THE HAWKS' NEST

Valley Ridge Academy

Volume 3 Issue 2 October 2016

Message from the Principal

Parents and Guardians,

As we continue to progress through the school year, I wanted to take a moment to highlight the exceptional partnership between our school and our community. Valley Ridge was recently awarded the recognition of being a Five Star School, a Golden School and a Silver School Award winner. These three awards, handed out at the September School Board meeting, are earned based upon volunteer hours conducted within the school as well as various other forms of community outreach and involvement. As stated on the Florida Department of Education's website, "In order to earn Five Star School recognition, a school must show documentation that it has achieved 100 percent of the established criteria in the following categories."

- Business partnerships
- Family Involvement
- Volunteerism
- Student Community Service
- School Advisory Councils

The Golden School Award, as defined by the FDOE, recognizes elementary, secondary and adult schools that meet the following criteria:

- A minimum of 80 percent of the school staff participated in training related to school volunteerism.
- A school volunteer coordinator is designated for recruitment, placement, training and supervision of school volunteers.
- The total number of hours of volunteer service equals twice the number of students enrolled in the school. Any volunteer activity that contributes to student improvement may be counted. (Example: fundraising)

Whereas the Silver School Award is to recognize secondary schools that meet the following criteria:

- The school must have a school volunteer coordinator who provides coordination of the program, placement of students, orientation/training for the staff, student/program evaluation and student volunteer supervision.
- The school must have a volunteer coordinator who provides coordination of the program, placement of the secondary students, orientation/training for the receiving staff, student/program evaluation, and student volunteer supervision.
- Student volunteers and faculty must both receive orientation and training.
- The composite student volunteer hours must equal at least one half the total number of students (FTE count) in the sending school (i.e., 2,000 students - 1,000 volunteer hours.)
- Elementary schools are not eligible for this award.

It is no small achievement to earn all three of these awards and it speaks directly to the commitment that you the community have to engaging at all levels of Valley Ridge Academy, pre-K through grade 8.

I want to particularly recognize our tremendous PTO and volunteer coordinators who do so much on a daily basis to engage with the community and help to facilitate those connections. It is with their assistance and leadership that we are able to provide a variety of opportunities for volunteer involvement. So thank you to the groups such as the Golden Girls and Golden Guys who are here on an almost daily basis sharing their wealth of knowledge and experiences with our students, or the testing proctors who fulfill a critical need as well as our tremendous parents who share their day with us, you are the ones who make it possible to Valley Ridge to truly be recognized as a community school.

Finally, I would like to invite all members of the community to the Third Annual Fall Festival on October 22nd. This family event is a wonderful example of all levels of the school and community working together to provide a fun and enriching experience for all of our students. More information on the event as well as how you can volunteer or become involved can be found on the PTO website accessible from:

http://www.valleyridgeacademypto.com/

Sincerely,

Sandra McMandon



The following students were chosen by their teachers in October for exemplifying The Responsibility Pillar of Character

Aubrey Alexander	Sophia David	Bryanna Ingle	Nico Sajkowski
Alondra Alvarez	Whitney Davis	Dylan Jacobsen	Faith Sanders
John Alves	Elizabeth DeVault	Andrew Lagos	Matthew Schwarz
Brady Baker	Elmin Didovic	Adam Lassonde	Mira Sharma
Jacinda Baker	Ella Dunn	Ella Lopez	Lily Simmer
Dylan Barbour	Lauren Edel	Karli Maa	Camryn Smith
Tori Batt	Sydney Fernandez	Brandon Martinez	Marlana Smith
Sayan Bhattacharya	Jovanna Fontein	Mahir Mehmedinovic	Ava Smith
Addison Bodine	Allie Foster	Malia Montero	Adhwaryu Sriguha
Billy Boss	Taylor Garland	Ashley Nelson	Horace Taylor
Ava Bourton	Landon Gebauer	Justin Osborne	Katie Townsend
Sophia Burger	Demetri Gibson	Keri Pakenham	Lianna Veiga
Lilly Burgin	Richard Gilliard	Bryce Pegram	Michael Webb
Kai Carlson	Maddox Gotham	Grace Perez	Lillian Weiss
Landon Carstens	Caroline Hamby	Elitabeth Pollard	Kaitlin Wells
Mihika Chauan	Kate Healy	Savannah Preik	Caroline Whyte
Yuganny Cintron-Almodovar	Joanna Herstone	Grady Reynolds	Cora Wilson
Grant Collins	Nick Holden	Ava Reynolds	Oliver Wurtz
Benjamin Colvet	Brody Holgrimson	Griffin Sadlo	





