THE HAWK

Valley Ridge Academy

Volume 3 Issue 3 November 2016

Parents, Guardians and Hawks,

As the year continues to move swiftly along towards the conclusion of the first semester, I wanted to reflect on the passion and commitment that I see at Valley Ridge on a daily basis. Specifically, the engagement of our students across the grade levels. I firmly believe that an involved and engaged student is a successful student and student success is the priority here at Valley Ridge.

One of the best examples of student engagement can be seen in our monthly Character Counts! Celebrations. These celebrations, hosted by our wonderful Guidance Department, ensure that students who embody what it means to be a person of good character are recognized and held up as a model for their classmates. St. Johns County places an emphasis upon the Character Counts! Program and I am proud to see it has taken root here at Valley Ridge. If you would like to know more about the St. Johns County Character Counts! Program, please visit: http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/cc/

Another form of student engagement that I am proud to see take place here at Valley Ridge are the different before and after school clubs and events. One such example is the Veterans Day Program that took place on Thursday the 10th and was attended by all of our 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students. A big thank you to Ms. Dresback and Ms. Sandler for their hard work organizing as well as to the many student participants and the Nease Color Guard for helping to make this event so special. Additional events this week include the Kindergarten Thanksgiving Performance on Tuesday, the 15th at 5:30 pm as well as the VRA Band Concert on Thursday, the 17th at 7:00 pm. All of these exceptional events are in addition to the many clubs and sports such as Best Buddies, Early Act, Girls on the Run, Ridge Runners, Art clubs, soccer, volleyball, basketball and many more. If your child is interested in joining a club or program, please continue to watch the Valley Ridge website as well as Hawk Update and Hawks Nest newsletter for more information.

I would like to continue to encourage our parents and community to finds ways to stay involved with Valley Ridge and the school district. In that spirit, I would like to recognize Ms. Tiffany Davis-Baer, a member of the Valley Ridge SAC, who participated on the Superintendent selection committee with the district. It is very gratifying that we at Valley Ridge had a strong voice on the committee who truly understands the needs and challenges of our community. I believe Ms. Davis-Baer and the rest of the committee did a tremendous job in their selection of Tim Forson as the new Superintendent of St. Johns County. To learn more about our new Superintendent, please visit:

http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/supt-search/2016/11/08/forson-named-next-supt/

Finally, I wanted to take a moment to wish everyone a happy and healthy Thanksgiving. If you are traveling, please do so safely. I hope that you find time to spend with your loved ones and relax while enjoying their company. I am thankful for each one of you and for the trust that you put in Valley Ridge by making us a part of your family.

Have a happy holiday,

Sandra McMandon

Calendar of Events

- 11/15 Kindergarten Thanksgiving Performance 5:30-6:30 p.m.
- 11/16 Interims Issued
- 11/17 Fall Band Concert 7:00 p.m.
- 11/18 Spirit Day-Wear Your VRA Gear Movie Night-VRA Cafeteria 6:00-8:30 p.m.
- 11/23-27 Thanksgiving Break
- 12/1 Character Counts Middle School Celebration-Generosity
- 12/2 Character Counts Celebrations pre-k through 5th grades - Generosity
- 12/8 Transition to High School 8th Grade Parent Meeting -VRA Cafeteria-6:00 p.m.
- 12/9 5th Grade Spelling Bee-VRA Cafeteria

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

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 Wednes days



The following students were chosen by their teachers in November for exemplifying The Citizenship Pillar of Character

