

# News and Views

from the Vandercook Lake Public Schools

Golf Avenue

November, 2002 Volume 44-No.2

Jackson, Michigan

## The Burdette W. Andrews Sportsmanship Award

The members of the Cascades Conference have established an award “*The Burdette W. Andrews Sportsmanship Award*” in the form of a prominent traveling trophy to be presented to the school that has demonstrated the highest level of sportsmanship for the sports season. This award is named in honor of Mr. Burdette W. Andrews, Superintendent Emeritus, of the Vandercook Lake Public Schools. Mr. Andrews is a charter member of the establishment of the Cascades Conference and was the author of the conference constitution that remains in effect today.

This award is to be presented at the end of each sports season, fall, winter, and spring, and the school shall have the trophy until the end of the following sports season. Each school has been awarded a plaque to keep and have engraved with the date their school has received this prestigious award.

This award is not presented for any given sport but shall be representative of all sports in that season. The Award made at the end of the fall season shall be representative of boys and girls cross-country, football, and girls basketball. The criteria for selection will be based on the conduct of the athletes, coaches and spectators. Each school’s spectators play a big role in the selection of the winning school. As we all know, sportsmanship is the true focus of athletics.

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## HOME COMING 2002

The 2002 Vandercook Lake School District Homecoming was a great success in all aspects. The entire week in school showed tremendous school spirit with various dress-up days and class competitions. The pep assembly held on Friday before the game was filled with enthusiasm and added to the planned festivities.

Mrs. D'Vonne Yonnick was honored as this year's "Grand Marshal". During the last sixteen years D'Vonne has served many important roles as a member of the Vandercook Lake School Board. During her tenure she has served on several committees and has also served as treasurer and vice president.

D'Vonne and her husband Doug have been members of the Vandercook Lake community for 26 years. They have three children (Ame'e, Brian and Kirsten) who are all graduates of the Vandercook Lake Public Schools. We were honored to have Mrs. D'Vonne Yonnick as our "Grand Marshal" this year and would like once again to thank her for sharing her time and talent in the pursuit of improving the lives of our students.

The floats based on the theme "Game Shows" were clever and colorful. A special thank you to the families who hosted the float-making sessions and to the parents and teachers who supervised the construction. It is this type of involvement that makes our school and activities such a success.

### First Place Float - Junior Class

#### **High School/Middle School Principals Coffee Hour**

Parents and guardians are invited to attend a monthly meeting hosted by your high school/middle school administrators the second Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the Community Room. Plan on attending our first meeting January 14, 2003. We will focus on discussing important informational topics regarding your students education

**Free Vision and Hearing Testing**

The Jackson County Health Department Hearing and Vision walk-in-clinic offers free testing for everyone, children through adults. Screening is held at the Jackson County Health Department, 1697 Lansing Avenue (517) 788-4420 on the first and third Friday every month from 1:00-4:30 p.m., September to the first week in June.

**FAIM**

Families Active in the Middle School (FAIM) meets the second Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the high school library. FAIM is having a positive impact on our middle school students and their families. FAIM offers the opportunity to meet other parents, discuss middle school issues, and plan student activities. Please try to attend these meetings and become a member of FAIM.

**MiChild Insurance Program**

If you do not have medical insurance, you may qualify for MiChild Insurance. MiChild covers: Regular checkups, Shots, Emergency Care, Dental Care, Pharmacy, Hospital Care, Prenatal Care and Delivery, Vision and Hearing and Mental Health & Substance Abuse services. See your school counselor for a brochure or application, or call 800-988-6300 for an application.

**The National Honor Society**

The National Honor Society is an organization of students dedicated to serving the school, the community and themselves. Members are elected on the basis of scholarship, character, leadership, and citizenship. Final election and approval of a membership rests with the executive board.

**Seniors:** Leah Adair\*- Secretary, Jordan Clark\*, Brandie Clay, Ryan Essex\*, Chris Fischer, David Higgins\*, Tara Long\* -President, Marie Page, Nicole Zebarah\*- Vice President.

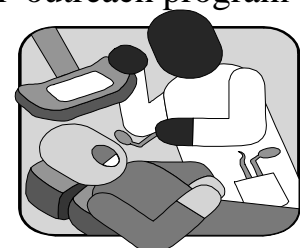
\*Denotes 2nd year member.

**Juniors:** Richelle Arras, Lauren Berry, Kali Briggs, Nick Bristow, Micki Clemons, Ronda Crawford, Nick Gallagher, Jordan Masters, Colleen McCormic, Jennifer McDaniels, Brandie Melchiori, Chad Myers, Andrea Passino, Jessica Perdew, Justin Resseguie, Kyle Sabin, Melissa Sedgman, Joe Sheets, Tiffany Sowle, Casey Spaulding, Adam Sprangel, Adrian Towery, Brian Tucker, Corey Vincent, Adam Whitworth, Randall Wilcox and Kimberly Yother.

