



# Aspen Leaf

Vista Ridge Academy's Weekly Newsletter  
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**October 30, 2007**

## Calendar

Oct 31	Dress Up Day –Boxes theme
Nov 2	Soccer home game; VRA vs. MHA 1:00
Nov 2	Youth social Gr. 7-12 from 6:30-8:00
Nov 3	Band @ Boulder Church
Nov 3	<b>Fall Festival</b> 6:30-9:30 pm
Nov 4	7:00 am Seniors arrive at VRA to drive to Union College Days
Nov 6	Science Matters: Gearing Up
Nov 7	Cookie Dough arrives
Nov 7	Gr. 7-12 Lunch with Pastor Philip
Nov 8	Hawk Quest: Birds of Prey program 10:00-11:00 am
Nov 9	Soccer Tournament Main Office Closed

## Hot Lunch/Pizza

Oct 31	Mac & Cheese
Nov 1	Waffles
Nov 5	Pizza-by-the-slice
Nov 6	Hot Dogs
Nov 7	Corn Dogs
Nov 8	Pizza Buns

## We're Bragging

We were privileged to enjoy a wonderful talk this morning from George Hunt, artist and Civil Rights activist. He brought in some of his paintings and unveiled for us 3 of his new paintings, titled *Content of Character* that will be released this weekend at an art show in Denver.

The winners of the cookie dough fundraiser had a great time on their limo ride and their trip to lunch.

The limo driver said he would drive our students any time because they were so well behaved and respectful.

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 pleased 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.

## Bus Lane Only

Please, no parking or *stopping* in the bus lane. This is for our children's safety. No exceptions please!

## Picture Retakes and Order Corrections

Picture retakes are scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 15. The order forms are available in the office. Also, if the photo package you received was not correct you can call LifeTouch at 1 888 974 6867. The date the school photos were taken was Oct. 4.

## Union College Days

## for our first Senior Class!!!!

Nov. 4-6 our seniors will be traveling to Union College for College Days. We are very excited as this is the first Vista Ridge Class to attend!

### 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 31<sup>st</sup> of October. Stop by the office and get a copy of the itinerary!

**Fall Festival** - November 3<sup>rd</sup> 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!

**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.

**Youth Social** - All youth in grade 7-12 are invited to join Pastor Philip for supper, games, and vespers this Friday, Nov. 2nd from 6:30-8:00. We will be having homemade burgers and hot apple crisp with ice-cream – Mmmm yummy!

Mursic's home  
6244 East 135<sup>th</sup> Ave., Thornton

**Directions:** From I-25 go E. on 136<sup>th</sup> Ave. (about 3 miles). Go past Colorado Blvd then past Holly. After Holly take the first right onto Leyden then right onto 135<sup>th</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> house on left.  
Tel. 303.604.6070

### Student Association Events

**Dress Up Day** - We are having our second dress up day on Wed. Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>. 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.

### 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](http://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).

### Pathfinders & Adventurers

We will have our regular meeting this Wed. The Pathfinders will be working on class work and the Adventurers will be working on a paper bag fun award. Please wear your class B uniform and remember to bring your snack.

### Music

**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. We will meet on the platform. 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](mailto:rhelbley@yahoo.com) if you have any questions. Thank you for your support!

If you are unable to attend a music performance please be respectful and fill out a planned absence request form. It is difficult for the music directors when they don't know how many of their performers will be in attendance.

**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 Champion 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**

Come and try the Oobleck at the Fall Festival. Oobleck is a simple mixture of cornstarch and water but it can do weird things.

If kept moving the solution will remain solid, if held still the solution becomes liquid and melts between your fingers. To remove it you simply pat your hands on the surface of the solution and it comes right off. Don't miss the fun of Oobleck!

We will also have a treasure hunt in a tub of flour. Flour feels incredible to touch so enjoy the feeling and try to find the hidden treasure. A choice at the prize box will be given for those who make the lucky find.

Several of you have asked about the late hour on Saturday night. Feel free to come and go to meet the needs of your family.

### **Grades 1-2 Mrs. Gaines**

Wear your jeans and dress warmly for our campfire tomorrow. We'll eat lunch in the cafeteria then go outside to build our fire and roast marshmallows. It's supposed to be cool, but hopefully not windy.

A great job was done on desert and farm reports last week. Thank you, parents, for your help and encouragement. Details will be coming along soon on mammal and amphibian reports.

A field trip is being planned to the Longmont History Museum for November 13. The museum is rather small so we will have to limit the number of adults joining us.

### **Grades 3-4 Mrs. Hansen**

It's Fall Festival Time. I need Parents to help in half hour slots to serve Nachos.

Please take note of the History Extravaganza notice in your folders. There will also be historical biography books coming home. Until Christmas break I will be sending books home that are assigned homework reading with a list each child has to complete. These will start on Friday. If books are destroyed I ask that you replace them.

