

	Wisdom	The Core Virtues		Cheerfulness
Respect	Citizenship	Responsibility	Self-control	Trustworthiness
Courage	Integrity	Perseverance	Teamwork	Fairness

The Veritas Voice

Caught Ya!

Dylan Tumbleson was caught helping a hurt friend to a teacher at recess.
 Kaylee Robibson (5th) was caught giving positive encouragement to another student.
 Rahaam Oliver (1st) walking nicely to get the first grade folder!
 Delilah Castillo (K) working hard to learn rhyming words!
 Kyra M (3rd) was caught helping Mrs. Vasen clean the gym
 Terrell L (3rd) was caught being a good sport!
 The **entire elementary school basketball team** was caught using teamwork on the court! Keep it up, boys!
 Asia H. was caught being a constant helper to her teacher.
 Brandon Winfree was caught being a great team player in class!

December 2010

Did you know?
 Board meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every month - parent participation is always appreciated!

Student Council:

Student council is off to a wonderful start! We had our official pinning ceremony in November. Our first dress-down day was a huge success! We earned enough money to pay for our pins and buy supplies to make cards for elderly patients at nursing homes. We are looking forward to hat day on December 15th. On December 2nd we represented Veritas Academy at The fundraiser for the Homeless Center. Stop by the lobby to see our bulletin board with examples of excellent work from all the classrooms!
On December 17th we will have a special treat for all Veritas students.

Calendar

DEC. 8	Board Meeting
DEC. 15	Winter Holiday Program
DEC. 20-31	No School
JAN. 3	School Resumes
JAN. 5-26	Acuity Testing
JAN. 12	Board Meeting
JAN. 17	Martin Luther King Holiday



Veritas Athletics

The boys elementary season is off to a great start! We are 1 - 1. The boys played hard in their first game against the MCAC Wildcats. They came away from the game learning a lot. They used their knowledge in our November 30 game against Stanley Clark. The boys played well together passing the ball and rebounding. Their score reflected the great teamwork 44 - 9. Our next game is in January. We would love to see you there!

A special thanks to Asia Hudson and Kevin McGowan for helping with the scoreboard and book and to D'Andre and Nate Smith for collecting money!



A Note From Mrs. Smith's Desk.....

Tis the Season to be Jolly, fa la la la la....la....la....la la,
The Holiday Season is quickly approaching and our students
are working hard and having a great time as they learn new
songs and parts for our upcoming Holiday Program
scheduled for December 15th.

Citizenship: We have added a Citizenship grade to our
report card. Students will be graded on their ability to
internalize and reproduce the Core Virtues (responsibility,
honesty, caring, integrity etc...) daily. Students will be
assessed on a scale of 1 to 5 with 5 being the BEST
CITIZEN. Individuals who earn a 4 or a 5 will be rewarded
each quarter with special activities and the opportunity to win
great prizes at our assembly. The students who earn
Citizenship Awards for all three quarters (quarter 2, 3, and 4)
will have an additional chance at the end of the year to win
one of several extra special prizes, possibly a dirt bike or
other such fantastic reward. Parents please discuss with and
encourage your child to be a good citizen daily.

Assembly: Our Student of the Month and Core Virtue
Honorees for the months of November and December will be
held on December 14th @ 1:30pm. Please mark your
calendar and plan to attend.

On behalf of the Veritas Staff, I would like to wish each of
our students, our volunteers, and our families a Happy,
Healthy Holiday Season and a Blessed and Prosperous New
Year!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Smith



The Resource Room:

Help encourage your child's success by working with
them on homework and classroom assignments.

Things as simple as reading directions or passages
aloud to your child will greatly increase
understanding and encourage success at home and
school. If your child has a math assignment, play a
quick game of multiplication bingo or review math
facts with flash cards to inspire your child to lean
and succeed!



Mrs. Ford is absolutely loving being back
with her group of fabulous fifth graders. This class
makes me smile all day long!

We have been busy working in our Guided Reading
groups in the morning. We read our chapter
books at one center, work on vocabulary at two
others, and complete a research assignment at the
last.