**Mobile Dentists**

Mobile dentists will be at Townsend Elementary on November 12 and Vandercook Lake High School on January 24. Mobile dentists is an in-school dental outreach program that provides:

- \* Dental examination
- \* Cleanings
- \* Fluoride
- \* Radiographs
- \* Sealants



Service can be FREE! If you did not receive an application, contact the Townsend or the high school.

## Coronation

After the homecoming football game, the coronation ceremony was held in the gym. The representatives were:

**Seventh:** Collin Chiles and Johnna Matteson; **Eighth:** Jered Storey and Kaloni Garbry; **Ninth:** Brian Moles and Chelsea Cady; **Tenth:** Jared Burke and Alice Cary, **Eleventh:** Jordan Masters and Casey Spaulding. The senior representatives were: Nathan Brandt and Nicole Zebarah; Chris Fischer and Sierra Arnold, Korey Kuhl and Jordan Clark, and Ben Masters and Nicole Conard. Nathan Brandt and Sierra Arnold placed as first runners up. Jordan Kuhl and Jessica Gazley returned to crown the new King and Queen: **Korey Kuhl and Jordan Clark.**

The senior high homecoming dance was held Saturday, September 28. The homecoming court, along with the newly crowned king and queen, were introduced. A festive dance was enjoyed by all. The Middle school homecoming dance was held on September 24. The 7th and 8th grade prince and princess were crowned at this dance (see above for names of students). The sixth graders enjoyed an activity night in the middle school gym.

We thank President Tuxedo at Westwood Mall for the tuxedos. We especially thank all of the people who loaned cars and helped to make the parade and coronation such a success.

In conclusion, we thank everyone who had a hand in making the 2002 Vandercook Lake Homecoming a success and look forward to your continued support in the future.



Pictured are Jordan Clark and Korey Kuhl (King and Queen)

## **COLLEGE FINANCE -- Attention Seniors and Parents**

Listed below are some exceptional low interest loans. Please note the window when request for applications can be made.

### **BIEDERMAN LOAN: 0% INTEREST**

#### **Eligibility:**

- financial need - this is determined by completing a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- must graduate from a Jackson County high school.
- plan to attend a public college or university
- maintained a 2.5 GPA while in high school & college as a full time student.
- may borrow up to \$4000.00. Maximum \$1,000 per year.

Contact Person/Business: "The Jackson Community Foundation" at 787-1321.

Request must be made in November.

### **JOHN GEORGE LOAN: 2% INTEREST**

#### **Eligibility:**

- not determined by financial need but student must carry at least 12 hours per semester and maintain 2.25 GPA while in college.
- up to \$4,000 per year if attending a 4 year college/univ.
- loan does not apply to private colleges.
- resident of Jackson County

Contact Person/Business: Mrs. Karen Friend Ph. 782-8126. To be considered, must register in person (can be student or parent) during the months of October, November, and December at 145 S. Jackson St., during the week between the hours: Monday 1-4PM and Tues - Friday, 8:30 -12: OOAM.

### **LOUIS GLICK MEMORIAL TRUST: 3% INT.**

#### **Eligibility:**

- attend a college/university in Michigan
- residence in Michigan past 3 years
- graduated from a high school in Jackson county
- maximum amount \$2,000 per year

Contact Person/Business. Mrs. Ann Diamond, Ph 787-1900. Applications may be obtained at 1410 W.

Ganson. Mrs. Diamond works part-time, call for an appointment to pick up an application. Applications are due April 1st through May 15th.

### **THE WOMEN'S CLUB OF JACKSON**

#### **Eligibility:**

- The Student Loan Fund of the Women's Club of Jackson offers low interest loans (3%) for graduates of Jackson County High schools.
- Loans range from \$1,500 to \$2,000.

Contact Person: See Mr. Biondolillo, High School Counselor for an application

## News From Vandercook Lake S.A.D.D.

Did you know that Vandy has its very own S.A.D.D. chapter (Students Against Driving Drunk)? S.A.D.D. is an organization for students in grades 9-12. We have ten officers who are: President-Katie Dunnuck, Vice-President-Micki Clemons, Secretary-Angela Edward, Treasurer-Alice Cary, Public Relations-Kim Shaw and Chris Hinton, County Wide Representative-Jerel Tripp, Junior Advisors-Athena Spitler and Jonell Schweda. Our purpose is to show students alternative ways to have fun with friends instead of using drugs or alcohol. Twelve members have been chosen to attend the S.A.D.D. State Conference on November 9th-11th.

We would like to thank the following for helping to make this possible: The Store, Tripp Auto Shop, Schweda Auto Painting, Vandercook Lake Lions Club, Fraternal Order of Men's Eagles, Liberty Landfill, Schupach's Sporting Goods Store, Bonnie's Boutique, Mellinger's, Lampco Ind.

