

THE HAWKS NEST

NOVEMBER 2018



From Ms. McMandon & the VRA staff

November is such a special time each year at Valley Ridge and this year is no different. The annual PTO sponsored Fun Run and Color Run will take place on Friday the 16th and is a day of excitement and energy. Not only is this event a major fundraiser for the school, which supports key initiatives directly benefitting our students, but it is also a wonderful opportunity for community building within our classrooms and school! Students get to see the impact they can have on their school through their efforts and be rewarded for doing so at the same time. I would like to thank the VRA PTO, teachers, parents and most importantly, the students, for another successful Fun Run!

Our kindergarten classes have been working hard on learning their songs and parts for the Thanksgiving performance on Wednesday, November 14th at 5:30! The students are so excited to get on stage in front of such a large audience to show off their talents. There is always a packed house for this show and it is very rewarding to see so much community support!

On November 9th, members of the Early Act Club and Voices of the Valley Chorus went on a field trip to the Clyde Lassen Veterans Nursing Home in St. Augustine. The students presented a program to honor the Veterans for Veteran's Day. In addition, posters, letters, and picture frames were made by many students at VRA and were given to the Veterans. Thank you to all Veterans for your service!

In the same spirit, the VRA National Spanish Friendship Society in conjunction with the VRA National Junior Honor Society will be collecting donations for K-9s for Warriors throughout the month of November. They are accepting donations of new dog toys, treats and food. Students can earn Hawk Bucks for each day they bring something in! Donations can be dropped off at the front office or with Ms. Santinho in room 625!

In an effort to provide parents of 504, Gifted, and ESE students with knowledge and understanding of head trauma and educational impact, Dr. Salvatori and Dr. Lahey from Brooks Rehabilitation will disseminate information and resources at the December Parent Advisory Committee Meeting.

Topic: CONCUSSION AND THE IMPACT ON LEARNING: A TEAM APPROACH Date/Time: 12/04/18 from 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Location: Fullerwood Training Center – 10 Hildreth, St. Augustine, FL 32084

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving. Whether you are traveling or staying home, I sincerely hope that you find time to relax and enjoy family and friends. The Thanksgiving holiday is one in which to reflect upon the fullness of our lives and the opportunities we have to make a positive impact upon those around us. I hope that your holiday is filled with laughter and memories and we look forward to everyone back safe and sound at VRA on the 26th.

Go Hawks!

Become a Child's Cheerleader!

Have you ever thought of becoming a mentor to a St Johns County student? Mentors are individuals that meet with a student one-to-one or in very small groups, with the mentor providing encouragement for life success. Mentor sessions usually take place during lunchtime, once per week.

Here is the information you will need to be trained as a mentor:

Mentor Orientation Dates, Time

Location:

Dates (all Tuesday): December 4, January 8, February 5, March 5, April 2

Time: 9 – 11 a.m.

RSVP/Volunteer Services



Directions to RSVP/Volunteer Services Office

The address is 10 Hildreth Drive, St. Augustine, Florida, 32084. Upon approaching the campus (it's a former elementary school), take a left hand turn into the staff parking lot. Look to your left, and drive through the lot to the small beige building on the northwest corner of the property, by the playground/park. It is the same color as the big building, and the signs read "RSVP Volunteer Services." This is our meeting place, and parking is (usually) plentiful.

If you would like further information please contact Cheryl Freeman (Director, RSVP of St. Johns County Coordinator, SJCSD Volunteer Services) at 904-547-3952 or follow this link www.rsvpstjohns.com

CHECK WHAT YOUR STUDENT IS CHECKING OUT!

What is Your Child Playing? Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Fortnite!

Commonsensemedia.org explains this PG 13 video game, costs, potential risks, etc., to help parents make an informed decision.

https://www.commonsensemedia.org/blog/parents-ultimate-guide-to-fortnite

Tweens and Teens Informative and Fun Non-screen Options

10 Must-listen Podcasts for Tweens and Teens

https://www.commonsensemedia.org/blog/10-must-listen-podcasts-for-tweens-andteens?j=6782730&l=512 HTML&u=110602033&mid=7000332&jb=339&utm_source=070418+Default&utm_medium=e mail&utm_campaign=weekly



The 2018 Valley Ridge Academy Fun Run!

