

News and Views

from the Vandercook Lake Public Schools

Golf Avenue

March, 2000 Volume 41-No. 3

Jackson, Michigan

DAR WINNER SELECTED

Laura Haddad

In 1934 the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution established a Good Citizens Contest in high schools. This award is to recognize and encourage outstanding young people in the pursuit of high ideals. The established qualities for good citizens are based upon:

1. Leadership: personality, self control, assumption of responsibility
2. Dependability: truthfulness, loyalty, and punctuality
3. Service: cooperation, courtesy, consideration of others
4. Patriotism: unselfish interest in family, school, community, and nation.

During the month of October, the teachers were asked to nominate a senior student for the DAR award. The top six teacher nominee names were presented to the senior class for their final vote. Those names were in alphabetical order, Kara Bushinski, Amber Gorton, Laura Haddad, Josh Hunt, Becky Morgan and John Sharp. Laura Haddad was chosen to receive a Good Citizen Pin and Certificate from the Sarah Treat Prudden Chapter of the NSDAR.

During December Laura began her state competition by completing a questionnaire and submitting a letter of recommendation, complete transcript, and graduation picture. She also wrote a 500-word essay on a topic selected by the NSDAR. Congratulations to Laura!

Vandercook Lake Lions Club - Fund Raiser

The Vandercook Lake Lions Club will be having pancake dinners Fridays during the lenten season. The dates for these dinners are March 10, 17, 24, 31, and April 7 and 14. This is an all-you-can-eat pancake dinner and will be held in the high school cafeteria from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. The price is yet to be determined; the proceeds of this fund-raiser will be used for the sight-impaired and various community projects.

Academic Games 2000

Vandercook Lake High School will compete in Academic Games, Friday, March 25, 2000 at Jackson Community College. Our students will compete with students from other county schools in the areas of English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. It is open to the public beginning at 8:45 a.m. The schedule of competitions will be posted at the fieldhouse.

The English team is coached by Mrs. Jennifer Schupbach. Team members include: Lindsey Berry, Jessica Fall, Christopher Hewitt, Becky Morgan, Jeff Spencer, Kristyn Sprangel, Annie Thorpe and Becky Weaver.

The English essay team is also coached by Mrs. Schupbach. Team members include: Carissa Franck, Becky Morgan and Jeff Spencer.

The Math team is coached by Ms. Amy Potts. Team members include Jessica Farler, Carissa Franck, Scott Gasser, Mike James, Beth Johnston, April Jones and Rick Macomber.

The Science team is coached by Mr. Dan Roggenbaum. Team members are Ehren Benson, Jason Boyers, Misty Click, Josh Hunt, Chuck Rumsey, Mark Rumsey, Drew Sabin and Melissa Tucker.

The Social Studies team is coached by Mr. Brian Thompson. Team members are Mackenzie Boyt, Shawn Falaska, Libby Curfman, Nick Peterson, John Sharp, Ryan Seidler, Robyn Zebarah.

Good Luck Teams

Census 2000: They're counting on us

The importance of the census is being taught in school. The census is taken every 10 years. In the 1990 census about 2 million children were not counted. This year we want to make sure all families are counted.

By counting all the people in every state, America learns what America needs. An accurate count can mean our community gets its fair share of funding for education, health care, transportation, and job training. That could mean more dollars for schools and playgrounds, or other community needs. If we miss people, our community may not get all the money it deserves.

When the census form arrives in March, please don't forget to fill it out completely....and especially don't forget to include all children, regardless of how young they are.

Thanks! We encourage you to fill out this form. We need the community support in this very important matter.

Community Exhibition

Please plan now to attend Vandercook Lake Schools' second Community Exhibition to be held March 28 at Townend Elementary and April 27 at the high school. We will be sharing our best work from grades K-12 with parents and community members. Stay tuned for further details.

Band News

Symphonic Band Performs at Disney World

After two years of planning, fundraising, and preparing music, 85 Vandercook Lake Symphonic Band members performed at Walt Disney World. They, along with 25 chaperones, departed on Tuesday, February 15 at 4:00 p.m. to arrive at Disney's All-Star Music Resort at 4:00 p.m. the next day. They had an evening with a cookout and trip to DisneyQuest. On Thursday morning, the band rehearsed in a three-hour educational clinic at EPCOT, which focused on their ability to play music the first time they see it; they then toured EPCOT.

