

Message from our Principal

I wanted to take the time to thank you as parents, for your support here. Valley Ridge Academy will always be special to me. This is a rewarding community, and I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to serve you. Finally and most importantly, I'm so proud of our teachers and students. After all, it's all about teaching and learning.

Wayne King

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Monday, August 1st ~ MS Schedule, Books, Paperwork and Locker Distribution

8:30 a.m. -10:30 a.m. - -8th Grade
11:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. - -7th Grade
1:30 p.m. -3:30p.m. - -6th Grade

Tuesday, August 9th ~ Middle School Orientation

8:00 a.m. -10:00 a.m. - -6th, 7th, & 8th Grades

Tuesday, August 30th ~ Middle School Open House

6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

ELEMENTARY

Monday, August 8th ~ Meet the Teacher ~ PreK – 5th Grade

Pre-K – Kindergarten- -8:00 a.m. -9:00 a.m.
1st – 2nd Grade- -9:30 a.m. -10:30 a.m.
3rd – 4th Grade- -12:30 p.m. -1:30 p.m.
5th Grade- -2:00 p.m. -3:00 p.m.

Kindergarten Staggered Start ~ Teachers will notify
Wednesday, August 10th, Thursday, August 11th, or Friday, August 12th

Monday, August 15th ~ All Kindergarten students attend

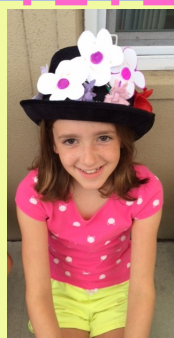
Tuesday, September 6th ~ 4th and 5th Grade Open House ~ 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 13th ~ 2nd and 3rd Grade Open House ~ 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 15th ~ Pre K and 1st Grade Open House ~ 6:00 p.m.

4th GRADE VOCABULARY HAT PARADE

4th grade celebrated their improved vocabularies by hosting an annual Vocabulary Hat Parade. Students selected new vocabulary words learned this year from any subject area and designed hats to showcase the meanings of those new words!



CHARACTER COUNTS!



ST. JOHNS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

The following students were chosen by their teachers in May for exemplifying All Pillars of Character

| | | | |
|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Noah Ali | Ellie DiPatre | Oliver Minch | Jessica Shattles |
| John Archer | Olivia Drayton | Lani Modansky | William Shockey |
| Sam Balger | Tristan Evans | Ian Mooney | Isabel Sierra-Otero |
| Syna Bansal | Madelyn Gebhardt | Isabelle Mosley | Tucker Smith |
| MorganBooth | Briar Hackett | Natasha Nichols | Gahan Sriguha |
| Kayla Booth | Morgan Hall | Emily Norton | Marina Torres |
| Daniel Bowe | Dashiell Hilbert | Keri Pakenham | Ryan Trawick |
| Hunter Chase | Jack Hilbert | Jesus Perez | Cyrus Ways |
| Mihka Chauhan | Reilly Jacoby | Fernando Perez | Lillian Weiss |
| Melanie Cipolla | Nash Kersting | Chase Perry | Reagan Wierda |
| Bianca Coats | Canaan Kimball | Haley Petersen | Anthony Yarborough |
| Zolana Corporan | Andrew Lagos | Emily Pickee | Audrey Zimmerman |
| Jonathan Couturier | Thiago Lopez | Aiden Roberts | Olivia Zitiello |
| Andrew Daveline | Ashley Lustig | Sydney Rodriguez | Reanne Zukowski |
| Evan David | Chloe McConnell | Emily Santinho | Riley Zukowski |
| Malia Davidson | Tatum McCool | Kavya Sathiyam | |
| Jane Davis | Aliya Medure | Elena Schaffstein | |
| Joey DeMarco | Madison Miller | George Scotti | |



EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM

Extended Day registration for the 2016-2017 school year is now open. Please submit a \$60 registration fee either by cash, check (made payable to VRA) or online through www.schoolpay.com. Please email our Extended Day Coordinator, Abbey Gallaher to let her know you have made your payment. In your email, please indicate your child's name and the grade they will be entering in the fall. Filling out a registration form is not necessary at this time as there will be an online registration system set up over the summer.



Any questions, please contact Abbey Gallaher at 904-547-4118.

