" would be to pick a kid's book/movie. Read the book with your kids then watch the movie as a family. Decide which is better the book or the movie? It's a great way to get rid of the "winter blues". J

Happy Reading!

Kristin Kitley

Music Notes

Please note the remaining performances/presentations for this year.

2011-2012 VSE PERFORMANCES/PRESENTATIONS

February 9th – 1st Grade Music Performance
(10:00am student performance / 7:00pm PTA performance)
March 15th – 4th Grade Famous Missourian Wax Museum
April 19th – Kindergarten Music Performance
May 3rd – *Choir on Fire*/Art & Writing Fair

Mrs. Gard

Turn in
Box Top for Education labels

Turn in Box Top for Education labels to your teacher
for our February redemption.

Collection sheets can be found on the VSE website under Quick Links.

Gym Shorts

Thanks again for your support of student volunteers from grades 1-5; in their efforts to collect money for the American Heart Association/Jump Rope for Heart. Students raised $1779.25 in donations to help fight heart disease and stroke. Thank you gifts/prizes have been delivered to students that participated.

Ms. Beth Brennan from the University of Central Missouri has been visiting classes and will begin her formal student teaching in mid February. She is excited to begin teaching and seems to have a true teacher's spirit.

All grade levels have been working on a variety of skills including coordination (cup stacking and juggling) and group games. Muscle anatomy and physiology have been discussed. Test your kids on their muscle names and locations- they should know several. Third, Fourth and Fifth grades will be formally tested on muscle names/locations, fitness knowledge and healthy habits. Look for those tests, as the will be sent home during the first full week in February.

Mr. Audo

Note from the School Counselor

The students have been busy discussing many important topics throughout the month of January. Kindergarten students read the story *Personal Space Camp* and discussed many different ways to respect others personal space. The students illustrated what it looks like to respect someone's personal space and when they need their personal space as well. First grade students read the story *Rosie's Roses* and discussed the many different ways that Rosie gave to others. The students then created ideas of the many different ways they can give to others throughout the day to help someone cheer up, to make them feel better, or just spread kindness. The second grade students discussed a very important topic, themselves!!! They took notice of how different we all are and that each little characteristic makes us special and unique. They read the story *What I Like About Me* and also created ME Glyphs to display to remind others that we are proud of what makes us who we are!! Third grade students read *Don't Feed The Monster On Tuesday* and discussed the definition of self-esteem and why we don't want others to take it away from us. The students also generated positive thoughts and ideas about themselves. The fourth grade students learned what their true color was all about. After participating in an interest inventory the students listened to their chosen color description and discussed if it truly identified them or not. The students discussed the importance of knowing themselves well so that they can begin to look at what types of careers would fit their personal styles. The fifth grade took a few minutes to review some goals they had set for themselves at the beginning of the year. During this time of self- reflection the students made changes to their current goals and made notes on what they need to still do in order to achieve them. The students also reviewed the different career paths and which path they are currently interested in.

Mrs. Mears

PTA Membership Update

Brandi Martin

is the winner of the PTA Membership Holiday Raffle! Congratulations

We currently have **593** PTA members.

Our goal is **603** members.

We have 9 classes that are close to reaching 100% PTA membership:

Bendorf, Diehl, Lasater, Parker, Spencer, Sutherland, Collier, Kennedy and Talamantez.

VSE Student Council
4th Annual Adopt-a-Family

The VSE Student Council sponsored the 4th Annual Adopt-a-Family project last month. The Student Council members and sponsors are truly grateful for your wonderful support; it was the most successful year yet of the project!

The total money raised and spent on the adopted families was $1,675.41. In addition, others from the VSE community contributed three very full baskets of nonperishable food and several toys.

Another touching moment occurred when checking out at Wal-Mart; a gentleman in another line learned about our project and donated cash towards our purchase. The generosity of the VSE community and beyond is simply amazing.

Thank you for helping Student Council reach out to others and lend a helping hand!

Valentine's Day Party
Friday, February 10th

Party Schedule Per Grade

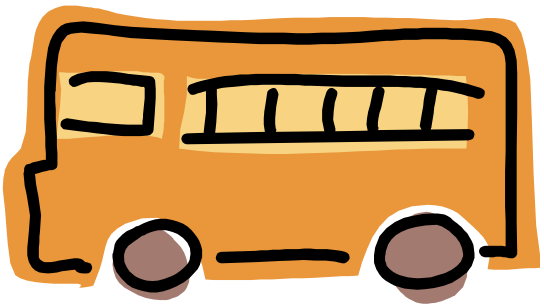
- 9:40-10:25 3rd Grade
- 10:30-11:15 1st Grade
- 11:20-12:05 5th Grade
- 1:05-1:50 4th Grade
- 1:55-2:40 2nd Grade
- 2:45-3:30 Kindergarten

All parents will be receiving an email through our Signup Genius website soon. You can sign up to volunteer or to donate items.