Each student is working on his or her own
informational article. We are in the drafting stage
now, after days of pre-writing and planning. Once
we publish our work, these will be on display in
our hallway. Come by to read our work and to
learn interesting facts about some of your favorite
animals!

In Math we are continuing to work on geometry.
We learned how to estimate and measure angles
with a protractor and we also learned how to
manipulate a compass to draw circles. We now
know the names of different angles and triangles.
We will understand the properties of polygons and
how to make tessellations.

Since we finished our unit on Animal Diversity, we
are switching back to Social Studies for a little
while, where we will be learning about Colonial
America.

We hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving
holiday!



SPANISH NOTICIAS

Kindergarten and 1st grade have been
working on a book of colors along with their
numbers. 2nd - 5th grade have been
working with numbers and dates at various
levels. 6-8 have started learning about
verbs and subject pronouns, and we have
started on lesson 9 on the computer site
www.studyspanish.com. We will try to get
in 9, 10, and 13 and 14 before Christmas
break. We will skip lessons 11 and 12 for
now. We will continue working with what
we have recently learned, however, we will
also be discussing and investigating the
customs of the Spanish speaking world
during the holiday season and other special
days that occur over the next few weeks.

RtI program

After school and during school tutorial assistance is now in place for all grades at Veritas Academy. This

RtI (Response to Intervention) program is called SURGE Ahead (Students Undergo Remediation and Growth in Education) and is directed by Dr. Cheryl Thomas, who can be contacted at CThomas.veritasacademy.us.



FREE COATS

(hats/scarves/mittens, if requested)

Location: RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program), located at 120 S. Taylor Street in South Bend, east of Studebaker Mansion.

- Coats for all family members, mostly adult size.

Open: M-Th, 8-5, Fri 8-noon
Contact name: Stephen Hughes



MUSIC NOTES

Can you believe it's almost time for this year's Holiday Program entitled "Veritas Academy Icicle Follies"? The program will take place on Wednesday, December 15 at 6:00 P.M. Please note that this is a change from what is listed on the 2010-2011 school calendar. At the request of our principal, Mrs. Smith, all students in Grades K-8 are expected to participate.

As I notified you earlier, all students in Grades 1-8 need to have a red Santa hat and also a winter scarf of any kind/color. You should be sending these items to school now. I would like all hats and scarves at school by Thursday, December 9. Be sure to label each item with your child's name. If you do not have or cannot get a Santa hat and/or a winter scarf, I will provide them for your child. Please let me know what you need ASAP. The best way to reach me is through email at tamtheteacher@yahoo.com <<mailto:tamtheteacher@yahoo.com>> . Also, if anyone has extra Santa hats or winter scarves that you are willing to lend, please notify me of that as well.

The children have been working very hard to prepare for the program and are looking forward to performing for you. Please make plans to attend. If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact me.



The month of November just flew by!

We were having so much fun in the kindergarten classroom, we did not even realize how much we were learning! Each day, we continue to work on our reading and writing skills. The children are really doing a great job, and many of them are reading three and four letter words. Their writing is also looking good. The kids are now starting to use their knowledge of letter sounds to write their stories. It is so exciting to watch them progress!

The month of November also saw us learn all about Native Americans and Thanksgiving. Though we learned many exciting facts about Native Americans, the children most enjoyed playing Native American games. At Thanksgiving time we talked about what we were thankful for. The kids were mostly thankful for their families and friends.

As we move into the new month, we are looking forward to learning about different winter holidays and all of the fun activities that come in the winter time! We also welcome Mrs. Ellen Coleman into our classroom. She will be taking over for me as I go on my maternity leave. We are so excited to have her!

News From the Dragons:

The Dragons are enjoying a wonderful beginning to December! We are making gingerbread houses and decorating them with all sorts of goodies. Stop in the lobby to see our display. We are also having a pajama day on December 10 and celebrating *The Polar Express* book and movie. Hot chocolate is sure to get us in the spirits! We continue to work on multiplication in math and are practicing our facts with math games. Our class had fun making What we are Thankful for books and really enjoyed sharing our book reports.



