



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

# Falcon Flyer

## Principal's Corner

Dear VSE Parents and Students,

The last few weeks have been flying by! It is hard to believe we are getting prepared for Thanksgiving Break. This is a great time to say thank you for all that you do to support the VSE teachers, PTA and learning of your child. I appreciate all that you do and feel blessed to work with such an amazing team of people!

We have accomplished so much the past month. We contributed 375 items to the Community Unity effort. Canned goods, food and personal hygiene donations were delivered to the Blue Springs Community Services League. We also donated \$1,731.71 to the United Way effort. Grade levels competed against each other to donate the most. Our first graders donated the largest amount and were rewarded with an extra recess. Way to go first grade!

Each quarter we have fifth grade students who serve as Safety Patrols and they help keep the hallways safe during dismissal time each day. I appreciate their assistance and have listed the first and second semester safety patrols below:

### First Quarter

Myles Opdahl  
Grace Allen  
Caleb Israelite  
Grant Bock  
Tristan Garcia  
Ethan James  
Megan Gabrielson  
Munira Nuru  
Alyssa Meyer  
Claire Tindall  
Courtney Cook  
Ian Cuthbert  
Nathan Gentry  
Nya White

### Second Quarter

John Stanley Hurley  
Rylie Gregston  
Sydney Slaven  
Amanda Smith  
Morgan Cosgrove  
John Janisch  
Celena Lopez  
Josie Woodward  
Dane Workman  
Blake Atkinson  
Aden Smith  
Madison Pruitt  
Taylor Amen  
Ian Castellanos

I look forward to a wonderful finish to the first semester! Thanks again for all that you do to be a positive partner in the educational process of your child. I value our teamwork. If you have questions or concerns please feel free to contact me by phone at 478-9899 or by email at [rmurry@bssd.net](mailto:rmurry@bssd.net).

Sincerely,

Renee Murry

## HOLD THE DATE!!!

January 27<sup>th</sup> will be Family Movie Night.

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

Watch for more information in your Wednesday folders  
this January.





## Computer Data

The computer lab has been an interesting place this month. First grade studied vowel sounds with “Chicken Stacker.” All grade levels learned about Veterans Day on VA Kids.org. Students in Second to Fifth grade finished learning about home row-ask your student where “home row” is! Happy Thanksgiving to all.

*Dawn Elliott*

## Art Works

The semester is flying by in the Art Room. 5<sup>th</sup> Grade students finished up their Aboriginal Dot paintings and are looking forward to starting clay after the break.

- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade has just begun a parody project about “American Gothic’ by Grand Wood. The students are really enjoying creating the satires.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders are wrapping up their adventure in Russia with designing their Onion Domes.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade just finished up funky people just like Keith Herring.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Grade is finishing up their Gerald the Giraffe pictures and learned that Giraffes CAN Dance! J We will now start to talk about what we want to be in the future and will paint our FUTURE self-portraits.
- Kindergarteners are learning about cutting and coloring in art and are finishing up our Elmer the Elephant.

I enjoying working with the students and expect more great projects to be produced from our students!!!

If you would like to donate any items, or helping hands I would greatly appreciate it!

*Mrs. Baldwin*

## A Page From the Library

This month, all grade levels are working on dictionary, encyclopedia, and atlas skills. 3<sup>rd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> grade students have been practicing the use of guide words, definitions, and parts of speech, while K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade have been creating picture dictionaries and having dictionary drills.

Students reading the nominees for the field trip – keep it up! With the holiday break comes a great time to wrap up reading any nominees. More information about the field trip will be coming soon!

Happy Reading!

*Kristin Kitley*

### We Need Your E-Mail Address

In our continuing efforts to go green, we will be sending out volunteer communications for PTA sponsored events through e-mail rather than paper. We have compiled parents’ e-mails through both the VSE directory and volunteer sign-up sheets that came home with your child on the first day of school.

If you have not provided your e-mail address through one of those documents, we do not have your e-mail address to add to our distribution list. If you are unsure if PTA has your e-mail, or would like to add your e-mail, please e-mail [vsep-ta1@gmail.com](mailto:vsep-ta1@gmail.com) and we will be happy to let you know.



Thank you in advance for supporting our green efforts!

## Music Notes

Some of our 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students are selling candy bars for Music Boosters. THANK YOU to all the families supporting us in this effort. And thanks to all of you who are purchasing the chocolate. That sale will be over December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Please note the remaining performances/presentations for this year.

### 2011-2012 VSE PERFORMANCES/PRESENTATIONS

- December 15<sup>th</sup> – *Choir on Fire* Performance
- PTA February 9<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Music Performance
- PTA March 15<sup>th</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Famous Missourian Wax Museum
- PTA April 19<sup>th</sup> – Kindergarten Music Performance
- Concert May 3<sup>rd</sup> – *Choir on Fire*/Art & Writing Fair

*Mrs. Gard*

## Gym Shorts

November 28<sup>th</sup> is the due date for Jump Rope for Heart Donations. Thanks for your support of student volunteers from grades 1 through 5; in their efforts to collect money for the American Heart Association/Jump Rope for Heart. Donations help to fight heart disease and stroke by providing funds for medical research, education, training and community service. Heart disease is the leading cause of death of adults in the United States. This month all grades will cover heart topics such as: the exercise heart rate zone, pulse counts, and the importance of cardiovascular-respiratory endurance exercise.

