



Voyager Academy Weekly Newsletter December 11, 2015

Dear Voyager Families,

As some of you know, Jennifer Lucas, our Managing Director, is having surgery and will be out on a short-term medical leave from December 11 through January 11. Therefore, if you have something that needs immediate attention, you can contact me at lpaynter@voyageracademy.net.

Be sure to check out our fabulous High School Culinary Arts Gingerbread House auction from December 14 - 17 (see attached flyer). They will be on display in the elementary lobby. Also, you can learn more about the auction at: <https://www.32auctions.com/voyagergingerbread2015>.

The 3rd grade tutoring program, supported by the Voyager Academy PTA, is currently underway. We are currently serving eleven third grade students every Monday and Wednesday after school. Tutors from the high school have completed multiple trainings on successful tutoring practices and are doing a fantastic job! Thank you for your support as we continue to reach all of our students!



Thank you for participating in our "Fill the Bucket" for First in Families of Durham County. We so appreciate your generosity! Please be sure that you drop off your gift in the VAES, VAMS, or VAHS lobby. This was a school-wide, K - 12, project that encouraged teachers, students and families to purchase gifts for others within our Durham community. Specifically, the gifts will go to Durham families that have children with developmental disabilities. Students/Staff/Parents were to select a gift tag from the bucket in the main lobby at VAES, VAMS, or VAHS and return the UNwrapped gift with the gift tag taped to the bag to VAES, VAMS, or VAHS by Friday, December 11th. Some tags list more than one item. You do not need to purchase all of the items. For more information about Durham First in Families, please visit: www.fifnc.org



Don't forget that Friday, December 18 is a full school day. Winter break is from December 21st - January 4th. January 4th is a Teacher Workday and students return to school on Tuesday, January 5th. I hope everyone enjoys the weekend and we will see you back at school on Monday.

Best,

Leslie Paynter

VAES Principal

Elementary Update:

Dear VAES Families,

First, thanks to all of the families, staff, and students that participated in "filling the bucket" for First in Families of Durham County. I am always so amazed by the outpouring of generosity in our community. I know that the children and families will truly appreciate all of the thoughtful gifts! We have had a very busy week at Voyager Elementary! Our first graders and their teachers have been working very hard getting ready for their project celebration on NC Animal Habitats. I hope that you will be able to attend their presentation today. I was able to get a "sneak peek" and they have done a fabulous job! You will not be disappointed!! Next week, will be even busier! On Thursday, Kindergarteners will have their Animal Project Celebration and the Third Graders will present their project on Landforms. On Friday, the Second Grade students will have their Sound and Cultures Celebration. You will not want to miss any of these wonderful presentations. All of the students, staff, and teachers have been working very hard this quarter!! Don't forget that next Friday, December 18 is the last full day of school before the winter break.

Have a great weekend!

Leslie

- **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. 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, 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) if you have any questions. Order today!!

- **Gingerbread House Auction in VAES Lobby for HS Culinary Arts Students:** Monday, Dec. 14 - Wed., Dec. 17 (see attached flyer)
- **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
- **2nd Quarter Report Cards:** Sent home on Friday, January 8

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- **Umbrellas:** Please donate umbrellas for staff to use for AM and PM carline
- If you have a middle school student that comes to the elementary for the afternoon carline, please be sure to read Mrs. Johnson's message in the Middle School Update section regarding carline expectations for middle school students.

Middle School Update:

Hello Voyager Middle School Families,

It has been a very busy week at Voyager Middle School and the upcoming week will be just as busy! The staff thanks Ricci McKenna and all the parents who provided a delicious breakfast this past Tuesday. We enjoyed the breakfast casseroles, pastries, bagels, fruit, and coffee!

We also want to thank those of you who selected a tag from "the bucket". You have been very generous in providing gifts to several families. I know each family will be very appreciative. If you have not dropped off the gifts you purchased, please do so early Monday. Thanks to those of you who helped with Ms. Mangano's raking project. It was a huge success!

