

# News and Views

from the Vandercook Lake Public Schools

Golf Avenue

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Jackson, Michigan

## Good News from Superintendent Ronald Bennett.....

*We "Made the Grade"!*

The long anticipated School Grade Card has finally been released and Vandercook Lake posted excellent grades. The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has been working for many months trying to get the grades calculated and released to the public. The grades were originally scheduled to be released last summer but for various reasons, the grades were very late in being released.



The MDE notified us late this past fall as to our preliminary grade for our review. They also supplied us with the data that was used to calculate the grade and asked us to make sure they had used the correct data. Our Curriculum Director, Susan Haney, along with building staff and administrators reviewed the data and made the necessary corrections making sure our data was correct. The corrected data was submitted to the MDE and our official grade was determined. In the case of Vandercook Lake Public Schools, we received grades for each building.

The Townsend Building received a grade of "B" and did make adequate yearly progress as outlined in the No Child Left Behind law. This is an outstanding grade, and we are proud of the students and staff for their hard work in achieving this grade. The students are measured by their MEAP test results and how much progress has been made. The students and staff work hard to demonstrate their achievement and knowledge. We also know that our parents are very supportive of the students in helping the students be ready for this test. The MEAP test is one of the most important measurement tools used by the Michigan Department of Education.

The grade for the High School was an "A", and they made adequate yearly progress as outlined in the No Child Left Behind law. This is an exceptional grade and ***the only "A" given to any high school in Jackson County.*** In the case of the high school building, the grade is determined by the highest grade in the building. In our case, the grade was determined by the test given at the eleventh grade level. The students were outstanding and took the test very seriously. They were ready for the test and also knew that a good performance would also provide some scholarship money for college. Again, our students, staff and parents are to be commended for all of the hard work and dedication that went into the testing program. The tremendous efforts by the students and staff have been strongly supported by the administration and the Vandercook Lake Board of Education to insure that the educational program at Vandercook Lake would meet today's standards.

We all can be very proud of the accomplishments of the students in the district. Through their hard work and the hard work of all staff members, we "Made the Grade".

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## DAR WINNER SELECTED

**Jordan J. Masters**

**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 three teacher nominee names were presented to the senior class for their final vote. Those students were Kali Briggs, Jordan Masters, and Chad Meyers. Jordan Masters was chosen to receive a Good Citizen Pin and Certificate from the Sarah Treat Prudden Chapter of the NSDAR for Jackson County.**

**During December Jordan began his state competition by completing a questionnaire and submitting a letter of recommendation, complete transcript, and graduation picture. Jordan also wrote a 500-word essay on a topic selected by the NSDAR. Congratulations to Jordan on his Vandercook Lake School selection!**

### **Mr. Dan Roggenbaum**

#### **"Coach of the Year"**

Mr. Dan Roggenbaum has been selected as the Division Four - Women's Track Coach of the Year. This honor encompasses the entire State of Michigan. Dan was honored before a varsity basketball contest this winter. He has been a long-time teacher/coach of the Vandercook Lake school district. This is an honor he truly deserves.

Congratulations, Mr. Roggenbaum, the **"2003 Women's Track Coach of the Year"**!



**Pictured from Left to Right: Jolie King, Traverse City St. Francis, Dan Roggenbaum, Vandercook Lake Schools, Scott Werner, Pewamo-Westphalia, Michael Kuyers, Pottersville**

## Cascades Conference Sportsmanship Winner

Vandercook Lake High School was selected as the conference school demonstrating a high level of sportsmanship during the fall sports season. This award, The Burdette W. Andrews Sportsmanship Trophy, is presented following each sport season of the year. One presentation is made as a result of the fall sports season, another at the end of the winter sports season, and the final presentation following the spring sports season.

The Cascades Conference member schools selected Vandercook Lake High School as the school demonstrating excellent sportsmanship for the fall sports season and the presentation was made at the first conference home basketball game this winter. The award was presented to Kali Briggs, President of the Student Council, Mr. Anthony Hollow, Principal of the High School, and Chuck Miller, Athletic Director, by the President of the Cascades Conference Executive Council, Mr. Bruce VanEyck, Superintendent of East Jackson Schools. Mr. Burdette Andrews, Superintendent Emeritus of Vandercook Lake Schools, assisted Mr. VanEyck. The Sportsmanship Trophy is named in his honor, as he was one of the original Superintendents that formed the Cascades Conference.

