



April 2010

Vandercook Lake School District

News and Views

Special Edition

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A.Y.P. / MEAP

Vandercook Lake High/Middle School and Townsend Elementary have been recognized for making Adequate Yearly Progress, as determined by the state, and we are pleased to report that MEAP scores also went up the past year. Grades 3-9 were tested and our students were at or exceeded the state average in 11 out of 16 tested areas. We also made improvements from last year's scores in 10 out of 16 areas. Congratulations to our students and teachers for their hard work!

Band/Choir Performance Tour

April 5-10, 35 music department students traveled to Orlando, Florida where they performed at Epcot in front of an international audience of thousands. Our student's medley of Disney Music was well received by the crowd. While the students were there, they participated in a Vocal Workshop run by Disney professionals. The students also enjoyed themselves at 5 of the Disney parks.

PowerSchool

We are excited to be starting the 2010-11 school year with a new student information system called PowerSchool. This advanced system will allow greater access for parents and students to view grades and attendance, while giving teachers and administrators a means to create and view reports to increase student achievement. More information to come on this new venture!

Annual School Election

The Annual School Election will be held on Tuesday, May 4, 2010. Two full-year terms will expire on June 30, 2010. Voters will be asked to elect two candidates who will represent Vandercook Lake residents for the next four years. John Masters and Libby Wahl are the declared candidates through Summit Township. Also, a restoration/renewal type request to partially restore our non-homestead millage rate at the authorized level will be on a separate ballot. The expiration of the current millage rate occurred in 2009. Please remember while all registered voters are encouraged to vote, the assessment "**ONLY**" pertains to nonhomestead properties (now referred to as non-principal residence, see ballot language below) and non-qualified agricultural property. The last Headlee override vote was in 2006 and was supported by a yes vote by a huge margin. Please call Superintendent Tony Hollow at 782-9044 if you have any questions. **Actual ballot language below*

OPERATING MILLAGE PROPOSAL, NON-HOMESTEAD & NON-QUALIFIED AGRICULTURAL PROPERTY TAX

The Proposition A millage will allow the School District to levy not more than the statutory rate of 18 mills against nonhomestead and non-qualified agricultural property required for the School District to receive its revenue per pupil foundation guarantee. Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property, excepting homestead and qualified agricultural property in Vandercook Lake Public Schools, Jackson County, Michigan, be increased by 17.9174 mills (\$17.9174 on each \$1,000.00 of taxable valuation) for a period of 3 years, 2010 to 2012, inclusive, to provide funds for operating purposes, such increase being an estimated renewal of 17.4174 mills which will expire with the 2009 tax levy and authorization of .5 of 1 new additional mill (the estimated amount of revenue that will be collected in calendar year 2010 if said 17.9174 mills is authorized and levied is \$536,252 all of which will be disbursed to Vandercook Lake Public Schools)?

Dates to Remember

- 4/23 Athletic Cash Bash
- 4/27 4th Grade Music Program
- 4/29 Lions Club 5:00-9:00 pm
- 5/6 Scholar Athlete Banquet
- 5/8 HS Prom 8:00 pm
- 5/10 5th Grade Student Orientation 8:30-10:00 am
- 5/11 5th Grade Parent Orientation 6:15 pm
- 5/10-14 Townsend Book Fair
- 5/19 Kindergarten Music Program
- 5/25 Spring Band/Choir Concert
- 5/27 Last for Day Seniors at Career Center
Senior Locker Clean-out
- 5/28 3rd-5th Grade Field Day
Respect Assembly 10 am
Senior Picnic 11:30 am
- 5/31 No School - Memorial Day
- 6/1 6th & 7th Gde Awards 1:30
8th Grade Awards 6:30 pm
- 6/2 1st & 2nd Grade Field Day
Senior Awards followed by Dessert 6:30 pm
- 6/6 Baccalaureate 3:00 pm
- 6/7 Graduation Practice 9 am
Mandatory w/ cap & gown
Graduation 8:00 pm at the Potter Center
- 6/9 Kindergarten Field Day
- 6/10 & 11 Exams
- 6/14 & 15 Exams & 1/2 day
- 6/16 Teacher Work Day

Bullying Prevention Program

As part of an ongoing effort to enhance the learning environment at Vandercook lake Public Schools, we have implemented a district wide prevention program to reduce mean and aggressive behavior and bullying. This program includes district wide surveys, staff training, student training, and parent education by Dr. Marcia McEvoy, a widely recognized expert in the field of school aggression and bullying prevention. VCL is committed to providing a safe, positive, productive, and nurturing educational environment for all students. Dr. McEvoy has stated and research supports that schools who consistently address the small stuff, seldom see behaviors escalate into more serious forms of aggression. We ask for your support as we broaden our definition of bullying to include mean teasing and other hurtful behaviors. Our ultimate goal is to make all students feel safe and help them reach their full potential.