

# News and Views

from the Vandercook Lake Public Schools

Golf Avenue

November, 2006 Volume 49-No.2

Jackson, Michigan

## A Message From Superintendent Hollow



### "We Get a Report Card Too"

Results were recently released by the Michigan Department of Education letting all of us know where Vandercook Lake Public Schools stand according to federal and state standards. We take pride in sharing these results. All of our buildings made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) as defined by No Child Left Behind and Education Yes! Equally as significant, all of our buildings received a "B" on the state report card, thus maintaining a high assessment of performance for yet another academic year. Congratulations to parents, staff, and most importantly our students for their continued academic success.

Vandercook Lake Schools is committed to providing a safe learning and work environment. Newly revised board policy requires each school to conduct at least six education/fire drills, two tornado drills and two lockdown drills each school year. We appreciate everyone's cooperation as we plan and prepare for any emergency situation that could result in our schools.

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## Homecoming 2006

The 2006 Vandercook Lake School District Homecoming was a great success in all aspects. The entire week in school the students demonstrated 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.

The floats based on the theme (“Arcade Games”) 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.

The Grand Marshals were Loal Hemminger and Fred Maxson. Loal graduated from Vandercook Lake High School in 1960. He was hired at Vandercook Lake Schools in 1985 and retired August 26, 2005-19 years of service. Loal worked as the Maintenance Supervisor, and stills works on a part-time basis whenever he is needed. Loal is married to Karen and has 3 children and 3 step-children. All six children have graduated from Vandercook Lake Schools. Fred was hired on June 26, 1986 and retired July 23, 2003-17 years of service. Fred is married to Carolyn and they have three children—two daughters, and one son. All have graduated from Vandercook Lake High School. Fred worked as a Transportation Supervisor and Assistant Maintenance Supervisor. He still returns to help when needed.

Following the Grand Marshals were the floats: Freshman—“Street Fighter”; Sophomores—“Donkey Kong”; Juniors—“Dance, Dance, Revolution”; and the Seniors—“Whack-A-Mole”.

The class of “1981” made a special presentation during the Homecoming halftime. Many members of the class presented Mr. Hollow with a spectacular six foot banner which contained the words of our school fight song. The banner will be displayed in the high school gymnasium. Thanks again to the class of “1981”.



**Fred Maxson and Loal Hemminger - "Grand Marshals"**



**First Place Float - Senior Class  
"Whack-A-Mole"**

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## Dear Parents, Grandparents, Friends and Family,

With all the unique things that have happened in the school year this year, and all the memories your student has lived, an ad in the yearbook is the ideal way to remember and honor them.

It is easy to create an ad, and we'll be glad to help you. You can use photos, with a special message with your student's name and their achievements.

Get the recognition your student deserves and encourage other students to join to continue the tradition of achievement! Reserve a space in our yearbook for your student today. Please call (517) 782-8167 (ext. 127). Thanks for your support.....Ms. Decker, Requel Haley, and Audrey Lindquist

### Half-time Coronation

The “2006” homecoming king, Joel Tallman and homecoming queen, Kaycee Kurtz were crowned.

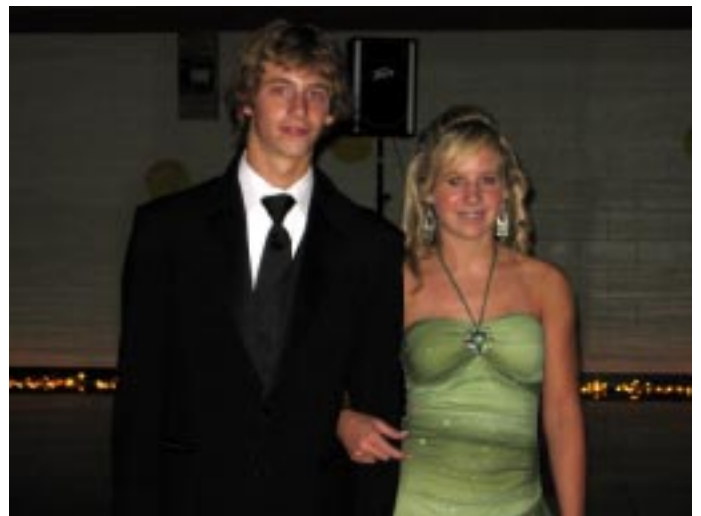
We thank Sean Kennedy of Polly’s for their generous donation of apples that were distributed during the parade. We also thank President Tuxedo at the Westwood Mall for the discount our students received on the rental of their tuxedos. We would also like to thank everyone else in the community who made this year’s parade and coronation such a huge success.



