

Message from our Principal

Parents and Guardians,

I wanted to give up an update on our Positive Behavior Support, anti-bullying, program. We recently had our District lead sessions with all of our grade levels reinforcing ideas related to common language and appropriate ways to deal with conflict. A copy of the PowerPoint is available on our web-page and I think it is important for you to review and discuss as a family. As we continue to grow here it is important that we work hard on relationships building and trust.

We have entered the final few weeks and I wanted to remind you that as a K-8 facility we have a group testing every day. Please be cognizant of that if you are picking students up early for appointments. Our goal is to continue to develop the correct environment for our students to be successful, therefore we try to limit the disruptions.

In the next few weeks you will get a supply list and any Summer Reading lists. The reading in particular is important in order to expands one's vocabulary.

Finally, I wanted to welcome Mrs. McMandon to Valley Ridge Academy. It has been the most incredible experience here and I know that I've learned so much from this community and in particular from the interaction with the students.

As they say in Ireland, Slan Leat!!

Wayne King

Proctors Needed

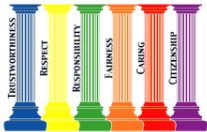
VRA is looking for testing proctors for upcoming exams. Please consider volunteering for this important task. Thank you so much for your time and support!

[Click here to sign up.](#)

Calendar of Events

5/6	Character Counts! All Pillars	5/19	Band End of Year Concert
			Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast 8:30 a.m.
5/9	Kindergarten Registration 1-5 p.m.		Communication Cornerstone 9:15 a.m.
5/11	School Nurse Appreciation Day	5/20	8th grade—Universal Studios
5/12	5th Grade—Sea World	5/24	8th Grade Recognition at Nease 6:30 p.m.
			4th grade—Kennedy Space Center
5/13	8th Grade Dance	5/26	Last Day of School Early Release 1:50 p.m.

CHARACTER COUNTS!



ST. JOHNS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

The following students were chosen by their teachers in April for exemplifying the Perseverance Pillar of Character.

Nathan Alounevong	Chase Dexter	Karli Maa	Addison Rennie
Saige Baber	William Frank	Andres Maldonado	Daniel Reyes
Nate Bass	Bryce Frick	Heath Mandel	Scarlett Riccio
Lane Bickham	Isabella Gallego	Gabby Marringer	Sawyer Roemhild
Autumn Birman	Christa Greco	Haiden Matthews	Braedon Rutkauski
Taylor Bryant	Andrew Greenaway	Gabriella McCaw	Carter Schultz
Gavin Buck	Caroline Hamby	Amelia McGill	Mallesh Shums
Tyler Buenaflor	Abby Hamby	Savannah McGowan	Julian Slayden
Felix Bueno	Miranda Harmon	Abby Morris	Calen Smith
Taylor Burton	Erin Hemingway	Rayne Morris	Mialani Soto
Henry Carpenter	Caelan Hermon	Kira Myers	Shea Stanley
Peter Castellon	Jocelyn Herstone	Hope Olson	Lincoln Swindell
Jillian Cejka	Nicholas Holden	Ethan Peinsipp	MacKenzie Swindell
Saketh Challagulla	MacKenzie Holmes	Mikayla Polito	Aurora Taylor
Michael Chen	Meyer Kersting	Cailey Price	Abigail Vernacotola
Aldo Cuevas	Mia Lee Chong	Julia Procacci	Oliver Wurtz

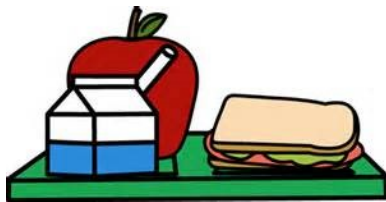


Lunch Accounts

The end of the year is quickly approaching. Lunch accounts need to be debt free by year end. Any money owed on lunch accounts must be paid off by the last day of school. Lunch balances and or debts will carry over to the following school year. If your child transfers to another St. John's county school their lunch money will automatically transfer over as well.

Thank You,
Daisy Morales

Food and Nutritional Services Manager
547-4100



The Kindergarten team would like to thank the Ponte Vedra Education Foundation for grant money used to purchase raised garden beds. The Kindergarten students have enjoyed learning about gardening, insects, and plant growth!



