



BOBCAT NEWS

A monthly publication of the Villa Park Elementary Home & School League

Home & School League Meeting
Thurs, Feb 15 at 8:15am

Principal's Message

**What Every Child Needs for
Valentine's Day**
By Mrs. Little

Valentine's Day is coming. To spite the excitement and giddiness this causes for children, it has always been one of my favorite holidays to celebrate at school. The act of giving a small card and treat to classmates really does open children's hearts. This year we are also asking students to create cards for seniors at a local retirement home. Valentine's Day is a great time for parents to reflect on the small gifts of the heart we bestow on our children. Here are four absolutely free gifts that will help every child feel loved Valentine's Day and every day.

1. **Undivided attention:** In our fast paced world we are often multi-tasking, or distracted by phones, TV's, and media. Yet we all know there is nothing as precious as the feeling of a loved one really listening and being present with us. Carve out a time each day when all electronics will be off and we will dedicate ourselves to sharing quiet time with our child. This might be at the dinner table, when sharing a snack after school, or reading a bedtime story. Just a few minutes a day gives your child the message, *there is nothing more important to me than you*
2. **Routine and Ritual:** Children thrive on structure because it provides a sense of calm and security. If your children do not have a morning or bedtime routine, help them create one. If they do, protect it or help them abbreviate it when life gets busy. As your children get older, help

them take charge of their routines, and praise them when they do. Never underestimate the importance of small rituals, Friday night pizza, Saturday visits to grandma, or weekend worship all help your child feel steady and connected.

3. **Reset and Redo's:** When your child is having a bad day or a bad moment, it can seem that things just go from bad to worse. Help your child practice strategies that can work to reset their mood. This might be a quiet break, positive self-talk, deep breathing, favorite music, or even some exercise. If you verbalize your own "resets" you are demonstrating a powerful model of how we can regulate our emotions. Once the mood has been "reset" it's time to "redo". Help your child make amends by brainstorming how to make things right, or role playing how to do better next time.
4. **Reassurance:** Children are continually changing and are routinely faced with new challenges. It is natural for them to question whether you will still love them when they are a gangly sixth grader just as much as you did when they were an adorable kindergartener. When they get a C- in math or fail to make the All Star Team, they may wonder if they are still worthy of your love and praise. Kids cannot hear often enough that you love them and will be there for them no matter what. Perhaps most of all, they need reassurance that you believe they are capable of working through challenges. Children can be very dramatic and may believe a setback, whether it is academic or social spells doom. Children can be very sensitive to our worries which can amplify their fears. So when you coach children through setbacks, keep your worry in check and let them borrow some of your mature perspective.

Receiving a poor grade, having conflicts with friends, or getting in trouble does not feel good, but learning to live through life's struggles is necessary to develop resilience. Reassure your child that they are strong enough to struggle through these feelings and strong enough to find a way to make things better.

Our children may ask for toys, games, and sweets, but the sweetest gifts of all are simple gifts of love.

Happy Valentine's Day!

Upcoming Events:

- 2/14: Class Parties 11:30am
- 2/15: H&SL Meeting 8:15
4th Gr. Irvine Railroad 9:30am
- 2/16: NO SCHOOL—Lincoln
- 2/19: NO SCHOOL—Washington
- 2/20-23: Engineering Week
- 2/20-21: 2nd Grade GATE Testing
- 2/22: Girl Scout Info Mtg. 6:00pm
- 2/23: Bobcat Spirit Day
Teacher Treats—2nd Grade
Fizzy Friday
- 2/27: McTeacher Fundraiser Night
- 2/28: Look alike Spirit Day
- 3/2: Birthday Club
Bobcat Spirit Day
Read Across America Day
Student of the Month
- 3/8: Family STEM Night at VPE
- 3/9: 5th Grade Traveling Scientist
6th Grade Growth & Dev.
Bobcat Spirit Day
- 3/13: Minimum Day—Trimester End
- 3/15: H&SL Meeting 8:15am
- 3/16: School Carnival 4:00-8:00pm



Presidents Message

February is here!! Wow, just a few months of school left in the school year! We have had a great year but don't get comfortable yet, there is plenty more excitement to come! We are currently gearing up for our annual carnival, foundation games, the VPE historic school bell monument dedication, book fair, camp bobcat and much more to look forward to!

Again, I can't stress enough the importance and gratitude we have towards our very active volunteer community here at VPE. Without you and your dedication, events like jog-a-thon, parent mixer and carnival are just not possible. We are thankful for the generosity of all our parent volunteers. THANK YOU!

We are currently looking for help for

the upcoming year. Yes, we are already thinking about next year. Most importantly, we are in need of volunteers to help with our monthly newsletter, the H&SL website, yearbook, bike rodeo, hospitality and more. If you are interested in volunteering or would simply like to know more, PLEASE don't hesitate to contact me, president@vpe-hsl.org.