Valley Ridge Academy has a goal to raise \$40,000 from this year's Fun Run. If we meet our goal, we'd like to enhance life at VRA by installing a digital marquee on campus for improved communication, install a sun shade adjacent to the basketball courts specifically for middle school students, and purchase science equipment for the intermediate grades (3-5).

If we exceed our goal, as we did last year, we would like to enhance technology at VRA.

By partnering with Boosterthon, our students will participate in a two-week, fitness-based fundraiser where they'll learn essential character traits through this year's theme: MINDSPARK MYSTERY LAB.

Help us reach our goal this year by connecting with sponsors and registering your student on FunRun.com

Pledging Opened - 10/29 Log on to FUNRUN.COM

Fun Run - 11/16

RSVP forms will go home for all spectators and volunteers. Spectators and volunteers MUST be cleared volunteers in the St.John's County Keepn Track system to be on campus

Please contact the PTO Board with any questions or concerns at: VRAPTOPrez@gmail.com

Schedule for the Hawk Fun Run:

Friday, November 16th on the outside athletic fields (same as last year)

K & 1st: at 8:50

4th & 5th at 10:00

2nd, 3rd and ESE at 11:35

Middle school color run at 1:45



2018-2019 Instructional Materials Adoption



Mathematics

The St. Johns County School District curriculum department representatives and adoption committee members are currently conducting the review process for the 2018-2019 Instructional Materials Adoption for Mathematics. Resources are available for review at http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/media/instructional-resources-media-services/textbooks/adoption/ by our parents and community members. The core resources that have been submitted for evaluation are listed on the state adoption consideration lists. AP materials that will be reviewed are from College Board recommended materials. If you are interested in serving on an adoption review committee, please contact the principal or assistant principal.

Some print materials may be available for review. If you would like access to the available printed materials or require assistance reviewing the online resources, please call the Instructional Resources and Media Services office at 904.547.3947. Materials are available for review from 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM when district offices are open.

Resource lists may be revised throughout the review process. Please check the website frequently for updates.

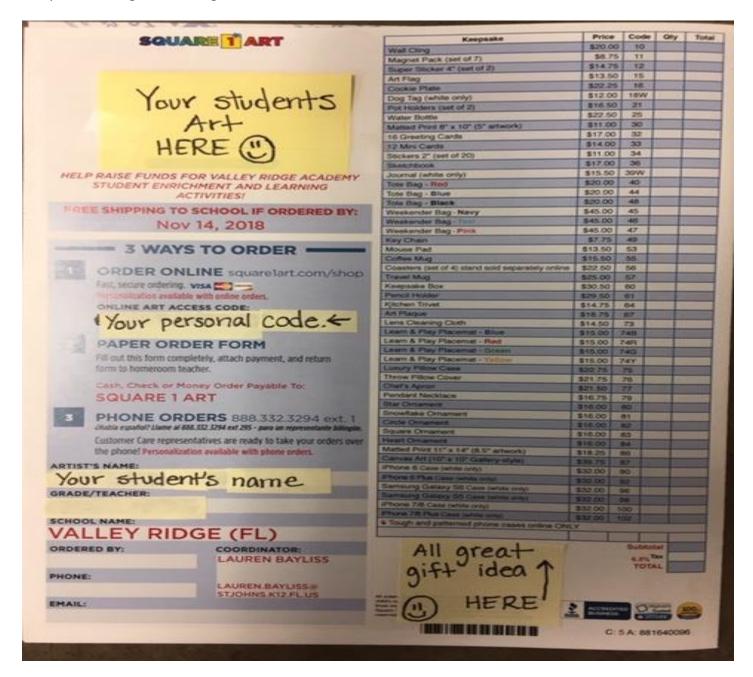
Please note the following Florida statute regarding instructional materials that pertains to parent input regarding adopted materials:

F.S. 1006.28 (1)(a)(3) Each district school board must establish a process by which the parent of a public school student may contest the district school board's adoption of a specific instructional material. The parent must file a petition, on a form provided by the school board, within 30 calendar days after the adoption of the material by the school board. The school board must make the form available to the public and publish the form on the school district's website. The form must be signed by the parent, include the required contact information, and state the objection to the instructional material. Within 30 days after the 30-day period has expired, the school board must conduct at least one open public hearing on all petitions timely received and provide the petitioner written notification of the date and time of the hearing at least 7 days before the hearing. All instructional materials contested must be made accessible online to the public at least 7 days before a public hearing. The school board's decision after convening a hearing is final and not subject to further petition or review.