Shadow Day

Shadow Day was a success! The sixth graders emerged as leaders to show the fifth graders the ins and outs of middle school. In ELA, the students read the story, *The Night Before Middle School* and answered some questions about the story pertaining to author's purpose, plot line, and comprehension. The pairs of fifth and sixth graders used the fortune tellers to ask each other the questions (the folded papers you see in the pictures). We also worked in OneNote and the students participated in some think-pair-share activities. Everyone had an enjoyable and memorable experience! *Allison Romano*



6th Grade Shadowing From a 5th Grader's View

Contributed by Chloe Dresback



The song, Whip/Nae Nae modified by Kidz Bop blares in the speakers. You run around clockwise in the perimeter of the gym. You duck, as you avoid flying balls. You keep running then you get hit. You drop down and do 5 push-ups then go into the center and find a ball. You pick it up, then throw it at a sixth grader. Wonder where you're at? P.E with Coach Hallett on Sixth Grade Shadow Day!

I think Sixth Grade Shadow Day was an excellent idea! It gave fifth graders an insight on what's going to come flying at you and pushes away some of your anxieties. My sixth grade buddy was Kelsey Clements. I got to walk with her from Advanced Math 1 with Mr. Morris, to P.E. with Coach Hallett, to ELA with Ms. Romano. Let me tell you all about this awesome and learning filled day.....



First, I had Advanced Math 1 with Mr. Morris. The teacher seemed pretty nice and he told me an important rule: Always bring paper to a math class. At first, I was worried about the math. The math seemed pretty hard but it smoothed over pretty fast after the first few questions.

Second, I traveled from 408 to the girl's locker room. They invited us in to take a tour in there. I don't know what went on in there, but I heard that it was very awkward.....Anyway, we did sixth grade warm-ups. Coach also told us we have a Fitness Day every Wednesday. Then, we played Square Dodgeball.

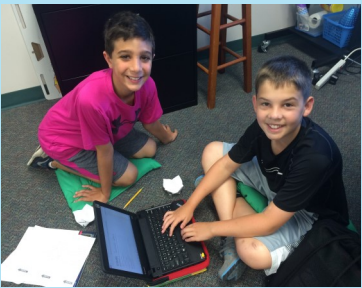


Lastly, I traveled back upstairs to Ms. Romano's class in 405. We read the book, *The Night Before Middle School* which mixed up all our anxiety and pushed it away. Then, we did some fun activities with our buddy! We made fortune tellers, shared some interests, even showed us a new website (well, new to me at least) called Quizlet.

5th Grade Shadowing From a 6th Grader's View

Contributed by: Maya Procacci

My alarm clock went off at 7:15 a.m. sharp. "It shadow day!" I said enthusiastically. When I arrived at school, I rushed to my first period, gym. I got my uniform on as fast as I could to meet my buddy. Coach Hallet said that they would be here when we were done changing. I rushed out to meet my buddy. I said," Hi I am Maya. What is your name?" She replied," My name is Aliya!" I said," Nice to meet you!" We then did exercises. All of the fifth graders were tired after the warm ups. We played square dodgeball where we all run around in a circle and someone in the middle throws balls at us. It was lots of fun. We went to the locker rooms and changed, then the bell rang and we headed off to ELA.



We made it to class before the bell rang. In ELA we read the story, *The Night before Middle School* and answered some questions that the teacher gave us. We made super cool fortune tellers to ask each other questions. I showed my partner One Note and how to use it. We answered fun questions on One Note. I also learned a little bit more about her as we worked together. The bell went off signaling in wad time to go to the next class.

Aliya next came with me to band. She heard us play all of the songs we will play in our concert. She enjoyed it. Finally, it was time to say our farewells. Aliya said, "Thank you!" I replied" No problem, you are going to enjoy 6th grade. All of the teachers are wonderful. There is nothing to worry about!" This was a wonderful experience that was lots of fun. I wish that I had this going from 5th to 6th grade. It was a memorable moment that prepares 5th graders for 6th grade!