**Joel Tallman and Kaycee Kurtz  
King and Queen**



**Freshmen Class  
Matt Negus and Carli Degi**



**Sophomore Class  
Jordan LeFaive and Mackenzie Kurtz**



**Junior Class**  
**Matt Rutledge and Kayley Montgomery**



**Senior Class**  
**Corey Hurley and Jenny Rice**



**Senior Class**  
**Dan Perdew and Maegan Rose**



**Senior Class**  
**Jeff Cobb and Beth Moore**

## **The National Honor Society**

The National Honor Society is an organization of students dedicated to serving the school and the community. Members are selected on the basis of scholarship, character, leadership, and service. The final selection and approval of the membership rests with the executive board.

The following seniors are returning members of NHS: Grant Clark, Tyler Hale, Courtney Hamblin, Lindsey Horton, Cory Hurley, Elizabeth Marriott, Emily Masters, Spencer Myers, Brittany O'Rourke, Samantha Partin, Dan Perdew, Tracy Raymond, Chaz Suomala, Valerie Swihart, Nicole Tripp and Cara Willbee.

This year's NHS officers are Dan Perdew, President; Courtney Hamblin, Vice-President; Brittany O'Rourke, Secretary, and Cara Willbee, Secretary.

The following juniors were inducted into the National Honor Society on October 9th: William Binschus, Tara Bioty, Andie Choate, Brittani Geiersbach, Kelsey Hart, Heather Horsley, Chelsea Jackson, Samantha Keyes, Kalie Lamb, Johnna Matteson, Tony Melville, David Midena, Molly Mileschkowsky, Kayley Montgomery, Samantha O'Rourke, LeAnn Page, Chelsea Prough, Samantha Ritter, Matt Rutledge, Rick Schweda, Jenna Sheets, Ashley Strong and Kasey Vaughn.

## **Career Cruising Now Available**

Vandercook Lake students and parents now have access to an excellent new Career Preparation program called Career Cruising. The program can be accessed from any computer connected to the internet. The program features an interest inventory that selects careers for you based on your personal results, a college/financial aid research tool, 6,000+ careers to explore in detail, and each student's EDP is now within the Career Cruising program. Students need to get their individual ID and passwords from Mrs. Shafer to access their EDP's. To access the program, do the following:

1. On the internet, go to [www.careercruising.com](http://www.careercruising.com)
2. Type in User ID: vandercook
3. Type in Password: jayhawks
4. Click on Start Cruising
5. Start with the Matchmaker interest inventory and go from there!
6. Call Mrs. Shafer at 782-8167 (ext. 143) if you have questions

### **MICHILD INSURANCE PROGRAM**

If you do not have medical insurance, you may qualify for MiChild Insurance. MiChild covers the following: Regular checkups, Shots, Emergency Care, Dental Care, Pharmacy, Hospital Care, Prenatal Care and Delivery, Vision and Hearing and Mental Health & Substance Abuse services. To apply, best choice is on line at [www.michigan.gov/mdch](http://www.michigan.gov/mdch), Click on Children & Teen, Click on MiChild-options print application or apply. If you choose to apply on line, you will be informed immediately if you qualify. You may also get an application from Mr. Biondolillo (VCL counselor) or call 800-988-6300 for an application.

## Job Shadowing Opportunity at Vandercook Lake High School

Vandercook Lake High School, Jr. Achievement and JCISD will be joining forces to provide 10th graders an opportunity to job shadow. Job shadowing is a one-half day event where students are provided with the chance to go directly into the workplace and get a close-up look at a "real job". It is our goal to help students become familiar with a career choice that they are considering for their future. It is also our goal to help students evaluate the educational path that they are currently pursuing and if it corresponds with their career choice. The student's EDP is extremely helpful in this process. Therefore, prior to job shadowing, the students must update their EDP using the Career Cruising program. If any 10th grader is interested in job shadowing, please see Mrs. Shafer, Room 43, for an application form to be filled out by both student and parent. The students' job shadowing application form and updated printed EDP are to be turned in to Mrs. Shafer by FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2006. Any questions, call Mrs. Shafer at 782-8167, ext. 143.