At Summerfest we picked up garbage to earn money for our activities. Some of these include, tying red ribbons to vehicles in the parking lot at school, passing out red ribbons at the last home football game and also taking donations. We will be walking in the holiday parade on November 22nd and passing out red ribbons. November 18-22nd we will have a Positive Awareness Week. A motivational speaker will come to the school to spread our message, we will serve cake and mocktails, have a white out day and other activities during lunches to increase membership and get the message out.

### Student Leadership

On October 25, 2002, Vandercook Lake students participated in the Jackson County Fall Leadership Forum at Spring Arbor University. Students had the opportunity to attend sessions on community leadership, stress, sports, drug awareness and other high interest topics. Freshmen representatives were Corinne King, Jonell Schweda, Colin Treacher, Kyle VanDusen, David Watts; Sophomores : Rachel Benson, Geoff Chiles ,Heather Fushi, Lee Herr, Ashley Mooney, Whitney Rose; Juniors: Nick Gallagher, Colleen McCormic, Steve Saari, Joe Sheets, Adrian Towery, Amanda Winters; Seniors: Nicole Conard, Ryan Essex, Korey Kuhl, Tara Long, Spencer Tosi and David Richardson.

### Cascade Conference Sportsmanship Summit

Spring Arbor University hosted a sportsmanship summit of athletes from the Cascade Conference on Friday, October 25, 2002. Each school selected a male and female athlete from grades 7-12. Students participated in activities that emphasized teamwork, cooperation, and leadership with the students from schools in our league. Attendees were: **7th grade:** Vinnie Pastora and Johnna Matteson; **8th grade:** Dan Perdew and Kaycee Kurtz; **9th grade:** Brandon White and Krista Jensen; **10th grade:** Patrick Meads and Angela Edward; **11th grade:** Terry Bates and Casey Spaulding; **12th grade:** Jereme Wood and Jordan Clark.

## SENIOR ATHLETES 2001-2002

Dani Lowe and Jeremy Jensen earned top honors in their class as outstanding athletes. This is based on participation, achievement, and academics. Congratulations to these deserving students!

**Dani Lowe** is the female athlete of the 2001-02 school year. Dani set the all-time record for the most points ever received for this award.

She was all conference in basketball, volleyball, softball and track. She was all-state in softball. She won sixteen varsity letters. She had a grade point average of 4.00. Dani is attending Eastern Michigan University on a softball scholarship.

She is most deserving of this award.

**Jeremy Jensen** is the male athlete of the 2001-02 school year. Jeremy was on the football, basketball, and track teams during his high school career. He was a very important part of any team he was on. His coaches always said, "He is a great athlete".

Jeremy is attending Jackson Community College.

### *Inclement Weather*

Vandercook Lake Schools will be following the same procedure as it has in the previous years regarding school closing.

Factors that cause such closing are usually weather related, though mechanical problems such as water supply or heating problems can also be a cause. The following factors will be taken into consideration regarding the closing of school.

**ICE:** Roads are ice covered and not thawing.

**SNOW:** Snow is of a nature to make roads impassable due to snow depth and/or drifting.

**VISIBILITY:** The density of the fog or constantly blowing snow make driving hazardous.

**TEMPERATURE & WINDCHILL:** The temperature and wind chill factors along with the severity of the conditions.

During the school year, schools and police agencies throughout the county work closely together in tracking storms, monitoring weather and road conditions and communicating concerns that may be cause for delays in starting and/or closing times of school.

Every effort is made to make the decision for closing by 6:00 a.m. Uncertain or rapidly worsening conditions often give cause for decisions to be made later than 6:00 a.m. or with storms arriving during the day, it may be necessary to send the children home early. Jackson radio stations WKHM, WJKN, WIBM, Q106, and WILX-TV will be notified in these situations.

It is very important that the children are dressed appropriately for the ever changing weather. The children also must know where they are to go in case of early closing. We want to assure you, that the decision to delay or close school is taken very seriously. We hope this information helps in your understanding of what is involved in these decisions.

## First Grade News

In September, we had the privilege of having three guests, hailed the “gurus of Literacy”, visit our elementary school. Judy Knott, Leslie Mayn and Mary McDonald, all from New Zealand, spent three days demonstrating literacy techniques from their country. Their visit was a follow-up from a presentation at the Jackson County Intermediate School District from the previous year.

Nearly 75 educators from Vandercook Lake and Jackson County watched as Judy, Mary and Leslie demonstrated their literacy practices with our Kindergarten through Fifth Grade Townsend students.

Having our students participate with Oral language activities and Shared and Guided Reading Lessons provided authentic learning experiences for our students and teachers alike. The emphasis was on knowing the learner, from the emergent (beginning) to the fluent reader and adjusting teaching and materials to match. They shared book ideas, teaching points, writing activities and art extensions.