Congratulations

Teacher of the Year

Megan Leighty

Rookie Teacher of the Year

Sarah Lively



Dismissal/Transportation Changes

All changes will now be e-mailed. Please use this link for **Dismissal Changes**.

This link will lead you to the dismissal change form. It is also available on our school website. *Changes over the phone will not be accepted.*

2:15 PM is the deadline every day except Wednesdays. 1:15 PM is the deadline on Wednesdays.

Calendar of Events

10/18-21 Elementary Book Fair

10/22 Fall Festival at VRA 3-6 p.m.

10/27 Elementary Technology Night 6 p.m.

10/28 Spirit Day-Wear your VRA gear

10/28 Report Cards Distributed

11/4

11/3 Vision Screenings 5th Grade

Character Counts Celebrations—Citizenship

11/7 Picture Retake Day

11/10 Veterans Day Programs



Guidance

Mrs. Dail will be going into first grade classrooms for the next six weeks, teaching students social, emotional and academic strategies. VRA uses the Second Step Program.

Ms. MacNaught just finished a four week program in third grade, focusing on skills for learning which included focus, listening, self-talk and planning. She will be going into the fourth grade classrooms for the next four weeks to talk about skills for learning and empathy.

Mrs. Anzualda will continue making the rounds in middle school discussing "How Do You Want to Be Remembered". Students are discussing the power of our words and how even 1 person can make a positive change in the world. Ask your student about how we are erasing mean on social media. Don't forget that October 19 is Unity Day – everyone wear orange to encourage and support together, kindness, and inclusion in our school and community. Read more about it at www.pacer.org. Also, October 24 – 28 is Red Ribbon Week. Students in middle school PE classes will be participating in a lesson on Making Positive Choices a Priority.

Attendance Matters! at VRA



Did you know chronic tardiness may contribute to decreased self-esteem which can hinder academic success? Students who are tardy inadvertently may distract other students who are already on task.

Getting ready at night, making afternoon appointments, etc., will help get students to school on time.
The Guidance department at VRA can also help parents with suggestions on how to improve attendance.

Hurricane Relief—Early Act Club

The Middle School in conjunction with the Early Act club will be collecting items for hurricane relief. Items can be sent to Room 610. We want to collect fast and furious – please have them bring in items from Monday – Friday next week. *Mrs. Dresback*

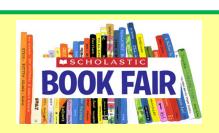
- -various sized new clothing
- shampoo and conditioner
- toiletries...
- toothbrushes and toothpaste
- deodorant
- sheets in various sizes
- non-perishable food items



Students in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade have begun learning songs for the Veterans Day assembly. Copies of the recordings and lyrics are available on Mrs. Watkins website. This is a great time to practice at home and share your experience with patriotic music with your child!



http://teachers.stjohns.k12.fl.us/watkins-m/



October 17th-21st

Pre-K through 4th Grades

Girls On The Run

Welcome to our new GOTR team. This was a picture of our first lesson talking about connectivity and team building. Our coaches this season are:

Coach Kovacs

Coach Eagleson

Coach Trimmer

Coach Tupper





The girls will work up to learning to run a 5K and make new friends by the end of the Fall Season.

Klabacka, Lewis, Francis and Beaulieu's $3^{\rm rd}$ grade classes Skyped with Suriname, South America. They taught us about sloths and anteaters.







