



## Voyager Academy Weekly Newsletter December 18, 2015

Dear Voyager Families,

Last week, Jennifer Lucas, our Managing Director, had surgery. I am pleased to report that she is now at home and doing very well. Jennifer will be out on a short-term medical leave until January 11. Therefore, if you have something that needs immediate attention, you can contact me at [lpaynter@voyageracademy.net](mailto:lpaynter@voyageracademy.net).

The High School Culinary Arts Gingerbread House auction was a huge success! Thanks to all who supported our High School Culinary class. All of the money raised will support our Culinary Arts program!

Thanks to everyone who supported the Voyager PTA with your fall apparel orders! We have distributed all orders and they should have come home with your students unless you ordered them as gifts. Those folks were contacted by phone. If you have any questions about your order, please email us at [barkleyse@gmail.com](mailto:barkleyse@gmail.com) or [Susan.yancey@lls.org](mailto:Susan.yancey@lls.org).

Thanks so much!

Voyager Academy PTA

I hope all students, teachers, staff, and parents enjoy the break and are able to rest and reenergize. We will see you back at school on Tuesday, January 5, 2016.

Happy Holidays,  
Leslie

### **Elementary Update:**

Dear VAES Families,

It is hard to believe that winter break is here! The teachers, staff, and students have been working very hard and I know everyone is ready for the break! I am very blessed to work with such fabulous teachers, staff, parents, and students! I truly have the BEST job!!

Yesterday, our Kindergartners shared all they had learned about animals and animals on the farm. Many of them got into character and dressed up as farmers. The third graders were so impressive with their landform models and brochures. Did you know that there is a volcano in Australia called the Cosgrove Volcano? Today, the second graders wowed us as they danced and presented all they have learned about sound and different cultures! Here are a few pictures for you to enjoy. I hope everyone has a wonderful break.

Happy Holidays!!  
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](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!!
  - **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:** Teacher Workday/No School for Students
  - **2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Report Cards:** Sent home on Friday, January 8
  - **From Mrs. Allen and Mrs. Jenkins ----** We invite you to share a bit of your holiday spirit and help us continue Voices Together at Voyager Academy. This amazing music therapy program has already had an impact on our students and we would love to be able to continue it for the rest of the year. But we can't do it without your help. Thank you!  
<https://www.gofundme.com/voyagervoices>
  - **Umbrellas:** Please donate umbrellas for staff to use for AM and PM carline
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### **Middle School Update:**

Hello Voyager Middle School Families,

Wow, I cannot believe our Winter Holiday begins this afternoon. I think we are all excited about having time to enjoy the holiday season with our families!

We've had so many fantastic learning experiences this week. Mr. Eisenson's fourth graders shared their ability to learn their lines, create the setting, and perform in front of their families and friends by sharing their plays. Our fourth graders also decorated gingerbread houses. It was amazing to see how the decorations disappeared from the rooftops! Our fifth graders shared a variety of skits allowing us to go back in time and experience the American Revolution time period. The sixth graders created their own skits, shopped, and purchased the props needed, and performed on the stage of the Durham Arts Council. Our seventh graders enjoyed lunch at Kanki and were entertained by the chefs who prepared their meal. Ms. Thompson and Ms. Wicker decided the theatre class and chorus would perform *A Fairy Tale Christmas Carol*. They also performed at the Durham Arts Council. What an experience for the students and the audience!!! Our eighth graders worked on their Sea - Fari projects and took time to share their knowledge with the fifth graders. As you can tell, I am so proud of our students! They experienced so many learning opportunities and I feel certain they had fun along the way! I can hardly wait to see what the NEW YEAR will bring!

From Mrs. Allen and Mrs. Jenkins ---- We invite you to share a bit of your holiday spirit and help us continue Voices Together at Voyager Academy. This amazing music therapy program has already had an impact on our students and we would love to be able to continue it for the rest of the year. But we can't do it without your help. Thank you!

<https://www.gofundme.com/voyagervoices>

Wishing all of you a safe and enjoyable Winter Holiday season and a very Merry Christmas! See you January 5!

Gwen Johnson gjohnson@voyageracademy.net

Interim Principal

Voyager Middle School

### **High School Update:**

This week I've observed students taking their time and putting forth their best effort on their midterms, I am very proud of their efforts. I know they are exhausted, and I hope they'll take time to mentally and physically recharge over this winter break.

As we've mentioned before VAHS is adding a learning management system this year called CANVAS. At the beginning of the second semester all staff will be required to enter the

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assignment name, due date and points into CANVAS at the time the assignment is given to students (this is a minimum requirement, some teachers may choose to use additional functionality through CANVAS). Due to this transition to CANVAS parents should set up parental accounts in order to access student assignments in each class. I've created a video explaining how to set up your account at this link, <https://youtu.be/o4STIy6w9bM> (copy and paste into your browser). Please set up your parent account over the break so that you can view your student's assignments and grades through CANVAS in the new year!

Thank you all for your support of our students, teachers and administration at VAHS. We look forward to seeing everyone in 2016 and working together to continue to make VAHS GREAT!

Cory Draughon

Principal, VAHS  
"Persist for Meaning"

--First day of 3rd Quarter begins January 5th, January 4th is a teacher workday.

--We need a parent volunteer to lead the Winter Semi-Formal Dance being held Homecoming Weekend, January 16th. Please email Mr. Draughon if you can help lead this event, [cdraughon@voyageracademy.net](mailto:cdraughon@voyageracademy.net)

--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](mailto: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](http://orgsonline.com) (School Code: 375VASNC). Select "Stadium Seat" and for \$35 one of these seats can be yours!



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Collapsible Travel Seat  
Imprint: 8" w by 3-1/2" h (White)



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### 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](http://orgsonline.com) (School Code: 375VASNC).

**Any athlete that has not paid this fee after the break will not be eligible for competition or practice.**

### **Teams in Action over Holiday Break**

12-26, 12-28 and 12-29: Men's Varsity Basketball will play in the elite High School OT Tournament at Broughton High School

12-22, 12-23: Wrestling at Tiger Classic at Chapel Hill High School

12-29, 12-30: Wrestling at Bull Durham Classic at Jordan High School

1-2-16: Wrestling at Rocket Invitational at Person High School.

Over the break please remember to support the businesses that support our athletic teams

**Law Offices of Shelley Campen Brown**

**Triangle Orthopaedics**

**Chick-fil-A Roxboro Road**

**North Durham Orthodontics**

**Upchurch Drugs**

### **After School/Enrichment Update:**

Dear Before/After Care Parents,

The before/after care staff wishes all Voyager families the happiest Holiday Season!

Here are a few reminders as well as new announcements:

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

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

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- **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!**
- **See Attached Flyer about our Summer Camp!**