We were fortunate to have the opportunity to learn from these very progressive and innovative women; but the delight was having them in our building working with our very own Townsend students.....Mrs. Leighton, 1st Grade teacher

## Second Grade News

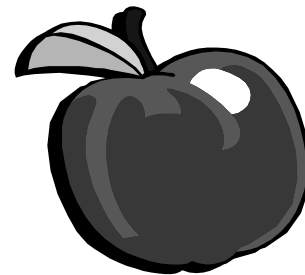
The Second Graders at Townsend have been busy with many valuable, fun learning experiences ranging from a field trip to Jiffy Mix, planning and preparing for a grandparents’ program, and working cooperatively in Science and Social Studies to learn more about our world.

Mrs. Castle’s and Miss Schedeler’s classes are exploring “How Things Move”. Their students describe and compare motions of common objects as well as determine the meanings of such things as movement, friction, force, gravity and machines. They are even able to make and use their own simple machines.

Mrs. Higgins’s and Mrs. Siegrist’s students are engaged in hands-on learning and experiments proving not only that light travels in a straight path, but that Townsend Second Graders can work together to discover, examine and problem solve as they learn about lights and shadows.

Mrs. Jones’s class has been learning about our world. The children are able to name and locate the seven continents, four oceans, the United States and Michigan on a globe and a world map. Cultural diversity throughout the world has been appreciated by the students through various videos and artifacts from many different countries.

As we approach our Christmas season, the Second Graders here at Townsend will explore how others celebrate the holidays in their countries.....Mrs Siegrist, 2nd Grade teacher



## Third Grade News

Third Graders at Townsend have been busy this fall improving their reading, writing and math skills. In Language Arts, we’ve just completed a theme unit of fractured fairy tales. The unit included three versions of “The Three Little Pigs”. Classes were inspired to write about each version and had fun completing several art projects and puppet shows.

In Math, the students have been reviewing addition and subtraction and graphing techniques. Now we are working on reading and writing numbers up to the hundred thousands and writing time different ways.

On October 1, we enjoyed a hot air balloon demonstration on the playground, which tied in nicely to the science kits on Solids, Liquids and Gases. We are now looking forward to a field trip to Ella Sharp for “Pioneer Days” in November.....Mrs. Hause, 3rd Grade teacher

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### **Kindergarten**

Our children entered the classrooms ready to share a special story called the “Kissing Hand”. An exploration and review of shapes and colors followed. We then moved on to the introduction of our Science Units on Changes and Seasons. They have been learning about the scientific process by doing their own experiments.

The Kindergarten children eagerly welcomed Miss A and even made homemade apple sauce in our classrooms! Upon meeting Mr. B, the children made button pictures and learned how to make their own butter from cream, which they then enjoyed on delicious bread. They created their own Brown Bear books to share with our families at home and sorted a very engaging collection of buttons. We have enjoyed our own warm cinnamon and powdered sugar doughnuts for Mr. D as well as exploring a unit on dinosaurs. They imagined what having their own dinosaur would be like and created stories to tell us all about them. We have enjoyed a story called, “Elmer”, which focused on caring for people for what they are on the inside instead of how they look on the outside and made our own Elmers to help us remember the story.

Our daily routine begins with our school-wide morning announcements and the Pledge of Allegiance. Our Kindergartners then sing a special rendition of the “Days of the Week” song followed by the names of the months danced and sung to the Macarena. We count how many days we have attended school and look for mathematical patterns on our numeral chart. We clap when we count to a 5 and say, “Zero the Hero” when we come to the tens place.

Each Friday three children are bringing in a news item to share with our class. They are encouraged to research the item with their families and answer key questions: who, what, where, why, when and how, thus encouraging and expanding oral language abilities. Thanks to our wonderful news reporters we have learned about blimps, MSU football, caves in Ohio, trips to Cedar Point, orcas and so many other fascinating things.

Sorting objects by their attributes was our first unit in Mathematics. We then moved on to a fun unit on patterning. We look for patterns in our clothing, music and in our environment. We reproduced our own patterns in an artistic manner to reinforce and evaluate our learning.

The children learned safety skills first hand at Safetyville. This was our first field trip of the year. We were very grateful to be able to attend such a fine hands-on program that presented critical safety issues in such a developmentally appropriate manner.

The children are enjoying interactive writing lessons each week that encourage the use of the literacy skills. They take home a book chart each month to encourage reading at home; and, when it is filled in, they get to return it to school for a special prize. Our first weeks of school have been engaging, happy and event filled. We all look forward to the joy of discovery and wonder of learning this year.....Mrs. Stapley and Mrs. Elzinga, Kindergarten teachers

## Freedom III is Coming!

If you attended the 4th and 5th Grade music programs in the past two school years, you know that our themes were “Freedom” and “Freedom II”. When you hear “Freedom III”, you may be thinking that it is the same program.