We are proud to accept this award on behalf of our students, athletes, and fans of Vandercook Lake.



**Pictured (Left to Right): Kali Briggs, Bruce VanEyck, Charles Miller, Burdette W. Andrews and Anthony Hollow**

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## **No Child Left Behind's Impact on our School**

Our school is dedicated to making sure all children succeed in school and in life. We're proud of programs like reading recovery, developmental kindergarten, CGI math, accelerated reader, MLPP, Investigations Math, after school tutoring, summer school, Community As School, differentiated instruction and 6-trait writing that help students at our school learn. But the way our school and student achievement is measured and reported will be different under the federal law known as No Child Left Behind (NCLB). It's important for you to understand how this law affects our school and our students.

NCLB, signed into law by President Bush in January 2002, is the federal government's largest ever expansion into our local schools. While we support the concept of NCLB and will fully comply with this new law, it is very complicated and will require an enormous effort by our school, school district and state to implement.

Under NCLB, a measure known as Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) is used to report student progress on the Michigan Education Assessment Program (MEAP) reading and math tests. By the 2013-2014 school year, all students in Michigan are supposed to be successful on the MEAP test according to NCLB.

Each year, our school will receive a report from the state that shows our AYP status. The report will include students' scores for the entire school, but that's only part of the rating. The report will also break students' scores into different subgroups, including race/ethnicity, students with disabilities, Limited English Proficiency (LEP) and economically disadvantaged. Individual student scores will not appear on the report. If our school does not make AYP in every category, does that mean our school is a bad school? Absolutely not! AYP is mostly based on MEAP results, and our students are learning much more than what's measured by a single test on a single day. It's important for parents to understand their child's day-to-day progress in the classroom.

We are using our school improvement plan, developed as required by Michigan law, to address our school improvement needs, including those identified under NCLB. Our school is currently focusing on curriculum alignment in the core content areas and reading comprehension. We are also gathering data from classroom and state assessments to make our school even better.

We can't do this alone. Maintaining high quality schools is a job for the entire community, and we need your help in reaching these goals. If you would like to get involved contact your building principal.

Townsend Elementary School receives Title I funding. Title I is a federal program that provides resources to schools in areas of economic need. NCLB focuses on schools, like ours, that receive Title I funding.

Under NCLB, every school receiving Title I money is required to notify parents of their rights to request and receive the following information from the school:

- \* Professional qualifications of their child's teacher(s) including degrees and certifications held and whether the teacher is certified in the area he/she is teaching.

- \* Whether or not their child is receiving instruction by a paraprofessional, and if so, his/her qualifications. This applies to all instructional staff in the school, not just those paid with Title I funds.

NCLB also says that Title I schools must notify parents:

- \* About the school improvement status of their child's school. Title I schools that do not meet AYP for at least two years in a row may be required to offer students public school choice within the district or tutoring. Schools that continue to be identified for improvement may be listed for corrective action.

- \* Of their child's achievement level on the MEAP test.

- \* If their child has been assigned or taught for at least four consecutive weeks by a teacher who does not meet the highly qualified definition.

- \* Of their right to be involved in the planning and implementation of the parent involvement program in their school.

If you have any additional questions about No Child Left Behind and its impact on our school, please contact Sue Haney at 782-0342 or visit [www.nochildleftbehind.gov](http://www.nochildleftbehind.gov).

## Academic Games 2004

Vandercook Lake High School will compete in Academic Games, Saturday, March 27, 2004 at Jackson Community College. Our students will compete with other county schools in the areas of English, Mathematics, and Social Studies. It is open to the public beginning at 8:45 a.m. The schedule of competitions will be posted throughout the campus.

The English team is coached by Mr. Steven Tucker. Team members include: Brian Tucker, Geoff Chiles, Autumn Jones, Meghan Gallagher, Dan Watts, Andy Hall, and Tyler Hale.

The English essay team is also coached by Mr. Tucker. Team members include: Brian Tucker, Dan Watts and Meghan Gallagher.

The Math team is coached by Mr. Dan Roggenbaum. Team members include: Corey Vincent, Jordan Masters, Randall Wilcox, Adam Sprangel, Jennifer McDaniels, Chad Myers, Krista Jensen, Chelsea Maxson, and Heather Fushi.

