

VANDERBILT LIONS PAW PRINT

December, 2007

On behalf of everyone at Vanderbilt Elementary School, I would like to wish all of our families a wonderful holiday season, and best wishes for a happy and healthy new year!



Martin Boettcher

Important Reminders

- Kindergarten registration for the 2008-2009 school year will be taking place in January. This is by appointment only. In order to be registered, your child must be five years of age on or before December 31, 2008. If you know of anyone who has a child that will be attending Vanderbilt next year, please have them call 592-3800 to ensure their child is on our list.
- If you have a parental custody agreement, please make sure our main office has an updated copy.
- The week of January 7th, our 3rd, 4th & 5th grade students will be taking the New York State English Language Arts (ELA) Assessment. It is important that your child gets a good night's sleep and eats a good breakfast the morning of the assessment. If your child is sick, please do not send him or her to school. Make-up tests will be administered the following week (week of January 14th).
- Please update all parental contact information; i.e.: cell phone, work phone, emergency pick up information.
- Please do not send your child to school before 9:00am, unless they are invited by a teacher.
- When using the newly designated parking lot (formerly the basketball court), please leave ample space between the front of your car and the fence.

Upcoming Events

- Kindergarten Registration--- week of January 28; call for an appointment
- 1/1, School Closed, Happy New Year!
- 1/2, School Re-opens; PTA meeting, 9:30a
- 1/7, 4th Grade ELA Assessment; BOE Meeting, Otsego, 8:00p
- 1/8, 4th Grade ELA Assessment
- 1/9, 4th Grade ELA Assessment
- All 1st Grade Classes, Bayway Arts Center: Frosty the Snowman, 9:30 – 11:30a
- 1/10, 3rd Grade ELA Assessment
- 1/11, 5th Grade ELA Assessment

Thank You!

- Mr. McElhiney and Mrs. DeSabato represented Vanderbilt at a sold out performance on November 30th at High School East. They did a phenomenal job and made the entire school proud!
- Vanderbilt thanks our wonderful PTA once again for decorating our school lobby and courtyard for winter.
- Many thanks to the Vanderbilt Student Council for collecting Toys for Tots. Once again, our Vanderbilt families were very generous!

Grade Level News

- In conjunction with the 4th grade Social Studies curriculum, our 4th graders created Native American Longhouses. A tremendous amount of effort went into the project and they did a wonderful job.
- Our first grade students invited their families in to help build holiday gingerbread houses. A great time was had by all!
- Our second grade students worked extremely hard preparing for their “Bring and Brag Museum” on December 13th. Their performance and displays were enjoyed by both parents and staff. Tremendous job second grade!
- Vanderbilt’s “Kids Unite Club” visited Sunrise Assisted Living and spoke with the residents. This special event left lasting smiles on the faces of students and residents.

News from the Health Office

Happy holidays from the Health Office! We have a few reminders to keep our Vanderbilt kids healthy and safe. Winter is upon us and so is cold and flu season. We are spending more time inside sharing germs that can lead to colds, sore throats, and other communicable illnesses. The best way to prevent the spread of these infections is through frequent hand washing and by reminding children to cover their coughs and sneezes, and to throw used tissues in the garbage. Influenza, or the flu, is a contagious infection caused by a variety of viruses. Compared with most other viral respiratory infections, such as the common cold, the flu often causes a more severe illness. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that 35 to 50 million Americans come down with the flu during flu season, which typically spans November through March. Children are two to three times more likely than adults to get sick with the flu, and frequently spread the virus to others. Although most people recover from the illness, more than 100,000 people are hospitalized every year in the U.S. for the flu and its complications. Young children and the elderly are particularly at risk. According to the CDC, the single best way to protect against the flu is to get vaccinated each year. October or November is the best time to get vaccinated, but you can still get vaccinated in December and later. Consult your private physician for additional information. And finally, please review the safety issues associated with winter activities such as skiing and snow boarding (wear your helmets!), and remind your children to only go sledding, snow tubing and ice skating in safe areas and in safe ways. Wishing you a wonderful and healthy New Year!

PTA News

“Life isn’t a matter of milestones, but of moments.” ~ Rose Kennedy

Belated thanks to Lori Baker, Marguerite Leamey, Terry Morris and Hillary Kalb, our Photo Day Committee, for such a great photo day! Please mark February 5th on your calendars as our re-take day.

Belated thanks to Bernadette Bunsis, Ilyse Flattau, Dawn Zacharakis and the entire Shop and Dine Committee for a fun-filled evening of vendors and delicious food (Thank you Cirella’s)! It was an outstanding PTA endeavor.

On behalf of the Vanderbilt PTA, please take some time to enjoy the moments of this joyous holiday season.

Quote of the Day

“Americans make the terrible assumption that good relationships are about harmony. They are not. On the contrary, good relations are those that handle strife well. Our task is to know and teach that every relationship involves conflict and resolving conflict.”

Donald Shriver, President Emeritus, of Union Theological Seminary, quote in an article by Julia Steiny in *The Providence Journal*, Nov. 11, 2007



Happy
2008 !