Nothing could be further from the truth! We have some very special surprises in store for the community when you come to see and hear “Freedom III” on Tuesday, January 14, 2003. Our talented 4th and 5th Graders, under the direction of Mrs. Childs, will show you new ways to appreciate our many blessings as citizens of the United States of America. Plan now to attend this celebration of liberty. It will begin at 7:00 PM in the Townsend Gym.....Mrs. Childs, Music Teacher

## "Respect"

Townsend Elementary School kicked off our "Respect", Character Education campaign with a wonderful school-wide assembly, Friday, September 27. The exciting multi-media presentation focused on the value of respect. Self-respect, respecting parents and teachers, and respecting differences in others were some of the themes presented. To continue this "Respect" campaign, Townsend has planned promotions, educational opportunities, and will be weekly recognizing students who demonstrate respectful behaviors.

The staff believe that Townsend Elementary is a place where learning is valued and everyone is respected. We encourage parents to reinforce positive, respectful behaviors with your children.....Michelle Boorman, Social Worker.

### Fifth Grade News

The 5th Grade is off to a fantastic start this year! Mr. VanEpps and Mrs. Yocum's classes are working on simple machines using Legos as science tools. Mr. Myers's class is doing a science unit on matter using all kinds of hands-on activities. Mr. Packer's class has had the pleasure of having a student teacher, Andy Faber, this first quarter. The kids in that class are working diligently on language skills. Mrs. French's class is finishing up their "canned book reports". This is a very neat project.....Mr. Vanepps, 5th Grade Teacher



## McDevitt Pre-School

McDevitt School Pre-school program has tuition openings. The children must be 4 on or before December 1, 2002 and cannot turn 5 before December 1. This program offers 4 year old children educational and social experiences to help ready them for kindergarten. If you have any questions, please call the McDevitt School office at 782-0342.

### Basic Kindergarten

To start off their preschool year Mrs. Barrett's class joined Mrs. Smith's Basic Kindergarten class on a trip to Somerset Beach Campground where they got to pet some adorable farm animals, have donuts and cider, and go on an exciting hayride! They're also getting ready for Halloween by playing monster games and making gooey goop! On the agenda for later this year they'll be having parent nights involving speakers and a Santa's workshop! They'll also be making a trip to Fodor's Christmas tree farm to find the perfect Christmas tree. What a year they have planned, and it is off to a great start!

### Parents

Don't forget that Townsend School still collects food labels for school equipment from **Campbells**. There are many non-Campbell brands included also. They are **V8, Franco-American, Swanson, Pepperidge Farm, and Prego**.

If you are interested in the entire list, contact Townsend, and we would be more than happy to send one to you. Even if you don't have a child attending Townsend, our students would benefit from your support if you saved and brought in labels.

Also we are still saving **Holsum** wrappers and **General Mills** boxtops.

We will be collecting throughout the entire school year.

**Thank you!**



Brown Squirrel, Brown Squirrel, swish your bushy tail.



How many crows did you scare away, Koby

Mrs. Smith's basic kindergarten class has been "falling" into Autumn studying leaves, scarecrows, and squirrels. In the upcoming weeks, they will study nocturnal animals, bats and owls.



Room 103 is a great place to be!

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## Pathways Provide a Purpose

Today's career opportunities are more varied than ever. The U.S. Department of Labor lists more than 12,000 job classifications. Vandercook Lake students receive extra guidance in shaping their futures using a new statewide program called Career Pathways. The Pathways are six broad groups of careers that share similar characteristics, and whose employment requirements call for many common interests, strengths, and competencies. The Pathways are:

(1) **Arts and Communications** (Careers in arts and communications relate to the humanities and to the performing, visual, literary, and media arts, these careers are creative and challenging. Examples: performer, web designer, TV broadcaster, graphic designer, floral designer, singer, illustrator, journalist, interior designer, stage technician, technical writer)

(2) **Business, Management, Marketing, and Technology** (Careers in business, management, marketing, and technology require attention to detail, calculating, coordinating, working with numbers and information, working with computers.

Examples: accountant, office administration, computer programmer, salesperson, bank teller, travel agent, financial planner)

(3) **Engineering/Manufacturing and Industrial Technology** (Careers related to technologies necessary to design, develop, install, or maintain physical systems.

Examples: electrician, mechanic, machinist, engineer, construction laborer, printer, surveyor, architect, computer hardware designer)

(4) **Health Sciences** (Careers in health sciences are for people who are interested in promoting good health, treating injuries, health conditions, or controlling diseases.

Examples: nurse, doctor, physical therapist, x-ray technician, dental/medical assistant, pharmacist, mortician, surgical technician, medical biotechnologist, audiologist, respiratory therapist)

(5) **Human Services** (Careers in human services focus on helping people learn, protect themselves and others, solve problems, and attend to their personal and consumer needs.