The Social Studies team is coached by Mr. Mark Bareis. Team members include: Adrian Towery, Adam Whitworth, Nick Bristow, Nick Gallagher, Kim Yother, Steve Saari, Lauren Ritter, Jared Burke and Nick Schilling.

*Good Luck Teams!!*

### Kindergarten Round-Up

Kindergarten Round-Up for Vandercook Lake Public Schools will be held at Townsend Elementary on April 26, 27 and 28. Children need to be 5 as of December 1, 2004 in order to attend Kindergarten in the fall. Please call Townsend Elementary at 784-6133 to register for our round-up.

### High School MEAP test

The window for this year's High School MEAP test will be May 3 - May 14. As in the past, all juniors will be tested in the areas of social studies, science, mathematics, and language arts. Any senior wishing to retake any portion of the test to qualify for the Merit Scholarship should see Ms. Koetsier to sign up before May 3. If you have any questions regarding testing or the Merit Scholarship, please contact Sue Haney at 782-0342.

### Four-Year Old Preschool Program Registration:

Registration for next year will begin the week of April 12. We plan to have a morning session and an afternoon session next year as we will have both a state funded program and a tuition paid program. If you have a child who will be 4 by December 1, 2004 but not 5 before December 1, 2004, please contact the McDevitt school office at 782-0342 or stop in the McDevitt office for registration information the week of April 12. Space may be limited so call early if you plan to have your child attend in the fall.

### Summer Childcare

McDevitt School will be open again this summer for childcare. Hours during the summer will be from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. June 7 - August 13. Many activities are scheduled throughout the summer including field trips to the zoo, the park, the Michigan Theatre, Full Blast Water Park, putt-putt golf and much more. We will begin registering students for summer Monday, March 1, 2004. There will be a \$15.00 registration fee for each family. The cost will remain \$2.00/hr for one child and \$1.40/hr for each additional child in your family. Additional costs will include field trip costs that will vary. We will provide a morning and an afternoon snack as well as milk. You must provide breakfast and lunch for your child. For more information or any questions you might have, please contact McDevitt School at 782-0342. Space is limited due to licensing capacity. Register early with registration packet, schedule and fee.

### **Job Shadowing at Vandercook Lake High School**

This year, 26 tenth grade job shadowers were placed in the Jackson area. All of the students reported positive experiences. Job shadowing is a two-to-four hour, one-time visit, with an employer in the student's career interest area. The student "shadows" at the place of business, is given a tour, learns about requirements for the career, and many times experiences "hands-on" activities. If you would like to know more about job shadowing, or if you know an employer who would be a good placement for a student to job shadow with in the future, please contact Patti Shafer at 782-8167, Ext. 143.

We appreciate the time these business people give to our future working force! Special thanks to Deb Bildner and Eric Baldwin, ISD Education Coordinators, for their fine work in placing the students at outstanding businesses.

| <b>Student:</b>     | <b>Career Area:</b>  | <b>Location:</b>             | <b>Contact:</b>      |
|---------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Anderson, Abbey     | Web Page Design      | JCISD                        | Steve Woloszyn       |
| Bevier, Kylie       | Pediatric Nurse      | Foote Hospital               | Beverly Thompkins    |
| Buckley, Ian        | Carpenter            | R.W. Mercer Co.              | Brian Brockie        |
| Crum, Rachael       | Child Care           | ABC Academy                  | Mariann Gladstone    |
| Cyrocki, Monica     | Cosmetology          | Gracie's Place               | Colleen Johnson      |
| Eagle, Stephen      | Surgery              | Baker College                | Judy Burgess         |
| Fischman, Giselle   | Physician            | Foote Hospital               | Beverly Thompkins    |
| Fisher, David       | Carpenter            | R.W. Mercer Co.              | Brian Brockie        |
| Furlong, Cynthia    | Firefighter          | City of Jackson Fire Dept.   | Eric Copeland        |
| Fushi, Shelly       | Pediatrics           | Riverside Pediatrics         | Amy Watkins          |
| Gallagher, Meghan   | Psychologist         | Recovery Technologies        | Greg Gallagher       |
| Griffith, Mark      | CAD                  | Worthington Specialty Proc.  | Frank Layman         |
| Grove, Ashley       | Pediatric Nurse      | Foote Hospital               | Beverly Thompkins    |
| Howard, Cierra      | Law                  | Lansing State Capitol        | Senator Mark Schauer |
| Jackson, Andrew     | Physician            | Townsend Medical Center      | Dr. Amy Ulrich       |
| Jensen, Krista      | Youth Pastor         | Trinity Wesleyan Church      | Andy Merritt         |
| Landwehr, Jasmine   | Recording Artist     | J-TV                         | Karen & Bart Hawley  |
| LeFaive, Kara       | Mortician            | J. L. Watson Funeral Home    | Jay Watson           |
| Lowe, Ray           | Chef                 | Old Country Buffet           | Denny Altic          |
| Mollitor, Katherine | Computer Programming | JCISD                        | Steve Woloszyn       |
| Montgomery, Chrissy | Physical Therapist   | Orthopaedic Rehab Spec.      | Dave Polson          |
| Owens, Jonathan     | Cartoonist           | Dragon Crest Studios         | William Baetz        |
| Parlow, Amber       | Archivist/Curator    | Ella Sharp Museum            | Amy Wellington       |
| Schweda, Jonell     | Crime Lab/Law        | Blackman Public Safety Dept. | Tom Brower           |
| Wahl, Sara          | Surgery              | Baker College                | Judy Burgess         |
| Woolwine, Nicole    | Dentist              | Dr. Mathein and Slete        | Sharon Gregurich     |