Paul H. Bickel - Director of Bands

On Friday, the band performed at the Magic Kingdom on the Tomorrowland stage (see picture), playing music from Russia, Latin America, and the Mickey Mouse March, ending with our school fight song.

Following the performance, they gathered for a photo (at left) at the castle.

On Saturday, they visited Animal Kingdom, and Sunday, headed to MGM-Disney Studios for the day before returning home. All in all, the trip was educational and memorable. Thanks to all who helped in making this trip become a reality.

VCL Bands Host Concert Band Clinic

On Saturday, February 26, the Vandercook Lake Bands hosted seven bands at their first annual Concert Band Clinic. Set in the style of a traditional band festival, bands are invited to perform three concert pieces while three judges write comments for the group and director. Immediately following, the bands were given an additional clinic by one of the judges. After lunch, the students from all seven bands then split up by instruments and received a master class from an adult who still performs on their instrument.

Overall, the experience was highly educational. The Vandercook Lake Concert and Symphonic Bands, Jackson High Cadet Band, East Jackson Band, Webberville Junior High and High School Bands, and New Covenant Christian Band are to be thanked for their fine performances.

Career Prep Activities at VLHS

There have been many exciting career preparation opportunities at Vandercook Lake this year. We can be very proud of our dedicated staff, administration, board, parents, and community who consistently give time, support, and expertise to help our students discover the right path for their future.

Middle School:	Field trip to Career Center EDP (Educational Develop Plan) Class SMART Conference on March 11, 2000 Author/Poetry Day at JCC
9th Grade:	Career Unit in Business Services & Technology (BST) Class EDP update and scheduling plans for next year (9th - 11th) Portfolio pieces (best work) (through 12th grade)
10th Grade:	Career Connections Conference at JCC (open to 10th - 12th) Job Shadow (open to 10th - 11th) Career Center Orientation
11th Grade:	Career Connections Conference at JCC Binder Park Zoo Exploring Careers in Science Genetics Conference at JCC
12th Grade:	College Night and College Visits Portfolio Completion and Presentation Community-As-School Internship Career Center Co-Op Job Fairs Mock Interviews with Community Employers

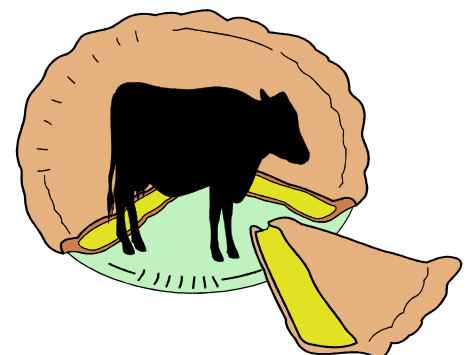
There are many more wonderful activities that occur on a daily basis at Vandercook Lake Middle/High School. Michigan's career prep mission is that "All students completing the Michigan education system will have the necessary academic, technical, and work behavior skills for success in a career of their choice and life-long learning." Let's all give our best effort toward helping students "make the connection" between school and the workforce.

For more information on Jackson County's "Career Preparation System," be sure to pick up a green packet at Parent/Teacher Conferences or in the elementary or high school office. It's extremely informative!

3rd Annual Cow Pie Bingo

The Vandercook Lake Football team is having a spring fundraiser, Cow Pie Bingo. On May 12, 2000 at McDevitt Memorial Stadium a cow will graze the field and determine the winner of the \$1,000 first place prize. There will also be six additional prizes given to the runner-up bovine bingo players. These prizes include: \$300 second place prize, \$100, third, fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh place prizes. Tickets cost \$20 and are available through any football coach or by contacting Mr. Miller at the high school. The \$20 ticket includes a five yard square on the football field, an opportunity to walk away with one of the seven prizes, and a hot dog and pop for the purchaser of the ticket and two family members.

Last year's event was a huge success, and we hope more people have the opportunity to participate in this fun family activity this year. The money raised from this fund-raiser will be used to update the field-house weight room and other football needs. The football team thanks you for your support. If you have any questions, call Chuck Miller at the high school, 782-8167.