SUPPLIES NEEDED AT VERITAS

For any civic or faith-based organization that would like to add Veritas Academy to its Christmas giving tree, here are some specific needs:

- DVD players (6 individual players—one for 6 classrooms)
- Audio tape recorder—music room
- 3 stop watches
- Recess equipment: footballs, soccer balls, etc.
- Bean bag chairs (3) for reading centers
- Children's videos in Spanish
- Ice packs/first aid kit—main office
- Electric pencil sharpeners (2 classrooms)
- Wall clock—music room
- 1-2" binders (12) for after-school tutorial program

Squawk from the Cardinal Country

Bonus opportunity! 7th and 8th grade students perform 10 hrs of documented community service and you can earn 100 bonus points that you can split up anyway you want for your core classes.

7th grade will be having Secret Santa on the Dec. 17 we will choose names on the 10th.

8th grade is beginning their Constitution Simulation. 7th and 8th grades have begun Compass Learning. Encourage students to work these activities at home, as well as during scheduled class time. These are aligned to state standards and are a great way to reinforce the skills taught in class and tested on ISTEP.

READING TIPS FOR PARENTS

What more perfect time to snuggle with your children and read a book together than during the holidays! Here are a few tips to improve comprehension and reading skills, as you enjoy your time together:

- 1) Share the reading with your child. You read one paragraph or page; your child reads the next.
- 2) As you read, point to each word. Have your child do the same.
- 3) If your child's eyes are sensitive to light, read in subdued light or cover the pages with a color film to reduce glare. Color film taped to a computer screen also assists with subduing intense light that may quickly tire a child's eyesight.
- 4) Stop reading periodically to ask questions. For example:
 - What would you have done?
 - What do you think will happen next?
 - How does this make you feel?
- 5) Find ways to connect the reading to an activity that is appropriate to your situation. (For example, make cookies, build a snowman or snow fort, etc.)
- 6) Have colored paper and markers on hand so your child can draw a picture of what he/she read. You could also write your own story together.

Have a wonderful holiday season together!

--Dr. C. Thomas



Buckeye Pride

The 6th grade is pushing through to Christmas break! We are ending a lot of our units, and will be moving on to new ones soon. We are learning how most college classes operate. Therefore, the class will be taking a vocabulary midterm! In Math, students are learning to multiply and divide decimals. We take Missy Elliot's advice to "flip it and reverse it!" Literature Circle groups are also reading great novels and doing lovely projects on them. In Social Studies, we are learning about the Middle Ages and the Plague! Last week the students created balloon cars and raced them in the gym! The winner was Jake Woodruff, and the runner-up was Brandon Winfree. Great job everyone for getting your balloon cars to move! After a long haul, the students earned all of their golf balls and will be having a party to celebrate good behavior! Go Buckeyes! Keep working hard!

Monthly recommended read:
Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech

Butler Bulldogs



November was a busy and exciting month. We traveled with the Pilgrims on the Mayflower. We learned what it was like to be a child in the 1620s. Some of us decided it would be nice to live in a small one room house and watch the corn grow, while others decided that they would miss video games, electricity, and a warm bed. We made turkeys and read many turkey books, too. In our Scholastic News, we met a veteran. He has a dog named Benjamin to help him out. It was really neat to get to see how animals can help people. In Reading, we have read many different kinds of stories in our book groups, as read alouds, and to learn. We have discovered we love *Ready, Freddy* books. He is a first grader just like us and has all different kinds of problems just like us! Five students have been working hard on Book It! and have turned in their logs for the past two months to earn free pizza. Congratulations to Adrianna, Olivia, Leena, Zachary, and Michael! In Math, we have been measuring different things. First we measured with our hands, fingers, and feet. This was hard because we did not all have the same answer. Then we measured with rulers and tape measures. This was a lot easier! We came up with the same answers. We are working on adding and subtracting all kinds of numbers, telling time, and counting money. Those are all tricky! We could always use some help on them. We have been doing a lot of writing. We are working on choosing words that add sparkle and dazzle to our writing. We are getting much better about writing in complete sentences.