## Job Shadowing at Vandercook Lake High School



Andrew Jackson



Krista Jensen



Jonell Schweda



Monica Cyrocki



Kara Lefaive



Amber Parlow



Jasmine Landwehr

### 2004 Community-As-School Senior Internship Program

This semester 10 seniors are participating as interns in the Community-As-School Program.

| <b>Intern:</b>     | <b>Career Area:</b> | <b>Location(s):</b>                   | <b>Community Teacher</b>                        |
|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Berry, Lauren      | X-ray Technician    | Foot Hospital Imaging Serv.           | Cathy Rayl, Education Coor.                     |
|                    | Surgical Nurse      | Blake Woods Medical Park              | Margaret Acker, CEO                             |
| Crawford, Ronda    | Law                 | Prosecuting Attorney's Off.           | Katie Rezmierski,<br>Asst. Prosecuting Attorney |
|                    |                     | Juvenile Division                     | Ivy Arbuckle/Becky Williams                     |
|                    |                     | Jackson Co. Courthouse                |   |
| Melchiori, Brandie | Elem. Teaching      | Townsend Elementary                   | Chris VanEpps (5th grade)                       |
| Sedgman, Melissa   | Elem. Teaching      | Townsend Elementary                   | Sharon Elzinga (Kindergarten)                   |
| Spaulding, Casey   | Radio DJ            | WKHM K-105.3                          | Jamie McKibbin, Program Dir.                    |
| Vincent, Corey     | Architecture        | Architronics                          | Robert Cole, Architect/Owner                    |
| Wilcox, Randall    | Architecture        | Architronics                          | Robert Cole, Architect/Owner                    |
| Wells, Traci       | Elem. Teaching      | Keicher Elementary<br>Michigan Center | Jennifer Bristol, (4th grade)                   |
| Yoakam, Kristen    | Law Enforcement     | Jackson Co. Sheriff's Dept.           | Lt. Dave Teriaco                                |
|                    | Physical Education  | Arnold Elementary                     | Kelly McCloughan                                |
|                    |                     | Michigan Center H.S.                  | Karrie Houser                                   |
| Yother, Kimberly   | Physician           | Foot Hospital Laboratory              | Mary Spencer, Manager                           |
|                    |                     | Foot Hospital Maternity Services      | Barb Mierzwa, Nurse Manager                     |

Community-As-School gives seniors who qualify an opportunity to explore a career on an in-depth level. 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. If you would like to know more about the program, please contact Patti Shafer, Program Coordinator, at 782-8167, Ext. 143.

If you know any of the above Community Teachers, please thank them for supporting Vandercook Lake High School by sponsoring a senior for a semester. They are wonderful mentors for our seniors!....Patti Shafer, CAS Resource Coordinator

Pictured below are the participating CAS intern seniors:

Front row: Traci Wells, Casey Spaulding, Brandie Melchiori, Melissa Sedgman

Back row: Kristen Yoakam, Ronda Crawford, Lauren Berry, Corey Vincent, Randall Wilcox, Kimberly Yother



## 5th and 6th Grade Boys Basketball Tournament

The weekend of February 13, 14, and 15, the Vandercook Lake Athletic Boosters hosted 35 fifth and sixth grade basketball teams. This year the tournament was spread all over Vandercook Lake - at Townsend Elementary, McDevitt Elementary, the high school and middle school gymnasiums. All proceeds go directly into new facilities and uniforms for all of our athletes. A big thank you to Randy Straub, Jeff McDaniels and all others who volunteered. The weekend was a huge success.