If you did not receive an email for the Fall Party sign ups, it may have been because your head room parent does not have your correct email address. Please get in touch with your head room parent or contact Nicole Westhoff nicolew@reeceandnichols.com to add your email address to the Signup Genius.

Voy Spears Elementary 2nd Quarter Great Riders

MORGAN COSGROVE	BUS # 60
GABBY DELPLEASH	BUS # 52
AMELIA HALASEY	BUS # 147
ALLISON HUYNH	BUS # 141
JASON KLASSEN	BUS # 36
MYLES OPDAHL	BUS # 73



Kindergarten

Our theme in Kindergarten has been snow, even though we have really enjoyed the nice weather this season. Our hallways are still filled with snowmen, snowflakes and snow writing! In reading we have been working on mental images. The students have really enjoyed some of the poetry that we have been reading and then sharing our mental images with each other. We have also been enjoying get mail about our Gingerbread people that we sent to relatives in different states. We have had many of them returned and have enjoyed learning something about the places they have explored. In math we have been working on solid shapes. (cube, sphere, cylinder and cone) We also worked on naming the months of the year in order and story problems. We are looking forward to starting a new unit on money soon. This is a great skill to practice at home with real coins. The students will need to know the name and value of each one. Our writing is also really starting to take off this quarter. The writing trait that we have been working on is "voice". We also practiced becoming "Star Writers". A star writer remembers to use proper capitalization, finger spacing, punctuation and their writing makes sense. Our journals are starting to look great! We are looking forward to learning much more in the months to come!

First Grade

First graders slid into the New Year with high hopes and great expectations. The first week back, first graders are set a few New Year's resolutions and are ready to learn!

Questions! Questions! And more Questions! This is what first graders are focusing on during reading this month. Why?? Well, because QUESTIONING is a comprehension strategy we are learning to use when reading. We discovered good readers ask questions before, during and after they read a book and that they also stop to think about why or how these questions help us to "better understand the story." When readers do this, they use their schema and mental images to help them answer these questions. This causes their brains to stretch and think more!!!

In math, first graders are learning to count coins. We took it very slowly. First, we counted only pennies. Then, we counted only nickels and eventually added pennies to the nickels. Next, we counted only dimes and eventually added pennies to the dimes. Finally, we counted only quarters and eventually added pennies to the quarters.

In science, first graders have discovered different types of weather. In social studies, first graders learned about Chinese New Year. We enjoyed our annual Chinese New Year parade through the school on January 20th.

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Second Grade

This has been a terrific month! 2nd graders are working hard during Communication Arts time. We've been learning about classifying. We've learned that we can group things that are alike together. This goes along with what we're discovering about comparing and contrasting as we read. Inferring is another comprehension skill that we've worked on. We can often figure out much of what an author is trying to communicate, even though it isn't stated explicitly in the text or shown in the illustrations. During Writer's workshop, we're continuing to concentrate on the importance of word choice. Good writers select words carefully. Clear and interesting words are better than general words. We're practicing choosing synonyms to improve our writing, and sometimes like to say that we're selecting "fancy" words. Learning about fractions has kept us busy and engaged during Math! We found out about force and motion during Science and about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during Social Studies. We're looking forward to our field trip on February 21st. We're going to hear the symphony play at the Kaufman Performing Arts Center. We've met our DARE (Drug Awareness and Resistance Education) officer, and we're looking forward to his upcoming lessons. Thank you for your involvement and support!

Third Grade

It's 2012 and 3rd grade is gonna shine! In **Readers' Workshop**, we have been great inferencing detectives as we have continued to build our skill of supporting our inferring with our schema and the text. **Writer's Workshop** found 3rd graders focusing on the trait of Organization, Voice, and Sentence Fluency.

Third graders are also becoming multiplication experts as they learn skills to commit the multiplication facts to memory. Thank you to all our families for their hard work to support our effort at home. We have also been working on problem solving, graphing and probability.

In **Science** we completed our Space theme with lots of fun activities. In **Social Studies** we worked on our Geography Unit.

In the next several weeks we will look forward to reviewing all of the incredible learning we have done this year as we prepare to show what we know on the MAP test!

The 3rd Grade Team

The Voy Spears Carnival
Friday, March 9th.

We will be pre-selling tickets in February.
PTA members are able to purchase discounted tickets.

Your pre-ordered 20 punch tickets are only $4.00 for PTA members.
Non-members tickets are $5.00.
Tickets at the door will be $6.00.

January Author of the Month

Each month teachers will recognize students for creating an outstanding paper in some type of written form. The students recognized this month are listed below.