Lidia Agyeyeva	Tatiana Donnelly	Hailey Llewellyn Mikay	
Samirah Ali	Sarah Dresback	Sarah Dresback Arianis Lopez-Esteban	
Owen Amador	Chloe Dresback	Amalia Lopez-Esteban	Ben Prohofsky
Olivia Belland	Avelyn Estrada	Shubhangi Maitra	Anirudh Ragi
Juliet Bitor	Leo Frick	Wesley Marino	Brayden Ramirez-Smith
Kruz Bonner	Hudson Galik	Lauren Marringer	Kendyl Ryan
Vanessa Bouslog	Victoria Gorelik	Lilly Massey	Madalyne Scott
Tanner Burger	Madynn Grex	Sophia Matt	George Scotti
Caroline Burton	Graydon Gunning	Ethan Merritt	Achsah Siqueira
Evan Camp	Ryan Gustavson	Joey Midkiff	Mary Slowik
Caroline Camp	London Hackett	Ethan Miller	Gil St. Angelo
Charlie Carlson	Harrison Hackett	Raymond Morris	Maxwell Steward
Marshall Casto	Julian Hardy	Nelle Murphy	Emma Stewart
Kaylin Chen	Keira Hickey	Colton Nover	Owen Sutton
Zolana Corporan	Nick Holden	James O'Brien	Ryen Theisen
Ellie Couturier	Peyton Humphrey	Megan Osterbur	Jonathan Triplett
Dwight Davis	Preston Jones	Jessica Pandey	Jesus Valencia
Connor Dean	Hope Lang	Kate Perry	Taylor Willis
Chase DiBella	Desiree Leary	Evan Pinkston	Samantha Yee



GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

VRA in partnership with Chet's Creek Community Church has been collecting non-perishable



items to assist with Thanksgiving dinner. If you are interested in receiving one of these bags, please call the Guidance Office at (904) 547-4111 or email Mary.Dominguez@stjohns.k12.fl.us. The Thanksgiving bags will need to be picked up no later than Friday, November 18th at 5:00 p.m. All left over bags will be donated to a sister school.

Happy Holidays, VRA'S Guidance Department

The Ponte Vedra YMCA is gearing up for the Holiday season with its Angel Tree program. If you are in need and would like to participate, please contact Tara Weaver at 904-543-6922 or tweaver@FirstCoastYMCA.org.





Mrs. Dail, our guidance counselor, has been visiting the elementary classrooms, doing special lessons with each class. The kids

always love her visit with Puppy.



- ol activities are in full swing, it is time t ts and kids to accomplish all the necessa
- n is funded by the Navy Child & Youth Program, Child & Youth Education Servi

Dates, Times and Registration Links:

vember 16, 2016—12:00 p.m. Eastern (targe

November 16, 2016—8:00 p.m. Central (target regions - NRJ, JRM, NRS, NRK) https://cc.readytalk.com/r/wxabnin4w6uy&eom

November 17, 2016—1:00 p.m. Pacific (target regions - Western US and Hawaii)

These events are free to all Navy personnel and DoD pers assigned to Navy Installations, but space is limited.

Not going to be available to view the live webinar?
Don't worry. Register for the session of your choice and we will send you a link to view the recording!

Questions?

Contact Judy.Glennon@MilitaryChild.org or call (254) 953-1923 x 1142



Ms. MacNaught will be going into the 5th grade classrooms in December to present lessons on empathy, and skills for learning, using the Second Step curriculum.





Several kindergarten classes had students decorate a pumpkin as a book character in disguise. Students were allowed to color, paint, glitter, and/or add accessories and body parts to their pumpkin. Their creativity really shone through, as lots of students and teachers were able to identify their book character, but no one knew that they were really pumpkins! *Ms. Alvarado*







SAY NO TO DRUGS WITH SPORTS!!!!!

Ms. Kovacs & Ms. Bayliss

Early Act at the Fall Festival

By: Julia Procacci

Early Act is a club that does service learning projects. There are three different groups and they are international, community, and school. Each group works on a different service project. To do the service projects, we need money. We use the money to help us get what we need for the projects. To help us raise money, we had a booth at the Fall Festival. The games we had were bowling, mystery box, and limbo.

Thank for your support!





Early Act is a service club for elementary and middle school students to increase awareness of problems going on in our community, school and internationally. Early Act works in 3 different groups each focusing on one "group", such as community, school, and international. For each one of these groups we try to come up with some kind of service project we could do to help a certain cause. So far the International group has been working on "Operation Christmas Child". "Operation

Christmas Child" is an on-going project that gives children who live in war-torn areas, orphanages, etc. something to look forward to on Christmas. This project will be the first project that the International group will have completed. The Community group is still brainstorming but one possible idea is "The Little Free Library", which is basically a book exchange where you can take a book and give a book. The Community group is thinking of having one of these "Little Libraries" somewhere near Nocatee which would make for a great service project for the community. The School group is still brainstorming in what to do as a service project but they are sure to make a great benefit to Valley Ridge!

What's Happening In Middle School?

