

The Core Virtues

September: Respect
December: Caring
March: Achievement

October: Responsibility
January: Patience
April: Trustworthiness

November: Teamwork
February: Perseverance
May: Citizenship

The Veritas Voice

March 2011

A NOTE FROM MRS. SMITH'S DESK...



"Would you rather spend a weekend with your parent, or receive a \$200 gift certificate to the mall?" I hit send and the question went out to hundreds of teens. As a mom of three teens at that time, my research for a book was as much of a project for me as it was for the publisher.

I received hundreds of fun, introspective, and sometimes sad answers. One girl tried to negotiate. "What if I spent the weekend at the mall with my parents spending the gift certificate?" she asked.

I had expected the results to be about 50/50. It weighed in at about 95/5 in favor of time with a parent. It appears that time equals love to children.

Teens said they felt most loved in the unplanned moments sitting around a table and telling stories, or laughing at something silly until milk comes out of their nose, or when mom or dad sits beside their bed at night and asks them about their day-and really listens. Time equals love to a teen, even if they don't tell us in those words.

Why is it important? I believe one teen said it best: "Time with my parents or with just one of them would help things a lot. I would probably feel better about talking to them about what's going on in my life."

What distracts us from time with our children? In every family this looks different but it's important to take an honest look at our own schedules and to adjust so that we can come alongside our children as they walk through this tricky thing called life.

-Excerpt from *Do You Have the Time?* By: T. Suzanne Eller

Come One, Come all

to the Veritas
Academy's Book Fair
on

March 28th-30th.

Everything is

Buy One- Get one

Free! We look forward
to seeing you there!

Any Volunteers,
please contact
Susan Corbett.



THIRD GRADE NEWS

The Bethel third graders have been working so hard to prepare for their very first round of ISTEP testing! I know they are ready to do their best and show how smart they are! In Reading we just wrapped up a unit on genres in reading. We read Fairy Tales, Legends, Fables, and Folktales. The students really enjoyed learning reading and listening to the stories. Next week we will start another group set of novels. Math continues to be focused on fact mastery as well as geometry. Several students have passed all their multiplication facts and have moved on to division facts. Black history month just wrapped up and the students enjoyed learning about many famous African Americans that have made important contributions to our society. Good luck third graders on your ISTEP! I know you can do it!

Calendar

- Mar. 7 M-F ISTEP Testing
- Mar. 9-30 Acuity Testing
- Mar. 9 CFS Board Meeting
- Mar. 11 Snow Makeup Day
- Mar. 18 Current Student
Registration Due
- Mar. 25 END OF QUARTER
- Mar. 28 Parent-Teacher Conf.
- Mar. 28 New Student
Registration Due
- Mar. 28-30 Book Fair
- Mar. 30 New Student Lottery

Caught Ya!

Madison (5) was caught congratulating the Spelling Bee winners.

Ismael (5) was caught studying his states and capitals!



Fifth Grade News

Fifth grade will be very busy throughout the month of March! Not only will we be **SUCCESSING** on the first part of the ISTEP, but we also be continuing to learn new things so we can be prepared for the rest of ISTEP later in the year.

The students have worked incredibly hard to better their reading, writing, and math skills. As we begin March, we will finish our class novel, *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*. We will start a poetry unit and Dr. Thomas will be doing some guest lessons! We will learn how to multiply and divide fractions. We will then start working with variables and order of operations. Social Studies continues to progress through American History.

Congratulations to our Spelling Bee Participants: Eli, Katherine, and Madison!

Katherine was the school champion and placed 9th at Regionals. CONGRATULATIONS!!

News from Dragon Country



The children have been working hard getting ready for the ISTEP. They have been practicing writing prompts and problem solving. All the fourth graders loved their field trip to Healthworks Museum. We learned about the food pyramid and healthy food choices. We have spent the whole month of February participating in WSBT's I Love to Read Challenge. The children have done many creative activities to inspire their love for reading. We wrapped up our reading with a Saturday Read-In at the school and had tacos for lunch, too! All the fourth graders went out for the spelling bee and did their best. Congratulations to Grace Arndt, O'Ryan Rucker and Stephen Francis for making it to the school-wide spelling bee.