Examples: teacher, police officer, social worker, food service worker, librarian, waiter/waitress, lawyer, probation officer, counselor, truck driver, religious worker, exercise instructor, geriatric aide, cosmetologist, barber)

(6) **Natural Resources and Agriscience** (Careers in natural resources and agriscience are for people who are interested in the environment, how things grow and develop, and in the outdoors. Examples: biologist, chemist, animal caretaker, farming, water plant operator, landscaping, meteorologist, conservation officer, groundskeeper, geologist)

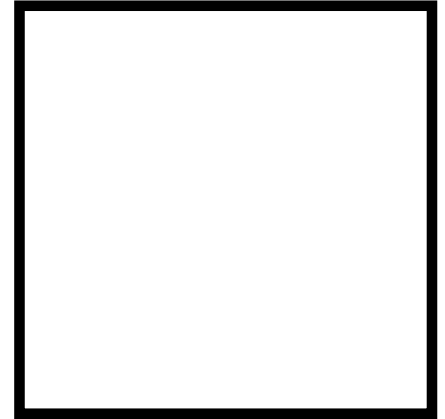
It is the intent of our district to help our students become successful adults. By planning thoughtfully, students will see the value of taking a science class if they are planning on a medical career. They will appreciate that an art class can provide a solid foundation for becoming a computer graphics designer. They will understand the necessity for communication skills throughout the work force. The alignment of academic courses into career pathways helps students know which skills are needed in different Pathway areas, and answers the age-old question: "Why do I have to learn this?"

We can assist our students in knowing their own individual strengths and interests as they prepare for productive and successful futures in whatever career path they choose to follow. Talk with your children about what their Career Pathway choice is, careers they are interested in, the education and personal qualities required for those careers, classes offered at Vandercook Lake that would enhance their career goals, job shadowing opportunities in 10th grade, Career Center and internship opportunities in 11th and 12th grades, as well as post-secondary decision making. Together, we can help our Vandercook Lake students get a solid foundation in career planning.

Free Career Pathway and EDP materials will be available at the middle/high school Parent/Teacher Conferences on November 6 and 7 or you may call Patti Shafer, Career Prep Coordinator, for more information. (782-8167, ext. 143).

## Mrs. Jan Eads...Condolences

Our sympathy and prayers go out to the family of Jan Eads. Jan passed away October 3, 2002. She was a long time employee of Vandercook Lake High School. She began teaching in the fall of 1974, until her bout with cancer forced retirement in the 1995-1996 school year. Jan was an outstanding teacher, coach, wife, mother and friend that had incredible courage, determination and spirit until her passing. She will be missed.



### *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.
- \* Talk with my child about schoolwork.
- \* 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.

*"Children need love, especially when they do not deserve it."-----Harold S. Hulbert*

## Committee Working

One of the main goals of the Vandercook Lake Board of Education is to meet the educational needs of all students and programs in the district. There is currently a growing need to provide a facility for student performance and student based programs. The current facilities are very limited in meeting these needs. In response to this growing need, the Board of Education has established a committee to investigate the significance of this need and the possibility of a student performance facility for the district. The Board of Education will take the results of the committee work and establish the direction the district shall take in providing the best educational experiences and facilities for the students of this district. There will be additional information available as the process continues.

## Welcome new staff members

### Katherine Marsh

**High School:** Traverse City Senior High

**College:** Eastern Michigan Univ.

**Major:** Science for El. Education

**Minor:** Art for El. Education

**Degree:** Bachelors

**Assignment:** First Grade

**Family:** Married to husband, Jack. I have lots of extended family in the Jackson area.

**Previous Experience:** Previously taught in the VanBuren Public School

District in Belleville, MI for 3 years. I have taught Reading Support, first and third grades.

**Hobbies and Interests:** Knitting, gardening, cooking, playing with my dog, Sasha.

**I went into education because.....**I would like to have a positive influence on others.

**My goal/philosophy as an educator is...**to help every child be successful. I believe that every child can learn and has the potential to shine.

**I am looking forward to....**having many wonderful experiences at Townsend School and getting to know the community.

### Joseph Verbeke

**(Joe)**

**High School:** Laper East HS

**College:** Albion College

**Major:** Music

**Degree:** Bachelor of Arts - Music

**Assignment:** 5-12 Instrumental Music

**Family:** Single

**Previous Experience:** One year at Our Lady of Fatima in Michigan Center.

**Hobbies and Interests:** Playing and watching baseball, going to concerts, travelling.

**I went into education because....**I feel that I have a gift to share with students. That gift is playing and sharing music. Music impacts students like few other subjects do.

**My goal/philosophy as an educator is:** To instill the importance of music education in students, parents, and the community, and to make the experience enjoyable.