Kindergarten had our annual Apple extravaganza. Students got to visit other kindergarten classrooms to learn all things apples. The Apple lessons included math, science, reading and citizenship.

Mrs. Eagleson's and Mrs. Kovacs' first grade classes observed Columbus Day and learned about push and pull, force and motion, sink and float. They made their own ships to experiment if they would be able to successfully float and sail the great seas that Columbus once ventured.



What's Happening In Middle School?

Socieda Hispánica de Amistad

Applications are being accepted for the Socieda Hispanica de Amistad (Honor Society).

All members are required to be taking Spanish and in grades six, seven, or eight. We encourage 5th graders to continue exploring the Spanish language.

Pick up your application in room 404 or room 625. Applications may be returned to Miss Alvarez or Mrs. Santinho.

An informational meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 19th at 7:45 a.m. in room 625 for students interested in joining.



The Pulsera Project is a nonprofit organization that educates, empowers, and connects Central American artists with students in more than 1,300 U.S. schools through the sale of colorful handwoven bracelets, or "pulseras" in Spanish. The Honor Association VRA HALCONES of SHA brought this service project to VRA last Spring. Our sales raised \$2,580, which is a fortune in Nicaragua and will have a profound impact on many lives there. Our funds helped university scholarships, secondary education programs for homeless single parent women and their children, as well as micro-loans for



small businesses. As a show of gratitude Nicaraguan women have crafted these beautiful maracas for us to share and display in our school.

http://www.pulseraproject.org/?gclid=CjwKEAjwm_K_BRDx5o-sxq6ouXASJAC7TsFL_0mUC8d8GnobxK4q6Hf22TbaWikO2y0YK463d7WavhoCNLnw_wcB

ART CLUB



The Art club is in full swing and has been busy, busy, busy, busy. Our first project was to create centerpieces for the District Character Counts Breakfast that will be held later this month. We created a MOB of "Caring Kangaroos"!



The second activity we supported was the VRA Fall Book fair. Dozens of posters were designed by over forty art club members. A special thank you goes to Erin Orlando and Danielle Wachala whose posters were selected for mass production. *Was. Frericks*



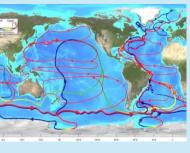


Mrs. Shirley's Classes

Mrs. Shirley's 7th grade classes will be taking part in NOAA's Adopt a Drifter Buoy program, a project-



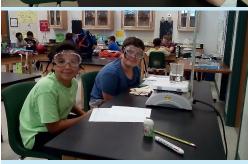
based learning opportunity to study global ocean currents. To learn more, visit the NOAA Adopt A Drifter



Buoy Program at https://youtu.be/lkTYEDSo82U and the NO-AA Global Drifter Program at https://youtu.be/Jpwr4CUCg6Q.

7th Grade Energy and States of Matter Lab on October 3rd









Thank you to these VRA middle school students and their families who came to the GTM Research Reserve on Saturday, September 17th for International Coastal Cleanup. They collected over 85 pounds of trash and donated a total of 39 hours of community service:

Gigi Chaon Ellie DeVault Lila DiDonato Camden Flavin Ariana Hoffman Luisa Lacayo Abigail Hamby Molly Murphy Leah Oberkehr Hannah Oberkehr Keri Pakenham Bhavya Saxena Brady Schaffstein

`-`...><(((((º> `-`..><((((°> `-`...><((((°>







Elementary Art at VRA

Our Hawks are soaring to new heights in the Art room at Valley Ridge Academy.



In Kindergarten we are learning about one of the world's most famous artists Pablo Picasso, as well as using line and shape, to recreate his <u>Flowers</u> and <u>Hands</u> masterpiece. Attached are examples by Daisha and Kadie in Mrs. Williams Class.



In First grade we are using lines to build shapes. We created an American Alligator out of

shapes and used warm and cool colors to really make him stand out and look ferociously friendly! Attached is an Example by Sophia.

