



November 8, 2015

Dear Viking Families:

We hope you are enjoying your weekend and ready for a short, but busy week ahead. Don't forget that Wednesday is Veteran's Day, so there is no school. Speaking of Veteran's Day, our 11<sup>th</sup> grade students had a wonderful Veteran's project last week where they brought in and interviewed Veteran's from all types of services and wars and then served them lunch. It was a wonderful tribute to this group of men and women who have served our country in so many ways. As always, we are looking for ways that Voyager Academy can continue to improve. We are almost finished with redesigning a room in the Hock House for student services. Thanks to the parents in our EXPO group for helping this project along. In the next couple of weeks we will be making some small changes to some of our internal arrival/dismissal policies to keep all our students safe. If you have any questions about student safety or internal operations, please feel free to direct them to me anytime. Last week all students in grades 3-12 were offered the time to take a short climate survey similar to the parent and staff surveys to help us improve. We will share those reports with you next Friday.

**Academic Update:**

Over the next couple of weeks we will be reviewing more academic data from fall assessments and end of year growth reports. We will be using this information with current student performance reports to ensure that we are meeting the needs of all students. At the end of the next few weeks, some schedules may vary slightly to help us achieve our goals of improving student achievement. We will keep you posted!

If you have a student in the HS, please ask them (or us) about our new "Dugout". Students who do not turn in all their assignments are sent to the Dugout to finish work during lunch. Last week we had up to 107 kids per day assigned to the Dugout. Please help us remind your students that turning work in on time is essential for teachers to provide assistance and to measure progress.

**Athletics Update:**

Congratulations to Morgan Blount – NCHSAA 1A Women's Tennis Individual State Runner Up. What a great post season run; finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in the state as a sophomore is exciting for our women's tennis program.

Volleyball finished their season falling to the defending state champions in three close and hard fought games, in the final 8 of the state playoffs.

Cross Country finished this weekend as Lonni Foglesong and the Men's team compete state championship meet, in Kernersville, on Saturday afternoon.

Winter Athletics Seasons are underway at both the middle school and high school. Check [www.voyageracademyathletics.com](http://www.voyageracademyathletics.com) for schedule of upcoming events.



Our Varsity Boys Basketball team opened up this Friday evening with a huge win over DSA in front of a huge crowd. Thanks to all our students and families who came out to support the team and show their Viking Pride!

#### Booster Club

December 9<sup>th</sup> next Chick-Fil-A spirit night and Information on next booster club meeting to come soon.

#### **PTA Update:**

Please mark your calendars for our next PTA membership meeting on Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. We will be in the MS gym. During this meeting, we will be addressing two items that need your vote: 1) Whether we will be participating with Boosterthon during the 2016-2017 school year, and 2) How to allocate the funds raised by each school during Boosterthon.

These are topics that we have seen raised since we started Boosterthon. We want to give each PTA member the ability to speak on these topics and then hold a membership vote on how we will proceed. This is not a meeting to miss!

Please plan to arrive a few minutes early to check in before entering the gym so that your vote can be counted. If you have a family membership, please make sure that your family member is there to have their vote counted or you will lose that particular vote. If you are not a member at this time, that's ok! We can get you signed up that night so that you are in a position to vote that evening.

We appreciate each and every one of our families and look forward to a very productive meeting!

Thank you,  
Shelley Brown  
PTA President

#### **Elementary Update:**

We've had a great week at Voyager Elementary! Today, our 2<sup>nd</sup> graders had a Book Character Parade for the entire school, highlighting the character that they studied in Reading Workshop and dressing up as that character. It was fabulous! Also, please be sure that you are still collecting your Boosterthon pledges.

I hope everyone has a lovely weekend!!!  
Leslie

#### **Important VAES Information:**

- **PTA Hospitality Luncheon:** Tuesday, November 10  
Our next Teacher/Staff Hospitality Luncheon is November 10<sup>th</sup>, we are hosting a "soup and salad" themed lunch! Please review the list and contribute time and or food if you are able. Teachers also appreciate parent volunteers during lunch so if your schedule allows please consider helping. Thanks in advance for all that you do! The Hospitality Luncheons would not



be a success without your continued support.

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0A48A8A6229-November>

With Much Appreciation,

Dana King and Lynn Mattioli

- **VAES Yearbook Ordering Information**

2015-16 Elementary School Yearbooks are now on sale and can only be ordered online this year. You can order your copy online at [www.strawbridge.net](http://www.strawbridge.net). Yearbooks are \$22.00 each and must be ordered by January 31, 2016. After this date, there will be a price increase for additional book orders. Visit [www.strawbridge.net](http://www.strawbridge.net), click on Order/Pay, and complete the requested school information for Voyager Elementary and ensure that you choose Yearbook to proceed to your order. Please contact Leslie Jewell ([lesliej@mindspring.com](mailto:lesliej@mindspring.com)) if you have any questions. Order today!!

