

November 21, 2014

Dear Parents and Students,

Notes to Ponder...

- Last night, our Spell Bowl team came in 6th place in our division and FOURTEENTH in the entire state, missing State's Top 10 by two points. Way to go! Start thinking about next year. You should consider trying out for the team.
- We will have our Vocabulary/Word Skill quiz and our Chapter 4 Science test Wednesday, November 26. Graded study guides AND science books should have gone home tonight.
- We will begin a problem-solving/writing project after Thanksgiving which will challenge our math, process, and creativity skills. To make this project full of choice, lots of craft items are used. I currently have a large bin of fun collections, but it can always use a refill of donations. Therefore, as you begin to get out your holiday decorations or you begin to clean out your personal craft bin, please think of us. I DO NOT want anyone to purchase anything. I am requesting only your leftovers or planned throw-a-ways (i.e. fabric swatches, ribbon, paper, old holiday cards, sequins, beads, etc.) We love it all. Thank you in advance.
- Last week Six Flags Read to Succeed and the Deep River Waterpark Reading Program logs went home. Both of these programs require six hours of reading at home. (More incentive to earn our AR points and improve our reading comprehension). The due date for Six Flags isn't until March, but the reading log may be returned whenever six hours of reading is completed. The Deep River reading log with parent/guardian signature must be in next month! I cannot remember what I set the due date as, but I will collect them through Monday, December 8. They have to be at the Lake County Park Department office NO LATER than Friday, December 12.
- Frequently check AR info on <ARHomeConnect.com>
 - See the latest and greatest points earned and comprehension
 - Everybody has a personal point goal this term, but the comprehension goal is still ≥90%
 - I printed a report with cumulative quiz information. This should go home on Monday.
- Our class library has been under major renovation for the past 3 weeks. I am working hard to finish leveling each book within the AR book level ranges and adding a vocabulary list to most books. My hope is that this extra information will help us select the most appropriate books for our individualized reading ability.
- You may have been reading about our school district's process of gathering and assessing student and building needs to meet 21st century learning. Although there has been much discussion in the past several years, we are now at a critical crossroads to insure our children have the most effective resources to meet their individualized emotional, academic, and/or physical needs in the safest and most enriching learning environments (i.e. comfortable climate-controlled classrooms,

adequate space to use for class experiments, a "REAL" gymnasium separate from the cafeteria, wheelchair accessibility, etc.). A large capital building project across the city has been recommended, so our school board will present the Valparaiso Community with a referendum in the spring. A proposal that will have an effect on every tax-paying household.

In the meantime, discussion on the proposed building project is being addressed at the monthly school board meetings. Your listening ears and commitment to your child's education is welcomed. Please consider attending as often as your schedule allows, so as the topic of the referendum may arise in your social circles, you have "first-hand" information to share.

Enjoy your weekend.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

NOVEMBER

- Our Vocabulary/Word Skill Quiz and our Chapter 4 Science Test- Wed., Nov. 26.
- Student Council Food Drive- Monday, Nov. 24 - Wednesday, Nov. 26
- Thanksgiving Break- Thursday, Nov. 27 - Sunday, November 28

DECEMBER

- "20 Together" November reading calendars DUE- Monday, December 1
- Santa's Holiday Forest Coloring Contest submission- DUE Tuesday, Dec. 2
- Deep River Waterpark reading logs DUE- Monday, December 8
- Acuity Readiness Testing Window-Monday, Dec. 8 - Thursday, Feb. 13
- School Board Discussion Meeting (AD Bldg. 6:00 PM)- Thursday, December 11
- VCS This is Our Story - Mon., December 15- 7:30 @ VHS Gym
- School Board Regular Meeting (Northview. 6:00 PM)- Thursday, December 18
- Winter Break- Saturday., Dec 20 - Sunday, Jan. 4

JANUARY

- "20 Together" December reading calendars DUE- Monday, January 5
- School Board Discussion Meeting (AD Bldg. 6:00 PM)- Thursday, January 8
- End of Grading Period 2- Thursday, Jan. 15
- School Board Regular Meeting (Memorial. 6:00 PM)- Thursday, January 15
- NO School/Records Day- Friday, Jan. 16
- NO School/Martin Luther King Observance- Monday, Jan. 19

FEBRUARY

- "20 Together" January reading calendars DUE- Monday, February 2
- School Board Discussion Meeting (AD Bldg. 6:00 PM)- Thursday, February 5
- NO School/Midwinter Break- Friday, February 13
- NO School/President's Day- Monday, February 16
- School Board Regular Meeting (Cooks. 6:00 PM)- Thursday, February 19

MARCH

- "20 Together" February reading calendars DUE- Monday, March 2
- ISTEP+ Applied Skills Testing Window- Monday, March 2 - Friday, March 13
- School Board Discussion Meeting (AD Bldg. 6:00 PM)- Thursday, March 5
- Acuity Readiness Testing Window-Monday, March 16 - Friday, April 24

- School Board Regular Meeting (Flint Lake. 6:00 PM)- Thursday, March 19
- End of Grading Period 3- Friday, March 20
- Spring Break- Saturday, March 21 - Sunday, March 29

APRIL

- "20 Together" March reading calendars DUE- Wednesday, April 1
- School Board Discussion Meeting (AD Bldg. 6:00 PM)- Thursday, April 6
- School Board Regular Meeting (TJ El., 6:00 PM)- Thursday, April 16
- NO School OR Snow Make Up Day- Friday, April 17
- ISTEP+ M/C Testing Window- Monday, April 27 - Friday, May 15

MAY

- "20 Together" April reading calendars DUE- Friday, May 1
- School Board Discussion Meeting (AD Bldg., 6:00 PM)- Thursday, May 7
- NO School OR Snow Make Up Day- Friday, May 15
- School Board Regular Meeting (Ad Bldg., 6:00 PM)- Thursday, May 21
- NO School/Memorial Day- Monday, May 25

JUNE

- "20 Together" May reading calendars DUE- Monday, June 1
- Last Day of School- Thursday, June 4
- School Board Discussion Meeting (AD Bldg., 6:00 PM)- Thursday, June 4
- School Board Regular Meeting (AD Bldg., 6:00 PM)- Thursday, June 18