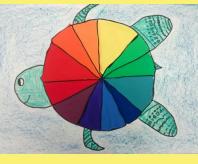




In Second grade we are using straight, diagonal, vertical, and horizontal lines to build a color exploding spider web. Each student used pastels and watercolors to make a unique spider



web painting that is just spooky enough for this time of year! Examples by Emily and Syna.



In Third grade art we are studying line variety and the color wheel. We painted sea turtles using primary, secondary, and tertiary colors. Attached is a lovely example by Morgan.

In Fourth grade we discussed graffiti art, Pop Culture and g. We recreated Har-

the famous artist Keith Haring. We recreated Haring inspired cartoon cutouts using the primary colors, as well as emphasizing positive and negative space. Example by Katie T.



In Fifth grade students just finished working on a continuous line drawing of an



owl. We are going to begin our hand study drawing next. Attached are some fun examples by Vincent and Elle. Aren't these just a HOOT!



Lauren Fleming Bayliss PK-5th Grade Elementary Art Teacher



October's Art Smart: Andy Warhol and the Color Wheel

This month we are teaching students about the color wheel and how to create secondary, tertiary and complementary colors through the iconic style of Andy Warhol. Check out the Art Smart website if you would like to learn more about this month's lesson. http://valleyridgeacademypto.com/art/warhol.html



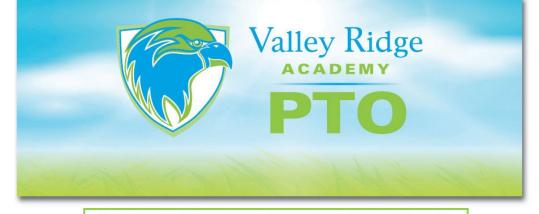
The students explored the color wheel using primary paints to create their own Warhol inspired artwork.





The Square 1 Art fundraiser will be here in time for the holidays! Orders forms will be coming home in the next few weeks. Keep an eye out in your child's folder (in grades pre-K to 7th) to make holiday shopping a breeze! Original works of art from your student are recreated into the perfect gifts for friends and family!







ALLEY RIDGE ACADEMY

Fall Basket Drawing

OCTOBER 22 AT THE VRA FALL FESTIVAL

Enter to win one of the amazing themed baskets! Tickets will be available for purchase during the week and at the Fall Festival.

Drawing to be held at the Fall Fest (Winners do NOT have to be present to win) * Camping * Technology

TICKETS:

\$1 each

\$5 ~ 6 tickets

\$10 ~ 12 tickets

\$20 ~ 25 tickets



- * Arts and Crafts
- * Pokemon
- * Tailgating

- * American Girl
- * Lego

...and many more!



2016 Valley Ridge Academy Membership Competition

WE ARE EXTENDING THE DEADLINE TO NOVEMBER !, 2016

BY TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1

WILL BE REWARDED WITH A POPSICLE PARTY! ALSO AS A BONUS- IF YOUR TEACHER IS A MEMBER OF THE PTO THEY WILL COUNT TOWARDS YOUR FINAL NUMBER!

> Thank You for your excitement!! Tory and Lauren Co-VPs Membership VRA PTO vraptomembership@gmail.com



IT STIC E COM



Our next Spirit Stick sale will be

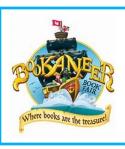
Friday October 28 in the cafeteria





- * \$1 per stick
- * Nearly 100 designs to choose from!
- * VRA Spirit Rings available for \$5 each

Easily attach to backpacks...great for starting your Spirit Stick collection!



Elementary Book Fair October 17th-21st

Pre-K through 4th grades

Location: Villa 9

Sponsored by Dog Town USA



St. Johns County Fire Rescue Firefighters for Families

3657 Gaines Rd. St. Augustine, FL 32084 904-209-1747

"...Our Family Serving

Your Family Every day..."

Wonder of the Holidays Program

This program is organized and implemented through Firefighters for Families (FF4F). FF4F is a 501(c) 3 charity, who supports families in need, in St. Johns County by promoting school readiness and attendance with educational supplies, physical fitness gear and essential clothing. FF4F has partnered with the St. Johns County School District to ensure that the families who need our assistance most are identified and reached out to.