Please check your child's folder for their Square 1 Art fundraiser packet. These are on their way home and have 3 EASY ways to order great custom items with your child's artwork printed right on them. Inside their Square 1 packet you will also find their original piece of Art and FREE stickers. Thank you for supporting the Arts at VRA.

Are you following us on Instagram? #VraPicassos



VRA Families Had Fun During the "Families United" Challenge

Stay United!!!

Kinder	1	2	3	4	5
Ride bikes to park with nature path. Collect nature items and make a craft.	Play Football and Frisbee outside	Freeze Dance	Day trip to St Augustine	Card games	Go to the South Beach Skate Park
Day trip to St Augustine	Make breakfast together and discuss how you could help others if you won the lottery	Attend an event like Cracker Day	Play board games like "Monopoly Jr" or "LIFE"	Play board games such as Sorry or Blokus	Make pumpkin bread Make Halloween prop (don't touch Hot Glue)
Read together	Go on a bike ride	Make Snicker- doodles and play board games	Celebrate a birthday and teaching siblings to grill hot dogs	Go to a family event	Play puzzles like Sphere together
Play toys together	Do yard work together, make a rope swing, and play hula-hoop	Playing Hide-n- Seek	Bike riding	Toss a football in the backyard	Prep for dinner together (cut pepper, onions, etc.)
Vacation to Orlando	Go out to dinner	Going to the farmers market, Adventure Landing, and a pumpkin patch	Play baseball, make a fire and roast S'mores	Bake together – be the "Mixers and the Tasters"	Play Nerf War in the backyard
Fall Festival – Corn Maze – Petting Zoo	Go to a birthday party	Going to the Zoo or to Sea World	Go paddle boarding and kayaking	Go on a nice long hike	Have a long family dinner, take a long walk, and be a part of home renovation
Family reunion – hayrides, dodgeball, piñata	Ride scooters around the neighborhood	Rollerblading around the neighborhood	Find a green space to practice baseball and sit together to discuss the day	Go to the Pumpkin Patch and on a corn maze	Make breakfast and build a box fort together
Play outside – on the swing set, Freeze Tag, Simon Says, play Catch, soccer drills	Take the dog for a long walk	Build a fort and make dinner together	Play soccer and then cards together like "Slamwich"	Do Kumon, homework, play soccer and read books together	Play billiards, mini golf, ping- pong, and Sand trap
Play board games like "Connect Four" and family games like "Pie Face"	Look at the start using a telescope	Go on a bike ride and play with your pet	Dance, swim, play dress-up and charades	Go to the beach, play board games	Play board games or card games like "Uno", "Phase Ten", "Go Fish" and "Slap Jack".

Play group games like football toss,	Build a marble game	Go to the Sykes and Cooper Farm	Play Chess	Go to Orlando for dinner	Go "pumpkin picking and then
Monkey in the Middle, Karate,					carve a Pumpkin
play tag, or Pass the Ball					
Fish at the pond down the street	Have an airplane flying contest	Watch a sibling's sports game	Play with a drone	Go to a Jaguars' game	Play soccer
Go to the Farmers Market	Have a tea party	Go to the beach to look for shark teeth	Go to a pumpkin patch and then carve a pumpkin	Go to a Halloween party	Go on a bike ride
Go to a Pumpkin Patch	Play board games like "Mr. Mouth" or "Word on the Street"	Go on a family trip to St. Augustine	Play card games like Uno Dare	Play board games with several generations of family members	Go to the mall and have dinner
Build puzzles	Go an "adventure walk" with parents	Bake cookies together	Have a family dinner	Camp by the fire in the backyard and make S'mores	Go to the Fair
Mickey's not so scary Halloween	Play Nerf Gun war	Read books together	Go fishing on a boat	Go on a walk, ride scooters, and go to the dog park.	Go to Guana Park
Eat together at the dinner table	Take the dog to	Play outside with neighbors	Bake cookies	Go to a festival	Grill dinner
Climb trees	the park Have a "manners" meal	Work on a 1000 piece puzzle	together Play miniature golf	like Cracker Day Play with building blocks, make slime and help in the kitchen	Go to concert followed by a walk or bike ride
Go to the park to play together	Build pillow forts	Have B-B-Q together	Go to a corn maze	Having dinner together	
Draw together and bake cinnamon bread	Lay on a blanket with the dogs on the grass	Dinner together and a game of "Uno"		Bake brownies	
Build a maze or a fort	Go to Alpine Grove Park for a picnic and a hike	Make S'mores and spend time together		Carve pumpkins, play fetch and lay in the sun	
Bake cookies	Go rollerblading	Play at the beach and look for sea shells		Bake cookies together	
Swim in the pool and then play in the playground	Build a puzzle	Clean the truck together and then play football		Play baseball and soccer	
Play outside with a parent	Have a "Greatest Showman" soundtrack dance party	Play "Uno"		Go to the zoo	
Play Tug of War and Potato Sack Race	Race each other through a bounce house	Paint together		Go for a bike ride as a family	

