

## The Core Virtues

September: Respect  
December: Caring  
March: Achievement

October: Responsibility  
January: Patience  
April: Trustworthiness

November: Teamwork  
February: Perseverance  
May: Citizenship

# The Veritas Voice

January 2011

### A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...



Happy New Year! Welcome Back! I hope the time you had with your children over the break was indeed a gift in itself. I also hope the break was relaxed and rejuvenating for everyone.

A GREAT BIG thank you to Mrs. Mo and our students who did an excellent job for our Holiday Performance. We also want to thank Mrs. Wolf- Smithson and Mr. Smith for the Orchestra and the Steel drum performances. Each one of our students did an awesome job.

Mid-term progress reports were sent home. Please review with your child and contact your child's teachers if necessary. Portfolio conferences will be held at the end of this quarter.

We have completed acuity testing for grades 3 - 8. Acuity once again is a diagnostic assessment that gives information about how well students understand and master grade level standards. Teachers are continuing to provide individualized instruction in the areas assessment indicates as areas of challenge. This assessment is also predictive of how well our students will do on the ISTEP.

The Student Council and Staff are planning special interactive events for our students and families in the form of Family Fun Days/Nights and Parent Academies please look out for these upcoming events on our web site.

Again welcome back and Happy New Year!

### A tip from the resource room:

Please keep in mind that every minute with your child is an opportunity to encourage learning! Talk to your child on the ride home from school. Ask, "What did you learn in school today?" Practice multiplication facts on the way to and from school! Discuss possible essay topics at the dinner table. Remember - learning never stops if you encourage it to grow.

## Calendar

- Jan. 17 NO SCHOOL  
Martin Luther King Holiday
- Jan. 18 NWEA Testing T-F
- Jan. 19 Current Student Registration Begins
- Jan. 21 End of Quarter 2
- Jan. 24 NWEA Testing M-F
- Jan. 24 Student Portfolio Conferences M-F
- Feb. 9 CFS Board Meeting
- Feb. 11 2:00 Early Release - Staff Development

### Caught Ya!

Brandon W., David B., Eryn T., and Lexi C. were caught being awesome team players!

Zachary was caught keeping the classroom and other school areas free of trash.

Nephtali volunteered to help out others.

The first grade class worked toward and achieved class goals!

## Art News!

Grades K-2nd are learning about the color wheel and different color combinations. This week they created their own color wheel and primary colors flag!



The 3rd grade class is currently working on creating a gold yarn project inspired by Columbian art.

The 4th grade class continues to work on their tessellations project. This week students are choosing a color scheme (primary, secondary, complementary, and analogous colors) to color their tessellations art work.

The middle school classes are currently working on a drawing unit. They are creating gradation scales using hard and soft pencils. Students are studying how light effects the value of an object.

**The art class is in need of pre-cut matt boards (United Art and Education) for a future student art exhibition. Any donations would be greatly appreciated. For any more information please contact Ms. Montoya. Thanks!**

## First Grade News



The first graders have been busy since returning from break. We enjoyed working with maps as we traveled the globe to learn about winter celebrations. Now we are learning more about what things on the map mean and how to use them. We started a new unit in Math. Did you know that alligators, turkeys, and chickens can help you in Math? We have been learning about these symbols:  $<$   $>$   $=$ . Miss Fitzgerald told us to think about them as the alligator's mouth. The alligator hasn't gotten to eat in a while. He wants to eat a turkey instead of a chicken. When we need this symbol  $=$  it means that he is going to eat both because they are the same. We have been comparing amounts of money to see who has more and how much more. We are adding two digit numbers together. We have even been writing our own number stories! In Reading, we have been looking at different ways we can solve conflicts. We did not know there were so many different ways. We have enjoyed learning about some of the heroes who do not fight with their fists. We are working on writing a book about them.

## Fifth Grade News

The fifth grade Nittany Lions came back from winter break ROARING and ready to learn! We will be very busy over the next few months as we explore all of the standards and get ourselves ready for testing come springtime.

In Reading, the students are each with Mrs. Ford during guided reading, during SSR time. Each of the books instructional level and will help



reading three separate books: one one with a buddy or small group, and one have been chosen to match your child's him or her to develop good reading skills.