5th & 6th Grade Boys Basketball Tournament

On the weekend of February 5 and 6, the Vandercook Lake Athletic Boosters hosted 26 fifth and sixth grade basketball teams. The fifth grade played in the new middle school gym, while the sixth grade played in the high school gym. All proceeds go directly into uniforms and facilities for all of our athletes. A big thank you should go to Randy Straub, Jeff McDaniels, and Dave Negus, for making the tournament a huge success.

Annual Blood Drive

March 17

The Vandercook Lake Student Council is hosting its annual Blood Drive on Friday, March 17, 2000, from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm. This is an excellent opportunity for our community to give the gift of life. Call the high school at 782-8167 for an appointment or stop by during blood drive hours.

Women In Sports

The Michigan High School Athletic Association designated the first week in February as "Women in Sports Week". High schools are encouraged to honor women who had been positively influenced by high school athletics. Vandercook Lake has had many outstanding women who are eligible for this award.

This year's award goes to Beth Eagle. Beth was a 1981 graduate. During high school she played basketball, and softball. After leaving Vandercook she attended Jackson Community College. Beth was our pitcher on the softball team that won the Class "C" State Championship in 1981.

We are both happy and proud to present this award to Ms. Eagle.

Ms. Beth Eagle

Community-As-School Senior Internship Program

This semester nine seniors are participating as interns in the Community-As-School Program. They are as follows:

Intern	Career	Location	Community Teacher
1. Lindsey Berry	Veterinary	Gaide Veterinary Hospital	Dr. Dawn Sheffield, DVM
2. Jessica Farler	Elementary Teacher	Townsend Elementary	Mrs. Colleen Stapley
3. Carissa Franck	X-ray Technician	Foote Hospital Imaging Services	Mrs. Cathy Rayl, Ed. Coord.
4. Amber Gorton	Pharmacist	Aumack's Chemist Shop	Mr. Charles Aumack
5. Josh Hunt	Ath. Trainer/Phys Therapy	Foote Outpatient Rehab	Ms. Hanna Newell
6. Larken Jonas	Special Education Teacher	Townsend Elementary	Ms. Brenda Johnson
7. Cheyanne Maples	Medical/Oncology	Hematology/Oncology Assoc.	Ms. Marlene Sebastian
8. Lisa Minder	Child Care	ABC Academy	Ms. Kim Stephens
9. Becky Morgan	Physical Therapy	Ortho Rehab Specialists	Mr. David Krantz

Community-As-School give seniors who qualify an opportunity to explore a career on an in-depth level. Students are placed during a section of the school day and receive credit for their experience. Through working with professionals in their chosen career area, they discover if this is the career they want to pursue in the future. Finding out if the career is or isn't for them before attending college is an extremely valuable experience.

Vandercook Lake High School has made a name for itself for being an innovative and trend-setting school. We are very fortunate to have a dedicated staff, administration, and board who are willing to go the extra mile to "do what's best for the kids". If you would like to know more about the program, please contact Mrs. Patti Shafer, Program Coordinator, or Ms. Sue Haney, High School Counselor at 782-8167.

Pictured below are participating students.

Pictured left to right in the back: Becky Morgan, Josh Hunt, Larken Jonas, Cheyanne Maples, Carissa Franck, Jessica Farler, and Lindsey Berry. Sitting in the front: Lisa Minder and Amber Gorton.

Easter Egg Hunt

The Third Annual Easter Egg Hunt is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, April 22, 2000. The high school Student Council is currently planning this exciting and fun event. It will be held at the high school with further details to follow.



Basic Kindergarten News

"Learning-by-doing" is the key concept to understand the approach taken in Mrs. Rachel Bailey's Basic Kindergarten classes. This "learning-by-doing" seeks to find exciting and various "hands-on" activities to enliven classes for the energetic 5-year olds in the program.

At Christmas time, both the morning and afternoon classes practiced social skills by hosting an "Appreciation Reception" for their parents. Mrs. Bailey and Mrs. Vincent appreciate parental support and involvement. The children wanted to share things they had been doing and wanted to get their parents into their room at Christmas. So they measured ingredients of punch, counted cookies, arranged decorations, shook hands, hosted parents and many other skills students could practice with the support and help of their parents.

"Alaska" has been the main theme for January studies. While the students may not have much of a concept of this distant state, we have talked about what it is like to live in a (really) cold climate, read about polar animals and customs of native Alaskan peoples.