### Annual Blood Drive

**March 11**

The Vandercook Lake Student Council is hosting its annual Blood Drive on Thursday, March 11, 2004, from 8:00 am to 2:00 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 Penny May Curl. Penny was a 1984 graduate. In her high school career, she played basketball, volleyball and softball..

She was a leader on all the teams she participated on. She earned "All Conference" honors on every varsity team she played on in her senior year.

Penny is most deserving of this award.



## High School Bowling

Vandercook Lake has started a Club Bowling team this winter for both girls and boys. They are playing area schools in Jackson County.

All athletes must follow MHSAA rules and high school athletic rules.

Both teams are doing very well. The Regional was held at Summit Lanes on Saturday, February 28.

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## Middle School News

The seventh and eighth grade middle school students recently finished their MEAP testing. Testing began the week of January 26 and concluded on February 11, 2004. The students were served a complimentary breakfast and were encouraged by the entire middle school staff to do their best on the test. The seventh graders were tested in the areas of reading and writing. The eighth graders were tested in the areas of science, social studies and math.

***Bully Proofing Program:*** On Monday, March 8, 2004, the middle school staff will be implementing a bully-proofing curriculum in an effort to decrease the incidences of verbal, physical, and exclusion-type bullying behaviors. Last year a committee of teachers, counselors, and administrators designed and administered a survey, which enabled us to gain a better understanding of our student's perspective on this issue. The data that has been collected from these surveys was compiled and has recently been analyzed by the middle school staff. As anticipated there was a great variety in student responses as to the scope and magnitude of this problem in our school. Many of our students expressed the opinion that this is not a serious or prevalent problem in our school. However, the staff and administration are in total agreement that we must do everything in our power to establish a schoolwide approach to combat bullying type situations. For the next two weeks we will be utilizing Advisory class to educate students on the problems of harassment and bullying. We know that working effectively with our community and parents is an important and integral component of providing a successful bully-proofing program. Please speak to your child regarding this issue and if you have any questions, comments, or need more information, contact Mr. Schonhard or Ms. Koetsier.

For more information about all the exciting and educational activities taking place at Vandercook Lake Middle School, please ask your children to bring home their copy of the Middle School Journal. Every third Friday, Mr. Gass's Journalism class produces an exceptional new paper, which displays wonderful photography and thought-provoking articles.

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## Soft Truancy Program

The Soft Truancy Program is a proactive early intervention program designed to assist middle-school students and families who are struggling with attendance and academic progress. The support team includes the student's family, probate court referee, assistant principal, school counselor, social worker and school liaison officer.

Together as a team, they meet on a weekly basis to review the students' success and provide support where needed. The program has provided remarkable results for individuals who have not previously been involved in the court system.

A consistent comment from parents who have completed the program is, "I would recommend this program to other parents who are being challenged by their child's behavior".

Contact Jim Biondolillo, high school counselor, at 782-8167 with questions.

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## 2nd Grade

Second Graders are extremely busy. All of us will be studying weather and were lucky to have the Stormtracker 6 van and meteorologist, Pat Michaels, visit our school.

On February 9 the children sang songs for their grandparents and presenting them with “tokens of love” that they made in class. Amelia Bedelia books are always a hit in reading and she was brought to life at Jackson Community College on February 10, 2004. The children are excited to see this play.

Cursive handwriting is being introduced. They are doing a wonderful job forming letters and connecting them to make words.... We hope that you will continue to listen to our reading. We are proud of how far we have come.....Mrs. Higgins

## 3rd Grade

As the first semester comes to a close and the second half of our year gets under way, we find the Third Grade in a state of disaster! Sinking ships, erupting volcanoes, earthquakes, and even a flood of molasses have kept the classes busy. The children have visited the icy waters of the North Atlantic to learn about the Titanic, the ancient city of Pompeii to learn about volcanoes and Boston in the early 1900s to learn about the great molasses distillery explosion (really!) through both fiction and non-fiction selections in our reading series. Thank goodness we’ve nearly completed our Language Arts Theme entitled Disaster!, none the worst for wear.

