



December 4, 2015

Dear Viking Families:

It was a busy week for all our students in the classroom and out. Extra-curricular activities are jam packed with chorus, sports, science, aftercare enrichments and more! The weather is getting much colder, so please remember to send your child with a coat for recess and outdoor time. We keep hearing that we expect a very cold and snowy winter, so please begin to plan ahead and register for the Voyager app so you can get instant updates and alerts. We will follow the DPS winter weather plans, so if DPS closes or changes their operating hours related to weather alerts, we will too. We will post these alerts on our website, send an email and place a phone call, but if you see it on the news for DPS, you can plan accordingly. As promised, the NC Report cards are posted live for your review. Here is the link: <http://voyageracademy.net/accountability/school-report-card/> Feel free to email me with any questions about performance!

Please help us “Fill a Bucket. We are supporting Durham First in Families campaign to provide gifts for children in need this holiday season. Each building has a wall of wish lists for you to “take a wish” and fulfill a local child’s wish for the holiday. Please drop your gift off in the front office buckets of any building.

Shout out to one of our teachers: **In November, at the North Carolina Exceptional Children's Conference, Deb Jenkins, one of our elementary exceptional children's teachers was recognized as one of the 2015 Teachers of Excellence. This is quite an honor and we are very proud of Deb and all of her hard work!**

Science Olympiad is gearing up. The first Saturday practices will begin on December 5th from 9-12. If you are interested in helping update the SO website, please contact either Erik Benson or Dino Mangano.

Booster Club

December 9th next Chick-Fil-A spirit night and information on next booster club meeting to come soon. Come out and support Voyager Athletics!

Community News:

Historic Stagville’s annual Christmas event, *Christmas in the Big House, Christmas in the Quarters* is around the corner. See attached photo for the December 5th event.

EXPO UPDATE and INVITE:

EXPO will have a Potluck in the Art/Music room at the Elementary school on 12/10/15 at 6pm.

All are welcomed to attend. Please email Mr. McGill @ rmcgill@voyageracademy.net if you plan to attend and what dish you are bringing.



Athletics Update:

The site for paying all winter athletic fees is back up! Please follow the following link to the orgs online site to pay winter athletic fees. Please make sure to pay the correctly labeled fee for the sport your son or daughter is participating in. Fees should be paid no later than December 9th in order to avoid missing competition.

www.orgsonline.com

School Code: 375VASNC

Spirit Night

The Cheerleaders will be representing the athletic department at our December 9th Chick-Fil-A Spirit Night, please come out and support our programs and the business that support us.

Winter Monday Study Hall

Monday December 7th all high school winter athletes will be required to attend a session with guest speaker Jim Key, from 12:40-1:00pm in the H.S. Gym. He will speak on leadership, the power of growing program not just teams as well as some insight into education from the perspective of a coach and teacher turned administrator. He is an amazing speaker and we are excited to have him. Anyone can attend, but it is mandatory for all high school winter athletes.

Sporting Events Next Week

Middle School

Monday. 12/7. Durham academy. Girls 4:30. Boys. 5:45. Home

Tuesday. 12/8. Roxboro. Girls. 4:30. Boys. 5:45. HOME.

Wednesday. 12/9. Boys Practice. 4:00. Girls practice. 6:00

Thursday 12/10. River Mill. Girls 4:30. Boys. 5:45. Home

Friday. 12/11. Girls practice. 4:00. Boys practice. 6:00

Saturday. 12/12. Boys practice. 12:00. Girls practice 2:00 (if scheduled)

High School

Basketball (JV/ Women's Varsity/ Men's Varsity)

12/7 Athens Drive 4:30pm/ 6pm / 7pm Away

12/8 River Mill 4:30pm/ 6pm / 7pm Home



12/10 Raleigh Charter 4:30pm/ 6pm / 7pm Home

12/11 East Wake Academy 4:30pm/ 6pm / 7pm Away

Wrestling

12/9 Granville Central/DSA 6pm Home

12/11 Quad @ Ravenscroft 5pm

12/12 Wolverine Challenge @ Wakefield 7am

Swimming

12/9 Conference Meet @ Campus Hills 4pm Home

Care Program Updates:

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!

Elementary Update:

Dear VAES Families,

As a part of the season of giving, please come and select a gift tag to “fill the bucket” for First in Families of Durham County. This is a school-wide, K – 12, project that encourages 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 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. Please visit our lobby and select a gift tag!

For more information about Durham First in Families, please visit: www.fifnc.org

Best,
Leslie

Important VAES Information:

- 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!!
- Friday, December 11 @ 1:00 PM: First Grade Project Celebration
- Gingerbread House Auction in VAES Lobby for HS Culinary Arts Students: Monday, Dec. 14 – Wed., Dec. 16 (More information to come)
- 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
- Umbrellas: Please donate umbrellas for staff to use for AM and PM carline

Middle School Update:

Hello Voyager Middle School Families,

Wow, I can hardly believe it is December! We have two weeks of school before the Winter Holidays!



