

VANDERBILT LIONS PAW PRINT

June, 2006

With one week to go, we still have a lot more planned at Vanderbilt. Please note that the last three days of school, June 21-23, will be ½ days. Buses will be leaving at 11:25.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE:

Each year I marvel at how quickly June arrives, this year is no exception. The Vanderbilt Lions are working harder than ever; and their efforts are really paying off. **This year, Vanderbilt received numerous distinguished awards!** Vanderbilt is one of two schools in our district to receive the ***"Suffolk County Reading Council Honor School Award"***. In addition to this prestigious award, we had two students win individual awards. **Nicole Rosenthal**, in Mrs. Paulsen's first grade class, won first place for the poem she submitted. **Elizabeth Georgakopoulos**, in Mrs. Sigismondi's second grade class, also won first place for her poem. These poems were judged against hundreds of entries by schools across Suffolk County. We are so proud of them! Only two schools in Suffolk County had two winners, and Vanderbilt was one of them!

Additionally, our Math Olympiad team, lead by Mrs. Rusinski, entered a national contest and won ***"High Team Achievement"*** and placed in the top 10% in the nation! Great job Mathematicians!

Fifth grade students, **Alexis Weber, Elana Weber, and Sarah Han**, were part of a team that entered the "Odyssey of the Mind" competition. Their efforts placed them 1st among all teams from Long Island!

Suffolk Zone's ***"Outstanding Physical Education Award"*** went to fifth grade students **Nicholas Mercardante and Kristina Spinelli**. Great work!

Third grader, **Jonathan Reichfield**, entered the ***"HHH Teacher's Association Writing Contest"*** and won first place. Way to go, Jonathan!

Summer Reading Program

One priority of our literacy program is encouraging independent reading. Research shows that students who do not read over the summer suffer reading loss. In June's report card envelope, you will be receiving a summer reading packet. The packet will include grade appropriate book suggestions, and four response templates with choices for reading responses. Students who read and return the required four responses to their **NEW CLASSROOM TEACHERS** in September will be recognized with a certificate, a bookmark keepsake, and a coupon for a "treat". In addition, Vanderbilt will dedicate a bulletin board to display their work.

Vanderbilt's ***Third Annual Literary Festival*** was a huge success! Our students and staff worked so hard to prepare for the evening. We hope you enjoyed the glimpse into the reading and writing process that your children are involved in. Thank you to the **Literary Festival Committee** for all of their efforts, and to **Mrs. Palermo and Mrs. Shaughnessy** for presenting.

It has been wonderful to see community members display the Vanderbilt Lion window decal that went home with the third quarter report cards! Please remember to show ***"Vanderbilt Pride"*** and show off those window decals!

If you must pick your child up from school, please do so at 3:15, by the side door. The front desk in the main lobby should only be used for early dismissal pick-ups. Early dismissal pick-ups are documented on the report cards, and are reported as an incomplete school day. Thank you for your cooperation.

SCHOOL NEWS:

SHOWING APPRECIATION –

The PTA is planning its annual *Staff Recognition Luncheon*. If you are interested and want to help, we would love for you to prepare one of your specialties. Home-cooked or store-bought main dishes, side dishes and desserts are needed. Please return the bottom portion of the pink flier that went home with your child.

A GLIMPSE AT SCHOOL EVENTS – *Field Day!*

Due to the weather, Vanderbilt's annual Field Day was rescheduled for Tuesday, June 6th. Tuesday's weather wasn't being very cooperative, but we were able to finish all of the events. Every child was put onto a team – red, white, yellow, blue and green – and the Physical Education Staff prepared wonderfully challenging and fun events. It truly was a great day! Field Day is designed around a team concept and not individual ability. No one person can win or lose an event. Everyone won; because everyone had fun! Thank you, **Mr. Schroeder** and **Ms. Barbour** for planning such a wonderful day!

D.A.R.E. Graduation

Our 5th graders graduated from the D.A.R.E. Program on Friday, June 16th. The ceremony took place in Vanderbilt's cafeteria at 9:45 AM. We were thrilled to see so many parents there!