4th Grade Vocabulary Parade and Egg Drop

Guest Droppers Mr. King and Mr. Lee

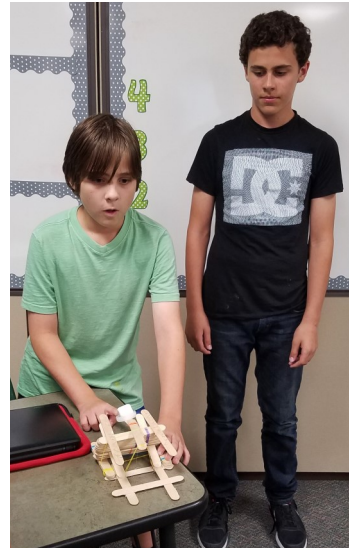


Catapulting into Algebra

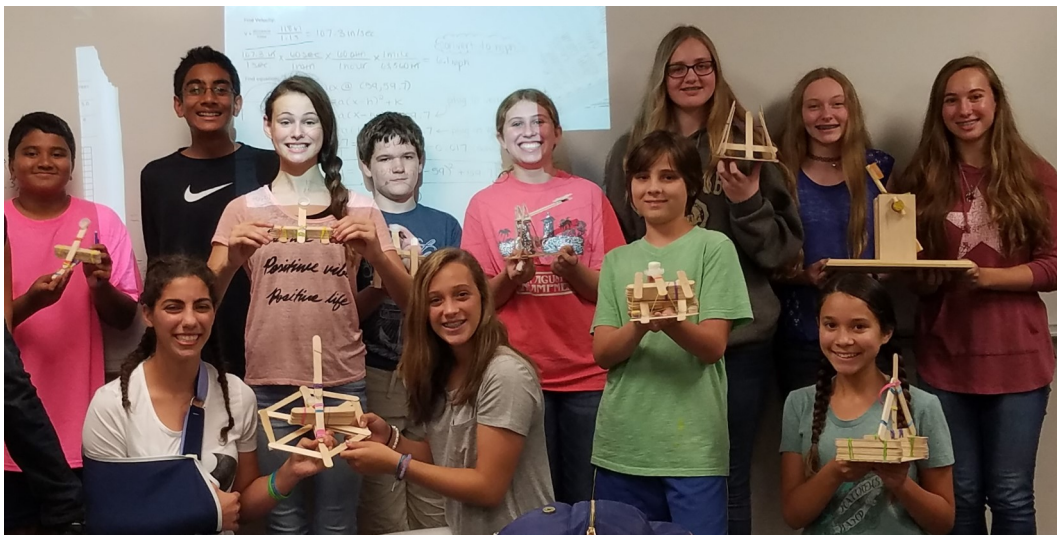
Ms. Jardine's class has been learning about quadratic functions, kinematics and projectile motion by building "Quadratic Catapults." Students worked in teams to engineer their catapults from Popsicle sticks and rubber bands to shoot jumbo marshmallows. The students used the data from their launches to calculate the velocity of the marshmallow as well as write and graph quadratic functions that modeled the flight paths.



"I loved seeing the creativity and ingenuity of my students shine through this project. My students have worked so hard all year, it was so nice to see them have some fun and let their imaginations take hold while doing some serious calculations." – Ms. Jardine



"The catapults were a new and exciting experience that helps us learn about gravity" – Annalisa Rubino



Lights, Camera, Action!

VRA Drama Club's Inaugural Year Receives a Standing Ovation!

The VRA Drama Club worked incredibly hard to raise funds, create props, learn lines, and rehearse to bring to life our production of Willy Wonka Junior! The work began with our Goodwill Bag It Up Drive on April 27th and 28th. Drama Club assisted in the collection of over 5,000 donations ranging from clothes and shoes to toys, books, and bicycles! Goodwill generously donated one thousand dollars, a new computer, and multiple prizes to VRA for our dedication to this wonderful cause.



We ended our year with our first production, Willy Wonka Junior, which we performed on May 16th and 17th for parents, teachers, and students. Our cast and crew acted their way to thunderous applause! They proved that hard work and dedication truly pays off! If you want to act, sing, and dance with Drama Club next year, we will be holding auditions when school resumes in August. Thank you to everyone who supported our cast and crew!



Mrs. Zielinski, Drama Club Sponsor

CHARACTER MATTERS

First Grade students did a great job performing their play, "CHARACTER MATTERS." This play was about fairy tale characters who find themselves in a bind and seek solutions from the "Fairy Tale Advice Council." While there was little bits of humor throughout the play, the lesson of the play was that having good character is very important! Students worked very hard to memorize their speaking lines and practice their songs for their performance. Way to go First Graders!!