We are pleased to share we are supporting Durham First in Families again this year. Here are some details about the Bucket Filling Project for this holiday season. All 3 Voyager schools are partnering with Durham First in Families. The project will run Monday, November 30 - Friday, December 11. The gift requests are attached to the bucket in the main lobby of each school. The theme is 'bucket filling'. Please stop by to select a gift request, purchase the item, bring the Unwrapped gift to the lobby and place in the bucket. Please attach the gift request to the gift. We want to make sure all children receive a gift.

Here's a message from Ms. Bonawitz: Hello again from Ms. Bonawitz, your middle school counselor. This quarter I am conducting classroom guidance lessons in the students' classrooms starting with the 4th grade and moving towards the 8th. My goal is to be in the classrooms once before winter break and then once a month after the new year begins. I also have started holding small groups during the students' lunch periods about various topics gleaned from a needs assessment given to the students at the beginning of the year. A needs assessment is a common school counselor tool used to ask the students to identify their own counseling needs. As I told them at the beginning of the year, it is their chance to tell me what my school counseling comprehensive program should focus on; their chance to tell a grown up what to do! I am happy to be sharing the 4th grade with Mrs. Meckes, the elementary school counselor, this year. She was a school counselor for the past six years at Forest View Elementary. The 4th grade students will be in classroom guidance with both of us, small groups with Mrs. Meckes, and individual counseling with me. I look forward to working with all of the students this year! My goal is to learn all of their names by winter break, so please tell your students to introduce themselves when they see me in the hallways!

Ms. Bonawitz www.hbonawitz.weebly.com

Mrs. Meckes www.meckes.weebly.com

"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!

We also need your help to be sure to include as many candid pictures in this year's yearbook! Please email any photos you have taken for 2015/2016 to msyearbook@voyageracademy.net When sending them, please identify what class and grade the photos are from.

Eighth grade parents!!!! Your child is finally graduating from middle school. Before you send them off to high school, show them just how proud you are of them for all of their hard work and incredible accomplishments with an ad in VAMS yearbook. You can add personal photos, special memories and a unique message to honor and congratulate them in a way they'll be able to cherish for years to come. Ads are \$35 for a 2.25"x 3.5" size. To purchase a memory ad, follow these two simple steps by January 18, 2016. 1) Send payment in and drop off with Gwen Johnson. Please make checks payable to VAMS, with Memo Line: Memory Ad 2) Complete this form https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1YR8hT42mALfZWsr5HXIOVeEmhcWzSW42Cg0yL66WCgY/edit?usp=forms_home Thank you!- The Yearbook Committee!

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) Presale ends Dec. 11.
\$8.00 (at the door)

I look forward to seeing you at the show!

Our winter sports are underway. Tuesday our basketball teams played at home and Thursday our teams played away games. They will be back at home next week so PLEASE come support our girls and boys basketball teams. We are also fortunate to have great cheerleaders supporting both the boys and girls.

Calendar of Events

- Monday, Dec. 7 Fifth grade attends *A Christmas Carol*
Voyager vs Durham Academy, girls at 4:30 and boys at 5:45 (home)
- Tuesday, Dec. 8 School Improvement Team meeting, 6:00, HS
Hospitality Luncheon for Middle School Staff
Voyager vs Roxboro, girls at 4:30 and boys at 5:45 (home)
- Thursday, Dec. 10 Voyager vs River Mill, girls at 4:30 and boys at 5:45 (home)
- Friday, Dec. 11 All gifts need to be brought to school for our FIF. Please them in the bucket.
5th grade Human Body Parent Day, 12:45-1:45

Wishing you a terrific weekend,
Gwen Johnson gjohnson@voyageracademy.net
Principal
Voyager Middle School

High School Update:

As I shared in a previous newsletter the high school faculty is working hard on moving our school from good to great. I've shared a YouTube video link and document link below. The video is an overview of our defining vision. The document includes the Vision, We Are Statements and What Great Looks Like. The What Great Looks Like chart is an outline of clear observable behaviors we should see from Teachers, Students, Administrators and Parents when we are performing our roles at a great level. Please take the time to watch this video and become familiar with these documents. Throughout the year I will highlight some of these items, so that as a community we can be mindful of our move to becoming a great PBL school.

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/1U8xYtqscOFsltB0HI51XGyTBmKCxlmLEPseq0t5LGd0/pub>

Cory Draughon
Principal, VAHS

--Congratulations to our 10th Grade students for an excellent Poetry project culmination last night. An example of a great PBL culminating event.

--Thank you parents for all your Teacher Hospitality Lunch donations, it was great!

--Midterm exams begin December 16th, please encourage your student to begin preparing now.

Follow this link for a full schedule:

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

--Another VAHS student received the Girl Scout Silver Award which challenges Girl Scouts to excel in leadership, community service, career planning and personal development. Congratulations Chloe Carpenter.

--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.