NEWS FROM THE GYM

In PE students have been working out and working hard!!!
Students in grades K-3 have been playing 10 different types of tag games - ask your child to name a few!!!
Students in grades 4-8 have moved on to full games of basketball. The students have covered all the skills, rules, and protocalls of the game and are playing 5 VS. 5 during class time.

Bethel Pilots

Third graders are still working hard trying to memorize their multiplication facts. More and more students are memorizing their facts and are continuing to work hard! We have also began to move on to place value in math. The students are enjoying finding out how much a million really is, and are able to read and write BIG numbers!

Next week, along with Ms. White's class, we will be opening our mail from "Flat Stanley." Second and third graders sent Flat Stanley all over the United States to visit with family and friends. Many packages, pictures, and letters have arrived from Flat Stanley's all over the US! Next week we reveal the packages and find each location on our GIANT map located in the cafeteria. (Thank you Mrs. Arndt!) Come and check out where Flat Stanley has been!

ART NEWS!

Kindergarten and 1st grade are currently learning about textures. Students are creating texture rubbings.

The 2nd grade class is creating pictures of suns with different facial expressions. They will then paint their suns using warm and cool colors.

The 3rd grade class finished their self portraits this week. Next week we will be learning about Aboriginal art!

The 4th graders finished their Degas inspired portraits. This week students are learning about the artist M.C. Escher. They were introduced to Op art and will be creating their own tessellation project using a color scheme.

The 5th grade class continues to work on their Egyptian unit. Currently the class is painting their life size mummy cases.

The 6th graders are currently creating a Blazing Banyan Tree! Students are focusing on the concepts of negative space, blending, and reflections.

The 7th & 8th grade classes are starting a drawing unit this week.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH:

- K**-Nathan Atkins
- 1**- Nalley Portill
- 2**-
- 3**-Jasmine Kenny
- 4**-Isaac Plata
- 5**-Ismael Andrade
- 6**-Alexandra Calleros
- 7**-Teresa Andrade
- 8**-Abriana Rivera



CORE VIRTUE STUDENT:

TEAMWORK

- K**-Catelyn Naragon **PE**-D'Andre Smith (K-4)
- 1**- Adrianna Witters Annalyse Pollock (5-8)
- 2**- **MUSIC**-Madalyn Fisher (K-3)
- 3**- Charlie Arndt Isaac Plata (4-8)
- 4**- Ryan Laurence **ART**-Victoria Wallick 2nd
- 5**-Cassidy Greenwood Madelyn Armet 5th
- 6**-Tatiana Escobedo **SPANISH**-
- 7**-Jacob Edwards
- 8**-Kayla Smith

Hoosier Hysteria!



It's that time! Time to get ready for the Science Fair! 7th and 8th grade students have received two informational letters to take home. The second one includes the Science Fair Entry Form, which requires the project's question to investigate and a parent signature. This entry form needs to be finalized and turned in to your science teacher by Friday, December 10, 2010. This year, we are holding our school's science fair on Thursday, February 3, 2011. The "Best of Show" winner can then advance to the Northern Indiana Regional Science and Engineering Fair at Notre Dame on Saturday, March 5, 2011. Please join us for the fun and excitement!

Here are the key dates you will want to mark on your calendar:

Friday, December 10: Entry forms due to your science teacher.

Thursday, February 3: Science Fair held at Veritas Academy during the day. Open house for parents and families is tentatively scheduled from 5:00 - 6:30 pm.

Saturday, March 5: Northern Indiana Regional Science and Engineering Fair - The top place winner is eligible to participate at Notre Dame. Any student chosen to participate in the Notre Dame Regional Science Fair will need to register online by February 17, 2011. Information will be given at the Veritas Fair for those projects moving on.

As a friendly reminder, the purpose of science fair projects is to teach the students about the scientific method. Therefore, please allow the students to do their own projects. Teachers and parents should only advise in the process.

*** Any parents interested in judging or assisting with the fair in any way, please contact the school.