

## The Core Virtues

September: Respect  
December: Caring  
March: Achievement

October: Responsibility  
January: Patience  
April: Trustworthiness

November: Teamwork  
February: Perseverance  
May: Citizenship

# The Veritas Voice

May 2011

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



It is hard to believe that we are coming to the close of another school year. I feel as though I blinked and here we are.

A great big thank you to Miss Shelly, Miss Montoya, and Mr. Thomas for organizing our Family Fun Event "Minute to Win IT", What an awesome evening. Baka Thiam and Kevin McGowan tied for second and third place and Tanya Wicker took home the first place trophy. The event was well organized and lots of fun.

A great big thank you to Mrs. Mo for doing an excellent job with our spring musical program, "Veritas Broadway Beat". Thanks also to Mrs. Wolf-Smithson and Mr. Smith for a job well done with our String Orchestra and Steel Drummers. Students you were outstanding!

Thank you Miss. Montoya for organizing our art exhibit. The children produced such excellent art work that, to state, "they are worthy of display in a museum of art" is not an exaggeration. Thank you, families, for supporting our silent art auction. Once again the proceeds will go toward adding ceramics to our art program next school year.

Thank you, Mrs. C and company, for organizing our scrapbooking events. The feedback has been positive.

The first week of this month was teacher appreciation week. I want to take a moment to thank you our teachers and staff for your passion and dedication all school year long. You and the many things you do are very much appreciated.

While I am handing out "thank yous", I don't want to forget to thank our Parents and guardians for partnering with us this school year. Without you, we would not have been able to successfully do all that we do.

Just to recap, we had many exciting additions that enhanced our educational program this year.

We added a Reading Coach/ Language Specialist to provide intensive instruction for identified students, a new Computer Lab and Technology Teacher to equip our students and staff to comfortably compete in a techno driven world. Also a Pupil Specialist to meet our student body needs as well as bridge our families, our school and the community.

We also added Monthly Parent Academy opportunities to give parents strategies to assist in partnering with students academic success; SURGE Ahead, to provide remedial intervention for educational growth ; Ketchup Café, homework assistance with our certified teachers; Quarterly Fun Events, to build school spirit and interactions; Citizenship Grade and Awards, to encourage and recognize students who internalize the core virtues and are model citizens; String Orchestra; Drama; and Enrichment classes.

Even though our focus is on academic excellence, make no mistake, we are striving for Educational Excellence. It is our goal to continue providing our students with a well rounded education that is rich, academically challenging, and sprinkled with many enjoyable school experiences.

As this school year comes to a close and as we look forward to next year, I am very excited for what is in store. A few additions for next school year will include a Mentorship Program, Ceramics/Pottery classes, and an Honors/Science club.

I look forward to seeing you next year as we continue to build our school and construct our students for excellence.

*Mrs. Smith*



**The theater performance "Vaudeville at Veritas" is coming Wednesday, June 8th. Don't Miss it!**

## Calendar

|                |                                       |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| May 19         | Parent Academy                        |
| May 26         | April/May Assembly                    |
| May 27         | Sports Banquet                        |
| <b>May 30</b>  | <b>No School</b>                      |
|                | <b>Memorial Day</b>                   |
| June 8         | Vaudeville at Veritas                 |
| <b>June 10</b> | <b>6:00-7:30 pm</b>                   |
|                | <b>K-8th Graduation/Awards</b>        |
| June 13        | Snow Make-up Day                      |
| June 13        | 4th Quarter & Year-End Assembly       |
| June 14        | Snow Make-up Day                      |
| June 14        | Root Beer Floats and Yearbook signing |
| June 14        | Last Day for Students                 |
| June 15        | Last Day for Teachers                 |
| June 27        | Summer School Begins                  |



## NEWS FROM THE GYM

Students in PE have wrapped up their jump rope unit - I have seen all the students improve greatly in their endurance, and speed jumping. The trick jumping has been unbelievable this year - A special shout out goes to the second grade who has 10 students who can double dutch!!!!!! THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU to all the students who participated in Jump Rope for Heart!! We have raised a lot of money for the American Heart Association!!!!