Early in February, we celebrated being in school for 100 days by a special "100 Days Celebration" where we did as many things in hundreds as possible. On February 2, Mrs. Joan Conat (a local "senior" citizen) shared with us what life was like in the days of yesteryear, bringing many old items to show and told many unique things from her life as a child.

In the spring months, the topics of study will be wildlife/farm ponds and later the farm itself. We will create a pond-habitat in our classroom (and environmental awareness), raise baby chicks, and do numerous other related activities. It has yet to be decided whether the teachers or the students are having more fun in the process.....Mrs. Bailey

Kindergarten News

The Kindergarten students have studied the letters A-P and are currently learning about the ocean. We are learning the four oceans and the animals that live in them. We have done a sink and float experiment, we know that octopi have eight tentacles, whales are mammals and killer whales are orcas.

For the 100th day of school, the Kindergarten students brought in collections of 100 items to share, we did 10 exercises with Mr. Spencer and we made pancakes with 100 written in syrup, yum!

Our local dental hygienist, Sarah Berkshire, shared dental hygiene with several Basic Kindergarten and Kindergarten classes.....Mrs. Fish

1st Grade News

Anyone can be a storyteller as proven in Mrs. Frankila's class unit on penguins. Children made a background and four puppets on colored craft sticks which were used to tell a story of a penguin, polar bear, leopard seal and an Eskimo. The children wrote facts about what they'd learned about penguins and two stories for fun. The students created a penguin without using a pattern, listened to tapes, read stories, made a book and discussed the different kinds of penguins.

Mrs. Osypczuk's class has been investigating number patterns, such as even, odd and counts of 2, 4, 5, 10 and others. This helps the students with coin work and telling time, as well as with gaining an understanding of the base ten system. Number stories, which require computational skills coupled with an understanding of problem-solving, are worked on daily.

Mrs. Barrett's room just finished a unit on "different or alike, we are all special". The last week of January also saw her class reading, "The Little Red Hen", making their own bread and butter and learning how to knead dough.

Mrs. Castle's class is enjoying improving their writing skills. We are working on gaining knowledge in capitalization, punctuation and spelling. Recently completed was a writing titled, "Meet Our Friends". The children are becoming better writers every day.

Mrs. Siegrist's room has been exploring ways to "understand our similarities and celebrate our differences". The children brought in baby pictures of themselves for each class member to view. They guessed the identity of the baby in each picture as they learned about how we all grow and change. We read, among others, "Weslandia" and a "Bad Case of Stripes" by David Shannon, which helped them discover that each person is unique with his or her own special strengths. They also used the letters of their names to list words that describe their own special abilities, character and personality traits.....Mrs. Castle

Pictured above is Quinn Fischman storytelling about penguins in Mrs. Frankila's first grade class.

2nd Grade News

The Second Graders started off the month with a field trip to Red Lobster. They were able to see and learn about different parts of the lobster, take a tour of the restaurant and have a taste of popcorn shrimp.

The dinosaur unit is another project Second Graders enjoy this time of year. They study the various types of dinosaurs, their environment and the time period they lived in. The students have fun making dioramas and creating models of the dinosaurs.....Miss Kempf

3rd Grade News

Mrs. Bennett's Third Grade classroom has welcomed Jill Schedeler, a student teacher from Spring Arbor College, to their classroom on February 1. She has lived in Brooklyn, Michigan all of her life; and she has always wanted to be a teacher. We are anxious to get to know her and to be able to share our classroom with her.

Mrs. Kinner and Mrs. Jones are both piloting a new math series with their children. You are noticing "home link" assignment sheets coming home regularly as part of this program. This series approaches math in somewhat a different format. It has been adopted in some other school districts around the county.

All Third Grade classrooms will be participating in Ella Sharp Museum's Spring 2000 Pioneer Living Program in March. This is where we pretend we are pioneers for the day at the museum. More information regarding the dates, times and additional specific information will follow later.....Mrs. Bennett

5th Grade News

Townsend Fifth Graders have been enjoying theatre productions at the JCC Potter Center. All productions are performed by professional theatre groups that travel nation-wide. Students attended "Le Miserables" on November 3, "A Christmas Carol" on December 9, "The Color of Justice" on January 19 and "Jekyll and Hyde" on February 4. The last production will be "Huck and Tom" on March 8.