Kids and adults; don't let cold weather keep you from being active. Strength and flexibility exercises require very little indoor space. Dress smart and warmly to defy the cold weather by exercising outside. Dance or punch and kick the air for 20 or more minutes to get some cardio exercise inside. Jump rope in the garage or in the basement. Get creative; do not let cold weather be an excuse to be lazy. Fitness test scores tend to go down at VSE from fall to spring. Let's not let that happen this year.

Thanks,

*Mr. Audo*

## Note from the School Counselor

This month all guidance lessons were on the topic of bullying. Each grade level reviewed our anti-bullying rules and discussed ways we can help stomp out bullying in our school. The fifth grade read the story My Secret Bully and discussed ways to be a positive bystander. All fourth grade students heard the story Say Anything and discussed different ways we can help others that are being bullied. Third grade students read Just Kidding and discussed the difference between good natured teasing and crossing the line to hurtful teasing or bullying. The second grade students read Bully and discussed different ways to be a good friend. First grade students were introduced to the word empathy and discussed that empathy is the path to a good friendship. They read and discussed the story How Do I Stand In Your Shoes. The kindergarten students read Recess Queen and reviewed playground and school rules. They also discussed that it is important to always include others.

*Kerri Mears*

# Kindergarten

Things are “falling” into place in kindergarten this month!

We are excited to start small groups and our just right readers with our K friends. Reading is the key to our futures and we are excited to begin laying the foundation. We have begun schema for reader’s workshop, we are looking forward to reading some wonderful books by Kevin Henkes and many others for this Reader’s Workshop unit.

Connie C.U.P.S. is helping us remember our conventions when writing this month. We are using correct **c**apitals, **u**sage, **p**unctuation and best guess **s**pelling during Writer’s Workshop.

Graphing is lots of fun especially when you get to graph candy, your favorite dinosaur and lots of other neat pieces of math data.

We are learning about our five senses in Science so we can feel our way through this quarter along with tasting, hearing, seeing and smelling!

Social Studies is lots of fun when learning about Early America and the Pilgrims and Native Americans. We are even going to have a *KinderFeast* on November 22<sup>nd</sup> in our classrooms.

Thank you to all the kindergarten parents for helping start our 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter off great by coming to conferences and helping us each day to be the best learners!

# First Grade

Throughout the month of November first grade has been busy as usual! In reading, we learned how to use “schema” to help us better understand what we are reading. In writing, we learned the importance of writing organized stories with a beginning, middle, and ending. We’ve accomplished a lot in math these past few weeks, including the introduction of fractions. We are also experts about two-dimensional and three-dimensional shapes. In science, we explored our five senses using hands-on experiments and learned to appreciate the unique abilities they give us. In social studies, we have done projects involving pilgrims and Native Americans. Also, we learned information about the voyage on the Mayflower and the intriguing concept of POPcorn (one of Squanto’s gifts to the pilgrims was how to grow corn.) The last day before Thanksgiving break, we enjoyed the first-grade tradition of feasting on Turkey Tacos. They were yummy! The first-grade teachers wish everyone a wonderful and blessed Thanksgiving; we are thankful for our students and parents this year!

(Continued on page 6)



## November 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.

### First Grade

Mrs. Diehl: Jake Matthews  
Mrs. Lasater: Zoey Hayden  
Ms. Parker: Kendall Brown  
Mrs. Spencer: Owen Doppenberg  
Mrs. Sutherland: Rachel Hartwig

### Third Grade

Mrs. Ensminger: Katherine Mitchell  
Mrs. Peeler: Ashley Appleberry  
Mrs. Schneider: Jenna Swank  
Mrs. Scranton: Julian Apodaca

### Fifth Grade

Mr. Callahan: Olivia Michael  
Mrs. Corbin: Aden Swift  
Ms. Sallee: Josie Woodward  
Mrs. Sommer: Anna Kochman  
Mrs. Talamantez: Reilly Ashlock

### Kindergarten

Kindergarten students will start in January.

### Second Grade

Mrs. Collie: Vani Patel  
Mrs. Kennedy: Conor Johnson  
Mrs. Peve: Joe Tre' Seabrooks  
Mrs. Piedimonte:  
Kelbi Meisenheimer  
Miss Tinsley: Michael Lu

### Fourth Grade

Mrs. Carrender: Damien Loeffler  
Mrs. Casement: Emily Barosela  
Ms. Miles: Abby Hallberg  
Mrs. Smith: Shelby Norman



Happy Writing!