Mrs. Lockwood's Class



Mrs. Alvarado's Class



Mrs. Curtis' Class



Mrs. Kovacs' Class

4th GRADE MATH FUN DAY

On Thursday, May 19th, 4th grade Math classes coordinated the 1st annual Math Fun Day! Each 4th grade class prepared a different activity and

buddied up with a 3rd

grade class to share in the fun. In Ms. Hogan's 4th

grade class, students put their addition and division skills to use as they dined

at "Hogan's Lunch Hut",

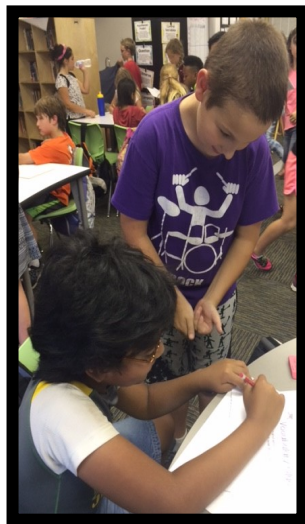
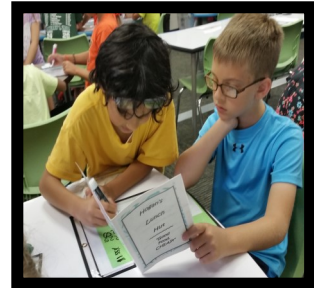
ordering meals from a menu and splitting the bill amongst 4 friends. They also challenged one another to see who

could get "Close to 100" with-

out going over. This game required number sense and strategy as students formed 2-digit numbers using number cards that were randomly dealt, then adding them together. After 5 rounds, the student

"Closest to 100" (without going over) was declared the winner! In Ms. Dewees' class, students went on a

Math Scavenger Hunt outside to find examples of geometric terms, number and shape patterns, and multiplication arrays.



The 2015-2016 PTO Executive Board
sends a warm welcome and great appreciation to all incoming
2016-2017 PTO Executive Board Members.

We know it is going to be a wonderful school year!

2016-2017 PTO Executive Board Members

President - Molly Molis

VP of PreK - 2nd Grade - Angela Ray

VP of 3rd - 5th Grade - David Scotti

VP of 6th - 8th Grade - Kim Piety

VP of Business Partners – Ann Denise Rubino

Treasurer – Maria Salomon

Co-VPs of Membership - Lauren Kersting and Tory Eulenfeld

VP of Fundraising - Heather Little

VP of Committees – Erika Tabeling

Parliamentarian – Mollie Hazel

Secretary – Heather Shearon

Membership Co-Volunteer Coordinators– Melinda Waters and Stephanie DeVincentsis



2015 - 2016 VRA PTO Highlights

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

St. Johns County School District
Community Health and Wellness

Bartram Trail High School
Creekside High School
Nease High School

Pedro Menendez High School
Ponte Vedra High School
St. Augustine High School



Pilot Program for Use of High School
Facilities
SUMMER 2016
Saturdays from 9a.m. to Noon
Dates:
June 11th, 18th, 25th
July 9th, 16th, 23rd

ACCESS ALLOWED:
Track
Tennis Courts
Outdoor Basketball
Courts

ACCESS NOT ALLOWED:
Baseball/Softball Fields
Batting Cages
Gymnasium
Stadium Field

FACILITY IS NOT OPEN TO ANY ORGANIZED PRACTICES,
GAMES OR SPORT-SPONSORED, FEE-BASED TRAINING.
No pets are allowed. All St Johns County School Board Policies apply.
All campuses will be LOCKED AT NOON.



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 is not affiliated with the United States Olympic Committee. The United States Olympic Committee is not affiliated with the United States Olympic Committee. The United States Olympic Committee is not affiliated with the United States Olympic Committee.



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

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 # _____

Nease Boys Basketball

RIISING 9TH GRADE BOYS INTERESTED IN PLAYING BASKETBALL AT NEASE

PLEASE REPORT TO CAMP FROM 12PM-3PM STARTING MAY 31ST.

RIISING 6TH – 8TH GRADE BOYS SUMMER CAMP @ NEASE 9AM-12PM

Contact Info: Coach Josh Bailen

Joshua.Bailen@stjohns.k12.fl.us

904-477-3716



Basketball Camp – The Girls and Boys Basketball teams have the following
dates set up for basketball camps this summer...May 31-June 2 (\$100), June 6
-June 9 (\$120), and/or June 13-June 16 (\$120). Rising 6th through 8th grader
camp times are 9 a.m. to 12 noon and 9th through 12 graders camp times are
12 noon to 3 p.m. See the attached flyer for more details.

Basketball camp flyer

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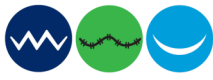
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