The students recently finished up MEAP testing. Testing began the week of January 24 and ended February 11. Students were tested in the areas of writing, science and social studies.

During the month of April, Fifth Grade classes will be going on a field trip to visit the U of M Art Museum. This trip has been arranged by Mrs. Richardson, our "awesome" art instructor, to help our students enjoy cultural experiences.....Mr. Myers

4th Grade News

The Fourth Graders have had a busy last couple of weeks working on the MEAP test. Reading and math are the two tests taken at the Fourth Grade level. The students worked very hard during this time; and we are very pleased with their efforts.

During December, we attended the Michigan State Capitol and some students were able to see their Representatives in action. Upcoming field trips include a visit to the Dahlem Nature Center and the Michigan History Museum in Lansing, both in March. We really look forward to these fun and educational events.

In January, our classes were entertained by "The Kids On the Block" puppet program. This program helps students become more sensitive to disabled peers. We were also able to do some activities related to this topic.

January also brought our 3rd, 4th and 5th Grade music program. This was a wonderful production given to a "full house" audience. We also had an awards assembly to honor those students who made the honor roll, had perfect attendance, and/or have shown exemplary citizenship. Congratulations to these students and their families.....Mrs. Cripe

Kindergarten Round-up

Kindergarten Round-up for Vandercook Lake Public Schools will be held at Townsend Elementary on April 26, 27, 28. Children need to be 5 as of December 1, 2000, in order to attend Kindergarten in the fall. The new Kindergartners will be screened for speech, gross and fine motor, readiness, and social skills. A parent will also be asked to speak to our school social worker during the time the child is here. Please call Townsend Elementary at 784-6133 to register for our round-up.

March
is
Reading
Month

Townsend Library/Media Center News

Everyone is enjoying the new library and media room facilities at Townsend Library/Media Center. We are working hard at getting used to where books and media are located and how to decide if materials are exactly right for our reading level and for assigned class projects.

Students in all grades have been talking about author/illustrators (or "picture writers" as we call them) meaning illustrators who also write their stories. These are books enjoyed by all ages. Some of the "picture writers" we have read and enjoyed video interviews with are Lois Ehlert, Eric Carle, Tomie DePaola and Leo Lionni.

During the month of March, we will be having an activity promoting public library cards. It is important for children to be reading outside of the school day. One way of doing this is to visit our Summit public library branch at 104 W. Bird Street on a regular basis. In March, students can bring their public library card into the Townsend School Library/Media Center to show it, have their name starred on our chart and receive a small surprise. Any classes that have 100% participation will also be rewarded.

In April, we are planning a book fair in the library. Please watch for more information about this later.

A "Book Swap" between students will be featured in May. Students may bring up to 5 of their own paperback books that they are finished reading and no longer want to keep, from home and receive a swap ticket for each one. Then they can "swap" each ticket for a different book from the "swap" table. This way everyone has something new to read!Helen Taylor, Library/Media Specialist

Art News

In the Art Room, students have been very busy creating projects.

Basic Kindergarten, Kindergarten and First Graders finished a unit on color. They learned about the primary and secondary colors.

The Second Graders have been studying about light and dark colors.

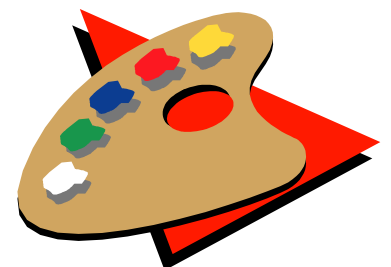
The Third Graders made self-portraits.

Fourth Graders created rhythm and visual movement.

Fifth Graders designed their own color wheel and painted an analogous color painting.

Many students will be demonstrating different projects at "The Celebration of Learning" on March 28. Come see what we have been doing.

The Fourth and Fifth Grades will be visiting the U of M Art Museum in April and May.....Mrs. Richardson, Art Teacher



Fifth grade students in our Media Center at Townsend School (Pictured L-R) Lacie Grinnell, Lynn Tennyson, Megan Choate, Steve Hartzell, Mrs. Jennifer French

To all Vandercook Lake Parents:

As of January 1, 2000, the State of Michigan has required that all new entrants to any Michigan school be immunized for Hepatitis B. It is a series of 3 shots. (The second is given one month after the first shot and the third is given five months after the third.)

