



# Aspen Leaf

Vista Ridge Academy's Weekly Newsletter  
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**December 7, 2007**

## Calendar

Dec 5	Service Day –Bring sack lunch
Dec 5	Gymnastic Program for Parents 7:00 pm
Dec 7	Volleyball Intramurals
<b>Dec 8</b>	SA Christmas Party Gr. 7-12 @7:00 pm
Dec 9	ACT @ MHA for Jr/Sr arrive 7:45 am-test start 8:00
Dec 11	Basketball Home Games Girls 6:15 pm Guys 7:45 pm
Dec 13	Christmas Program 6:30 pm

## Hot Lunch/Pizza

Dec 4	Spaghetti
Dec 5	NO HOT LUNCH – cooks lunch out! Taco Bell Lunch – 8 <sup>th</sup> gr. fundraiser
Dec 6	Pizza Buns
Dec 11	BBQ Chicken
Dec 12	Bean Burritos
Dec 13	Grillers

## We're Bragging

Thank you to everyone that contributed to the acquirement of our new sound system! We are so excited that we have it in time for our Christmas concert on the 13<sup>th</sup>. This is a wonderful addition to our school and we greatly appreciate the efforts of those that helped make it a reality.

## Lost And Found

Please check our Lost and Found area located outside the library. The number of lost items is growing

rapidly and everything unclaimed will be donated to the Goodwill if not claimed by Christmas break.

## Snow Days

As winter fast approaches please note the school policy regarding closings and delayed starts as stated in the Academic Bulletin:

In case of severe weather, consult radio station **850 KOA** AM, or television station **Channel 9**, for information regarding school closing. You may also refer to the KOA and Channel 9 websites for changes in the schedule. Please do not call the principal, School Board chairperson, or pastor for they need to have their lines open to plan and notify radio and TV stations if necessary.

A delayed start may be implemented because of conditions. A delayed start will usually be one hour later than normal. In general, on snowy days, the school will be open if nearby public schools are open.

## Service Day

Tomorrow, Dec.5<sup>th</sup> the 8th-12th grade students will be participating in a service day at Samantha's Purse. Just a few reminders: No cell phones, ipods or electronic devices; no hoodies and no coats in the warehouse – wear layers and tie them around your waist when taken off. If items are left there is a good chance they may be shipped off with the other donations. There is a vending machine that takes quarters and sells soda and candy but will be available only at 1:00 during lunch. **Wear closed toed shoes and pack a sack lunch!**

## **Do You Like Christmas Decorations?**

The Music Department has someone that has graciously consented to head up the group that decorates for the Christmas Program. One catch – she would like some help and we agree that she should have some! Please see Mrs. Force in the office if you can help decorate for the program. Thank you!

## **Semester Finals**

Please remember when planning your family activities (such as late nights) that the week of Dec. 18-21 is the 7-12 grade finals week. 1<sup>st</sup> semester ends on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

## **From The Business Office**

Please be reminded of the financial policy that was signed at the beginning of the school year; if your account is 60 days late or more your student will not be able to take semester exams until the bill is paid or *recent* arrangements have been made with Mrs. Lujan, the Business Manager. We thank you for your understanding and consideration of our school financial needs.

## **SA Christmas Party**

The SA Christmas Party will be **December 8** from 7:00 – 10:00 pm. It will be a live Clue Game. The cost is \$5.00 per student. Each student will receive a name and character. They will need to dress up as their character to participate. (On the permission slip we printed the wrong date)

## **School Events**

**Spring Break in San Francisco** – If you want to go to San Francisco in March you missed the deadline for your deposit! It is not too late to join. The second \$100.00 payment was due Nov. 28. Stop by the office, drop off your deposit and get a copy of the itinerary!

## **Building Fund**

Don't forget that the end of the year is a ***GREAT*** time to get a tax write off by giving to our building fund. We are bursting at the seams and need to get this building project off and running!

## **Phonics, Spelling and Reading Classes**

Small group classes are meeting twice a week for students in grades 1-4 needing language support. Multi-sensory linguistic lessons support VRA curriculum and help students with fluency and comprehension in reading and writing.

For information about the program please contact: Elaine Huot M.Ed. at 303.543.7489 or email elhuot@mac.com

## **Food Store**

You have time to order cases of veggie food before the New Year. The next order will go out December 17. This order will arrive during the week of December 30.

## **Pathfinders and Adventurers**

We will meet at our usual time from 3:45-5:00 this Wednesday.

## **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Fundraiser**

Poinsettia and Cheesecake Fundraiser - ready to close out! The 8th grade class still has a few beautiful Poinsettia Plants available. They are \$6.00 each, or \$5.00 each if you purchase 4 or more.

The delicious holiday CHEESECAKES are being ordered tomorrow! If you have not yet ordered your New-York Style cheesecake, please call the school office at 303.828.4944. These are large cheesecakes, pre-cut into 20 slices. Take out what you want and leave the rest in the freezer! The price is \$20.00.

## Music

**Mrs. Helbley**

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

**Christmas Program:** 6:30 pm on Dec. 13. Grades 7-12 are to wear their music outfits. Grades K-6 are to wear church or special occasion clothes. K-6 may wear Christmas colors if they wish, but it is not necessary.

## Classroom News

### Kindergarten

**Ms. Blankenship**

The Kindergarten class is busy raising money to help children in other parts of the world that don't have as much as we do. They have been saving their piggy bank money or their snack shack money for this project. Some have been doing little jobs around the house to earn money.

It is surprising how far our quarters and dollars can go in other areas of the world. \$80 can educate a child in Madagascar for a whole year!