I'd also like to welcome two new students to our class: Dillian Youngkin and Amira Hopkins. We are glad you are here!



Buckeye Pride

The 6th grade is ready for ISTEP! We have worked our "pillows" (as Mrs. Mo likes to say) off! We have practiced, practiced, and practiced some more! In math, we've started geometry and finding the area of different shapes. In Language Arts, we've been practicing different types of writing and how to make our writing better.

In Science, we sang a song about the water cycle and learned all the different parts of it! **GO BUCKS!**

We're ready for March Madness!!!!



Kindergarten News

It is so hard to believe February has come and gone. Thanks to everyone for welcoming me back from my maternity leave! While I enjoyed my time at home, I am glad to be back with my kindergarten kids! Since my return, we have been working very hard in many areas. The kids are becoming

excellent readers. Many of them are fluently reading three and four letter words. In Writer's Workshop we started a non-fiction unit. While it is very challenging, the students are persevering and doing a great job. I am so proud of them! We just finished a unit on magnets in Science. The kids loved all of the hands-on activities we did. It wasn't all work and no play in February. We celebrated Valentine's Day, the 100th day of school, and went on two field trips! We can only hope March is as exciting as February was.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH:

K-Jaren Kenny
1-Adrianna Witters
2-Winnie Kiare
3-Rayanna Herron
4-Baka Thiam
5-JeVaughn Smith
6-Kennedy Fuller
7-Jacob Edwards
8-Raymond Chavez

FEBRUARY CORE VIRTUE STUDENT:

"PERSEVERENCE" PE

K-Allie Joshick	K-4 Jared Stambaugh
1-Caleb Francis	5-8 Curtis Trent
2- Jaylynn Luster	MUSIC
3-Grace Nero	K-3 Jared Stambaugh
4-Jasmine Hill	4 -8 Kayla Smith
5-Madelyn Armet	ART
6-Eryn Tumbleson	K-3 Stephen Francis
7-Teresa Andrade	4-8 Raymond Chavez
8-Kayla Smith	SPANISH
	K-3 Kyra McDonald
	4-8 Eryn Tumbleson



First Grade News

February was a busy month! We spent a lot of time getting ready for the Spelling Bee. Everyone worked hard, practiced their words, and did their personal best. Congratulations to Nathan, Eliaquim, Nathanael, and Saniah who went on from our classroom Spelling Bee to represent us in the Grades 1 - 3 Spelling Bee. We also did a Spell the Longest Word competition. Congrats to Nathanael who spelled a word with over 20 letters! In Math, we completed the first five units in Everyday Math. We were excited because we got to take home our Math Journals and get the second Math Journal for the rest of the year. In Unit 6, we have been learning about how adding and subtracting are opposites, ways to learn our facts, measuring in centimeters, and counting quarters. We also got to play some fun number games on the 100th day of school! We still need a lot of help getting our facts memorized!! We have been doing a ton of reading. We are still participating in Book-It! We also participated in WSBT's I Love to Read Challenge. We learned about different ways to solve our problems as we read and learned different reading strategies. Now we are reading about ways to show respect to others and why it is important to do that. We still need a lot of work on sharing the main idea of a sentence and summarizing a story. Miss Fitzgerald has shared "fractured fairy tales" with us. The author takes a fairy tale and writes it in a new way with new characters. Our favorite one so far has been The Three Little Fish and the Big Bad Shark. In Science, we have been studying space. We even got to take to field trips this month. We went to IUSB to see "A WInd in the Willows." The animals were really silly. Our favorite field trip this month was to the Planetarium at Bittersweet Elementary School. We got to learn more about space, see the planets, and see what the sky looks like at night.