Jump Rope Champions are

**Speed Jumping - Isaiah Oliver**  
(185 jumps in a minute)

**Endurance Jumping - Teresa Andrade**  
(564 jumps in a row)

**Double Dutch - Isaiah Oliver**  
(133 jumps in a row)

**Class Endurance - 8th Grade**

**Team Jump - Tie 5th and 6th grade**

Good Job Students!!!! Get excited for our next units - Tennis, Wiffle Ball and 4square!!!!

## Buckeye Pride

The Buckeyes have started a fun and reflective project. They are creating a soundtrack for their lives!



Each student will choose 8 songs and find events from their life that correlate with those songs to create a whole album. They will write narratives for each event, along with an autobiography, and a reflection. I'm impressed

with the song choices and the events the students have come up with! In Math, we are on our last chapter... **ALGEBRA!** The students are working hard and doing a magnificent job to prepare for seventh grade.



## MUSIC NOTES 🎵

I'll bet if you ask the students, they can tell you a great deal about the wonderful music that has come from a history of entertaining and endearing Broadway shows. In music classes we have been learning about musical theatre and Broadway hits while preparing for the Spring Music program, "Broadway Beat". By watching clips of the movie versions, the students were able to see each of the program numbers performed in character and context of each musical. The selections were not easy but the students did a fabulous job learning each one.

Who knows?

Maybe we have some future Broadway stars right here at Veritas Academy!



## First Grade News

It has been a busy April! The month just flew by. It started off with a wonderful and relaxing spring break for all of us. In Math, we have learned about symmetry, counting money (even dollars!), identifying place value, fractions, and LOTS of adding and subtracting. In Reading, we have been practicing different strategies to help us understand what we have read. We have connected what we are reading to: other books (text-to-text), what we know (text-to-self), and the world around us (text-to-world). We ask questions about what we are reading while we are reading. We have been doing a ton of writing. Right now, we are learning the different ways to write from Ezra Jack Keats, author of "Snowy Day." We have had a lot of fun with maps in Social Studies too!



## Fifth Grade News

The fifth grade class continues to be respectful, focused, and fabulous!

We are still learning so many things each day. Currently, we are working with non-fiction books. We now better understand the elements that make them up: diagrams, charts, maps, graphics, captions, and graphs. We each selected a non-fiction book to read. From it, we are writing essays that discuss the main ideas and supporting details.

The students were also assigned a speech as part of their reading grade. Each child chose a topic that was either important to, or that interested them. We did research together and learned how to use note cards to organize our thoughts when we speak in front of others.

We are working through another chapter on fractions, where the students learn how to multiply and divide simple fractions and mixed numbers. The whole class is finally reducing their answers, too! Wahoo!

Algebra is next on our list.

Now is the time for a few more fun projects in Social Studies and Science, and maybe an extra recess or two!

### STUDENT OF THE MONTH:

- K-Angelina Plata
- 1-Nallely Portillo
- 2-Alaina Pollock
- 3-Kyra McDonald
- 4-Dillan Younkin
- 5-Curtis Trent
- 6-Adam Crawford
- 7-Jay Turner-Smith
- 8-Jordan Diggins

### APRIL CORE VIRTUE STUDENT:

"TRUSTWORTHINESS" PE

- |                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| K-Connor Noble     | K-4 Connor Noble     |
| 1-Zachary Schubert | 5-8 Jayden Kenney    |
| 2-Samuel Thomas    | MUSIC                |
| 3-Annalysa Mwaura  | K-4 Annalysa Mwaura  |
| 4-O'Ryan Rucker    | 5-8 Madison Limerick |
| 5-Kaylee Robinson  | ART                  |
| 6-David Blish      | K-4 Samuel Thomas    |
| 7-Anna Blish       | 5-8 Adam Crawford    |
| 8-Jayden Kenny     | SPANISH              |
|                    | K-4 Madalyn Fisher   |
|                    | 5-8 Eryn Tumbleson   |