Although it is not mandatory for already existing students who have attended Vandercook over the years, the Jackson County Health Department has strongly recommended that all school-age children be immunized for this.

If your child should happen to move or go to a new school, they will have to have had or started this series. This is true regardless of what school they may attend.

If you have any questions, please contact Marilyn Sheets, school nurse at 782-8167, or the Jackson County Health Department at 788-4420.....Marilyn Sheets, School Nurse

Elementary Music News

A large and enthusiastic audience crowded together in Townsend's new gym on January 18 to watch the 3rd, 4th and 5th Grade students present, "A Celebration of the Future". The program opened with selections by the Fifth Grade band, directed by Paul Bickel. After that, each grade level shared music learned in general music classes. This included singing, playing of instruments and a classic circle dance.

The grand finale, "We Are the People of the Twenty-First Century", was presented by 310 students, with four featured soloists, and Mr. Bickel adding a festive note on his trumpet. It was an exciting moment for students and audience alike.

Mrs. Childs would like to thank all of the students who came and participated in this program. We had 93% attendance for Grades 3-5 and that helped to make the evening memorable. Soloists Tiffany Dennis, Alex Moske, Holly Reese, Danny Tice, Audrey Lindquist and Gloria Stump sang beautifully. All of the classroom teachers helped out in many ways, as did many other staff members and our two dedicated principals. Thanks to everyone who made this evening such a success!

Our next general music program will be Tuesday, April 18 at 7:00 P.M. in the Townsend Gym. It will include students in Grades 1 and 2. The Basic Kindergarten and Kindergarten children will present a short program on May 4. Please put these events on your calendar and support our children in their efforts to share their music experiences with you.....Mrs. Childs, Music Teacher

Elementary PTO News....Spring Festival at Townsend School - Annual Flower Sale

PTO is planning a very busy spring. On Friday, March 24, 2000 from 5:30 - 8:00p.m. we will be having our annual Spring Festival at Townsend Elementary. We will have lots of fun, food, and games. SADD will be giving ponyrides - tickets will be sold for \$1.00. We will also have food at our concession stand: pizza, nachos, and hot dogs. Come on out and have a great time!

We will also be having our annual flower sale at Summit Gardens on Saturday, May 20, 2000. Coupons will be available at the garden center. Ten percent of each purchase goes to the PTO to help with landscaping the new playground and grounds at Townsend School. We will also have a "wish list" available of plants and shrubs if you would like to make a donation. See you there.

YEAR END CALENDAR - 1999-2000

March	2	Parent Teacher Conferences 1-4; 7-9:00 pm, 1/2 Day of School
	3	Parent Teacher Conferences 1-3; 1/2 Day of School
	13	Board Meeting - HS Library - 6:00 p.m.
	14	Band/Choir Concert 7:00 p.m. - High School
	17	Blood Drive - High School
	24	Spring Festival - Townsend School
	28	Community Exhibition - Townsend School
April	3-7	Spring Break
	15	Cherry Pie Sale
	17	Board Meeting - HS Library - 6:00 pm.
	21	Good Friday - No School
	22	Easter Egg Hunt
	27	Community Exhibition - High School
May	3	Prom
	8	Board Meeting - HS Library - 6:00 pm.
	12	Cow Pie Bingo - McDevitt Memorial Stadium
	18	5th Grade Orientation
	18	Spring Band Concert
	19	6th Grade Student High School Tour
	24	Senior Dessert/Awards Night
	26	1/2 Day School
	29	Memorial Day - No School
June	4	Baccalaureate
	5	Commencement - Potter Center 8:00 pm
	6,7,8	Exams
		Last Day for Students

REACH - Reading Excellence Achieved with Community Help

The REACH program (formerly the HOSTS program) has a new director. We are pleased to have Karen Horton with us. Karen has been a volunteer for several years at Townsend, so she is very familiar with our school and students.

The goal of our REACH program is to improve our students' confidence, reading, writing and thinking abilities. Students come to the REACH room to work one-to-one with mentors. Reading is a big part of the lesson.

REACH is still in need for mentors for the remainder of our school year. Please call the office and ask for Karen Horton if you are interested.

We are always grateful to our Vandercook community for its support of our school!

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