## Community-As-School Senior Internship Program

The following students will be participating in the Community-As-School Senior Internship program this year. If you know of any employer/business person in the Jackson area who would be willing to sponsor an intern in the career areas noted below, please contact Mrs. Shafer as soon as possible at 782-8167, ext. 143 or e-mail [shafer@vandy.k12.mi.us](mailto:shafer@vandy.k12.mi.us). The time commitment would be every other day (during the school day) for approximately two and a half hours (9 weeks or 17 weeks second semester). There is no monetary commitment since CAS is an unpaid program. An individualized "curriculum" is written for each student that complements his/her specific career placement. The program gives students an opportunity to explore a career on an in-depth basis so they can make an informed decision regarding their post-secondary education. It also gives employers an opportunity to help out a young adult who could potentially become an employee in the future. "KIDS ARE 25% OF OUR POPULATION AND 100% OF OUR FUTURE!" Let's all join together and do our part in guiding them toward becoming an outstanding future work force!

Nikki Bioty	Law
Grant Clark	Anesthesiology
Amber Dunckel	Ultrasound Tech and/or Radio communications
Kali Garbry	X-ray Tech and/or Occupational Therapy
Valerie Grzesikowski	Probation
Tabatha Kelso	Child Care
Elizabeth Marriott	OB/GYN Medical Field
Katie Moor	Pediatric Medical Field and/or Elementary Education
Brittany O'Rourke	Pediatric Doctor and/or Sports Trainer
Dan Perdew	Financial Advisor and/or Insurance Field
Chaz Suomala	Ultrasound Tech
Cara Willbee	Elementary Education

## LOW INTEREST STUDENT LOANS FOR COLLEGE

### JOHN GEORGE LOAN: 2% INTEREST

#### Eligibility:

- \* Not determined by financial need but must carry at least 12 hours per semester and maintain 2.25 GPA while in college.
- \* Can borrow up to \$4,000 per year if attending a 4 year college/university.
- \* Loan does not apply to private colleges.
- \* Resident of Jackson County.

Contact Person/Business: Mrs. Karen Friend, PH. 782-8126. To be considered, download an application at [www.johngeorge.org](http://www.johngeorge.org) or pick up an application at: 145 S. Jackson St., during the months of October 1st through April 30th, during the week between the hours: Monday, 1PM – 5PM, Tuesday-Friday, 8:30AM – 12:30PM.

### LOUIS GLICK MEMORIAL TRUST: 3% INTEREST

#### Eligibility:

- \* Attend a college/university in Michigan.
- \* Resident in Michigan past 3 years.
- \* Graduate from a high school in Jackson County.
- \* Maximum amount \$2,000 per year.

Contact Person/Business: Contact person is Mrs. Rebecca Armstrong. Application may only be requested by mail at: Louis Glick Memorial Trust, P.O. Box 1166, Jackson, MI 49204. Can only request after January 1st. Must include a self-addressed envelope, with 60 cents postage. Applications are due April 1st through May 15th. Questions call 769-2529.

**MICHIGAN EDUCATION TRUST (MET)**, the state's guaranteed tuition savings program that locks in tomorrow's tuition at today's rates! A new, user-friendly interactive site ([www.setwithmet.com](http://www.setwithmet.com)) allows parents, grandparents, businesses and others easy access to information as well as on-line enrollment in the MET program.

***Peace of Mind for Parents:*** MET allows parents, grandparents, businesses and others to pre-purchase undergraduate tuition for a child residing in Michigan at any Michigan public university or college, including 28 public community colleges.

***Flexibility.*** Students have nine years to use tuition benefits. MET contracts may be purchased by semester or by year. MET offers payment plans over four, seven, ten, and fifteen years. Payroll deduction is offered through participation employers.

***Transferable:*** Benefits may be transferred to a sibling or first cousin in the event the student receives a full scholarship or does not attend college.

***Refundable:*** In the event the student does not wish to attend college, monies are refunded.

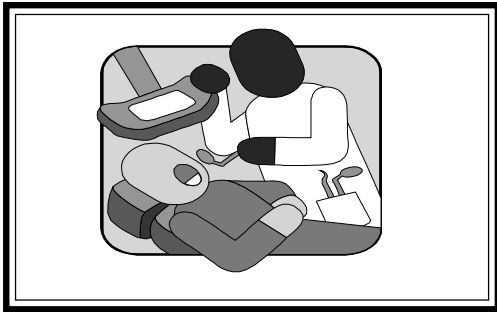
***Tax Deductible:*** Total contract price can be deducted from state income tax. Prepaid tuition earnings are tax-exempt when benefits are used for higher education.

