



Aspen Leaf

Vista Ridge Academy's Weekly Newsletter
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November 12, 2007

Calendar

Oct. 22-26	Fall Week of Prayer
Oct. 30	George Hunt: Civil Rights talk 8:30-9:30
Oct. 31	Dress Up Day –Boxes theme
Nov. 2	Soccer home game; VRA vs. MHA 1:00
Nov. 3	Fall Festival 6:30-9:30 pm
Nov. 6	Science Matters: Gearing Up
Nov. 7	Cookie Dough arrives
Nov. 8	Hawk Quest: Birds of Prey program 10:00-11:00 am

Hot Lunch/Pizza

Oct. 24	Cheese Ravioli
Oct. 25	Haystacks
Oct. 29	Pizza by the slice
Oct.30	Hot Dogs
Oct.31	Mac & Cheese
Nov.1	Waffles

We're Bragging

We are so proud of our students! Students in grades 3-7 are eligible for the Honor Roll. Of the 91 students that are eligible for Honor Roll, 25 are on the Silver Honor Roll (GPA 3.0-3.49). Fifty-six students are on the Gold Honor Roll (GPA 3.5-4.0). Don't forget to tell your student how proud you are of them.

VRA Tidbit: Please allow us to clear up a misunderstanding. Due to the fact that we only offer one diploma for the high school level, we have heard some concerns about the validity of our academy courses. I am please to tell you that we offer a College Prep diploma at VRA, which means that all of our students in grades 9-12 are doing coursework

for a College Prep diploma. We expect our students to aim high and have planned our classes to encourage that. We do not offer a standard or basic diploma because all of our students are encouraged and expected to attend college. We are also delighted to inform you that our classes are geared toward the highest level possible within the College Prep diploma offerings. If you have any questions about the coursework and classes needed for College Prep diplomas, please see Miss Schneider.

New Driveway

Several of you have been curious as to why we needed a new driveway already. This past summer a construction truck was using our driveway to turn around. With the help of the Erie Public Works Department and the Erie Police Department, Gary Force and Carol Schneider were able to track down the culprits. After negotiating with insurance companies, etc., the company responsible for the damage has paid for the project. At Greg Smith's suggestion the torn up asphalt from our first driveway has been spread out on the dirt road at the back of the school property. This has alleviated the problem of mud and ruts that we were dealing with during the winter. Thank you to all involved!

School Events

Spring Break in San Francisco - If you went with us on our trip to Europe last year you'll know that our school trips are not only educational but an incredible amount of fun! This year we are planning a week in San Francisco, from March 16-21. The cost of \$375.00 + airfare includes entrance fees, basic

motel costs, \$5.00/ meal and transportation in San Francisco. A deposit of \$100.00 is due in the office by the 31st of October. Stop by the office and get a copy of the itinerary!

Fall Festival - November 3rd we are having our annual Fall Festival here at the school from 6:30-9:30. Please plan to come hungry and leave happy! We will be having games, classroom sponsored activities, food, and an auction. This event is open to all of our families and friends that would like to attend. Activity and food tickets will be sold at the front door. Last year we raised over \$1200.00!

George Hunt will be here from 8:30-9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct 30th. Mr. Hunt was a pall bearer for Martin Luther King Jr. and will talk to the 3rd to 12th grade students about Civil Rights. Parents are welcome to attend.

Hawk Quest - On Nov. 8th from 10-11 a.m. we will be having a presentation with live birds of prey! Parents and families are welcome. If younger children are attending they will need to be able to sit quiet and be still.

Officer Jamie Chester is our local police school liaison. He will be meeting our students here at Vista Ridge throughout the school year. Officer Chester is a part of the local community police task force that was established to help children feel safe in their schools.

Student Association Events

Dress Up Day - We are having our second dress up day on Wed. Oct. 31st. This time our theme is boxes. You can wear anything made out of a box – paint them, design them and use your imagination. You must follow school dress code clothing underneath your boxes.

First School Snow Day Contest - We are having a contest to see who can predict our first Vista Ridge Snow Day. Prizes will be awarded to those that guess the day. Please see Eric Chamberlain to cast your votes.

Community Partners Program

Don't forget to use your Albertsons Community Partner Program cards. These convenient cards were sent home with your student (one per family) and can be attached to your key chain and scanned each time you shop at Albertsons. The school receives 1% of the first \$50,000 in sales/quarter and 5% for amounts over \$50,000 in sales.