VRA's Sociedad Hispánica de Amistad, or SHA, is collecting money for disaster relief in Ecuador. As many of you may already know, a terrible earthquake rocked Ecuador on April 17, causing a great deal of destruction and leaving many hurt and without food or shelter. Their need is great, and as responsible citizens, it is our duty to help out our South American neighbors.



We will be collecting money for earthquake relief starting on Monday, April 25 through Friday, May 6. All money will be given to the Red Cross, which is currently helping with disaster relief.

A SHA representative will stop by first thing each morning to collect your donations. Remember any amount helps. Gracias.

STUDENT HAPPENINGS

6th Annual All-County Middle School Art Show

*Pictured from left to right are...Tatiana Donnelly (7th),
Jaxon Gamber (7th) Aiden Barbour (6th) Elizabeth Meyers (7th)
Sam Dec (6th) Chasper Pablo (7th) Taylor Weatherly (7th),
Abby Littleton (6th)*



Sociedad Hispánica de Amistad Service Project



Students in the Sociedad Hispánica de Amistad (SHA) partnered with The Pulsera Project to connect Nicaraguan artists with our students at Valley Ridge Academy. SHA raised **\$6,495** that will create opportunities for Nicaraguans through education, scholarships, housing programs, shelter support, human rights initiatives, and many other empowerment programs throughout Nicaragua. Thank you to the VRA community for making our service project such a success!

Profesora Santoro, Señora Santinho, & Señora Alvarez

MUSIC THERAPY PERFORMANCE

A Music Therapy performance was held April 21, 2016 for students who receive Music Therapy. This is funded through the Culture Center at Ponte Vedra. Our Music Therapist here at Valley Ridge is Candice Sirak.



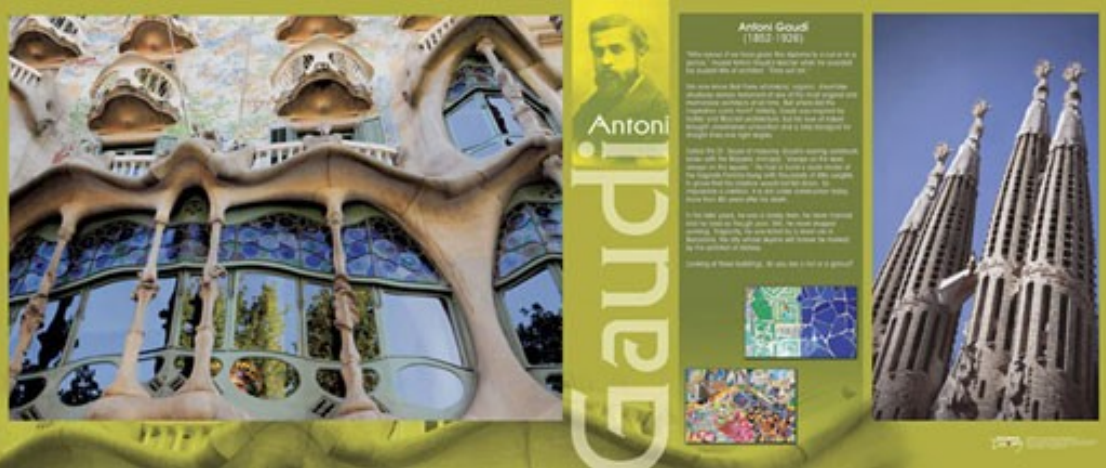
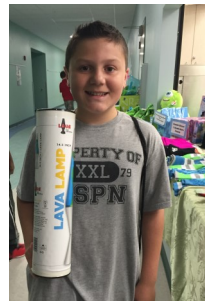
JUNIOR STUDENT 2 STUDENT

A big thank you to our Junior Student 2 Student members. As our school ambassadors, these students have greeted our new middle school students (and we have a lot of them) with a smile and a helping hand in the transition to a new school. Members have helped plan and coordinate several special events throughout the year to promote positive regard for school and help new students engage. Most recently, they have hosted a Minute 2 Win It and Ice Cream Social Get-Together. It is a small group, but they are dedicated and are great role models in our school.