(Continued from page 5)

## Second Grade

November has been a busy and fun month. Students are learning so much in Communication Arts. The boys and girls practiced reading comprehension questions *before* reading a selection; this approach helps the students know what to look for while they are reading. In Writing, we are learning the importance of the trait, organization. A piece of writing must be in order, and the events in sequence. It's been fun to learn how the words *first, next, then, last* and *finally* can help keep our writing organized! We're focusing on conventions; correct spelling, punctuation and capitalization. We've found out that a writing piece is ready to be published after it's been edited and revised.

2<sup>nd</sup> graders are becoming skilled mathematicians too. We're learning about telling time and subtraction facts. We're stretching out brains as we work on problem-solving, using a variety of strategies.

This month we've been learning about the first Americans. We have discovered so much about the Pilgrims, Native Americans and the first Thanksgiving. We also learned about Veterans Day and the ways that people in the Armed Forces have served our country. We're looking forward to a Science unit about force and motion.

We appreciate your support and the opportunity to work with your children!

## Third Grade

November has brought lots of learning and fun experiences your 3<sup>rd</sup> grader's way! We have been working on Inferring during Reader's Workshop and have been busy reading between the lines while we read our just-right-books! Good readers are always thinking while they read and inferring is a key skill to figure out things the author is telling us...without coming right out and writing it down! We will continue to dig deeper into this skill for several more weeks. In math, we are working our giant math brains to perfect our subtractions skills. Students are working on borrowing and subtracting across zero...and then applying those skills on word problems. Students have learned some key problem solving strategies to help them show what they know in math! Social Studies has brought us to our Map-tastic Maps unit! We are learning about how to read maps, map components, and to create maps in this fun unit. We had so much fun sharing our personal narratives with our families and friends this month at our Third Grade Writing Gallery! Thank you to all of you who came and left such positive comments on our writing. We enjoyed a visit from the Lee's Summit Fire Department and learned a lot about fire safety. It is so amazing for our students to hear such important information from real-life firefighters! What a great real world experience for them that will hopefully leave a lasting impression when it comes to fire safety. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

## Fourth Grade

Is it really already November? Wow, the first few months of school have flown by, and Fourth Grade has been busy! We recently participated in Red Ribbon Week, where we did activities to pledge being drug and alcohol free. We had a spirit week and got the chance to win neat prizes for wearing our red ribbons every day! Thanks PTA! J In the classrooms, our fourth graders have been very busy in every subject. In Reader's Workshop, we have been working hard on our inferring unit. We devote a lot of

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

time to inferring, because we believe it is an important tool to help us gain a deeper understanding of the text we read! The 4<sup>th</sup> graders have been working really hard on creating engaging stories using great word choice in our writing. We modeled a piece of writing from the book Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs, and the stories we came up with were just delicious! Over the last month we have worked very hard on our Living Things unit in Science, as the children have studied animal adaptations, ecosystems, food chains and much more! In Math we dominated our multiplication and division unit like pros, and are now gearing up to jump into algebraic reasoning at full force. It is very important that we keep our brains busy at home, reviewing multiplication and division facts. In Fourth Grade, students are expected to know their multiplication facts up to 12's, so it is important to practice, practice, practice! In Social Studies our fourth graders will learn more about our early government, colonies, and important American documents/symbols. Stay tuned for next month's amazing news on our Fantastic Fourth Graders!

## Fifth Grade

Fifth-grade is off to a great start as we enter second quarter. In Communication Arts, we are learning about reading strategies. Kids' are using a hands-on approach to learn about inferring, determining importance, and much more. Also, in writing the students' are learning about sentence fluency; different ways to start and write sentences. Students will also begin writing their persuasive essays soon. Additionally, kids' are gaining understanding about how to use grammar properly. In Social Studies we have wrapped up our unit on American Government and are switching gears into geography. Children will become skilled at identifying maps and the specific parts on a map. Students will also learn the fifty states and capitals. Science is in full swing as we have made our first rotation. Science is a favorite subject by many, because the lessons are taught by the various fifth-grade teachers. Areas of focus in science are; space and technology, physical science, earth science, life science, and inquiry. Last but not least, thank you to all of the parents who came to conferences. It shows that you care about your child's education. Furthermore, thank you to all of the parents who made our fall party a success! The kids had a great time!

### PTA Reflections

## 2011-2012 Theme: "Diversity Means"

Create an original work. Be recognized.

**Deadline for entries: Wednesday, November 30, 2011**

The Reflections Program is open to all grade levels .

You must have a rule packet to participate (Available in the school office & bulletin board)

Dance Choreography

Literature

Photography

Film Production

Visual Arts

Musical Composition

For details, contact:

Susanna Wegner-susannawegner@yahoo.com • Jill Renzulli-jdrenzs@yahoo.com • Jill Vaughan-jillrvaughan@gmail.com

# VSE thanks the following PTA Business Members for their support!

## ELITE MEMBERS

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Krystyn Roberts 697-3535  
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