Six 7th Grade Students represented Valley Ridge Academy at the 6th Annual AWWA Model Water Tower Competition at Creekside HS on Saturday, October 22, 2016.



Open to all MS and HS students in North Florida, towers were tested and judged based on structural efficiency, hydraulic efficiency, cost effi-



ciency and design ingenuity. All of the towers in this year's

competition are shown (HS upper row, MS lower row). Participants received certificates of recognition. Congratulations to Ben Prohofsky,

Hannah Olive, Abby Hamby, Grace New, Haylie Savarese and Bhavya Saxena for their exemplary teamwork, creativity and sportsmanship.







Sociedad Hispánica De Amistad Members 2016-2017 8th Grade 6th Grade

Lauryn Edel

Michelle Kim Ryan Kruger

Jaden Mitchell

Logan Mitchell

Stella Murphy

Gabi Parkrosz

Mikayla Sallee

Mary Slowik

Charan Sriram

Joanna Sudderth

7th Grade

Beshari Nazi Ashlev Nelson

Molly Murphy

Kayla Booth

Jaityn Cullum Jack Garrett

Elizabeth Myers

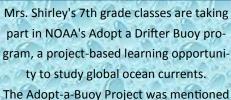
Nick Salomon

Zoe Szilagyi

Michael Webb

Reanne Zukowski

Riley Zukowski



on page 1 of the St. Augustine *Record* on Nov 8th, 2016.

http://staugustine.com/local-newsnews/2016-11-07/students-teachersconnect-ocean-through-buoy-project



To learn more, visit the NOAA Adopt A Drifter Buoy Program at https://youtu.be/lkTYEDSo82U and the NOAA Global Drifter Program at https://youtu.be/ Jpwr4CUCg6Q.



National Junior Honor Society

Now accepting applications for middle school students who have a 3.75 GPA and higher, who would like to join the National Junior Honor Society. Applications can be picked up in Ms. Knight's Room #616 and must be completed and returned by Nov. 23^{rd,} the day before Thanksgiving break.



Middle School Girls Only Lunch Group

The middle school girls groups will meet once a week during lunch time for five weeks. It will be a time for eating together, enjoying discussions about topics related to being a girl, crafts, and friendship. There are limited spaces. Students can sign up on SignUp Genius at: www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0D4CAFA923A7FD0-girls.



Castillo de San Marcos National Monument

We are pleased to announce that the winner of our Centennial Student Artwork Contest is Srujana Namburi from Mrs. Ingle's fourth grade class at Valley Ridge Academy.

Congratulations Srujana!

Park staff voted on submissions to the contest and Srujana's artwork was selected as the best overall. Her artwork will be featured on the front of the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument's 2017 Annual Park Entrance Pass. For her efforts, we are awarding Srujana with

her very own 2017 Annual Park Entrance Pass.

The focus of the student artwork contest centers around the Every Kid in a Park program (https://

www.everykidinapark.gov/), which has the central goal of connecting fourth graders with their nation's history and inspiring them to become future stewards, ready to preserve and protect national parks and other public lands for years to come.



Hi Parents and Friends of VRA,

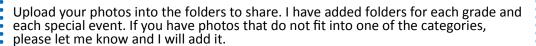
As the yearbook sponsor, I am happy to share a new tool that we have to allow you to share photos with the yearbook staff.

If you have photos of events that have taken place at VRA or with VRA students, we would love to have them!

Please go to http://community.pictavo.com/

Type in our code - 34360 (or search for the school by state and city)

Log in with your email.



We would love to have your help and appreciate your support of the VRA yearbook.

Kathryn Frericks

6th, 7th & 8th Grade Visual Art

Puppeteer Hobie Ford Visits VRA





http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/multimedia/series/VideoStories/hobey-ford.aspx

Art On The Ridge

Square 1 Art fundraiser packets have been sent home. Thank you to all the families who are helping the Valley Ridge Academy Art Department by ordering beautiful keepsakes with your students art reproduced on it. These make great holiday gifts. https://www.square1art.com/



Kindergarten has been studying the characteristics of the color wheel and created a project blossoming in color with their color wheel collage. Example by Max.

First grade has been discussing repetition in art and the famous Pop Artist Andy Warhol. We created our hand print Pop Art paintings.
Student example by Colby.