Attached you will find an application for the program. We ask that you fill it out as specifically as you possibly can, to ensure the right size clothing is chosen for your child/children. Our purchases are geared towards our mission statement and include such items as books, puzzles, board games, essential clothing, school supplies and sporting equipment. Please note we will not purchase, gift cards of any kind, DVD's, CD's, video games or video game accessories or any other type of electronics. On the application please limit your wish list to 5-8 items (this number includes clothes, shoes, etc.). Make sure you are very specific as to what your child is interested in and be very specific as to the clothes and shoe sizes (i.e. infant, toddler, boys, girls, juniors, women or mens).

FF4F works with all other local charitable organizations. If another organization selects your family, **WE WILL NOT** provide for you, your family will be taken off our list; this way we have the ability to reach out to another family needing our assistance.

The deadline to turn in your application is Friday October 31, 2016. We will only have 1 pickup date this year and that will be Monday 19, 8:00am to 3:00pm. Our location for pickup is St. Johns County Fire Rescue Administration, located at 3657 Gaines Rd. St. Augustine, FL 32084. This location is just off of SR16 and Woodlawn Rd.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jenn Hampton 209-1747. If on the day of pick up you need assistance, please call 904-209-1700 option 7

You can also give Kim McNickle a call at Student Services for any help or questions. 904-547-7593.

Thank you and have a wonderful day!

Parents please keep this form for your records

Application Deadline <u>Friday October 30th</u> Pick Up Day <u>Monday December 21st.</u> Time You Chose For Pick Up (8am-3pm)

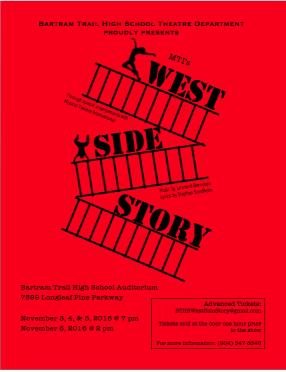
Hugs Across the County

We need your help!! PVHS is working with "Hugs Across the County" to provide essential items and food for St. Johns County School children impacted by Hurricane Matthew. These needs include elementary, middle, and high school aged students. PVHS will be the Northeast "drop off" point. Drop off location will be in the front office. We will begin collecting immediately.

The items needed are as follows:

- 1) Regular size Personal Hygiene Items (shampoo, toothbrushes, tooth paste, feminine hygiene products...) No travel sizes please.
- 2) Canned Food
- 3) Water
- 4) Clothing Shoes, socks, new packages of undergarments
- 5) School Supplies





have a logical, organized pattern; and have ample development of and of the language for appropriate grade level. The essay must be the om each class to SJEA by Wednesday, January 6th, 2016. You may send iil, or drop them off at our office (see address below). SJEA will choose to determine the overall winners in each category.

d into SJEA on or before January 6, 2016.

stegory will be notified and invited to attend our MLK Essay and Poster ceremony. All e their prizes at the program. It will be held on January 14th 2016, at 6;30 p.m., in the torium at 40 Grange Street.





We Want to Find Some Very Special Children

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FLORIDA DIAGNOSTIC AND LEARNING RESOURCES SYSTEM (FDL NORTH EAST FLORIDA EDUCATIONAL CONSORTIUM (NEFEC) r, Bradford, Flagler, Putnam, St. Johns and Unio The Florida School for the Deaf and Blind

21st Annual Ancient City Kids Day

St. Augustine, FL – Attention Parents! Looking for something fun to do with your kids that doesn't cost a lot of money? Then mark your calendars for the 21st Annual Ancient City Kids Day!

Ancient City Kids Day will be held on Saturday, October 22, 2016 from 11am-3pm at Francis Field on Castillo Drive.