## A Great Big Thank You

goes out to all of the sponsors for our Easter Egg Hunt - Kroger's, Martin's, CVS, Dairy Queen and Texas Roadhouse, as well as our Parents, Teachers, Student Council Staff, Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Smith for all the donations and help to make it a success! **Thank You!**



### News from Dragon Country

We have had an exciting month in fourth grade! We still have 2 butterflies that hatched in February. They have been living on red Gatoraide and doing well. We will let the butterflies go this week, now that it is warm enough. The students enjoyed a special guest speaker on the water cycle and farming. They were a great audience and asked wonderful, informative questions. We are enjoying our unit in science about electricity. The children loved making complete circuits and lighting up light-bulbs! We continue to work on our multiplication facts and long division. We have played several games to review these concepts. In reading we are discussing the theme: Love and Friendship. We all loved our read alouds of *Maniac Magee* and *Because of Winn Dixie*. The students have wonderful insights into this topic! We continue to study the great state of Indiana and we have learned so much. We are now talking about modern times and people. We are working hard for the final push to complete the year off with a **BANG!**



### GO UCONN!

Math and Science have really been heating up with the weather! Math 8 just finished up their work on graphs and Math 7 finished their work with percents...Math 7 will move into geometry next, and Math 8 is about to expand beyond what they already know about probability and then jump into algebra--to get them ready for High School!!!

Pre-Algebra and Algebra are always going above and beyond with their work...these students get loads of problems to do everyday in class. The algebra students usually get a lot to take home, so parents make sure that you are checking in on their homework. Pre-Algebra will usually try their best to get all their work done in class--Keep up the great work ethic!!!

Science classes are a great end to my day and I hope a great end to your student's days as well! Keep asking them what they are learning because they really are learning something new everyday!!!



## Kindergarten News

Way to go Kindergarteners! As April came to a close, so did DIBELS testing. The kindergarten kids did awesome on their tests. I am so proud of them. However, April wasn't all testing. We did a lot of fun activities in class to help us learn. We continued our daily Language Arts and Math centers and we have been playing "Around the World" to help with number identification and sight word recall. The kids are really getting quick! We have wrapped up our unit on weather and have begun studying about plants. The kids recently planted flower seeds and were so excited to see how they had sprouted. As always, I am proud of all they have accomplished this month, and I can't wait to see what the rest of the year brings!



## THIRD GRADE NEWS

Hooray! Third graders have proudly finished up their first year of ISTEP testing! They were excited as they were testing because many of them thought it was "easy" and "just like we've been doing all year!" I am anticipating the results and can't wait to share them with the students.

Students also have their eyes on their NWEA goals as we prepare to take our last round of testing in May. They have set their goals and brainstormed ways to reach them. Goal sheets were sent home to parents and are also posted on their desks as a daily reminder.

In Science, we are beginning our unit on habitats and animals as they begin their research this week. Students are excited to work in pairs as they create their habitat and create a presentation for the class. Look forward to projects soon!



## News from the Wolverines

The second graders have been hard at work these past two months. We have been learning all about fractions and measurement in Math. Next up: how to make change, multiplication, and division. In Science, we studied all about the solar system and even wrote postcards about our favorite planet. We also did a recycling project and some of us are submitting them to the 4-H fair! Now we are learning about insects and even have five new class pets! Maybe we will get to learn more about insects on our field trip to Potato Creek on June 6. The second graders have been learning how to read and write poetry. One poem was titled "How to Torture Your Teacher", but we also read one called "How to Torture Your Students"! Poetry can be so fun!

## Art News!

Kindergarten: Students practiced their cutting and coloring skills by creating a fun lion.



1st grade: Students were introduced to artist Paul Klee and created an abstract cityscape with tissue paper and puffy paint!

2nd grade: Students finished their expressionist self-portraits.

3rd grade: The third grade class learned about tropical fish, and created their own tropical fish project out of a paper plate.

4th grade: Students were introduced to the architect Philip Johnson and his architecture. They are currently working on creating their own 3D house out of cardboard, wallpaper, Popsicle sticks, and many other fun materials.