- **Tuesday, November 10:** Strawbridge Make-up Pictures
- **Wednesday, November 11:** Veteran's Day Holiday/No School for Staff and Students
- **Wednesday, November 25 – Friday, November 27:** No School/Thanksgiving Holiday
- **Thursday, December 3:** PTA Hospitality Luncheon
- **Friday, December 11 @ 1:00 PM:** First Grade Project Celebration
- **Thursday, December 17 @ 11:00 AM:** Third Grade Project Celebration
- **Thursday, December 17 @ 1:00 PM:** Kindergarten Project Celebration
- **Friday, December 18 @ 12:00 PM:** Second Grade Project Celebration
- **December 21 – January 1:** Winter Break/No School for Staff and Students
- **Monday, January 4:** Required Teacher Workday/No School for Students
- **Umbrellas:** Please donate umbrellas for staff to use for AM and PM carline

**Middle School Update:**

I hope this has been a great week! It has certainly been busy at the middle school. There are a couple of concerns I need YOU to discuss with your child. It is important that students keep their hands to themselves. For the 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> graders, incidents happen mainly on the playground. For the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, we need to keep our hands off our friends --- even if they are playing or flirting! I know this is the way middle school students gain attention from their peers but we have a NO touching policy. If your child comes to the office, the consequence could be an in-school or out of school suspension. The second area of need is getting to class on time and being prepared. Our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders do a great job getting to their classes and being prepared. Our middle school students need a reminder by you that class change time is not a time to socialize or play. They need to be in class and ready to begin the lesson. Beginning Monday if students are not in class when the teacher is ready to begin, they will be sent to the office. We need to maximize the learning of all students and do not need them wasting time in the halls!



Thanks for your support during the Boosterthon fundraiser! If you have not sent your pledges/donations, please make sure you send Monday. The Boosterthon reps and our PTA volunteers will count money on Monday!

We enjoyed seeing so many of you on Conference Day! Our teachers prepared for your conference so you would have a better understanding of your child's strengths and areas of need. It's never too late to have a meeting with your child's teacher.

The prizes for the GoPlaySave fundraiser arrived and were distributed today. If you have questions, please contact Deuce Harris or me.

Help! We need you! If you are available to help distribute lunches, please let me know. We need an extra hand on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. If you could help on one of the days, it would be most helpful! Ms. Salazar has Friday under control. It's a simple job and you get to meet some great students as they come to you to pick up their lunches. Please email me and I will share lunch distribution times. A huge thank you in advance!!!!!!

I want to thank Mr. Jeff Wilcox and family!!!. I am very happy to share that the Wilcox family will weed and mulch the playground during our Thanksgiving holidays. When the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders return, the piece of playground equipment will be ready for play!

**Upcoming Events:**

Nov. 9           Boosterthon pledges due, PTA volunteers will count money  
Nov. 10          Make-up pictures  
Nov. 11          Veteran's Day – no school

Have a great weekend!

Gwen

Gwen Johnson   gjohnson@voyageracademy.net  
Principal, Voyager Middle School

**High School Update:**

Our 11th grade US History teacher and students executed an amazing culminating event yesterday. The culmination for their project is Durham's 1st Annual Veteran's Day Luncheon. VAHS students and the Veteran's of Foreign Wars partnered to record oral histories and honor veterans. VAHS students conducted interviews and hosted a celebration luncheon for veterans from all over the area, representing every war from World War II through Iraq. Through participating in this event, students learned military history through firsthand accounts, as well as honoring Veteran's day, which marks the armistice on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month that brought an end to violence in World War I. This activity is part of an ongoing partnership between VAHS and the Veterans of Foreign War. The interviews will contribute to the VFW interview project and the Library of Congress Veteran's History Project.



It was a privilege to watch the culmination of the hard work of our teachers and students. This formative experience will shape the way our students understand and interact with the US History curriculum as well as the cost paid for our freedom. As we work to become better and better each year, it is culminating events like this one that remind me we are on the right path.

Cory Draughon  
Principal, VAHS  
“Persist for Meaning”

--Children battling cancer often miss significant amounts of in-classroom time, spending those days in their PJs at home or in the hospital instead of learning with their friends. Voyager Academy will be hosting a PJammin Day next Tuesday, November 10th! Every student is invited to wear their PJs to school and you must make a donation of at least \$1. Service Club students will be collecting money before school in front of all entrances. If you would like to make a check donation, checks can be made out to the American Childhood Cancer Organization. Thank you in advance, and remember, together we can find a cure to cancer.

--Do you have a passion for children and are interested in serving as a Voyager substitute or know of someone who may be interested? If so please schedule to attend our substitute interest meeting on November 17th at 2:30at Voyager Elementary school. If you can not attend the meeting but are interested please send your name,email, and phone number to [mplummer@voyageracademy.net](mailto:mplummer@voyageracademy.net) with the subject line Voyager Sub.

--Voyager Academy Lacrosse Club Interest Meeting  
On Tuesday, November 10th at 7:00pm there will be an interest meeting for the 2016 Voyager Academy High School Lacrosse club in the Middle School gymnasium. This meeting is open to all Voyager High School students and their parents/guardians. If you plan on participating this season, or simply have questions about the team, please try to attend this meeting. If you cannot make it, please email [kpilley@ncsu.edu](mailto:kpilley@ncsu.edu) with your intent to play or any questions you may have.