***Portability – Out of State & Private Universities:*** Students may direct refund payments to any eligible university in the nation both private & public.

***MET'S Guarantee:*** Under the contract, MET will guarantee payment of tuition and mandatory fees without further charge. MET guarantees in-state tuition at a public four-year college and university in Michigan or in-district tuition at any public community college in Michigan.

I recommend this program and have purchased one for my son.....Jim Biondolillo/Counselor

## Mobile Dentists



### MOBILE DENTISTS—COMING SOON!

Mobile Dentists is a highly acclaimed on-site dental care program which provides these preventive services: Dental Exams/Screening, Cleanings, Fluoride, Radiographs, and Sealants. They are done at the Townsend Elementary & Vandercook Lake high/junior high schools. If your student did not bring an application home, contact Mr. Biondolillo at 782-8167, ext 206 for the high school and junior high and Mrs. Boorman at Townsend Elementary at 784-6133, ext 601. This is an exceptional program which should be taken advantage of. The Mobile dentist will accept: Medicaid, MICHild, Healthy Kids and most private insurance. They also have scholarships for students.

The Mobile Dentist will be at Townsend Elementary on both November 9, 2006 and April 11, 2007. They will be at the high school and junior high on January 16, 2007. Get your child's application in TODAY!

## Paying for College

Steady increases in fees, room and board since 1980s push cost of degree over \$60,000. (Source: *Detroit Free Press* 8/1/04). Planning ahead can reduce stress and unplanned expense when your children reach collage age.

### Some guidelines:

#### Start early

- Decide whether you're saving for a public or private college. A private school's cost can be more than double the cost of a public school
- Create a time line. Figure out how much time you have before you'll need to start paying tuition bills, how much money you've already saved and how much you still need.
- Establish an investment philosophy.
- Investigate the opportunities offered by Michigan Educational Trust (MET). The trust allows parents to invest a certain amount of money toward their child's college education and the state, in turn, pays for tuition and fees at any Michigan university. Anyone can contribute or open a MET for a child, i.e., grandparents, aunt, uncle, godparents, family friend, etc. For more information contact your school counselor or call toll free at 1-877-861-6377 or visit [www.misaves.com](http://www.misaves.com)

#### More than 15 years away

- Investigate the opportunities offered by Michigan Educational Trust (MET)
- Consider opening an Education IRA, a tax-deferred account that allows you to save up to \$2,000 a year per child. Earnings can be withdrawn tax-free when used for the child's education.
- Think about investing in aggressive mutual funds, which allow you to invest in different ways with one goal in mind.

#### Ten -15 years away

- Investigate the opportunities offered by Michigan Educational Trust (MET)
- Look into prepaid tuition plans, which are college savings plans that rise in value at the same rate as college tuition.

#### Five to 10 years away

- Investigate the opportunities offered by Michigan Educational Trust (MET)
- Move a portion of your investments into fixed income or bonds. Fixed-income investments pay a predetermined rate of interest periodically and return investment at the maturity date.

#### Five year or less

- Move your child's college money into more conservative investments.
- Traditional savings accounts, money market accounts and certificates of deposit can help you set aside money for school.

#### College time

- Attend VCL's financial aid seminar. Date to be announced
- Factor in loans, grants and scholarships into your financial planning. Remember the deadlines and plan ahead.
- See if you child qualifies for a work/study program at the university/college they will be attending.
- Starting off at a community college can reduce costs.

If you have questions contact Jim Biondolillo/Counselor at VCL High School.

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## McDevitt School News

McDevitt School programs are off to a great start of the 2006-2007 school year. Several changes were made to the grounds of the school, including a new playground entrance, to enhance the look of the building and also to make it more functional for the students and staff. If you have not seen the new look stop by!

The Young 5's program has 16 students in the morning. Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Harvey are doing a great job working with our young Jayhawks. Recently, the students have been participating in the activities of Fire Safety Week. This included a visit from newly appointed interim Chief of the Summit Fire Department, Mr. Scot Harvey and fellow firefighter Brian Terry. The firemen did a great job of talking with the students about the importance of being safe with fire and also gave the students a personal tour of one of the fire engines. What a great experience!

Our Pre-School program is also off to great start this year. Mrs. Barrett and Mrs. Petress are working with letters and everyone's favorite; "Monster Goop" in celebration of the Halloween holiday. We have 18 students in the morning, 18 in the afternoon, and many more on a waiting list.