MUSIC NOTES 🎵



February brought lots of Valentine's Day songs and movement/game activities. Classes are continuing to "navigate" through new music by following the musical notation, and are getting rather good at it! Some of the younger grades have been learning the difference between beat and rhythm and have been using rhythm instruments to demonstrate what they have learned. The middle school classes have begun a unit on Music Through the Decades, beginning with the turn of the Twentieth Century. The most exciting thing for all the students is that we have just started learning a few songs that will be used in the Spring program!



Science Fair Winners

Grades 3-5

3rd- Jasmine Kenny

2nd- Grace Arndt and Madison Limerick

1st- Megan Cramer and Madelyn Armet



Grades 6-8

3rd- Anna Blish

2nd- Jake Woodruff and Hassiem Levy

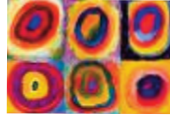
1st- Zach Wheatly

Art News!



Kindergarten students learned about the order of the 7 colors of the rainbow and how rainbows are created. They then created two works of art with rainbows.

The first grade class talked learned and talked about the abstract art works of Kandinsky. They then used pastels to create a six section art piece with Kandinsky circles. Art works are displayed in the hallway leading to the cafeteria!



This month the second grade students will learn how to change the way a color looks by adding either black or white to the color. The color variations are called tints and shades. Each student will create several examples of tints and shades in their painting of hot air balloons.

The third graders were introduced to the Galapagos island in art class. Students then got to choose a marine life animal to depict in their art work using pastels.

The artist of the the month for the fourth grade class is Janet Fish. Students learned about Fish's art style and how she reflected light in her paintings. Students are currently working on creating their own still life paintings.

The fifth grade class has been leaning about Greek art and culture. They are currently working on creating a Greek inspired vase.

The middle school classes are starting their final still life project in their drawing unit.

Squawk from Cardinal Country



THE X-MEN HAVE COME TO VERITAS

7th and 8th grade have begun their unit using X-Men to create literature, study scientific ethics, create power point presentations, spreadsheets, pamphlets, poetry, and finally publish their own comic! Students will symbolize events from history involving social justice issues in their comic.



GO UCONN!

The 7th and 8th Graders have been logging a ton of hours in Math and Science over the past weeks! They are all working very hard, and the classes are moving at a brisk pace. It is exciting to see the potential for success growing everyday! Math 8 is well underway in their Geometry unit, and Algebra will be quickly dipping into Exponents before starting Polynomials! Pre-Algebra has finally gotten through all the basics of Algebraic building blocks, and will be working with linear and nonlinear equations over the next month. Math 7 is currently all about Proportions and Ratios, but soon will be working on percents, fractions, and decimals. Both classes have been challenged in Science class and continue to be challenged daily. Help your 7th and 8th graders see the importance of science and scientists in our everyday life!



NEWS FROM THE GYM

This month in PE students are going to begin the great art of jumping rope. We will participate in Jump Rope for Heart which raises money to research heart disease!!!! Students will bring home packets soon, where they will have the opportunity to raise funds for the American Heart Association and earn prizes at the same time!!!! In class we will learn how to speed jump, endurance jump, and how to do some pretty nifty tricks!!!! If there are any parents who would like to come in and assist during double dutch please contact me at evasen@veritasacademy.us
Get excited!!!!!!!!!!!!

Spanish Noticias

We started something new in Spanish K-8 this 9 weeks. The students have all been given a packet of almost everything they will be doing through the end of the year in Spanish. They also have some resource pages too; such as vocabulary, songs for elementary, grammar, and more. This will be both a great resource in place of a book, and also a neat keepsake at the end of the year.

K-3: Kindergarten are learning classroom words. We will start learning family words next week. They are excited to bring their color and number packets home to show you and keep. We will have finished classroom words in our packets and be onto family words by report card time. They feel so grown up with these.

1st grade is finishing up with classroom words and starting on food. Then we will move into clothes. We still try to use our colors, numbers, alphabet, etc that we have learned before. They will have finished through the food by report card time. They really like these, and do well.