Math class has become a whirlwind of multiplication and division facts as the students are trying their best to memorize all of them! We know it will help us to be better math students if we are able to recall all of these basic facts instantly. We are learning to do long division with whole numbers and decimals and we continue to review all of the concepts that have already been taught. In Social Studies, the class is finishing a unit on Colonial America and moving back into Science for a few weeks with a unit all about Space.

**Please be aware of the following upcoming events in our busy classroom!**

Field Trip to the Planetarium  
Portfolio Conferences  
Written Non-Fiction Book Report due  
Science Fair  
Field Trip to Healthworks!

Monday, January 10, 2011  
Week of January 24-28, 2011  
Tuesday, January 25, 2011  
Wednesday, February 2, 2011  
Tuesday, February 15, 2011

## Buckeye Pride

In the sixth grade, the students have been preparing themselves for the Science Fair on February 3! Science Fair is a great way to address many of the academic standards, and the students usually enjoy doing it! Much of the project needs to be done at home, so please help your child keep on top of the work. I am excited to see how the projects turn out! We have also started a poetry unit. The class has learned about different types of meter, free verse, and blank verse poetry. They even tried writing some of their own! Some of the students have a great talent for poetry, and I look forward to what is to come in our unit. We will also be having a Poetry Slam where the students will memorize and recite a poem for the class. Parents and families are also invited! This will take place on January 28, 2011. A flyer will be sent home with the time.

**The Buckeyes won the Sugar Bowl! Go Bucks!!**



## Kindergarten News



During the month of January, kindergartners have been learning about Martin Luther King as well as other important leaders.

We completed a project with our buddy class the second grade. Students have been writing about how they can make the world a better place as well as other topics for writer's workshop.

We celebrated our writing today with author's chair. Each student was able to share one piece they had written. In math students have been learning to identify coins. In centers, we have been learning about patterns and measurement. We have learned several more sight words and enjoyed new stories. We look forward to Mrs. Christy's return next month so students can showcase their new skills.

## \*\*\*THE SPELLING BEE IS COMING\*\*\*

Veritas students and families let's get excited for the Scripps Spelling Bee. Classroom Bees will be held between Feb 16-18. Schoolwide Bees will be on Feb. 23 Grades 1-3 at 9:00 and Grades 4-8 at 1:00. There will be fun activities and contests associated with the bee during the week. Parents and students can go to [bee@scripps.com](mailto:bee@scripps.com) for tips, words, and resources. Happy spelling!



### STUDENT OF THE MONTH:

- K-  
1-Zachary Schubert
- 2-  
3-Terrence Clark
- 4-Sommer Godfrey
- 5-  
6-Alexandra Calleros
- 7-Anna Blish
- 8-

### DECEMBER CORE VIRTUE STUDENT: "CARING" PE

- K-Chloe Collins
  - 1-Nate Smith
  - 2-  
3-D'Andre Smith
  - 4-Jeremy Lynam
  - 5-  
6-Liliana Rivera
  - 7-Hannah Nesbitt
  - 8-
- K-4 Damien Schubert  
5-8 Jayden Kenny

### MUSIC

### ART

### SPANISH

- K-3 Nate Smith
- 4-8 Madelyn Armet

## MUSIC NOTES 🎵

It's hard to believe we are past the holiday season and now into the start of the new year! The school year is just flying by.

For those of you that were not able to attend the Holiday Program, the children did a fabulous job! I was VERY proud of them. At the close of the program there were DVDs of last year's program available for purchase for \$5.00. Those DVDs are still available if you were not able to purchase one then. I predict that there will be DVDs of this past Holiday program available in April when we present this year's Spring program.



the program DVDs of last Spring program available to \$5.00. Those still available

In music classes now we have been doing a lot of different things: following music markings and understanding what they mean, movement/singing games, learning about past and present day composers and techniques they use, and singing songs in celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Believe it or not, it won't be long before we will have to begin learning the music for the Spring Program!

## Basketball News

The boys basketball team has done an excellent job this season. Over the course of the season, the boys have grown into a team. They play well together and their heart is in each game.