Our Childcare program continues to serve many of the Vandercook Lake families. Our numbers this year again are higher than they have ever been. Mrs. Harvey and staff have implemented the curriculum based centers this fall that were developed over the summer. Parents and students seem to be very pleased with the new direction our program has taken.

Mr. Beadenkopf and Mrs. Wolcott are working with 17 students in the Alternative Program. They are working on team building skills and developing good study habits with the students. Many of the students are experiencing a great deal of success to start the year, and we are looking forward to supporting their efforts throughout the remainder of the year.

### **ACT PLAN Update**

All 10th grade students will be taking the ACT PLAN on November 17, 2006. The ACT PLAN will provide data to our teachers to help students to be more successful on the new Michigan Merit Exam (MME) in 11th grade. A portion of the MME is the actual ACT Plus Writing assessment. The MME will be a great way for students to earn not only entrance into secondary education opportunities, but it will also be a possible source of scholarship money. Because of the importance of the PLAN assessment, the district will cover the cost of the test for each student. Students will need to know their social security number on November 13, 2006 when student information on the answer sheets will be filled out. A brochure for the ACT PLAN is available upon request at the high school office.

## **Kindergarten News**

The kindergarten children began their year by meeting their first Letter Person, Miss A. In her honor they made home-made applesauce! The classes enjoyed the butter they made for Mr. B as well. They ate delicious doughnuts for Mr. D. For Mr. F they graphed their favorite fruits and made a fantastic fruit salad.

Summit Township Fire Department delighted the children with a special visit. They discussed fire safety with the children and let them look at a real fire truck.

The children also learned important safety skills at Safety Ville, a hands-on learning environment. Getting to drive the push pedal tractors around the make believe village was their favorite part.

Our kindergarten classes are enjoying the Time for Kids magazines each month. The children have learned about the space shuttle, owls, diversity and hand washing just to name a few topics. Then they get to take their issue home to share with their family.

Each morning when they arrive they enjoy voting. The children place their magnetic name under one of two pictures chosen by the teacher. In this way we are learning about counting, graphing and recognizing our own names and the names of our friends.....Mrs. Elzinga and Mrs. Stapley

## **First Grade and Multi-Age News**

The first grade and multiage classrooms are off to a great start reading and using the Collins Writing program. We all seem to have settled in nicely and are looking forward to a great year!

All first grade and multiage classes went to Binder Park Zoo the end of September. The weather was perfect (one of the best days during the cold and rainy weeks) and we had a wonderful time seeing all of the sights and animals.

Mrs. Leighton's and Mrs. Rininger's classes are experimenting with water in science this marking period, while the students in Mrs. Bradley's class are making terrariums, aquariums, and planting seeds.

All Multiage classes are experimenting with water focusing on states of water (solid, liquid, and gas), mixtures, and sinking and floating. Each student is building a waterproof boat as a home/family project and brought in boats to school the week of October 16th for testing in the classroom. Everyone looked forward to this project!

We are all busy getting ready for music programs/exhibitions. The multiage program is scheduled for November 7th while the first grade program will be held on November 14th.

## **Third Grade News**

The third grade year is off and running to a wonderful start! They have put a lot of hours preparing for the MEAP. Teachers have given them test taking strategies for all areas of the curriculum. Along with the MEAP, they are piloting a new math program (Everyday Math). This new program is a hands-on-learning environment combining the investigations and CG1 problems.

Science is taking them through investigating sound or through the flowering plant process. Collins writing allows the students to write down their thoughts on paper in many different types.

We would like to remind you about the music program which is going to be held Thursday, December 14th. We hope to see you there!....Mrs. Higgins, Ms. Waite, Mrs. Siegrist, Mrs. Warren

## **Fourth Grade News**

What's happening in 4th grade? Hmmmm, Let's see...oh yes! M.E.A.P. preparation! Organizing thoughts, rereading stories, formulating questions, and decoding vocabulary are just a few strategies that 4th grade has been concentrating hard on to make our students feel confident and successful.

Mrs. Cripe, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Spaan and Mrs. Warren

### Townsend Participates with FAST

Townsend Elementary is happy and excited to be hosting, along with Family Services and Children's Aid, another Families and Schools Together Program (FAST). For nine weeks, every Thursday evening, families attend a night of fun, food, and games. The innovative and structured activities are designed to strengthen the family bond. Mr. Spaan is this year's School Partner.