HAWK SWAP SHOP

The Hawk Swap Shop is a positive behavior support store at VRA. Faculty and Staff distribute cards to students that have been role models in the six pillars of character; Trustworthiness, Caring, Respect, Responsibility, Citizenship, and Fairness. Students can redeem Hawk Hero point cards for prizes.



VALLEY RIDGE ACADEMY HOSTED GAUDI TRAVELING EXHIBIT

SPONSORED THROUGH A GRANT FROM THE PONTE VEDRA PUBLIC EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

The students and staff enjoyed the giant reproductions during the week of April 11-15th. The exhibit celebrates architecture as art, the beautiful city of Barcelona and Spanish culture.



Safety Matters

During the month of April, Ms. Dail and Ms. MacNaught (School Counselors) will be speaking with 2nd and 5th graders about how to stay safe.

It is important for parents to help children understand that it is an adult's responsibility to keep them safe. To do this, children have to talk to adults about what they see, do, experience, etc.

When speaking with children, open-ended questions that require more than a one word answer (i.e. yes, no, good, bad, etc.) will give insight into experiences and potential risky behaviors.

Also helpful is to speak with children about activities and peers in non-judgmental ways – ask for facts and provide facts – to avoid defensive responses and to keep communication open.

With your behavior and language model for your child acceptance, ability to problem solve peacefully, brainstorming several solutions to problems, and emotional management.

We are committed to keeping our VRA family stay safe.

The VRA Guidance Department



KIRA STRONG

Join the fight!

Please support one of our very own 7th grade students, Kira Sass, in her fight against cancer.

We are asking for a minimum donation of \$1.00 to purchase a KIRA STRONG bracelet, but any and all donation amounts are welcome to help support Kira's family and their medical costs. If writing a check, please make it out to VRA PTO.

Bracelets are available starting Wednesday, April 6th before school. You can purchase near the hawk doors or the 600 hallway starting at 8:10.

Questions? Please contact Mrs. McCabe or Ms. Bohatch

Moir.McCabe@stjohns.k12.fl.us

Katie.bohatch@stjohns.k12.fl.us



Congratulations to Mrs. Dresback for winning this month's Soaring High Hawk Award. Mrs. Dresback is the IB/Testing Coordinator here at VRA. Great job at exemplifying all six Pillars of Character Counts!



2015 - 2016 VRA PTO Highlights

[Click here to view the flier.](#)

VRA Fundraiser

Did you know Valley Ridge Academy PTO can raise money by shopping online now through July 31? Help us raise funds for a great cause. Every order counts and I'm hoping you can take a moment to shop online & support Valley Ridge Academy PTO.

[Click here to view the flier](#)

mixedbag
designs

Girls On The Run 5K Practice



2016 Spring Football Team

Cashel Aery

Malik Aldridge

Liam Angst

Josh Bachochin

Aiden Barley

Luke Barry

Ben Bogle

Braden Bruch

Gordon Chen

Gregory Constain

Robby Constain

Angel Cubano

Sam Dec

Cruz Dexter

Jack Garrett

Evan Higgins

Isaac Huster

Gavin Inman

Jack Isaacs

Bedri Kellezi

Gavin Koors

Lorenzo Martinez

Nicholas Martins

Zian Matthews

Creed McClafferty

Daniel McClellan

Joey Midkiff

Charles Milton

Samuel Milton

Ian Mooney

David Nebus

Bryce Pogram

Justin Petersen

Saxx Phillips

Erik Pickee

Jake Reno

Anthony Romaniello

Logan Ryan

Ethan Schieferle

Hayden Staley

Joshua Stallings

Grant Stevens

Corey Stout

Randall Toonk

Jake Walker

Alexander Weemhoff

Kevin Weemhoff

Tanner Wilson

Oliver Wood



Spring Game Saturday, May 14th 2:20 p.m.

at Bartram Trail High School

2016-2017 Cheerleading Team

Grace Baur

Daizey Beatty

Ava Cash

Brianna Doakes

Luna Durante

Savannah Foster

Isabella Gallego

Janie Grenadier



Jaelyn Kreiger

Zoe Kurtz

Grace McCaw

Chelsea McClellan

Bernadine Olivier

Gabi Parksosz

Lily Porreca

Keyniah Riddick

Coach Xanders & Coach Anzualda

First Annual Special Olympics Young Athletes Program

Valley Ridge Academy hosted its first annual Special Olympics young Athletes Program on April 5, 2016. The Young Athletes Program was established by Special Olympics International to provide early developmental opportunities for pre-school children, utilizing guided motor activities. Students from VRA under the age of 8, which included two pre-kindergarten classes and one elementary class, participated.