5th Grade Moving-up Ceremony

Congratulations to our 5th grade students! Vanderbilt's Moving-up Ceremony will take place at High School West, on Wednesday, June 21st. **The ceremony begins at 9:00 AM. This is 30 minutes earlier than what is on the district calendar.** Please have your child at High School West promptly at 8:30 AM.

PTA News:

Elections

The results are in...

Congratulations to our new PTA Board:

Presidents: Maria Holmquist, Vidya Nagaraj

Vice Presidents: Mindy Ashkinos, Marguerite Leamey, Tina Shek

Treasurer – Linda Winthrop

Assistant Treasurer – Terry Morris

Recording Secretary – Betty DeSabato

Corresponding Secretary – Ann Scoleri

Historian – Jodi Rosenzweig, Kori Schneider

Delegates to Council – Bernadette Bunsis, Lydia Pino

Past President – Lynne Demestichas

Teacher Liaison – Sharon Gewirtz

Thank you for all the hard work from our current PTA Board:

Presidents: Lynne Demestichas, Vidya Nagaraj

Vice Presidents: Mindy Ashkinos, Marguerite Leamey, Tina Shek

Treasurer – Maria Holmquist

Assistant Treasurer – Helen Papa

Recording Secretary – Betty DeSabato

Corresponding Secretary – Diana Tripodi

Historian – Kori Schneider, Terry Tucker

Delegates to Council – Lydia Pino, Jodi Rosenzweig

Teacher Liaison – Sharon Gewirtz

Fundraising

Thank you for supporting all of the 2005/2006 fundraising efforts!

Parent's Night Out:

Last month we had our annual “**Parent's Night Out**” event. We had a record-high number of attendees, and raised \$11,000! People found time to catch up with friends, and many left with a raffle basket (or two, or three!). A huge “Thank You” to all who helped put the event together; especially Marguerite Leamey and her family, for storing all of the raffle items in their home for several weeks.

Box Tops:

Don't forget to save your Box Tops over the summer! A complete list of brands can be found on www.boxtops4education.com. There will be a contest at the start of school, so stock up!

Vanderbilt's School Store:

Thank you, Mrs. Kessler and the School Store team! Your efforts, combined with the students' purchases, have raised money that supports committees such as Make-A-Difference and the Site Based Management Team. This past school year, the school store has helped provide funds for the banners on display for the Book of the Month, and a contribution toward the Madagascar Ankizy Fund. This is a not-for-profit fund for the education and health care of Malagasy children. Its goal is to build schools and clinics in remote areas of the island.

If you are interested in running the school store, please call Mrs. Kessler at 595-1642. The store is stocked and ready to go for the 2006/2007 school year. It does not require a tremendous amount of time to run the store, and the days to open the store are flexible.

Arts & Education

Highly Recommended, Acceptable or Not Recommended Foods!

A Registered Dietician from *Heart Links*, a project funded by the NY State Department of Health, Healthy Heart Program at Stony Brook University, came to our PTA meeting. She spoke about the importance of nutrition, and the role it plays in children's health and readiness to learn. Visit: www.stonybrook.edu/heartlinks/parents.html. Once you're there, click on the Parent's section for great articles and links.

PTA Reflections Contest- 2006/2007

The theme for the 2006/2007 PTA Reflections contest will be "My Favorite Place". Vanderbilt students have always done extremely well. Talk about the theme with your child over the summer and plan on participating!

Your Child's Safety

There was an evening seminar a few months ago that provided very valuable information on protecting our children from sexual predators. With the summer here, children are spending more time outside. We thought we would provide this web link to you: www.parentsformeganslaw.com. It provides information on the prevention and treatment of childhood sexual abuse through the provision of education, advocacy, counseling,

policy and legislative support services. We hope you learn something from visiting this site.

Need to submit information or have an idea for the newsletter? Please email it to rvelocci@mosaicmarketingsolutions.com or fax it to 631-489-7011 - please include your name and phone number. Thank you!



**HAVE A WONDERFUL
SUMMER!**

-The Vanderbilt Faculty