Every component of the program is featured as a result of 18+ years of research conducted by Dr. Lynn McDonald, senior scientist at the Wisconsin Center for Education Research, School of Education, University of Wisconsin-Madison. The program is considered "exemplary status," which means that it meets certain governmental criteria, including elements of the No Child Left Behind Act.

Townsend is proud of the wonderful families that are participating this semester.



### Second Grade News

Second grade has had a wonderful start to this school year. Life Cycles, especially the monarch butterfly, has been our focus in science. Children have learned about habitats, food chains, physical characteristics used for survival, and how animals survive through the winter. On Thursday, October 12 second graders went on field trip to the Dahlem Center.

The field trip was called; The Interesting World of Insects. During our field trip we reviewed insect parts and life cycles. We also went outdoors with our nets and magnifiers for an insect safari. Through out the day students are beginning to read many stories and are practicing writing papers using the Collins Format focusing on three specific skills while they write.....Sue Hause

### Fifth Grade News

The fifth grade students have been preparing for the state M.E.A.P. tests by working through M.E.A.P. review items in reading, writing, math, and science. Teachers have also reviewed good test taking skills with students to give them an edge. M.E.A.P. testing started on October 10th and the testing window ran through October 27th. Most students, however, finished testing some time during the second week of testing. The teachers are hoping that the focused preparation that has been implemented this year will pay off in big dividends for the student's test results.....

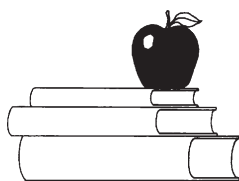
Mrs. Stewart, Mrs. Vass, Mr. Myers and Mr. Packer

### Reading Recovery



Reading Recovery and literacy groups have become very important for approximately a quarter to half of the children in Townsend's first and second grades. Some participate in Reading Recovery.

This is an individual program where the student meets with the reading recovery teacher who provides individual lessons addressing individual strengths and weaknesses of each child. Within 15 to 20 weeks the children begin to contribute to their own learning and catch up to their classmates. Parent involvement is essential for the success of their child in this program. Literacy groups are another component for first and second grades that the reading recovery teachers provide. These are small groups of children that meet with us in reading and or writing several times a week. This program along with the very dedicated faculty reduce the number of children who might have lasting problems with reading and writing.....Marianne Berkemeier and Lisa Osypczuk



### Reading Month at Townsend

Instead of waiting for March, we are beginning in November and continuing through the rest of the school year with reading month.

The kick-off will be November 16, 17 with a visit from Aaron Zenz, author and illustrator of the children's book "Hiccupotamus". He will meet with two or three classes at a time. All of the students will enjoy "The Hiccupotamus" in a lively reading by the author and will explore the secrets of creating a children's book.

More authors are being scheduled throughout the year to keep the students excited about reading.

### Townsend P.T.O.

Townsend's P.T.O. has met twice this fall to work on projects benefiting our students. In September, a group of approximately twenty parents and teachers decorated individual "goodie bags" for each third, fourth and fifth grader taking the M.E.A.P. tests. These cheerful bags were filled with an assortment of goodies, accompanied by a poem that was sure to put a smile on the children's faces. The bags were distributed by teachers the first day of testing.

Our October meeting was designed as another work session, with a group of fifteen parents and teachers being "class cut-ups" for the evening. We cut up class sets of turkey headband pieces for the upcoming music programs in November for first and second grade students.

Check the district's online calendar for the next P.T.O. meeting at Townsend. We hope that you can come to chat with other parents and teachers as we work on another fun project for our students.

## Upcoming Events Townsend Elementary School

### *Music Program/Exhibition*

Tuesday	November 7	Multi-Age and Mrs. Hause	6:00 p.m.
Tuesday	November 14	First and Second Grade	6:00 p.m.
Thursday	December 14	Third Grade	6:00 p.m.
Tuesday	March 27	Fifth Grade	6:00 p.m.
Tuesday	April 24	Fourth Grade	6:00 p.m.
Tuesday	May 1	Kindergarten	5:30 p.m.