Kindergarten
Mrs. Althaus: Addison Fox
Mrs. Bendorf: Avery Basler
Mrs. Dierking: Morgan Kramer
Mrs. McGowan: Ruth Hodill
Mrs. Snyder: Ian Hamik

First Grade
Mrs. Diehl: Ali Zeikle
Mrs. Lasater: Ryan Wall
Ms. Parker: Harrison Hess
Mrs. Spencer: Sam Bigge
Mrs. Sutherland: Jacob Suchman

Second Grade
Mrs. Collier: Raymond DelaCruz
Mrs. Kennedy: Kara Standly
Mrs. Peve: Abby Klassen
Mrs. Piedimonte: Oliver Wegner
Miss Tinsley: Ryan Ringgenberg

Third Grade
Miss Cameron: Tanner Sargent
Mrs. Peeler: Kierra Crowe
Mrs. Schneider: Jake Morris
Mrs. Scranton: Natalie Nelson

Fourth Grade
Mrs. Carrender: Grant Snider
Mrs. Casement: Abigail Doll
Ms. Miles: Kyce Garrison
Mrs. Smith: Jordan Massey

Fifth Grade
Mr. Callahan: Ian Castellanos
Mrs. Corbin: Courtney Cook
Ms. Sallee: Ryan Maye
Mrs. Sommer: Ryan Dycus
Mrs. Talamantez: Alec Radford

Submitted by: Mrs. Peve

Happy Writing!

Fourth Grade

Fourth grade is up to some exciting learning activities, as always! We have studied the contributions of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and have used his life as inspiration for writing about dreams we have to make the world a better place. Students were challenged to think of cause they really care about and make a plan of steps to take to make that dream happen.

In math we have just wrapped up learning long division. We are jumping into a measurement unit. Students will learn about both standard and metric systems. Our 4th grade scientists have been learning about landforms, volcanoes, earthquakes, weathering and erosion. Next we will study the various types of rocks found on Earth's surface. We also have begun writing a tribute poem to someone or something special in our lives. Students are working hard to come up with "new and improved" creative words to make their poems more unique and more interesting to read!

Also, we are beginning to work on reviewing skills and test taking strategies in order to get ready for MAP testing this spring. Good test taking skills are essential for students as they go through their school years so we will focus strongly on this.

We 4th grade teachers are so thankful for the amazing gift cards trees that our families generously donated. Thank you to all our wonderful families. And thank you to PTA for organizing this very thoughtful gift.

Fourth graders are looking forward to a super 3rd quarter!

Fifth Grade

Fifth grade is off to a great start in 2012! Toward the beginning of January, the students started the D.A.R.E. Program. D.A.R.E. stands for Drug Abuse Resistance Education. They are very eager and excited to be involved with this valuable program! In communication arts, the students have started reading various non-fiction books with their book clubs. The students really enjoy reading the same books and then discussing their thoughts and questions. The discussions are amazing! Persuasive essays are what we are focusing on in writing. Fractions, greatest common factor, and least common multiple are a few topics we are focusing on in Math. In Social Studies, we are learning about the Civil War and The Spainish War. In Science, the students have just completed their third unit and are on to their fourth science rotation. If you would like to know more about other wonderful things we are learning, ask a 5th grader and you are sure to be filled with amazing information.

VSE thanks the following PTA Business Members for their support!

ELITE MEMBERS

County Line Auto Parts
Krystyn Roberts 697-3535
1828 NW US Hwy 50, Kingsville, MO 64061

Hess Roofing
Jera Bruce Hess 373-4412
PO Box 6524, L.S., MO 641064

STAR MEMBERS

Baskin-Robbins
Pete Patel 350-0131
4555 S Noland Rd,
Indep., MO 64055

Blue Ridge Physical Therapy
Mike Woodward 795-6999
4900 S Arrowhead Dr, Ste B, Indep., MO 64055
www.BlueRidgePTKC.com

Candy City
Mike Patel 668-2235
Independence Center

Edward Jones Investments
Jon Klassen 816-833-7049
3801 S. Noland Rd, Ste C,
Indep., MO 64055
www.edwardjones.com

Galen Boyer Buick GMC
Dan Boyer 252-9800
3107 S. Noland Rd.
Indep., MO 64055
www.galenboyer.com

Great Clips for Hair
Georgia James 524-8448
933 NE Woods Chapel Rd,
L.S., MO 64064

LK Communications
DJ Good 694-1280
5212 NE Holiday Dr, L.S., MO 64064
www.LKConline.Com

Web Worx
Tricia Shaw 373-1146
517 NE Garnet Lane, L.S., MO 64064
www.webworxllc.com

VIP MEMBERS

Aquatic Solutions
Rob Kenley 679-2702
144 L St, Lake Lotawana, MO 64086

Astound Developments Photography
Kamea Johnson 304-8825
5615 NW Moonlight Meadow Ct, L.S., MO 64064

CB's Lawn Service
Chad Burkhardt 518-1394
3323 S. Prescott Ave, B.S., MO 64015

Healthcare for Women
Nathan Wegner 350-1200
19550 E 39th St, Suite 310

Saint Joseph Breast Center
Mary Williams 943-3173
1000 Carondelet Dr, KCMO 64114
www.stjosephkc.com

SNAP Fitness/Studio GX
Jack Cannon 524-8555
631 NE Woods Chapel Rd
www.snapfitness.com