5th grade: The fifth graders are wrapping up their African mask project. This week they added their final details—spray paint and raffia!

6th grade: Students finished their bug project this week by using fun materials like magic clay, wire and aluminum.

7th grade: The 7th grade class created sculptures out of toothpicks and spray painted their project for a final touch.

8th grade: Students created fun colored snakes out of white board and aluminum foil.

## Squawk from Cardinal Country



Starting at the end of the year as their new teacher, "Mr. L" is excited to jump right in! The 7th and 8th grade students have been very welcoming.

The Students are looking at the Civil Rights Movement in their social studies classes.

Reading *Freedom's Children* provides students with first person accounts of civil rights struggles in the United States. We are also reviewing how this movement affected residents of South Bend in the last 100 years.

Language Arts students are using the same theme as they study the novel *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*.

A year-end project will combine the language arts and social studies area of study in civil rights with a project where students use creativity in the arts and technology.

## Caught Ya!

The teachers of Veritas Academy were caught being extra helpful with the Music Program.

**Isaiah Oliver, Bryant Edwards,  
and Oscar Gutierrez**

came into Ms. Ruffleth's room at the end of the day and cleaned up all the papers off the floor, put all the calculators away, and put all the chairs up! Thanks Guys!!

**Andrew Sutherland**

was caught cleaning up the lunch table.

**Noah Pollock**

was caught working very hard during Writer's Workshop.

**Rahaam Oliver**

helped a friend feel better on a rough day.

**Miranda**

was caught picking up a radio after it fell off Miss Fitzgerald's pocket on the stairs.

**David B.**

was caught being a great helper in the classroom.

## Spanish Noticias



These are the things that we are learning in Spanish:

**KINDERGARTEN** - family members, food, alphabet, and will move on to clothing

**1ST GRADE** - body parts, especially the face and family members, we are moving into animals and community words

**2ND GRADE** - places in the community, body parts, family members, and moving into animals and vocabulary about the home

**3RD GRADE** - places in the community, gender of nouns in Spanish, body parts and emotions, we are moving into learning about definite articles (the= el, la, los, las) and indefinite articles (a, an, some- un, una, unos, unas) in Spanish and animals (review for us).

**4TH GRADE** - colors, possessive adjectives, body parts, we are moving into family members and vocabulary about the home. The first half of the 9 weeks we also added Lessons 1-4 from [www.studyspanish.com](http://www.studyspanish.com) they have been working on at home. These first 4 are review over gender of nouns, numbers 0-10, and plurals. They are learning and reviewing a lot! We are moving into Lessons 5-8 for May. These are also mainly review and we will be learning/reviewing definite/indefinite articles, verb "hay", and subject pronouns. Lesson 8 is new material and we will see how we handle conjugating verbs.

**5TH GRADE**- adjectives that are opposites, telling time (part of this is review for us), and sports. We are moving into numbers to 1,000 (some review), and shapes & colors. The first half of the 9 weeks we also added Lessons 1-4 from [www.studyspanish.com](http://www.studyspanish.com) they have been working on at home. These first 4 are review over gender of nouns, numbers 0-10, and plurals. They are learning and reviewing a lot! We are moving into Lessons 5-8 for May. These are also mainly review and we will be learning/reviewing definite/indefinite articles, verb "hay", and subject pronouns. Lesson 8 is new material and we will see how we handle conjugating verbs.

**6TH, 7TH, & 8TH GRADES** - have been doing computer lessons 25, 26, 27, 31, and 52 at home learning about weather expressions, the personal "a", "del & al", verbs "estar, dar, and ir", #31- 1000. We are also using these in reading some plays about picking "The Perfect Pet" and/or about some weather correspondents who aren't so diligent in their work. We will be moving into lessons 32, 48, and 53 learning about "ir + a + infinitive," telling time, and verbs like "gustar". We will be reading a comical play about a cooking show and another about an interesting restaurant customer. We also are working on pronunciation with these short plays, as well. I want to actually try an act at least one of them out for fun!