It's Fall Ya'll! Second grade knows all about the vibrant colors of fall after creating their autumn themed landscapes in the art room. We practiced the use of line, texture, and color in these serene collages. Student example by Samantha.

Fifth grade has been doing some fun drawing exercises, and building on our always developing skills. We blended primary and secondary colors to create our tertiary colors in a dynamic way. This month it included a water color hand study project. Student example by Emily P.





ESE Elementary students were chosen to have their artwork exhibited at the St. Johns County District office during the month of October. Great job young artists!

3rd and 4th grades have been working collaboratively in creating the mural for the Veterans Day Poppy flower art installation. They are also working on their 3D ceramics projects as well.





2 years ago the Tower of London was the exhibit for 888,246 ceramic poppy flowers. One flower was created for each soldier that had fallen. VRA students in 3rd and 4th grade have been creating 3D paper poppies and working on a wall mural to honor our Veterans for the ceremony on November 10th. It has been a fun and eye opening project.

Demetri G. and Owen G. are holding the art work that they created for the District ESE Art show.





In the next day or two, you will be receiving your child's custom catalog featuring his or her very own artwork. Included with the catalog is a complementary sheet of stickers. SQUARE 1 ART is the annual fundraiser for the art program here at VRA. Now is the time to take care of those special holiday gifts! Our art program benefits with every order!

Thank you for your support! Ms. Bayliss & Ms. Frericks

Teaching our favorite artists here at VRA! LAST DAY TO ORDER: 11/16/2016

Veteran's Day Ceremony at VRA

By Kathryn Walls and Julia Procacci

On November 10th, VRA held its annual Veterans Day Ceremony. Our school does this to support the Veterans around our community. At the program, students in grades 3rd-5th sang songs they practiced in music class. Also, students read letters they wrote and explained the Veteran's Seal and Presidential Proclamation. Students in all grades made posters, wrote letters, and brought in pictures of family members who are Veterans. In addition, students made poppies to honor our Veterans in art class. Thank you Veterans for your service!









Jim Harbin Media Festival

The FAME Jim Harbin Student Media Festival is in honor of Jim Harbin, a former consultant with the Florida Department of Education, who originated the idea of a statewide student media festival to recognize the excellent work being done across the state of Florida by student media producers.

If you are interested in participating in our first Annual Valley Ridge media production please complete this application and return to Mrs. Zielinski in the Media Center. If you plan on participating in this after school program please bring application to our first meeting or turn it in early to the Media Center. Our first face to face meeting will be on Thursday, November 3 from 3:00 – 4:00pm in the Media Center.

Second-Fifth grade will run November 3rd through December

Middle School will start in January 2017.

If you have any questions about this after school program, please email Mrs. Zielinski Kathleen Zielinski@stjohns.k12.fl.us or Janine Beaulieu janine.beaulieu@stjohns.k12.fl.us

Grade level_____Teacher's name;______My availability:

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday





November's Art Smart: Principles of Design & Aboriginal Art

This month we will be teaching students about the Principles of Design, which take the elements of art (color, texture, value, line, shape form and space) and arranges them in such a way as to create a composition, layout or design that is both unified and pleasing to look at. Check out the Art Smart website if you would like to learn more about this month's lesson. http://valleyridgeacademypto.com/art/aboriginal.html



The students explore the principles of design with an Aboriginal inspired project.

A Message From the ST JOHNS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) is a state agency that assists persons with the following disabilities:

People severely impaired by Autism **Cerebral Palsy** Spina Bifida Intellectual Disabilities

Down Syndrome

Prader-Willi Syndrome

Phelan McDermid Syndrome

Children age 3-5 who are at a high risk of a developmental disability

APD will be making school visits during the month of December. Appointments will be set up in 30 minute increments and will allow you to receive information and complete an intake for the Medicaid Waiver. Morning appointments are available between 9:30 and 11:30am and afternoon appointments are available between 12:30 and 2:30pm. Please check the following dates and times for appointment schedules:

Date	9:30-11:30	12:30-2:30			
December 1	St. Johns Community Campus	Gaines/Transitions School			
December 6	Switzerland Point Middle School	Timberlin Creek Elementary			
December 8	Valley Ridge Academy	Ponte Vedra High School			
December 13	Pacettti Bay Middle School	Wards Creek Elementary			
December 15	Ocean Palms Elementary	PV/PV Rawlings			
December 20	Gamble Rogers Middle School	Sebastian Middle School			

If you are interested in meeting with the agency to see what is available to your child, please contact Lindsey Cooper, lindsey.cooper@stjohns.k12.fl.us or (904)547-7713, to set up an appointment at your child's specific school based on the schedule above. Attached to this email, you will also find the application for Medicaid Waiver and information about the Agency for Persons with Disabilities. If your child's school is not listed, it was either scheduled in November or will be scheduled on an as-needed basis after the start of the new year.