Fall Week of Prayer

Suess, Scripture 'n U

We are enjoying Week of Prayer this week with our guest speaker, Clint Helbley. He is using themes presented in stories written by Dr. Suess, and how they relate to Christian Life. Please don't forget to bring your Bible.

Homework Load

Does your student have enough homework? Too much? When planning for a grade level, your student should be doing an average of 10 min. times their grade in homework each evening. For example, a first grade student should have 10 minutes of homework each evening. A fifth grade student should have an average of 50 minutes of homework each evening. An 11th grade student should have 110 minutes of homework each evening. When teachers plan homework, they look at the class as a whole and plan for that average. However, should your student not use their time wisely in class, they may have more homework than the teacher intended.

School Family Directory

We are almost ready to print our school family directory. If you have a change of address and/or phone since registration and have not given the updated information to the office, please do so as soon as possible. We have a few families that prefer their home phone number not be given out. If you fall into this category, please make sure the office knows this information, also.

Fully Equipped

On November 1-3, the Frontline Youth Initiative will hold their meetings at Campion Academy. Our youth are encouraged to attend. The format is very similar to a Youth Rally. To register, see a complete schedule of events, and/or make reservations for meals visit www.FrontlineYouthInitiative.org or call (970) 667-7403. Some of the speakers include Dan Serns from NPUC, Cheri Peters from True Step Ministries, Pastor Peter Casillas and Jarod Thomas from DayStar Academy (former Bible Worker at Twin Peaks).

Planned Absence Requests

Thank you. There are so many of you who are doing a great job of turning in planned absence requests when your student needs to miss some school. Just one reminder – just because you filled out a request, this does not mean that your student’s absence is automatically excused. It is excused only if the reason for the absence falls into the categories listed in the school academic bulletin. If you have any questions regarding this procedure, please don’t hesitate to ask.

Hot Lunch

We are still having difficulties with students adding their names to our hot lunch order on a last minute basis. Please make sure your child is signed up for hot lunch in advance.

Pizza – Don’t forget to check with the office every now and then to make sure they still have credit on their pizza card.

Pathfinders & Adventurers

We will have our regular meeting this Wed. Please remember to bring your snack. The Pathfinders did a great job last weekend at Boulder Church and the weekend before at Chapel Haven.

Music

All students that are new to the 7-12 grade music groups need to be measured for an outfit. Our plan is to send home this week the instructions on how to take the measurements and then we will make the

order. If any student from last year needs to purchase a new size or a part of an outfit, please see Mrs. Force as soon as possible.

Mrs. Helbley

Beginning Band (Gr. 5-6) and Advanced Band (Gr. 7-12)

Our performance is scheduled for Nov. 3 at Boulder SDA Church. I’m asking students to arrive by 10:30 to assemble and warm up. Gr. 5-6 students should wear appropriate church clothing and grade 7-12 should wear their band uniform from last year. If your child in grade 7-12 needs a new uniform please let me know immediately. Please contact me at 303 459 0771 ext. 27 or email rhelbley@yahoo.com if you have any questions. Thank you for your support!

November 3 - Grades 5-12 Band to Boulder SDA Church

Christmas Programs:

Elementary	December 13
Academy	December 20

Jan. 26, 2008 - Grade 3-4 Recorders @ Chapel Haven Church

January 30 – February 3, 2008 - Grades 9-12 Choir to Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska. This is a wonderful experience for your young musicians!

March 27 – 29 - Rocky Mountain Conf. Music Festival for Grades 5-12 at Campion Academy.

April 17 – 19 - Spring Concert Tour to Wyoming for Grades 7-12.

May 14 - Picnic and Pops (Spring Music Concert)

Classroom News

Kindergarten Ms. Blankenship

We had a great time at Anderson Farm last Tuesday. The children got to have several hay rides, pick pumpkins, run in and on a hay maze and visit with farm animals. Thank you parents for all your help on the trip. It was very chilly till noon but you all endured with a smile. Our next trip will be November

13. This one will be an indoor event.

Grades 1-2 Mrs. Gaines

This is the final week for our farm and desert units. That means that all reports are due. Next week begins our theme of mammals and amphibians.