The students practiced for the event throughout the school year, and completed a variety of skills and tasks, including hurdling, striking, kicking, throwing, and various other gross motor activities. In addition to the physical skills, the students have also learned many positive social skills from the program, such as teamwork, cooperation, and good sportsmanship. Upon completion, participants earned a certificate and a ribbon marking their achievement.

In addition to the participants, many other Valley Ridge Academy students supported the event. Students from the VPK Pre-Kindergarten classes served as athlete buddies. Middle School "Hawk Buddies" have been teaching the students the skills throughout the year, and were on hand to assist during the event. Finally, the students' siblings and families were in attendance, cheering on the athletes.



Marcus Sowick, ESE Teacher





2015 – 2016 OUTSTANDING SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

Youth-Alexa Roberts, Adult-Julie Inman,
Senior-Linda Kracker (not pictured), &
PTO President Jen Murphy (center)

TROPICANA SPEECH CONTEST

Hello everyone! I have returned from the St. Johns County Tropicana Speech Contest for sixth grade and our own Josh Deligero won Honorable Mention!

His speech titled "Rubik's Cube" was fantastic! Josh researched and wrote a wonderful speech and won for his grade level here at VRA. He advanced to the county competition and we are very proud of him for earning Honorable Mention! The competition was tough and his award was well deserved.

Allison L. Romano



2016 SJCS D SUMMER VPK PROGRAM

- 1. Complete the VPK Application Online**
Visit <https://familyservices.floridasearlylearning.com>
And complete the online application. For information or questions regarding the online application please call Early Childhood Services Department at 904-547-8965.
- 2. Submit Supporting Documents**
You will be asked to upload the following documents during the registration process:
 - a. Proof of Florida residency
 - b. Birth certificate/Proof of the child's age*Children must be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2016. Once your application has been processed you will receive an email alerting you that your child's Certificate of Eligibility (voucher) is ready to print.*
- 3. Enroll for Summer VPK**
To enroll, bring your Certificate of Eligibility (voucher) and the following documents to Early Childhood Services Department
 - a. Florida Certificate of Immunization (DH Form 680)
 - b. Physical examination certificate signed by a licensed examiner
- 4. Location**
SJCS D SUMMER VPK program will be held at
Crookshank Elementary School
• TRANSPORTATION IS NOT PROVIDED

June 1st - July 25th, 2016
Five days a week, 7:30a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

- ❖ Certified Teachers
- ❖ Low ratios
- ❖ Engaging Curriculum
- ❖ Kindergarten Readiness Activities
- ❖ Arts and Crafts
- ❖ Water Days
- ❖ Summer Fun
- ❖ Breakfast & Lunch is provided

Apply Now!

Space is limited.

St. Johns County School District
Early Childhood Services Department
102 Martin Luther King Ave.
St. Augustine, Florida 32084
904- 547- 8965

Do you LOVE to swim?

*Do you want to swim competitively
for YOUR High School?*



The Allen D. Nease High School Swim Team is having an informative meeting on
May 4, 2016 in the
High School Media Center at 6:30 p.m.
Come and find out more about our highly ranked
Nease High School Swim Team.
It is a great place to meet people, be active and have fun!!



2016 Summer Team

Summer is coming!
Get ready to join us for another
great summer swimming season
with old and new friends at the
Palencia Aquatic Center!

Participation is open to all swimmers ages 5-18
Our season runs from April 18 through July 30, 2016

Registration Opens March 1st for the 2016 Season

Please visit our team website at www.palenciapiranhas.org for additional information

All Palencia residents and non-residents with communities who DO NOT participate in the
St. Johns Summer Swim League are welcome. Current Piranhas USA swimmer regardless of
community affiliation are welcome!

The Piranhas swim team does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities.
Discrimination against individuals on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, sex, disability, or age is prohibited by the United States Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other federal, state, and local laws.