Gifted Program Advisory Council

The Gifted Parent Advisory Council meets four times per year to inform the school district about ways in which we can improve our efforts in serving our gifted students. Parents of K-12 gifted students from throughout the district are encouraged to come to all of the meetings.

The Gifted Parent Advisory Council meetings have been scheduled for the 2016-17 school year. We communicate this information for inclusion in school newsletters. We hope to make St Johns County Schools a parent friendly environment!

Thursday, November 17 – Palencia Elementary – 4:30-5:30 p.m – Media Center Thursday, February 23 – Hartley Elementary – 5:30-6:30 p.m – Media Center Tuesday, April 25 – Landrum Middle School – 6:30-7:30 p.m. – Multi-Purpose Room

Spanish L.E.E. – Enrolling Now!

Basic, Intermediate and Advanced Spanish instruction. Classes start January 10th.

Registering new and current students







The St. Johns County School District is currently reviewing materials for the Florida Instructional Materials adoption for Social Studies. I courses being considered for adoption are listed on the district website at <a href="http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/media/textbooks/adoption/along witonline access information. Digital and print materials are also available for examination at The Fullerwood Center, 10 Hildreth Drive, St. Augustine, 32084, from 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM weekdays, excluding holidays. This list will be updated if more items are submitted for review. Check the website frequently for updates. Please call 904.547.3947 for more information if needed.

Featured Partner of the Month



A Results Driven Florida Law Firm

HOLBROOK LAW

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Town Center

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Nov 2016

Jason and Tiffany Holbrook are Nocatee residents. Jason Holbrook founded Holbrook Law in 2012 after nearly a decade defending high value wrongful death, trucking and serious injury lawsuits for insurance companies, trucking companies and other corporate entities. Holbrook Law handles significant and complex civil litigation, including wrongful death cases, trucking accidents, car and auto accidents, traumatic brain injuries (TBI) / closed head injuries and catastrophic injuries.

Tiffany Holbrook joined the firm in 2016 and leads the Firm's Estate Planning practice. Before joining the Firm, Tiffany was a Vice President for a large bank, leading the Wealth Management Trust Administration department for North Florida. Tiffany brings years of private practice experience and more than a decade in estate planning, wealth management, trust administration, guardianship, probate, family foundations, wealth transfer, investment management and banking.

www.holbrooklawpa.com

904-900-5533 | 888-908-7824 (Toll Free)

Featured Partner of the Month



Ponte Vedra Pediatric Dentistry & Orthodontics specializes in providing full-service dental care for your children. At Ponte Vedra Pediatric Dentistry & Orthodontics in Nocatee, Dr. Lindsay Maples, Dr. Derek Hoffman and their team are dedicated to providing your children with quality dental care in a positive, gentle and caring environment. We know that going to the dentist can sometimes prove to be a scary process for kids, so Dr. Lindsay is focused on making them feel comfortable and safe at every single appointment. Our advanced training in the area of pediatric dentistry and orthodontics allows us to offer the best possible treatment options to children of all ages.

Dr. Lindsay completed her pediatric dental training at the Children's Hospital of Wisconsin in 2010. She is Board Certified by the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry. In her free time, Dr. Lindsay loves spending time with her husband, Andy, daughter, Maggie Grace, son, Will, their dog, Charley, family and friends.

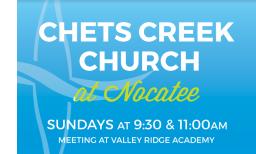
Dr. Lindsay's office is located in the Town Plaza Offices of Nocatee in the Nocatee Town Center. Give her office a call today to discuss your children's dental care or to make an appointment.

480 Town Plaza Avenue, Suite 110 Ponte Vedra, Florida (904) 373-5120 www.kidspv.com



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