,		ess
together		
	opportunity	
Blue Go to a hockey		
form game		
aircut Play hopscotch		
-		
-		
Wenepeinty		
ad the Center a feather	┤────┤	
e the		
-		
riding		
have a party		
outside		
Turtle Make a llama out		
@Jekyll of aa pillow or		
stuffed animal		
ay ride Go hiking in the		
Grand Canyon		
t with Have a picnic at		
-		
•		
ure		
	<u> </u>	
	ļ	
ther		
ncert		
	rform game aircut Play hopscotch and draw with chalk rt Play Personalogy", "Go Fish", "Monopoliny" ach te the Go to a football pep-rally ach te the Go golf cart riding impkin Dress up and have a party outside Turtle Make a llama out ØJekyll Of aa pillow or stuffed animal ay ride Go hiking in the Grand Canyon t with Have a picnic at r and to Make a lama out ØJekyll Of aa pillow or stuffed animal ay ride Go hiking in the Grand Canyon t with Have a picnic at r and to Make a lama out ØJekyll Of aa pillow or stuffed animal Apprice Sup and have a party outside Turtle Make a lama out of aa pillow or stuffed animal Apprice Sup annah Apprice Sup Apprice Sup Appri	togethertrip a family opportunityBlue formGo to a hockey gameImage: Comportant of the second of t

FIRST GRADE FUN AND LEARNING!



First grade went on their first field study to the Fountain Of Youth this month. Many compliments were given to the VRA students for their manners, listening skills, and behavior from the Fountain Of Youth staff. We are so proud of our 1st graders for using their Character Traits lessons on and off campus.





K-2 graders earned and saved for their very first quarterly reward for PBIS! The students had a very cool opportunity to walk to the park and to have a picnic lunch with friends and teachers. Each first grader received a Frisbee and played soccer with Mrs. Klabacka and met new friends at the picnic lunch. Mrs. Lee and Mrs. McMandon payed her first graders a very special visit at the park on this special day!

Ms. Painter/Cotto's class won the BOX TOPS popsicle party for the quarter! YAY!!!! Way to collect those Box Tops.







First graders participated in a STEM lesson by making Columbus Day Boats that would "sink or float". They tested their boats in a pool of water and even got to see some boats set sail into the wind.



A little glimpse into the past! Teachers and students dressing for the decades at VRA to celebrate Red Ribbon



Check out first grade for Unity day! Look at us in our orange.





First grade participated in a grade level Publishing Party on Oct. 24th. Each first grader planned out a story about a "Special Place". First they chose their special place, then they planned out their writing and started writing. Each first grade edited their writing and conferenced with their teacher to get ready to publish their story into a book. Finally they made covers for their books and added illustrations. Then the 1st grade parents attended our Publishing Party and listened to the kids read their hard work. Parents and teachers had an opportunity to leave a comment for each book they heard read by a first grader.



Fitness night at VRA was so much fun! Thank you to our volunteers, teachers and staff for putting all of this together to have a family fun fitness night at VRA.