2016-2017 St. Johns County School District VPK Program

St. Johns County School District (SJCS) offers
a high quality early childhood education VPK program.

SJCS VPK is a full day/ full school year program on a sliding fee scale!

SJCS VPK Wrap-Around Parent Fees:

- ❖ If eligible for *Free Price Meals*-No Parent Fee (Free)!
- ❖ If eligible for *Reduced Price Meals*-\$25.00 weekly
- ❖ If not eligible for *Free or Reduced Price Meals*-\$50.00 weekly

- Small Class Sizes
- Teachers with a Bachelor's Degree
- Teachers with Certification in Disabilities
- Kindergarten Readiness Instruction



Parents **MUST** register on-line to obtain a certificate of eligibility.
Log onto the Episcopal Children's Services website @ ecs4kids.org to register.

For more information visit the SJCS VPK website at
<http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/depts/ecs/or> call 904-547-8959



Order Your VRA Yearbook Now!

\$40.00

On-line at www.leonards.com/yearbooks

No money will be collected by VRA.

Enter the code for VRA: 33577

May 6th is the deadline to order!

Countywide Kindergarten Pre-registration schedule for 2016-2017 school year:

Monday, May 9

1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

2016 Ponte Vedra Sharks Youth Football Camp

SPONSORED BY COACH TOBLIN CAMPS

June 27th - June 30th

Age 6 - 14

Come and join the Shark
Football Family for four (4)
days of quality instruction
lead by the Sharks' coaches
and players.

Sharks Head Coach

Coach Toblin



- 3 District Titles in 4 seasons as a Head Coach
- College Coaching Experience
- Won a National Championship as a coach at Florida State University (1999)
- Coached in 3 straight FHSAA Football State Championships (2005-2007)

Your young Shark will enjoy 4
days of fun, age-appropriate
football instruction by a well-
trained and educated
coaching staff as well as those
same Sharks players that your
son sees on the field every
Friday.

Camp starts at 9AM daily,
and will end at 12 Noon
every day.

Your son will experience next
level football drills and
techniques, daily same-age
games, The Shark Walk into
the Stadium, and much more!

Every camper will participate
in drills as a Quarterback,
Running Back, Wide Receiver,
Offensive & Defensive
Lineman, Linebacker, and
Defensive Back. Each position
is paired with varsity coaches
and Sharks players. Your son
will participate in the same
drills as the high school
players do. All while putting
safety first. Our campers will
be provided water after every
station and never spend more
than 1 hour in the sun.

Camp Cost

\$125 per camper.

Register before April 1st and
only pay \$100.

St. Johns County Teachers
only pay \$80 for their child.**

****Must Provide Proof of Employment****

Questions? Call Coach Garis
(904) 497 - 3856

CASH or CHECK ONLY

Please mail checks to:

Coach Toblin Camps
460 Davis Park Rd
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32081

Please DO NOT mail cash. Cash will be
accepted in person, the first day of camp.
Please fill out the form below and include
with mailed check.

NAME _____

NAME _____

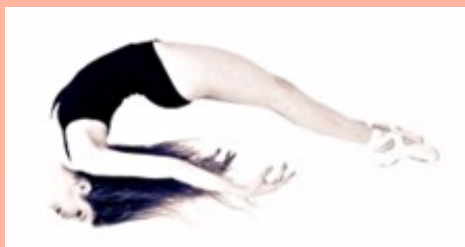
PARENT _____

PARENT Phone # _____

CHECK # _____



Featured Business of the Month

Ponte Vedra Ballet & Dance Company LLC**"BALLET ... A NEW PERSPECTIVE"**

The new perspective on ballet combines the traditional with contemporary. Learning the classics while interpreting and building on them to inspire the next generation of dancers and theatre goers. Our goal is to provide the highest standard of technique to all students whether their goal is just enjoyment or a professional career. Our instructors have all had professional careers in dance and instruct in a creative and positive environment.

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SUMMER CAMPS & WORKSHOPS JUNE-AUGUST 2016

Ponte Vedra Ballet & Dance Company LLC
www.pvballet.com

886 A1A N #3, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082, USA
(904) 859-2223

Featured Business of the Month

**Coggin Nissan at the Avenues**

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Sales: (888) 918-1390

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enpointepa.com

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