Please join us for our monthly H&SL meetings. Our next meeting is Thursday, Feb. 15 at 8:15 in the MPR. Come by for an update on campus activities, grade level reports and updates from our principal, Mrs. Little. You and your little ones are always welcome...come by, grab a cup of coffee and say, "Hi!" We'd love to see you!

See you soon,
Michelle Gonzalez



Above and Beyond Challenges

From February 12- March 22nd students are being asked to go "Above and Beyond" by challenging themselves to do a little something in each of the areas 1. English Language Arts 2. Math 3. PAWSitive behavior 4. Technology and 5. Growth in test taking skills. Each grade level is determining tasks that are appropriate for their age and accessible to all students. Students who complete and have their teacher sign off on all five challenges will be invited to a special recess and Popsicle party. The goal of this challenge is to teach students that a little extra effort can pay off in a big way!

Dads Club

Dads Club Poker Night – Awesome as always!

Congratulations to William Tran – our winner for the night who got to take home the laptop & special t-shirt.

Another Lunch Cart delivered

Mrs. Houlihan's third grade classroom was the latest to get a new, custom decorated lunch cart. This cart was a Cal Poly San Luis Obispo cart made by parent Jordan Wu with kids Alina & Leila.

Special note – **A Social Media Informational Meeting on February 22nd** – Cerro Villa Middle School – 6:30 PM OC Sheriff Brian Benzie will be giving an important presentation on the ins & outs of social media with our students. While this meeting covers mostly teens and pre-teens, ALL parents of younger kids are encouraged to attend too. When it comes to your children on the internet, get to know what out there and make a good family plan computer, smartphone, tablet and iPod usage. ***Either you'll make a plan – or a plan will happen to you!***

Thanks Folks!

Mark D. Kuli
dadsclub@vpe-hsl.org





Morning Drop Off

Please help us with the following

- Supervision for students begins at 7:45. For safety reasons students should not be dropped off at school early. This is especially important at the rear parking lot.
- At 7:45 the gates will be opened and students should walk to the playground area where they will wait in their class line for the teacher. Teachers will supervise students. Students should not go to the classrooms unless they have made special arrangements to meet their teacher.
- The gate at the rear parking lot at Lincoln closes promptly at 8:00 AM- drive around to the front.
- Please be considerate of teachers, students and other parents in the drop off line.

Parents & Family Members – may walk students to their line area on the playground. Please exit the campus directly from the playground promptly when the warning bell rings at 7:59AM so that we may secure the campus. If you are arriving after this time, please let your child walk to line on their own.



School Carnival

Friday, March 16 from 4:00-8:00pm

Annual VPE Carnival “50’s Fun” on Friday, March 16th from 4:00-8:00. Be on the lookout for more info coming home including ticket and dinner pre-order forms!!

5th Grade Fundraising



2/23 Fizzy Friday \$1



2/26 Community Card Sales



2/27 Mc Teacher Night - 4:30 to 7:30



3/7 Ruby's Restaurant Night



4/18 Los Cabos Restaurant Night



May 5 Clothes for a Cause . Please support 5th grade by clearing out those closets and donating used clothes, shoes, stuffed animals, towels, gloves, hats, purses, belts or drapes to our clothing drive! Items can be dropped off to VPE on Saturday, May 5 from 7:30 am to 11:30 am. If you need to get rid of items sooner, please contact Melissa Dickey at busterandcharlie@sbcglobal.net for pick up, or alternative drop off date !

Art Masters—Mary Cassatt

Students were introduced to another famous American artist, Mary Cassatt during the Art Master slide assembly presentation. Through slides and stories, students learned how her great talent enabled her to live in France and exhibit with the famous French Impressionists. After viewing her paintings, pastels and portraits, and after learning about the proportion of the face, students created their own portraits and hat designs using studio pastel techniques.





January 16, 2018

Raeanne Lopez Little
Villa Park Elementary School
10551 Center Drive
Villa Park, CA 92861

Dear Raeanne,

On behalf of Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County and its member charities, we would like to thank you for your contribution and ongoing support and diligence in the fight against hunger.

As Orange County's leading hunger-relief organization, we are committed to promoting a future without hunger in our community.

Please accept our heartfelt gratitude for all your efforts and support during your food drive in the campaign against hunger. Without the support and partnership of donors like Villa Park Elementary School, we would not be able to feed more than 250,000 individuals each month. We value your partnership and appreciate your dedication to helping us end hunger in Orange County.

This letter will serve as an acknowledgement for your donation.