Looking ahead into November

November 8th: Middle School Character Counts! Celebration: "Responsibility"

November 8th: Middle School PBIS Reward Opportunity: Field Study to Jax Icemen Game at Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Arena

- November 9th: Early Act and VRA Chorus Veterans Day Field Study to Clyde Lassen Veterans Nursing Home
- November 12th: No School in Observance of Veterans Day
- November 13th: 3:30 4:30: SAC Meeting in Media Center
- November 14th: 5:30 7:30: Kindergarten Thanksgiving Performance
- November 15th: 8:45 9:45: Elementary Character Counts! Celebration: "Responsibility"
- November 16th: VRA Boosterthon Fun Run and Color Run
- November 20th: 1st Grade Thanksgiving Feast
- November 21st November 23rd: No School Thanksgiving Holiday
- November 26th: Jim Sawgrass Presentation to 4th Grade
- November 28th: VRA Spelling Bee

Congratulations to 7th grader Emme Evans for representing VRA at the **2018 Model Water Tower Competiton** at Creekside HS on October 20th. Her creative water tower design received high scores for its Hydraulic Efficiency and Structural Efficiency.

Early Act Food Drive

By Tim Gorelik, Early Act member

The food drive for 3rd-8th graders was available from October 16th to October 19th. All of the donations are being sent to food banks in St Johns County. The Early Act club made the food drive possible. Thanks for your donations!







FHANK YOU FOR HELPING US IELP OTHERS IN NEED.

A BIG belated thank you to those who earned community service hours by helping to collect over 57 lbs of trash from our beaches on **International Coastal Cleanup Day at the GTM Research Reserve** on September 15th. Joining Mrs. Kathy Shirley and Mrs. Barbara Scarpa were 7th graders Isabella Wheeler, Caroline Whyte, Morgan Booth, Thavy Lanh, Sofie Nguyen; Anna K. Long (6th), Sadie Long (2nd), Neida Lanh (2nd) and Luna Durante (8th), with their friends and families.

Thank you!



Photo of the GTM Beach by Emily Phan.

"Spirit Sticks will be sold during lunch periods on Thursday, 11/29 and Thursday, 12/13"?

and finally," PTO will be hosting the Wonderland Holiday Gift Shop in December. Stay tuned for more details after the Thanksgiving break". Voices of the Valley Chorus Member Represents St. Johns County at the University of Florida School of Music

Every year, one thousand fourth and fifth grade chorus members, across the state of Florida, rehearse and submit a vocal audition to win an invitation to be a part of an elite choir. Out of those one thousand, forty-five members were given the invitation to participate in the inaugural session of the Florida Elementary Music Educators Association (FEMEA) Northern Regional Honor Choir (NRHC) held at the University of Florida, School of Music, Gainesville.

Andrew Bennie, one of the 5th graders at Valley Ridge Academy, was the only St Johns County student extended an invitation from FEMEA to participate in the Northern Regional Honor Choir. Andrew, his family, and Mrs. Jennette Knoblauch (Voices of the Valley Chorus Director) traveled to Gainesville on October 27th, 2018. Andrew was introduced to his performance repertoire first thing in the morning, rehearsed throughout the day with the NRHC, and performed that evening for hundreds of audience members. The performance was a splendid success!

Congratulations to Andrew Bennie for all of his hard work, and dedication, to the art of music! And, thank you Andrew for being such an outstanding representative of the excellence of St Johns County!

Penned by Jennette Knoblauch, Voices of the Valley Chorus Director, Valley Ridge Academy, Elementary Music.





Through PLC collaboration, the ESE team at Valley Ridge has been working together to meet the state standards at varying levels. We planned some school-wide activities to deepen student understanding through hands on activities in which middle school students were able to take leadership roles and help elementary students learn concepts.

Some of these shared experiences included:

- a force and motion experiment using cars and variable surfaces with different textures that provided friction such as carpet, sandpaper, bubble wrap, a table, and a ramp
- a voting activity that involved student's writing campaign speeches for student of the week at the middle school level, and favorite recipes at the elementary level, in which middle school students prepared the recipe for the elementary students
- Reader's Theater in which Middle School students prepared a play to perform for Elementary and discussed story elements. We followed this activity with buddy reading.
- •













ESE Parent Advisory Committee Meeting

ST. JOHNS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT, EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION WELCOMES:

BRO[®]KS[®] Rehabilitation

ж

NATA SALVATORI, PT, DPT, OCS, SCS, FAAOMPT AND SARAH LAHEY, PhD

FOR A DISCUSSION ON:

CONCUSSION AND THE IMPACT ON LEARNING: A TEAM APPROACH

Tuesday,

December 4, 2018,

6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Fullerwood Training Center 10 Hildreth,

St. Augustine, FL 32084

GOAL:

In an effort to provide parents of 504, Gifted, and ESE students with knowledge and understanding of head trauma and educational impact, Dr. Salvatori and Dr. Lahey from Brooks Rehabilitation will disseminate information and resources.