Some classes even combined this unit with the science kit, Our Changing Earth, to investigate landforms, erosion, earthquakes, landslides, and volcanoes even further through hands-on activities, additional books and videos.

Mrs. Jones’ class shared their knowledge of the Titanic through an exhibition in their classroom for parents and peers. The Third Grade also attended the play Amelia Bedelia (a real disaster in her own right) at JCC Potter Center.

This unit has been one of our students’ favorites. Please have them share what they’ve learned with you.....Miss Waite

## Fourth Grade News

On January 26, the Fourth Graders began working on their MEAP reading, language arts and math tests. This year’s reading/writing test began by asking the students to write a personal narrative about solving problems. They wrote a first draft and were encouraged to use dictionaries and Thesauri to help them revise and edit their work for the final draft. Next the students completed the reading portion that consisted of one fiction and one non-fiction piece. Ten multiple-choice questions followed each selection, in addition to five cross-text questions that pertained to both selections. For the second writing, students were asked to respond to the reading selections by taking a position to a given prompt and supporting it with evidence from both texts. In the final segment of the test, students listened to a folktale on tape and were then asked to answer ten questions about what they heard. The math test is divided into 3 parts with a total of 39 challenging word problems. Much effort was put into the preparation for these tests; and all Fourth Grade teachers reported that the majority of our students worked diligently on the tests.

In mid-March, the Fourth Graders will travel to the Dahlem Environmental Education Center to learn about the making of maple syrup. We are all hoping for a sample to taste.....Mrs. Vass

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## Kindergarten News

The Kindergarten classes have been enjoying many fun, educational activities in these cold winter weeks. We have been getting our minds off the cold temperatures by studying the warm ocean climate. The classes have learned about several ocean creatures, including dolphins, whales, penguins, sea horses and the octopus. The children are very interested in these creatures!

Our 100's day celebrations were exciting and packed with learning. All of the classes focused on counting to 100, and writing and doing projects about the number 100. It was an important milestone in the year. Some of the activities included Mrs. Stapley's class having a Hawaiian party, Mrs. Elzinga's class writing 100 on pancakes with syrup and Mrs. Marsh's class having a trail mix made with 100 items from each student. What fun! Our curriculum continues to be enhanced by learning through songs. We have been singing about the alphabet, the vowels, colors, feelings and the calendar. The children greatly enjoy these activities.

The home-school connection is being enhanced by the Dolch word lists. Many children are learning their Dolch words at home and reciting them at school. We are very proud of their progress! Learning the Dolch words will help the children to recognize these high frequency words as their reading progresses.

In math, the children have been playing number games to compare and create numbers, as well as studying solid shapes, and beginning fractions. Mrs. Marsh's class is creating a "Shapes Museum", in which students will bring in objects from home that represent the solid shapes they have learned about in the classroom. The students are also working on individually counting to 100. Great job to those students who have already been successful!

The kindergartners have now been introduced to the letter people through Mr. R. The pictures, puppets and songs will hopefully make lasting impressions about the letter sounds.

The science kits are well underway as the students learn about Changes, Living Things and the Earth. The experiments are very age appropriate and offer hands-on learning for the students.

We are looking forward to many more productive weeks with the kindergartners. As the ocean unit progresses, many more fun activities will come. Another field trip will be coming up this spring at the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. We are also looking forward to watching new progress develop daily in the children's beginning reading and writing skills....Have a warm and safe winter!.....Mrs. Marsh

### 1st Grade News

Busy times. Fun times. It is always an adventure in First Grade. Our First Graders have been very hard at work learning how to read; and they are so proud of themselves! They are mastering basic addition and subtraction skills in math as well as doing story problems.

All of the classes had a wonderful celebration for the 100th day of school. Some of the activities included reading books about 100, doing 100-piece puzzles, putting some spots on dalmatians, counting to 100 and many more. The students made some wonderful projects displaying 100 of something, and some of them even made shirts to wear!

The classes are now getting ready for the Valentine's Day party. Students have been busy making Valentine's boxes both at home and at school, as well as bringing in Valentine's for their classmates and teachers....Busy times. Fun times. That's what First Grade is all about.....Miss Schedeler

## **Fifth Grade News**

Students in Fifth Grade have been focusing on preparation for the MEAP tests in science and social studies. We want to express our thanks for the treats, letters, bulletin boards and other acts of kindness and support, which we received from students in the lower grades. We feel confident that Fifth Graders will do their personal best on these tests.