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## Student Leadership Forum

On October 20, 2006 Vandercook Lake High School students participated in the 25th Annual 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 Allan Adair, Carli Degi, Kelsey Myers, Mat Negus, Tyler Stevens; Sophomores were Michelle Burke, Mackenzie Kurtz, Bobby Miranda, Ray Sexton, Megan Stoddard; Juniors Brittani Geiersbach, Johnna Matteson, Marcus Pitek, Ken Strohm, Matt Rutledge, Lee Vickers; Seniors Kaycee Kurtz, Adam Metcalf, Dan Perdew, Chaz Suomala, Chris Willbee. Leadership representatives Samantha Ritter and Tyler Suomala helped organize this most successful event. ....Les Essex - Advisor

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## Senior Athletes 2005-06

Shannah Gazlay and Derrick Fairchild earned top honors in their class as outstanding athletes. This is based on participation, achievement, and academics. Congratulations to these deserving students

Shannah Gazlay had an outstanding high school career. She participated in five different sports throughout school; basketball, volleyball, bowling, softball, and track earning 14 varsity letters. She was a member of several conference championships, earning all conference honors in each sport, as well as all state academic and athletic recognition in softball. Shannah was recognized as a scholar athlete by the Detroit Free Press. She is currently attending Lansing Community College and is a member of their softball team.



Shannah Gazlay

Derrick Fairchild had a great high school career. He was a three sport athlete in football, basketball, and track earning 7 varsity letters. Derrick earned all-conference honors in each sport. He achieved athlete success by overcoming a major leg injury during his freshman year. Derrick remains active in the community by attending Jackson Community College



Derrick Fairchild

## Becca Bradley



**High School:** Western High School

**College:** Michigan State University

**Major:** Elementary Education/Spanish

**Minor:** History

**Degree:** B.A. Education (Elementary)

**Assignment:** First Grade - Townsend Elementary

**Family:** Husband - Andy

**Previous Experience:** Student teaching (full year) with Julie Bissot at Dibble Elementary (JPS)

**Hobbies and Interests:** Camping, outdoors, dogs, cooking, reading

**I went into education because.....**I like to learn and want to help children to love learning as well. I think it's important that children are motivated to do well.

**My goal/philosophy as an educator is..**I believe that all children can experience success and pride, and it is my goal to find ways to make that happen at school.

**I am looking forward to....**Seeing the huge gains that my first graders will make by the end of the year.

*Welcome new  
Townsend  
Elementary  
School staff  
members*

## Jaime Warren

**High School:** Lumen Christi

**College:** Spring Arbor University

**Minor:** Elementary Education, Science, and Speech

**Degree:** B.A. Education

**Assignment:** Third Grade - Townsend Elementary

**Family:** Husband: Justin

**Previous Experience:** Taught the 2005-06 year at Bennett Elementary

**Hobbies and Interests:** Skiing, spending time with family, and playing volleyball

**I went into education because.....**I want to make a difference in the lives of children.

**My goal/philosophy as an educator is..**Work my hardest to reach each and every student so that they can succeed in life.

**I am looking forward to.....**a wonderful year at a wonderful school district with many more to come.

## Joy Stewart



**High School:** Michigan Center High School

**College:** Michigan State University and Eastern Michigan University

**Major:** Language Arts

**Minor:** Early Childhood

**Degree:** B.S. in Family Comm. Services/ Young Child Emphasis

**Assignment:** Fifth Grade Teacher

**Family:** Husband: Marc

**Previous Experience:** Worked as a Pre-K lead teacher in East Lansing for one year then went back to school at EMU.

**Hobbies and Interests:** I enjoy reading, walking, and traveling.

**I went into education because....** I have a passion and a desire to teach children so they can better their future.

**My goal/philosophy as an educator is...to** give students as many skills as they need to be an educated well-rounded adults.

**I am looking forward to.....**Seeing my students become well-rounded individuals and developing a desire to learn.

**Jason Konkel**

**High School:** Lumen Christi High School  
**College:** Western Michigan University  
**Major:** Music Education  
**Degree:** K-12 Music Education  
**Assignment:** Vocal Music Director  
**Family:** Mother (Pat); Brothers (James and Jerry)  
**Previous Experience:** Bay City, Michigan - General music for Bay City Public

Schools (two years)

**Hobbies and Interests:** All sports, mostly football and golf

**I went into education because.....**no high school choir existed while I was in high school.

**My goal/philosophy as an educator is...**to inspire music and to never be satisfied.

**I am looking forward to....**this year's concerts!

**Linda Esch**

**High School:** Johnston High School, DesMoines, Iowa  
**College:** Evangel University, Springfield, MO; Spring Arbor University  
**Major:** Special Education, Elementary Education, Psychology/Sociology  
**Degree:** Bachelor of Science, Learning Disabilities Endorsement  
**Assignment:** Resource Room Teacher  
**Family:** Three children: Nathan (23), Cherie (15), and Matt (15).  
**Previous Experience:** Ten years elementary - middle school teaching.