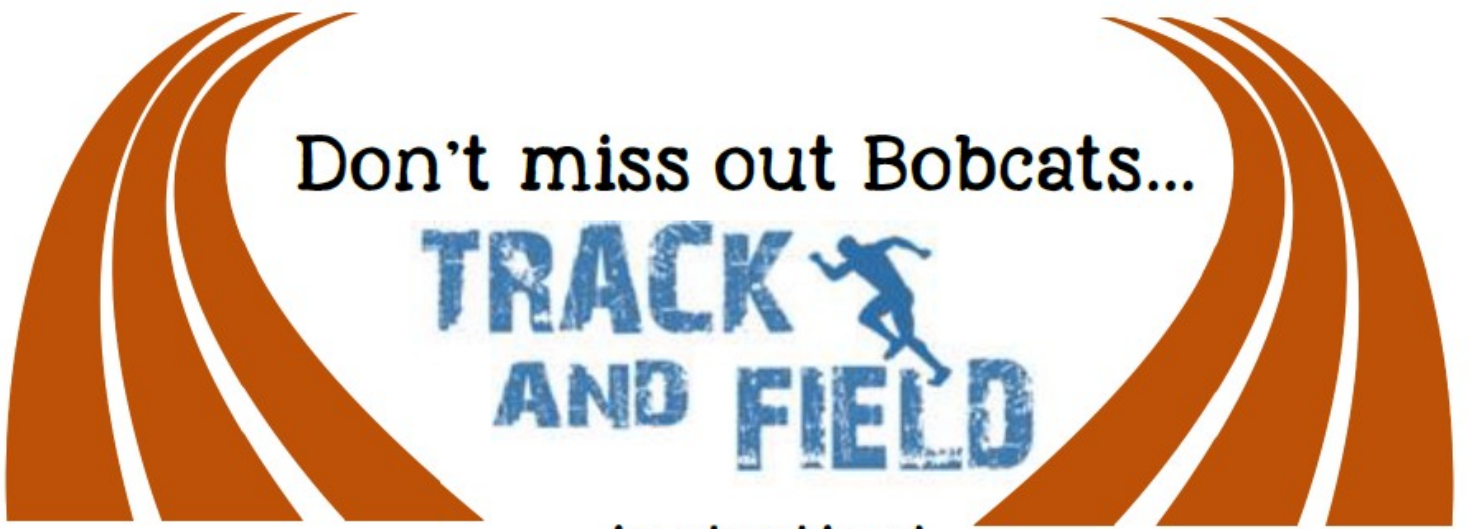
Total pounds donated for the month of December 449 lbs.

That equates to approximately 374 meals that will go towards the children, seniors and families that we serve.

Thank you,

Leslie Uchino
Food and Funds Drive Coordinator

We have not provided any goods or services in exchange for this contribution. Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County is a 501(c)3 organization. All donations are recorded, maintained, and are available to the IRS upon request.



Don't miss out Bobcats...

**TRACK
AND FIELD**



...is starting!

Registration is NOW OPEN for

the FOUNDATION GAMES

What's Foundation Games, you ask? It's a HUGE city-wide track meet that is held every April at Fred Kelly Stadium. This year 2003, 2004, 2005 will compete on Friday, April 20 and 2006-2011 will compete on Saturday, April 21. Thousands of elementary school students participate and we want you to participate too! We have won the large school division two years in a row and let's keep it going!

- Students born 2003-2011 are eligible to participate.
- Events include: 50m, 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, 1600 m, long jump, softball throw, high jump and 4x100m relay. These events will vary by birth year.
- Pick up Registration forms in the Front Office and are DUE MARCH 10th. Turn in to the Front Office.
- Optional practices will start the week of 2/19 and are held at various times, before school, during lunch recess, Wednesday afternoons, and on some weekends.
- More information can be found on the Community Foundation of Orange website or by contacting Sarah Jarrell at sarah_jarrell@att.net.
- Once you have turned in your registration forms, you will be added to our Foundation Games email group and will receive weekly emails about practices, etc.



Please remember that every school day counts. Students who are ill should stay home to help protect the health of all children. However we do ask that families limit personal absences so that students do not miss out on valuable learning opportunities. Teachers and staff take time to prepare engaging activities for your children each day that will lead to their success. The classroom with the highest percentage of attendance at each grade level will be recognized and rewarded at our monthly student of the month assembly.

These students are invited to eat lunch and enjoy music on the quad. For the month of January that was:

Kinder: Mrs. Regan

First: Mrs. Valeriotte

Second: Mrs. Tombrello/ Stillwell

Third: Mrs. Houlihan

Fourth: Mrs. Roland

Fifth: Mrs. Pak

Sixth: Mrs. Krever

Remember, teachers appreciate advance notice if your child is going to be leaving early. In that way they can have your child prepared with the work they need. Thank you for your cooperation.



Contact Us

The Bobcat News is the monthly publication for families and students of Villa Park Elementary from the VPE H&SL, the non-profit parent group for our school.

To report absences, please call operation concern at 714-538-9710

- Kindergarten to 3rd Grade: 8:00 am - 2:05 pm (12:15-1:00 pm lunch)
- 4th Grade to 6th Grade: 8:00 am - 2:20 pm (11:45 - 12:30 pm lunch)
- Every Wednesday: K - 6th Grade: 8:00 am - 12:15 pm

Principal: Raeanne Little rlittle@orangeusd.org

President: Michelle Gonzalez president@vpe-hsl.org

Stay up-to-date:



Villa Park Elementary H&SL



www.vpe-hsl.org



[@VPE_HSL](https://twitter.com/VPE_HSL)