ECHOOL DISTRIC

The purpose of the committee is to provide input to district staff regarding our ongoing effort to continuously improve services for students with disabilities. Parents, Educators, Administrators, & Business Representatives are invited and encouraged to attend.



Take Stock in Children Scholarship Application Packet

Instructions: ONLY CURRENT 7th or 8th Graders MAY APPLY

Please complete the attached scholarship application. Incomplete applications will not be

reviewed or accepted.

Proof of income in the following forms must be attached:

A copy of federal income tax return with student applicant listed as dependent **and** a copy of recent pay stub* (*must have pay stub for each parent /guardian if taxes filed jointly).

<u>OR</u>

Other proof of income eligibility if taxes are not filed.



For additional information or guidance, please contact **Jim Wheeler**, Take Stock in Children Program Coordinator James.Wheeler@stjohns.k12.fl.us or (904) 547-7121.

Submission:

- DUE DATE for completed applications is MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2018
 No late applications will be accepted.
 - Applications can be returned to

Ms. Erica MacNaught

VRA Guidance Office

or mailed directly to:

Jim Wheeler C/O Evelyn Hamblen Center INK—Investing in Kids 1 Christopher Street Saint Augustine, FL 32084



Information contained in these materials are neither sponsored by nor endorsed by the School Board of St. Johns County, its agents or its employees.

YOUR CHILD MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR A COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP!



To be considered for the TSIC College Scholarship and Mentoring program, your child must:

- Have a United States social security number
- Meet family financial eligibility requirements established by the TSIC program (see below)
- Be enrolled in a St. Johns County Public School for 2018-19, as a 7th or 8th grader
- Have grades of A's, B's, or C's in all middle school classes through October, 2018
- Have passing grades of '3' or higher on state assessments (FSA and/or EOC's)
- IF ACCEPTED, sign an agreement to remain crime and drug free, attend school regularly, maintain a minimum 2.5 grade point average, and meet with a mentor once a week
- Your child's middle school records for 2017-18 (and 2016-17 if applicable) will be reviewed as part
 of the selection process

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE BEGINNING NOVEMBER 1, 2018 at YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL APPLICATION <u>DUE</u> ON OR BEFORE Monday, November 26, 2018

If your child meets <u>ALL</u> criteria listed and you are interested in the Take Stock in Children scholarship opportunity, complete the application and turn it in along with all required financial documents to your child's school guidance counselor, or to:

Jim Wheeler, Take Stock in Children Program Coordinator C/O Evelyn Hamblen Center INK - Investing in Kids 1 Christopher Street, St. Augustine, FL 32084

REQUEST AND SUBMISSION OF A COMPLETED APPLICATION DOES NOT ENSURE A SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

FAMILY INCOME LIMITS FOR QUALIFICATION

- Family income cannot exceed the levels shown in the chart
- Federal Income Tax Returns (2017) are required with the application; if taxes not filed, please attach a letter of explanation to the application
- Current pay stub within last 30 days required
- Income guidelines are set by the Florida Department of Education, effective July 1, 2018

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	ANNUALLY		
1	22,459		
2	30,451		
3	38,443		
4	46,435		
5	54,427		
6	62,419		
7	70,411		
8	78,403		
For each additional family momber, add	7,992		

Click here to apply for the Scholarship

Thank You to All Veterans for Your Service!

On November 9, members of the Early Act Club and Voices of the Valley Chorus went on a field trip to the Clyde Lassen Veterans Nursing Home in St. Augustine. The students presented a program to honor the Veterans for Veteran's Day. In addition, posters, letters, and picture frames were made by many students at VRA and were given to the Veterans. Thank you to all Veterans for your service