If you can help we would appreciate it. The children love to put the dollars and quarters into "Gonzo", our piggy bank.

### Grades 1-2

**Mrs. Gaines**

This is a big birthday month. Emma started us off on the first of December. Kaily's birthday is today, the 4<sup>th</sup>. Annabelle's birthday will be Thursday. Madison F. has a birthday next Sunday and Stephen celebrates his day on the 24<sup>th</sup>. We can't forget the birth of our Savior Jesus, which we celebrate throughout this Christmas season.

Reports begin again on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December. They may be presented up through the 21<sup>st</sup>. Our topic is a Christmas custom or tradition in America or from another country.

We will be selecting names for a gift exchange. More information will be coming your way.

### Grades 3-4

**Mrs. Hansen**

There will not be any school work in the folder due to the Civil War play. I need this week to get caught up, and there also really isn't much school work to return. I will be working on entering all the different parts of the research and play into grades.

Please see announcement regarding the Christmas Program in the music section.

### Grades 5-6

**Mrs. Hodgson**

The Christmas Workshop is taking a break and parents are welcome in our room until further notice!

Do you have empty shoeboxes? We still need one box per child for art class.

There is a current grade report in today's folder. The grades have also been exported to Edline. There are three weeks remaining in the second quarter. Please contact me if you have any questions about your child's progress.

Pending School Board approval, we are hoping to visit the Denver Museum of Nature and Science before Christmas Vacation. Parents are needed to help supervise groups of students. Let me know if you would like to participate.

### Grades 7-12

**Mr. Wuerfel**

#### English 7/8

Students are reading *No Promises in the Wind*. They are learning about the Great Depression, how and why the stock market crashed and how it affected America and literature at that time.

**Reading**

We've just finished our protagonist drawings. These were given back today and graded; they look great!

**English 9/10**

*To Kill a Mockingbird* is well on its way. The students have been learning about the Deep South and how its affects are still witnessed today. Harper Lee's incredible novel is packed full of symbolic meaning as well as excellent use of metaphor and simile.

**English 11/12**

Students are well on their way to finishing their response essays to *The Scarlet Letter*. Thus far the papers are looking great! This group is filled with scholars.

**Drama**

Our drama team is going to be performing its best play yet on the 11<sup>th</sup> of January for the Bible Conference. Soon and very soon we will be offering DVD's of our skits and human videos.

**Mr. Howard**

**7/8 Science**

Monday we watched the film, "An Inconvenient Truth." A one page typed response to the film will be due on Tuesday. Make sure your student is working on this.

**Algebra I**

Chapter 5 Test will be this Friday, take this opportunity to make sure that your student is prepared.

**Remember**

You can keep up on what we're doing in class by visiting my website at:  
[www.freewebs.com/brianhoward](http://www.freewebs.com/brianhoward)

**Mr. Force**

**7/8 Bible**

We have been asked to post pone our "reward day" until after Christmas. We still are planning the trip but we just need to be patient.

**9/10 Geography**

Parents we are inviting you to attend your students special presentation this Thursday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>, from 8:30-10:15 am. Each student will be given a 10 min. presentation. Please come and see what your student has been learning.

**11/12 Government**

The government class will be having a political debate in Feb. We are presently choosing which candidates to represent and which political issues to focus the debate on.

**Gymnastics**

The Flying Eagles will be performing for their parents this Wed., Dec. 5 @ 7:00pm. The participants need to be here at 6:45 to stretch and warm up.

**Volleyball**

Intramural games will be played again this Friday from 12:30-2:00. We each played 3 fun and exciting games last week. This week promises to be even more fun. Friday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> we will have an all day tournament, here at VRA, with Brighton.

**Basketball Schedule**

Dec. 11	CAA@VRA	Girls- 6:15 Boys- 7:45
Jan. 10	MHA@VRA	Girls- 4:15 Boys- 5:30
Jan. 25	VRA@BAA	Girls- 12:30 Boys- 1:30
Jan29	VRA@MHA	Girls- 4:00 Boys- 5:00
Feb. 8	BAA@VRA	Girls- 12:30 Boys- 1:30
Feb. 11	VRA@CAA	Girls- 5:30 Boys- 6:30
Feb.22	BAA@VRA	Girls-12:30 Boys- 1:30
Feb.29	Tournament @ VRA	

## Home and School

**ONLY THREE MORE WEEKS UNTIL  
CHRISTMAS!!!  
DON'T STRESS – WE HAVE A ONE-STOP  
SHOPPING PROGRAM FOR YOU!**

**Scrip Program** – You can purchase gift cards for all of your Christmas gift needs right here at VRA! There are over 200 major retailers on our list to save you travel and surfing time. Orders can be placed at any time at the school office or by calling or emailing Ivy Lee. Please visit [www.glscrip.com](http://www.glscrip.com) and click on “Retailer List” to view the most up to date list of retailers.

### **Why is This Such a Good Program?**

- It doesn't cost anything – gift cards purchased at face value
- You support your child's school
- Major retailers donate each time you purchase
- Great gifts for personal and business use
- Buy gift cards from grocers, etc. that you use daily anyway
- WAL-MART IS NOW A PARTICIPATING RETAILER!

### **Here are the next order dates:**

**Monday, December 10th**

**Monday, December 17<sup>th</sup> (last one of 2007)**

For questions contact Ivy Lee at 720.890.4875 or [ivyrlee@comcast.net](mailto:ivyrlee@comcast.net).

**Talent Show** – February 2008 seems like a long ways off, but for those students interested in participating in the talent show, now is the time to start thinking about it!