Other academic events in the classrooms include science units on Matter Matters and Caretakers of the Earth. Everyone is working hard in math to become better problem solvers. We are also building a good understanding of basic math skills and developing accuracy when adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing.

Miss Grant's class is giving persuasive speeches. Mrs. Yocum's class is looking forward to tracking the Iditarod as we read informational books and articles about this famous dog sled race in Alaska.

We are proud of Stephanie Wicklund for qualifying as Townsend's representative in the Jackson Citizen Patriot's Spelling Bee on March 15. Good luck, Stephanie! The alternate is Grace Johnson.....Mrs. Yocum



## **Music News from Townsend**

The Fourth and Fifth Grade students invite you to a very special night of singing! We will be doing a program of songs from Broadway musicals. We have studied some of the shows, learning about this wonderful and truly American form of entertainment, consisting of song, dance and drama. We can hardly wait to share this learning with you!

Come to Townsend School gym at 7:00 PM on Thursday, March 11. The price is "free"; and you will be able to enjoy a priceless evening of musical fun! We hope to see you there!.....Mrs. Childs

## **A Parent's Pledge**

**I know that children learn best when families and schools work together. As a parent, I pledge to:**

- Spend some time talking and listening to my child every day.**
- Praise my child for good work in school and good behavior at home.**
- Help my child develop self-confidence and self-discipline.**
- Talk with my child's teacher about how my child is doing in school.**
- Set a regular time and place for schoolwork. During this time, there will be NO television, NO radio, NO phone calls.**
- Encourage reading. I will read to my child, and I will listen as my child reads to me.**
- Make sure my child gets healthy meals, enough sleep and good exercise every day.**
- Love my child enough to say NO when necessary.**
- Help my child discover the joy that learning and thinking can bring at any age.**

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## District Technology News - March 2004

### Access the District Calendar On-Line

If you go to the Vandercook Lake Public Schools official website at <http://scnc.vandy.k12.mi.us> you can see the school calendar by clicking on "Vandy School Calendar". All dates from the board of education school calendar and many events provided by teachers and staff are on this calendar. On the calendar page is a link to all current season sports schedules. If you know of a school or community event that should be on this calendar or know of corrections that should be made please contact Phil Garrison at 782-9044 or email at [garrison@vandy.k12.mi.us](mailto:garrison@vandy.k12.mi.us). If an event is not listed it is because the group sponsoring the event has not asked to have it on the calendar.

### Chuck Miller's Cascades Conference Archive

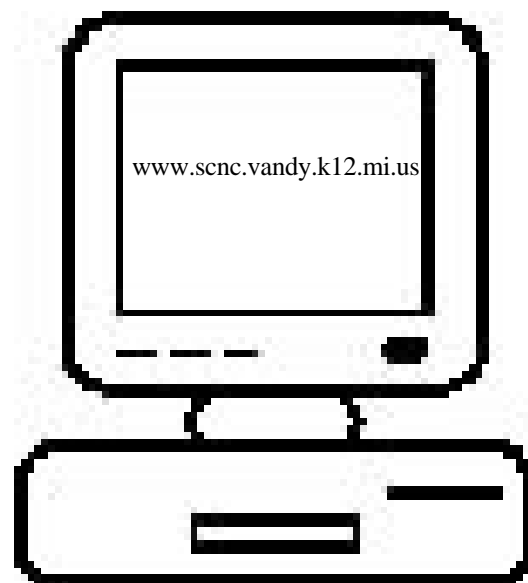
Also on our website is a link to Chuck's Cascades Conference Archive. Conference champions in all sports, state championship teams and all conference team members are listed. This data was accumulated by Athletic Director Chuck Miller over the years, and it was recently computerized and exported to web pages. A link to the page that lists Vandy All conference athletes over a roughly 50-year period for which records could be found is also on the Vandy home page.