As you know we're providing a one-stop drop off in the mornings and a one-stop pick up in the afternoons. In the mornings, our elementary and middle school students are dropped off at the middle school. In the afternoons, our middle school students walk over to meet their siblings at the elementary school. Today, Mrs. Paynter, Mr. Smith and I met to discuss several afternoon carline situations. It's been brought to our attention that several of our students are not following the procedures that are in place. Some of our students are being disrespectful to the adults at the elementary school. Others are talking rather than listening so they do not hear their name called and do not get to their car in a timely manner. Beginning Monday, students who are disrespectful to the carline staff will be sent to the office at the elementary school. You will need to pick up your child from the elementary office. Either Mr. Smith or I will be there to talk with you and your child about the expectations during carline. There are also times our students are not listening and do not hear their name called. When students are not ready when called, it slows the process of our carline. Beginning Monday, if a student does not hear his/her name called, you will be asked to pick up your child at the elementary office. It is a must that our students comply with the carline expectations. Thanks for taking time to talk with your children about what they need to do during carline. It's important that our students follow the procedures in place!

"Instagram this!" VAMS yearbook! 2015-16

Time to place your order for your child's yearbook! Order before January 29, 2016 and pay only \$27! You can simply order via www.strawbridge.net. Don't delay, check this off of your to do list!

Many of our students have been designing, learning lines, singing, and creating sets for our upcoming play. Please mark you calendar and join us Tuesday or Wednesday night. You will certainly be glad you did so I hope to see you there!

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Voyager Middle School's Fall Play and Chorus Presents-----*A Fairy Tale Christmas Carol, The Musical*

When: Tuesday, Dec. 15 and Wednesday, Dec. 16

Where: Durham Arts Council, Downtown Durham

Time: Doors Open - 6:30 pm Show starts - 7:00 pm

Tickets: \$6.00 (pre-sale online - orgsonline.com) Pre-sale ends Dec. 11. \$8.00 (at the door)

If you aren't coming to VAMS to watch our basketball teams play, you are missing lots of excitement. This week our teams had 3 home games and each was full of excitement. Please on the lookout for games dates and times once we return from the Winter Holidays.

Calendar of Events

Monday, Dec. 14	Fall Play Practice at Durham Arts Council, 2:00-6:00 Fourth grade Gingerbread Build Project 5 th /6 th grade Chorus performs at Northgate at 11:00
Tuesday, Dec. 15	Sixth grade dress rehearsal at Durham Arts Council, 9-4 Fall Show, A Fairy Tale Christmas Carol, Durham Arts Council, 7:00 Mrs. L Allen's class visits Carolina House, 10:30
Wednesday, Dec. 16	Sixth grade performs for fifth graders at Durham Arts Council, 10:00 Fall Show, A Fairy Tale Christmas Carol, Durham Arts Council, 7:00
Thursday, Dec. 17	Sixth grade performs for their parents, Durham Arts Council, 10:00 Fifth grade American Revolution Project, 1:00 Seventh grade field trip
Friday, Dec. 18	Eighth grade SEA - Fari presentations to fifth grade

As you can see, the week is going to be very busy!

Wishing you a terrific weekend,

Gwen Johnson gjohnson@voyageracademy.net

Interim Principal

Voyager Middle School

High School Update:

Next week high school students will take their midterms in each class. This week I would like our community to be mindful of the fact that we are a community that takes ownership for our work. Our What Great Looks Like document describes great student behavior for assessment. Students take each classroom and school assessment seriously. Students prepare for assessments by:



- Studying
- Getting appropriate rest
- Participating fully in class review
- Organize after school study groups
- Stay after school for teacher assistance

Parents can help their student by: monitoring student preparations for major assessments, helping their student create a study plan, setting home standards for rest and eating before major assessments.

Please remember to be mindful of these great habits for effective midterm preparation. Also, students will need to turn in their cell phone at the beginning of each exam. The midterm is worth 8% of a student's final grade.

Cory Draughon
Principal, VAHS
"Persist for Meaning"

--If you missed it last week, view the following resources regarding the high school (copy links into browser if they do not work).