This event, coordinated by local agencies, is a day of fun-filled activities for children and families. The event is free for the public, and will include over 40 youth service agencies offering carnival style games and activities, arts and crafts, offering carnival style games and activities, arts and crafts, and contests for the kids plus live entertainment all day! No child will leave empty-handed as t-shirts, prizes or goodies are given out all day. Educational information on resources in our community is available for parents. The only cost to the public will be for food or drinks. Ancient City Kids Day has grown to be one of St. Augustine's largest youth activities, and is a popular event for the whole family.

For more information, please call (904) 829-2273 or visit here.

http://augustine.com/event/ancient-city-kids-day "21st Annual Ancient City Kid Day" here.

EPIC Behavioral Healthcare 1400 Old Dixie Highway St. Augustine, FL 32084 (904) 829-2273 Contact: Teresa Andrews



The Language Exploration Enrichment (LEE Spanish) program is hiring bilingual Instructors.

For more information, please contact Donna Guzzo at 904 770-LEE1 or send your resume via email at

Check out our website, and social media pages.

Twitter / Facebook

Donna Guzzo Administrator of Operations / Spanish Tutor Language Exploration Enrichment www.leestjohns.pbworks.com 904 770 - LEE1 message line Twitter / Facebook

Learn a Language. Share a Culture. Change the World! Language



Online Registration For Volunteer Clearance

In an effort to provide safety and security to our students and staff, we check identification for all vendors, visitors, volunteers and parents each time you enter the building. All adults must have clearance to enter the building. If you have not already been cleared, please submit a school access form.

Featured Partner of the Month



Lazzara Orthodontics

Dr. John Lazzara's unique Jacksonville Beach practice is committed to providing each patient with an exceptional orthodontic experience. Dr. Lazzara and his team take great pleasure in creating the perfect smile for each patient, and work diligently to ensure that children and adults alike enjoy their time in the office. His enthuslastic staff and their cutting-edge technology demonstrate the practice's pledge to superior customer service and constant improvement.

Dr. Lazzara is skilled in treating children, teens, and adults, and offers an unparalleled combination of cosmetic dentistry experience and aesthetic appliance options. He is an invisalign Elite Provider, and is also a Diamond top provider of the revolutionary AcceleDent system, which can reduce orthodontic treatment times by as much as 50 percent.

As an orthodontic specialist, Dr. Lazzara is exclusively focused on orthodontic treatment and facial aesthetics, and he attends extensive continuing education courses each year to stay on top of the newest advances in the field. His commitment to continuous improvement is illustrated throughout his practice, with subtle and sawy touches like coffee and IPad bars, as well as innovative technology like iTero scanners, which replace traditional impressions or "molds."

The Lazzara Orthodontics office can be found near the Intersections of 3rd Street and J. Turner Butler Boulevard in beautiful Jacksonville Beach. Visit beachesbraces.com to learn more about Dr. Lazzara and his team, and take a look at his outstanding Google reviews his patients' testimonials speak for themselves.

LAZZARA ORTHODONTICS

436 Jacksonville Dr., Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250 | 904.270.8750

Featured Partner of the Month

Meet Curt Whiting, Realtor®

Curt Whiting, a Greenleaf Village resident, has spent the bulk of his career as an elementary and middle-school teacher, including most recently in St. John's County. Curt has seen first-hand the importance of education, community and family, and brings this passion and focus to his real estate business. Curt has also worked in title insurance, bringing this experience to the home selling and purchasing process.

"I am excited to give back to local schools and education as part of my real-estate business," said Whiting.
"Children, teachers and schools are vital to local communities and our future. I may not be teaching in the class-

room anymore, but I will always be a part of education."

In addition to his passion for education, Curt brings high standards of excellence, personalized-service standards, and matching the right home, neighborhood and lifestyle with each individual person and family. He works at Watson Realty Corp here in Nocatee. He also understands navigating the real estate process can be complex and he is focused on helping educate his clients through the process. He brings a strong work ethic and commitment to his customers.

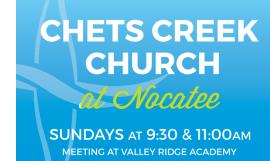


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