A huge thanks to Coach Gary Rucker for all of his work!



## News from the Dragons

The students enjoyed their trip to the Bittersweet planetarium. They represented Veritas well and learned about the night sky. Our class has completed the second round of



Acuity and the students worked hard. We are enjoying the new computer lab. Our class will be going to the new lab on Tuesdays and Fridays. We are working on decimals and fractions in math. The students are using base ten blocks to learn these concepts. We are enjoying the story Holes by Louis Sachar. We even researched the Yellow Spotted lizard from the book. The children learned about fiction and non-fiction books. We look forward to a trip to Healthworks in February.

## UCONN NEWS



The 7th graders have just moved into a new section in Science! They are learning all about the "Interaction of Living Things".

This chapter is combining past knowledge of ecosystems and showing them the relationship between all living organisms. We have recently been examining the recycling process of water and carbon, and how our earth is always recycling. Take the time to discuss with your student about throwing away trash...What is "throwing it away?"

Where is away and are you really getting rid of it? Both Pre-Algebra and Math 7 have been working very hard and putting in lots of time and effort to practice new math techniques. If your student ever needs a little extra help, please encourage them to come after school! I am more than happy to help with math skills and techniques.

The 8th graders are working hard in Math 8 and Algebra. Math 8 has just finished a unit where they learned scientific notation, how to combine exponents, and the Base 2 and binary number systems. Algebra is just starting Linear Equations. They are learning how to solve, plot, and graph a line based on the  $Y=mx+b$  formula. 8th grade science is just about to wrap up a unit on Atoms. They are thinking big about these small elements!

**We are pleased to announce**  
that the 3rd Grade has won for most **Boxtops** Collected.  
Congratulations Mrs. Albert's Class!



## NEWS FROM THE GYM

In the month of Jan. students got to play perhaps their favorite game of all time - Dodgeball. Throughout the month we had single class competitions as well as grade VS grade games. I hope all the Students in grades 2-8 enjoyed themselves!!!

Look forward to an end of the year after school dodge ball league!!!!!!

We are now looking forward to an exciting Floor Hockey unit where the students will learn how to play offense, defense and how to goal keep!!!!

Students in grades K and 1 have been playing parachute and scooter games!!!!!! They have also been discussing fitness and the importance of personal and physical health!!

## Spanish Noticias

We are winding down the 2nd quarter and finishing up with numbers and dates for most of elementary, as well as talking about masculine and feminine in 5th grade. Kindergarten is almost done with their colors, and numbers through 10.

They are finishing up their book of colors. Middle school is on adjectives, Lesson 11 and 12. The last lessons before the end of quarter. We had skipped these before Christmas and so now ALL lessons 1 through 14 on the computer should now be done. They will be seeing that adjectives agree with the noun they describe in gender and number, and usually go after the noun. This is a different concept for English speakers.

Looking forward to a great 3rd quarter!



## Squawk from Cardinal Country

Students and parents, Remember that you can do activities on Acuity and Compass Learning from home. go to [acuityathome.com](http://acuityathome.com) and [compasslearningodyssey.com](http://compasslearningodyssey.com) to log on and learn.

There are language arts and social studies activities ready for you.



The 7th and 8th grade **ROCKED** their vocabulary midterm. I was so happy, the top scores are hanging in the main lobby check them out.

7th has begun their webquest and powerpoint presentations of Mongol and Muslim Empires.

8th has begun their Constitution Simulation. Both grades will be giving persuasive speeches in January. Good luck to all of our students on Acuity. You will do **GREAT**.

Reminder that Progress Reports will be coming home on Friday. Parents please be sure to sign and return.

## THIRD GRADE NEWS

Third graders are busy preparing their very first science fair projects! We have practiced a few in class and we are excited to see our classmate's at the fair on February, 2nd. We are also still working hard to memorize our multiplication facts and are getting closer and closer to meeting our goals! ISTEP is approaching quickly and we are beginning to practice our writing portion of our test daily!



We also enjoyed a trip to the planetarium with the 4th and 5th graders. Students enjoyed learning about the constellations and patterns of our amazing solar system!