### Recycle ink jet and laser toner cartridges - Money for printers

Recently collection boxes have been placed in the Townsend School office and the High School/Middle School Office for the collection of empty ink jet cartridges and laser toner cartridges. Recycling keeps plastic and toxic ink and toner out of the environment and provides money for the district. We plan to use all money generated to purchase new printers for classrooms. DO NOT throw away your old empty cartridges. Put them in a baggie or plastic bag and send them to school to be put in the box in the office.....Phil Garrison Director of Technology

### Accelerated Reader Quiz List on Website

The Accelerated Reader Quiz list is now available on the Vandercook Lake School website ([www.scnc.vandy.k12.mi.us](http://www.scnc.vandy.k12.mi.us)). Go to the website, click Townsend School or Accelerated Reader list and it will come up. This list is alphabetical by title of the book. The author, book level and number of points is also given. We hope that this will be an aid to students and parents in using the Accelerated Reader Quiz program.....Mrs. Taylor



## **Lions of Michigan Exchange Program May be Looking for You**

Lions of Michigan Youth Exchange Program offers summer opportunities for youth to travel, to expand their knowledge of family and community life in other cultures.

Young people between the ages of 16 and 21 may participate. Youths traveling must be of good health, both mentally and physically, and be willing to learn new customs and cultures. Knowledge of foreign languages is not mandatory, except in France where the participant must have previously studied at least one year of French. However, some knowledge of the country that a youth chooses to travel is helpful.

Each cultural exchange is approximately four to eight weeks long, depending on the country to be visited. Youths traveling on the program are responsible for their fees and fares but may write to local Lions clubs and organizations to request sponsorship. Youths traveling on the program stay with Lions-approved families.

We are also looking for families who would like to host a youth for three to six weeks in the winter or summer months. For more information on the Lions of Michigan Youth Exchange Program, please call Lion John Wilcox at (517) 787-4706.

## **March is Parenting Awareness Month**

### **Good parenting includes.....**

1. Showing children love, concern, and respect at all times.
2. Giving children a safe place to live and play.
3. Helping children express all their feelings appropriately and listening to what they say.
4. Giving children appropriate choices whenever possible.
5. Having reasonable rules that are understood by all.
6. Being responsible and teaching children to be responsible.
7. Spending time with children.
8. Setting an example by what we say and do.
9. Working with our schools and communities to make them better for children.
10. Asking for help when we need it.

**2003-2004 CALENDAR**

|       |                                 |  |
|-------|---------------------------------|--|
| March | 3                               | Parent-Teacher Conferences MS/HS 6-8 pm;   |
|       | 4                               | Parent Teacher Conferences - Elementary (Evening)  |
|       | 4                               | Parent Teacher Conferences MS/HS 1-4; 6-8 pm;<br>Elem. Conf. (Evening); <b>1/2 Day of School</b> |
|       | 5                               | <b>1/2 Day of School</b>   |
|       | 8                               | Board Meeting - HS Library - 6:00 p.m.   |
|       | 11                              | Blood Drive 8:00 am - 2:00 pm  |
| 20-21 | Middle School Choir             |  |
| April | 5-9                             | Spring Break   |
|       | 19                              | Board Meeting - HS Library - 6:00 pm.  |
|       | 15                              | School Exhibition Grades 6-12; 7-9 pm  |
| May   | 1                               | Prom   |
|       | 10                              | 5th Grade Orientation 8-9:30 am  |
|       | 10                              | Board Meeting - HS Library - 6:00 pm.  |
|       | 11                              | 5th Grade Orientation 6:15 pm  |
|       | 13                              | Spring High School/Middle School Band/Choir Concert  |
|       | 19                              | Senior Dessert/Awards Night 6:30 pm - H.S. Awards 7:30 pm  |
|       | 23                              | Baccalaureate  |
|       | 24                              | Graduation - Potter Center 8:00 pm   |
|       | 26                              | 6th and 7th Grade Awards 1:30 pm; 8th Grade Awards 6:30 pm                                       |
|       | 28                              | <b>1/2 Day of School</b>   |
| 31    | Memorial Day - <b>No School</b> |  |
| June  | 2                               | <b>1/2 day of school</b> - Exams   |
|       | 3                               | <b>1/2 day of School</b> - Exams   |
|       | 4                               | <b>No School - Teacher Record Day</b>  |
|       | 14                              | Board Meeting - HS Library - 6:00 pm   |

**Band and Choir Festivals - All performances are free of charge.**

Seventh Grade Concert Band - March 6 - 8:30 am - Jackson High School  
 Eighth Grade Concert Winds - March 6 - 10:00 am - Jackson High School  
 High School Symphony Choir - March 4 - 1:48 pm - Holt High School  
 High School Symphony Band - March 19 - 6:20 pm - Jackson High School

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