It is so exciting! We just received a huge shipment of books. We were in dire need of children's dictionaries, and we received a huge box of science, and history reading books! Thank-you for all your donations. Some of you have pledged to buy books and we have all those books now. You can make a check to Vista Ridge if you have not yet done that.

### **Grades 5-6 Mrs. Hodgson**

Parents, please note the additional information sheet in your child's folder. Updated grade reports are also in the folder.

Apple Day is this Friday, November 2! Students may dress in apple fashion for the day. All our activities will be about apples.

We will have a Science test on Wednesday. Students who are reading *Sounder* and *The Wheel on the School* are working on final projects. *Sounder* projects are due this Wednesday, and *The Wheel on the School* projects are due on November 6.

Don't forget Fall Festival this Saturday night, November 3. It is always a fun time for friends and family. If you are available to help oversee one of our classroom booths for a portion of the evening, please let me know.

### **Grades 7-12**

#### **Mr. Wuerfel**

#### **English 7/8**

The seventh and eighth graders are almost finished with their short stories. These stories are looking great! Their use of theme, symbolism, and technical writing has drastically improved.

#### **Reading**

We are moving away from the fantasy genre and heading to nature genres of Paulson.

#### **English 9/10**

Stories in this class are also finishing up and sounding great as well. Judging for the Short Story Competition is going to be extremely difficult.

#### **Bible**

Bible group project presentations are due Wednesday over the four worldviews of Taoism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism.

#### **English 11/12**

The novel *The Scarlet Letter* has been a huge success thus far. Students are actively digging deep into the rich symbolism and culture of the Puritan movement

through Hawthorne's piece. This week students will be given a letter which they will wear for a day and journaling on that experience for Thursday.

#### **Drama**

The drama team is prepared and ready to take Seattle by storm! We are going to be participating in a church service in one of the most creative and interactive SDA churches in America. After that we'll be participating in some outreach activities in the area.

Not only are we doing that, we're also putting on a week of prayer for the Orcas Island School. It's going to be a busy week!

#### **Mr. Howard**

#### **Soccer**

Nov. 2 @ 1:00 Home Game VRA vs. MHA

Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> Tournament @ MHA – This will be held in the morning and finished by 1:00 due to the students going on the Drama trip to Orcas Island -- we are waiting on an exact start time.

#### **Mr. Force**

#### **7/8 Bible**

We have just finished hearing about Martin Luther and how he took a stand for what he believed. "My conscience is my guide and the Bible is my authority and I can do no other than abide by its teachings, here I stand, God help me."

July 4, 1776 is Independence Day for our country. Every July 4th we celebrate our freedom as citizens of the United States of America.

April 17, 1521 is the Independence Day for our faith. The day we can celebrate our freedom as Christians; the day Martin Luther set the record straight when he stated, "The just shall live by faith! No more fear of an angry God who is out to get you unless you buy an indulgence".

#### **9/10 Geography**

The entire class has now finished their first project, done their research, made their power point presentation and shared with their classmates. We now have pages of key points from all over the

world. Geography includes so many things about so many places and millions of people.

### **11/12 Government**

We are learning about the Electoral College then and now and comparing congressional apportionment. This week we are discovering how close the presidential elections of 2000 and 2004 really were.

### **Gymnastics**

The flying Eagles really had a good time with their new students (the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders) last Tuesday. We are looking forward to another great work out today. Parents please mark your calendars for Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>. We will have a program especially for you.

## **Home and School**

**Cookie Dough Delivery** – The cookie dough will arrive next Wednesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**Cookie Dough Prizes** – The prizes earned by the students should arrive at the school next Tuesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>. Some of the students earned a lot of prizes, so make room in your car!

**Volunteers Needed** – Volunteers are needed to help sort and package cookie dough orders on Wednesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>. The time commitment will be from 12:30 p.m. until approximately 4:00 p.m. Please contact Ivy Lee if you can help  
*303.518.7811*

**Ride to Lunch in a Limousine** – The students who rode to lunch in a limousine last Wednesday agreed that it is the only way to travel! A great time was had by all! The owner of the limo said we had the most well-behaved group of school children he has ever had in his limousine and would welcome VRA students back at any time!

**Fall Festival** – The Fall Festival is this Saturday night and the annual cake auction will be back!

Please plan to bid on some of the delicious cakes and goodies that will be auctioned off! The high bid last year was for a Banana-Nut-Chocolate-Chip Cake that went for \$180.00. I heard the person who bought that cake (Carlyn!) has had good luck for the entire year!

**Take-Home Dinner** – The next Take-Home Dinner is scheduled for Thursday, November 15<sup>th</sup> and will feature a Thanksgiving menu. More details to come.

### **ONLY 1 MORE SCRIP ORDERS BEFORE THANKSGIVING**

**Scrip Program** – Thank you to all who participated in the scrip order this week. It was our highest scrip order to date at \$4,190.00! The next Scrip order will be placed on Monday, November 12<sup>th</sup> and will arrive before Thanksgiving vacation. Please visit [www.glscrip.com](http://www.glscrip.com) to view the most up to date list of retailers.