On Wednesday, October 31st, our class will have our annual cookout. We will build a small campfire to the west of the school where we will cook hotdogs and roast marshmallows. It may be cold, but unless it is raining or extremely muddy, we will follow through with our plans.

Spelling word lists are in today's folder for 1st graders. The date by each lesson lets you know when the test will be. Keep this list posted at home since a new list will not be sent each week. Some students have 10 words others only 7. Your student should know which group is theirs. Tests are on Fridays.

Grades 3-4 Mrs. Hansen

Our Spider Unit is over. We will have our last test on it next week. The Butterfly Pavilion did not work out this month, maybe we will try in November.

We are beginning our unit on the Southeast United States, Government, Presidents, and Heroes. The unit will continue through Christmas. Be looking for special research projects to come home on all these things.

Thank-you so much for all the things you volunteered to order. We were given a donation that will buy our classroom many more books, math manipulatives or educational games. The Library has also ordered new State books for the younger level. Your child will be bringing these home to do a report on. Please take care of these wonderful new books. THANK YOU!

Grades 5-6 Mrs. Hodgson

Apple Day is coming on Friday, November 2! Thank you to the parents who have agreed to help me with this fun learning day.

Our classroom now has a new CD player. Thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Johnson (Nathan's parents) for supplying our class with the new player.

We have a Social Studies test tomorrow. Students took part in creating questions for review. Everyone should have a study sheet to help them prepare for the test.

Fall Festival will be on Saturday night, November 3. Make plans now to attend. It is always a fun time for friends and family.

Grades 7-12

Homework

The Gr. 7-12 teachers are working on making sure we are assigning the correct amount of homework. To help us with this: Parents, please keep track of the time your student spends on homework each evening and which classes they are studying for. Please don't count the time spent in front of their books, but the time spent actively studying. If their study time doesn't fit with the "Grade x 10 Model", please let us know. The teachers are keeping track of the time given for homework in each class and if each student uses that time wisely. We hope to gain a comprehensive picture of each student's homework time.

Mr. Howard

Soccer

Nov. 2 @ 1:00 Home Game VRA vs. MHA
Nov. 9th Tournament @ MHA - time to be scheduled

Mr. Force

7/8

Our Bible book is titled "Becoming Like Him". We are discussing how Peter was transformed to become

like Jesus. When he denied Jesus, he looked into the eyes of Jesus, and saw everything he needed (we need). He saw hurt, betrayal, but he also saw forgiveness, love, compassion and acceptance. It changed Peter's heart forever. We too can look into the eyes of Jesus and see what we need!

9/10

We are starting our next project today! A new geographical region to discover, research and report on.

11/12

What we are studying –

❖ What Representative said?

“I have a firm belief we have too many laws on the books now...I've made it pretty clear I believe constituent service is most important.”

Do you agree?

❖ “Gerrymandering”

Is it good or bad for our political system?

Gymnastics

We are starting grades 3-4 tumbling today. They get to come join us one day a week. Please mark your calendar for Dec. 5. We want to show you what we are learning!

Home and School

Cookie Dough Delivery – The cookie dough will arrive on Wednesday, November 7th. This is a frozen product, so please plan to pick up all of your cookie dough at the end of the school day. There will be no storage available for items not picked up. There will be a limited number of extra tubs of cookie dough available for purchase. It will be on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Volunteers Needed – Volunteers are needed to help sort and package cookie dough orders on Wednesday, November 7th. The time commitment will be from 12:30 p.m. until approximately 4:00 p.m. Please contact Ivy Lee if you can help.

Ride to Lunch in a Limousine – On Wednesday, October 24th, all 12 students who qualified for this prize will be picked up at 11:30 a.m. by a 14-passenger Excursion stretch limo! We will go to lunch and return to the school by 1:30 p.m.

THE HOLIDAYS ARE APPROACHING!!! ONLY 2 MORE SCRIP ORDERS BEFORE THANKSGIVING

Scrip Program – The next Scrip order will be placed on Monday, October 29th – deadline is 8:30 a.m. You may give your order to the school office at any time. Please visit www.glscrip.com to view the most up to date list of retailers and see what bonus offers are currently in effect. Call or email Ivy Lee with any questions. **PLEASE REMEMBER – THIS DOES NOT COST YOU ANYTHING!** You purchase gift cards at face value and we do the rest. Please support VRA with this very simple program.

Thank you and God Bless.

Ivy Lee, Home and School Leader

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