**I am looking forward to....**hearing each of my bands perform for their parents and the community.

### Patti Vass

**High School:** North Adams HS

**College:** Fort Hays State Univ. (KS)

**Major:** Elementary Education

**Minor:** Social Studies

**Degree:** B.S. Education

**Assignment:** 4th Grade

**Family:** Husband, Denny, and daughter, Sarah.

**Previous Experience:** 5th grade, Hays KS, 6th grade in Erie, Pa, and 4th and 5th Cedar Points, IA.

**Hobbies and Interests:** Reading,

needlework, gardening, and decorating.

**I went into education because....**it was always in my heart.

**My goal/philosophy as an educator is...**to facilitate innovative methods that provide students with opportunities that are both appropriate for individual abilities and pertinent to their lives.

**I am looking forward to....**working with the wonderful Townsend staff and helping our students yearn to become lifelong learners.

### Erin Wright

**High School:** Jackson High School

**College:** Central Michigan University

**Major:** Social Studies

**Minor:** Math

**Degree:** B.S. in Education

**Assignment:** 8th grade Social Studies

**Family:** One cat named Moose.

**Previous Experience:** Long-term substitute in Special Education for the 2001-2002 VCL Middle School.

**Hobbies and Interests:** Enjoy spending time with my family at our family cottage on Big Wolf Lake. I also enjoy watching high school football games.

**I went into education because....**I enjoy helping students learn, and I had many great teachers growing up that inspired me to become a teacher.

**My goal/philosophy as an educator is:** that all students can learn to make learning fun.

**I am looking forward to....**watching my students grow throughout the year.

**Marshall Kirby**

**High School:** East Jackson High School

**College:** Spring Arbor University

**Major:** Social Studies

**Minor:** Psychology

**Degree:** B.A.

**Assignment:** PASS Room.

**Family:** Wife, Kim; stepdaughter, Ashley, Grade 10, and stepson,

Chris, Grade 8 - both at Vandercook Lake Schools.

**Previous Experience:** Taught at East Point Adult Ed, substitute for East Jackson, Napoleon, Michigan Center, Northwest, and Da Vinci.

**Hobbies or Interests:** Scuba diving, camping, biking, volleyball, coaching.

**I went into education because.....**I loved working with kids and I wanted to coach.

**My goal/philosophy as an educator is..**to give all kids a chance to be successful.

**I am looking forward to....**the opportunity to work with a group of highly motivated, caring educators.

**Maria Candice Murphy**

**High School:** Harrison High School

**College:** University of Michigan

**Major:** Special Education/Social Studies

**Minor:** Early Intervention/Language/Literature

**Degree:** MA Education

**Assignment:** 8th Grade Resource Room Teacher

**Family:** Husband, Matt; Son, Matt, Daughter-in-law, Elizabeth; Son, Sean, Daughter, Trisha, and pet Chihuahua - "Sneaker".

**Previous Experience:** Taught many different age groups ranging from pre-school through high school - mostly in Michigan, but also in the Fiji Islands as a Peace Corps volunteer. I have also been a Peer Listening Advisor.

**Hobbies or Interests:** Getting together with family and friends, swimming, walking, reading, traveling, participating in STAND.

**I went into education because.....**I hoped to help make a positive difference in the school experiences of my students.

**My goal/philosophy as an educator is...**to help students feel good about themselves and their capabilities as well as to help them feel challenged and motivated to improve their skills and achieve their goals.

**I am looking forward to....**getting to know and working with staff, students, and families at Vandercook Lake!

## *Welcome new staff members*

**Joseph Knoll**

**High School:** St. Marys High School

**College:** Central Michigan

**Major:** English

**Minor:** Geography

**Degree:** BS Secondary Ed.

**Assignment:** Alternative HS

**Family:** Wife, Karen; 3 sons,

Justin, Patrick, Bryan

**Previous Experience:** Student Teacher at Jackson Public; 25 years teaching Michigan Department of Education (GED Teacher)

**Hobbies or Interests:** Sports, Travel.

**I went into education because.....**I enjoy students and the challenges of improving their academic achievement.

**My goal/philosophy as an educator is..**to help facilitate the learning process.

**I am looking forward to....**working with the students and staff of Vandercook Lake.

**Evelyn Budd**

**High School:** Leslie High School

**College:** Spring Arbor University - Graduated Magna Cum Laude

**Major:** Social Studies/K-8 Education

**Degree:** Bachelor Elementary Ed working on Special Education at Spring Arbor University

**Assignment:** Special Ed Learning Disabilities, 7th and 8th Grades

**Family:** Married - Husband Don; 4 children - 3 daughters, Toby, Natalie, Samantha, 1 son, Bob who is married to Jody Leathead from VCL. They have a one-year old daughter, my first grandchild, Bobbie Lynn.

**Previous Experience:** Began working as a lunch lady in Michigan Center Schools in 1994. In 1996, I became a special education aide at Keicher and at Michigan Center Middle/High School. Stopped working in 2000 to do my student teaching.