**Hobbies and Interests:** Traveling, Reading, and Gardening

**I went into education because.....**I wanted to have a career that would help students develop and learn.

**My goal/philosophy as an educator is...**Each student is unique and full of potential and effective education can equip them to be successful life-long learners.

**I am looking forward to...**seeing family out-of-state for Christmas.

## Welcome new middle/high school staff members

**Claire Bacigal**

**High School:** Northville High School  
**College:** Western Michigan University  
**Majors:** Health Education  
**Minor:** Earth Science  
**Degree:** Education (Bachelor of Science)  
**Assignment:** Health Teacher - Middle/High School  
**Previous Experience:** I taught Earth Science in Grosse Pointe this past summer and student taught at Mattawan Middle School In Mattawan. While in college, I substitute taught in Kalamazoo Public Schools.  
**Hobbies and Interests:** I enjoy spending time with my family and friends back at home. I also like to return to Kalamazoo to visit friends and my younger sister.  
**I went into education because....** I have always loved working with children. I also enjoyed my own high school career. One of the biggest pay-offs in education is seeing the "light bulb" turn on in a student's head!  
**My goal/philosophy as an educator is...**in order to be successful in all other aspects of life, personal health needs to be a priority.  
**I am looking forward to:.....**getting to know the VCL students and staff so I can better meet the needs of this community.

**2006-07 CALENDAR**

November	3	Picture Retakes 8-10 am - High School
	13	Regular School Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.
	17	Downtown Christmas Parade (Band) - 6:00 pm
	18	Apple Pie Pick-up
	22	1/2 Day School dismissed at 11:00 am
	23-24	Thanksgiving Break
December	1,2,3,	5th and 6th grade girls basketball tournament
	9-10	5th and 6th Grade Girls Basketball Tournament
	11	High School Winter Concert 7:00 p.m.
	12	Middle School Winter Concert 7:00 p.m.
	22 thru	January 2, 2007 - Winter Break
January	3	School resumes
	16, 17, 18	Exams
	19	End of First Semester – NO SCHOOL
	22	Second Semester Begins
February	2, 3, 4	5th and 6th grade Boys' Basketball
	16	No School – Mid-Winter Break
	19	No School – Mid Winter Break
	23	End of 5 week Marking Period
	28	Parent Teacher Conferences – 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
<b>March</b>	1	Parent Teacher Conferences- 1:00 -4:00 p.m. 6:00 -8:00 p.m. ½ Day – School Dismissed 11:00 a.m.
	2	½ Day – School Dismissed 11:00 a.m.
	17, 18	7th, 8th Grade Boys' Basketball
	22	Blood Drive 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m
	27	Make a Difference Dessert 6:30 p.m.
<b>April</b>	2-6	Spring Break
	9	School Resumes
	14	Athletic Cash Bash
<b>May</b>	3	Lions Club
	5	Prom 8:00-11:00 p.m.
	7	5th Grade Student Orientation 8:30-10:00 a.m
	8	5th Grade Parent Orientation 6:15 p.m.
	22	Middle School Spring Concert
	23	High School Spring Concert
	28	MEMORIAL DAY – NO SCHOOL
	29	6th & 7th Grade Awards – 1:30-p.m. 8th Grade Awards – 6:30 p.m.
	30	High School Awards Ceremony 7:00 p.m. Senior Dessert Immediately Following Awards Ceremony
<b>June</b>	3	Baccalaureate 3:00 p.m. High School
	4	Graduation 8:00 p.m. Potter Center Exam Review Day
	5	Exams
	6	Exams ½ Day – Dismissal 11:00 a.m.
	7	Exams ½ Day - Dismissal 11:00 a.m.
	8	No Students – Teacher Workday

**APPLE PIE SALE**

**Beginning Monday, October 30 the Music Department will be taking Apple Pie orders. Pies may be ordred from any band or choir student. The pies will cost \$6.00 each. Pies need to be picked up on Saturday November 18, between 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the high school gym. Any special orders call: Chip Williams at 782-8167 - Ext. 158.**

**Building Entrance Information**

We are requesting any persons who have business at the Vandercook Lake Schools to stop in the office to receive a VISITOR PASS. Even if you are just stopping in for a few seconds we are asking you to do this. This is being done to achieve better security for our students and staff.

**Attention Seniors**

Your senior pictures for the yearbook are due on December 15. You must turn in your picture and your quotes to Cory Hurley or Ms. Decker.

\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSS  
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