2nd grade has added classroom words, food, and clothes. They should have through page 38 done and turned in by Thursday, March 24th, for report cards. I am not here on Fridays.

3rd grade is learning about classroom words, clothing, and food. We are using our colors, numbers, alphabet, days, months and seasons that we have learned before in sentences and in different ways. They should have done through page 37 and turned in by Thursday, March 24th, for report cards. I am not here on Fridays.

4th and 5th grade: 4th grade has finished classroom words and read a short play using them. We are reviewing days, months, and seasons, gender of Spanish nouns and the definite articles. We will use our numbers in math. They should be through page 37 and turned in by March 24th for report cards. 5th grade has been learning about adjectives, possessive adjectives (my, his...), and occupations. We also put some of our previous vocabulary to work reading a short play together in class. We have added family and clothing words. After that we will be moving on to adjectives that are opposites. They should be through page 31 in their packet and have it turned in by March 24th for report cards!

There also was a letter that went home about the 4th and 5th grades starting the www.studyspanish.com website that the middle school uses at home. We will try grammar lessons 1-8 in Unit 1, as most of these lessons are on topics we have talked about before, although the website may go into greater depth. The letter explains it all, please sign it and return it as soon as possible. (Or a piece of paper stating the same since the instructions are on the letter.) It will be 5 bonus points if in by March 22nd. The only studyspanish.com grade for this term will be that they have signed up on the computer all the way through entering my teacher ID so that they show upon my account. By all means they can get started, however, the quiz and test scores will be on the 4th 9 weeks and need to be done by the end of May. (Those having to use paper copies just need to have obtained them from me and got a start on it by March 24th.) After that they may do them at their own pace until the end of May, many are excited to forge ahead. If they have use a computer away from home, and want to do it in just two sittings, that is fine, but three might be better. There are vocabulary and other things on the website that they may do for bonus, once their lessons are done. They should poke around on there, there is a lot to see and do. :)

6th-8th grade is continuing to get their grammar lessons from the studyspanish.com website (printed off on paper if they had no access to a computer anywhere). We have just learned two verbs for "to be", how to make questions, how to make sentences negative, and are working on possessive adjectives among other things. They also got 2 Spanish resource packets, which is nice to have when they have questions.

There is a syllabus on the website to view when assignments are due, and also in their packet with the sun on the front. The computer packet is the information part of the lessons off the internet for reference in class or anywhere, kinda like a textbook. However, if they do theirs on paper and not computer - those packets include the quizzes and



tests! They are almost their whole grade and they **HAVE** to remember to turn them in, and with time to do corrections! Most have not done so. All paper lessons need to be in by March 24th, but to have time to redo quizzes and fix mistakes for a perfect score, like is automatically done on computer, they need to be in by the 18th. The computer will repeat the quiz until 100% correct, and helps prepare them for the 10 point mini-test (tests can be redone, but don't have to be). Since the grades are constantly changing due to retakes, the computer assignments aren't entered into the online school gradebook until the end or it is too confusing. If you want to check on your student, just have your student log on to www.studyspanish.com and click on "view report card", then "grammar", then click the lessons you want to view, and then click "view progress". They should have Lessons 15-24 and 36, both basic quiz and mini test, submitted by March 24th for report cards. They can do vocabulary and other items on the website for bonus if they have the assigned lessons completed. There are lots of neat things on the studyspanish.com website. If they are doing it online, I will check those on the 25th. However, everything that needs to be turned in physically needs to be in by the end of the day Thursday, March 24th, as I am not here on Fridays. They also have a grades for the worksheet on the two "to be" verbs of "ser" and "estar", which is in the gradebook, and participation points. Since the students start with 50 points and can lose them for not being prepared, participating, or behaving, I also wait to put this in until the end. We also have some short Spanish plays that we can act out or do as reader's theatre. The students seem to enjoy these, and they give them a chance to use their new grammar and vocabulary in a fun way. We have a real fun one that is a spoof on a cooking show coming up.