**Hobbies or Interests:** I enjoy working outside in my yard and also spending time with my family. I also enjoy scrap-booking.

**I went into education because.....**I was encouraged by teachers and I enjoy working with special-needs students.

**My goal/philosophy as an educator is:** to encourage students to work and help themselves succeed. Strive to teach students to be responsible and respectful - two things they will use their whole life..

**I am looking forward to....**working at VCL and getting to know the students and staff. As a first year teacher, I hope to continue learning and grow in my knowledge as a teacher in the VCL district.

**CALENDAR - 2002-2003**

|          |          |   |
|----------|----------|---|
| November | 6        | Parent-Teacher Conferences Elementary 5-8 pm;   |
|          | 6        | Parent Teacher Conferences - MS/HS 6-8 pm   |
|          | 7        | Parent-Teacher Conferences MS/HS 1-4 pm; 6-8 pm; <b>1/2 Day of School - Dismissal 11:00</b> |
|          | 7        | Parent Teacher Conferences Elem 1-5 pm; <b>1/2 Day Dismissal 11:30</b>                      |
|          | 8        | <b>1/2 Day - Dismissal 11:00 HS and 11:30 Elementary</b>                                    |
|          | 11       | Board Meeting - HS Library - 6:00 p.m.  |
|          | 13-14    | Picture Retakes HS and Elementary   |
|          | 23       | Apple Pie Sale  |
|          | 28-29    | Thanksgiving Break  |
| December | 6-7      | 5th-6th Grade Girls' Basketball Tournament  |
|          | 9        | Board Meeting - HS Library 6:00 p.m   |
|          | 19       | Holiday Concert Middle/High School Band/Choir at JCC  |
|          | 23-Jan 5 | Winter Break  |
| 2003     |          |   |
| January  | 6        | School Resumes  |
|          | 13       | Board Meeting - HS Library - 6:00 p.m.  |
|          | 14       | 4th and 5th Grade Concert 7:00 pm   |
|          | 14-16    | Exams   |
|          | 17       | Teachers Record Day - <b>No school for students</b>   |
|          | 20       | <b>No school for students</b>   |
|          | 30-31    | 5th & 6th Grade Boys Basketball Tournament  |
| February | 1-2      | 5th and 6th Grade Boys Basketball Tournament  |
|          | 10       | Board Meeting - HS Library - 6:00 p.m   |
|          | 13       | H.S and Elementary - Begin winter break - <b>1/2 Day School</b>                             |
|          | 14-17    | <b>No school - Winter Break</b>   |
|          | 23       | High School Choir Concert   |
| March    | 5        | Parent-Teacher Conferences Elementary 5-8 pm;   |
|          | 5        | Parent Teacher Conferences - MS/HS 6-8 pm   |
|          | 6        | Parent Teacher Conferences MS/HS 1-4; 6-8 pm; Elem. Conf. 1-5 pm <b>1/2 Day of School</b>   |
|          | 7        | <b>1/2 Day of School</b>  |
|          | 10       | Board Meeting - HS Library - 6:00 p.m.  |
|          | 13       | Blood Drive - 3rd Grade Music Program 7:00 p.m.   |
|          | 31       | Spring Break Begins   |
| April    | 7        | School Resumes from Spring Break  |
|          | 14       | Board Meeting - HS Library - 6:00 pm.   |
|          | 17       | Make a Difference Dessert 7-9 pm  |
|          | 18       | Good Friday - <b>1/2 Day School</b>   |
|          | 24       | First and Second Grade Music Program - 7:00 pm  |
| May      | 2        | Spring Band/Choir Concert at JCC 7:30 pm  |
|          | 3        | Prom  |
|          | 12       | Board Meeting - HS Library - 6:00 pm.   |
|          | 12       | 5th Grade Orientation 8-9:30 am   |
|          | 13       | 5th Grade Parent Orientation 6:15 pm  |
|          | 21       | Senior Dessert 6:30 pm - High School Awards 7:30 pm   |
|          | 23       | <b>1/2 Day of School</b>  |
|          | 26       | Memorial Day - <b>No School</b>   |
|          | 28       | 6th and 7th Grade Awards 1:30 pm  |
|          | 28       | 8th Grade Awards 6:30 pm  |
| June     | 1        | Baccalaureate   |
|          | 2        | Commencement - Potter Center 8:00 pm  |
|          | 4        | Exams - <b>1/2 day of school</b>  |
|          | 5        | Exams - <b>1/2 day of school</b>  |
|          | 6        | <b>No School</b>  |
|          | 9        | Board Meeting - HS Library - 6:00 pm  |

**APPLE PIE SALE**

**Beginning Monday, October 28, orders will be taken from any Vandercook Lake middle-senior high school student for apple pies. The pies will cost \$6.00 each and weigh three pounds. Pies may be picked up on Saturday November 23, between 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the high school gym. Any special orders call: Chuck Miller at 782-8167.**

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