Visit this link to watch the video <https://youtu.be/EHvUtDim-4g>

Vision, We Are Statement, What Great Looks Like document link:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1U8xYtqscOFsItBOHl51XGyTBmKCxlmLEPseq0t5LGd0/pub>

--Midterm exams begin December 16th, please encourage your student to begin preparing now. Friday December 18th is a $\frac{1}{2}$ day for the high school.

Follow this link for a full

schedule: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1OsYN4x5OVlyjbzrv4aRN7qJvSo4GXCUYW_oPnmIM_08/pub

--Save the Date! February 25th 5pm-7pm is Project Exhibition Night for the High School

--Project Uplift is a unique opportunity that enables high-achieving rising seniors to experience college life on the Carolina campus. Students spend two days attending academic classes, meeting with faculty and staff, interacting with Carolina students, and participating in cultural and social activities. Students can select one of the following four dates to attend Project Uplift: May 19-21, May 26-28, June 2-4, and June 9-11. There is a non-refundable \$35 registration fee; beyond that, Project Uplift is an all-expense paid program, including meals, room, and program materials (excluding travel costs). Please contact Mr. Schmoyer if you are interested, dschmoyer@voyageracademy.net.



Athletic Update:

Fundraiser

Voyager Athletics is now offering a way to comfortably enjoy your son or daughters sporting event. Buy a one of a kind stadium seat now available for purchase on orgsonline.com (School Code: 375VASNC). Select "Stadium Seat" and for \$35 one of these seats can be yours!



Fees

The website is now back up to pay winter athletic fees, please pay by the 15th of December to avoid missing competition. orgsonline.com (School Code: 375VASNC)

Winter Athletes

Strawbridge representatives will be on campus December 15th after school to take team and individual photos for winter athletes with the exception of swimming.

After School/Enrichment Update:

Dear Before/After Care Parents,

It has come to my attention that some after care parents are trying to 'bypass car-line' and retrieve their student from the HS, while car-line is still taking place. Please be reminded of the school dismissal times in relation to the after school program. The Middle School is dismissed at 3pm and Elementary at 3:30pm. The after school staff retrieves the students from their respective school/classroom at dismissal time. During the first 20-25 minutes after school is dismissed, our staff uses this time to give the students bathroom breaks and brain breaks (outdoor recess), before breaking off into their grade groups for homework/snack time. Car-line takes place for 30 minutes after each school is dismissed. Therefore, if you would like to pick your MS student up BEFORE 3:30pm, please go through the MS carline. Additionally, if you would like to pick your ES

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student up BEFORE 4pm, please go through the ES carline. The staff will no longer transport students to meet parents at the HS during car-line pick-up times for safety reasons. Students are expected to arrive to the HS AFTER car-line for their respective school concludes. Thanks in advance for your cooperation!

Latia Boney

This is a friendly reminder that payment for Extended Care services are due on the 1st day of each month, and must be paid by the 10th day. If you use extended care services, please log into your orgs account to make your payment. If you have already submitted your payment, or you do not use extended care services, please disregard this notice. Additionally, all Voyager Academy employees should disregard this notice. For questions regarding your account, please email Latia Boney at lboney@voyageracademy.com.

Reminder: The last week of Fall 2015 Enrichment Courses is Dec 7-11, 2015!

Registration for Spring 2016 Enrichments is NOW AVAILABLE!!! Please click the link below to register! *new courses offered*

<http://voyageracademy.net/resources/beforeafter-care/>

- **Enrichment Fair-TUESDAY, January 5, 2016 5:30pm-7pm** in the Elementary School Gym. This is an opportunity for you to meet with the instructors and gather more information about the course.
- Enrichments will begin **Monday, January 11, 2016 and end Friday, April 15, 2016**
- **NO CLASSES** offered the week of **Jan18 (MLK day) or March 28(spring break)**.
- **Fall Semester Students are encouraged to register for spring classes. ALL CURRENT STUDENTS MUST RE-REGISTER!** This will ensure our counts are accurate.
- Enrichments are for Students grades K-8 only.
- **SAVE THE DATE!** End of year showcase on Thursday, April 21, 2016!
- Congratulations to these Karate students for earning their "black tips" this week!

