



# BOBCAT NEWS

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

## Information in this Newsletter...

After School Enrichment  
Maker Club  
Holiday Shoppe  
Villa Park Public Library Card Contest  
...and more  
  
**Happy Reading**

## Principal's Message

### Helping Your Child Learn Empathy By Mrs. Little

In our selfie obsessed culture, it's easy to see why kids are struggling more than ever with developing empathy. Yet according to educational psychologist, Michele Borba, a child's ability to empathize with others is a key to both social emotional health, and academic and ultimately professional success. Empathy does not come naturally to every child, but with coaching and guidance every child can grow in this area. Here are five important skills that you can help your child to develop:

Name my own feelings: It's difficult to empathize with others without first understanding your own feelings. For some children this comes naturally, but for others this is surprisingly difficult. Teach your child to stop, take a breath and notice how his body and mind feel. Take some time to help your child describe more complex feelings such as anxiety, anticipation, or impatience. Model and prompt until your child is able to express a wide range of feelings independently.

Notice cues to the feelings of others: Body language, facial expression, tone of voice, and actions all communicate

the feelings of others. Recognizing how others around us are feeling is a complex task, and one that requires a great deal of modeling. TV and movies offer a great non-threatening medium to explore these cues. Make a game of predicting the reactions of characters based on their verbal and non-verbal cues. Gradually you can transfer this practice to real life situations with family and friends.

Take other's perspective: Literature is a great avenue to look at the world through different perspectives. Help your child to analyze how a character thinks and feels in a given situation and how that compares to the way he or she might feel in that position. Even better, some books allow you to think about one situation from the point of view of multiple characters. Once children develop the skill of recognizing different perspectives, they can be coached to apply this to a real life situation. This could be someone as close as a sibling, or someone as different as a refugee on the other side of the world.

Put empathy into action: Empathy is a verb and its twin is impact. Once your child can understand the feelings of others, the next step is to brainstorm things he or she could do that would make a positive impact. Encourage your child to think of several responses he or she could make to a given situation, and then pick the one that is most helpful and doable. Your modeling in this area is hugely important. Making explicit for your child the things you do to help others, including those you may not even know, demonstrates your values in action.

Develop an ethical identity: As your child grows in empathy, help your

child to understand that empathy in action is a key part of their character, not something they just do once in a while. One way to do that is to encourage your child to think of themselves as a person who.... *is kinder than necessary, or..... goes out of their way to help others, or..... stands up for people who are down, etc.* . Praise your child for the actions he or she undertakes that demonstrate this quality. When your child falls short, hold them accountable saying, "hmm... did that show people that you are someone who....." If the answer is, "no", help your child plan a "do over" thinking about what they could do to make amends and improve the situation for everyone.

Want more? Try this link to the [Harvard Education School, Making Caring Common Campaign](#), or check our Michele Borba's book, [Unselfie, Why Empathetic Kids Succeed in an All About Me World](#).

The holiday season is a great time opportunity to coach your child in developing this critical skill.

## Upcoming Events:

- 12/4-7: Holiday Shoppe
- 12/4-8: 6th Grade Outdoor Ed
- 12/6: College Spirit Day
- 12/8: 5th Grade Water Assembly  
Bobcat Spirit Day
- 12/13: Pajama Day  
Pizza Project Fundraiser
- 12/14: Holiday Concert 8:15am
- 12/15: Trimester Awards  
Bobcat Spirit Day  
Pinocchio Jr. Performance 7pm
- 12/18-1/5: No School—Winter Break
- 1/8: School Resumes
- 1/9: After School Enrich Begins



## Presidents Message

And just like that, it's December. We have survived the first trimester together. In fact, we've done better than just survive, we have thrived! With the support of all our Bobcat families, teachers, staff and countless volunteers that do all the little things (and big things) behind the scenes to bring our students the best possible school experience. We THANK YOU!

A long time tradition here at VPE is our Holiday Store. It begins Monday, Dec. 4- Dec. 7. All students have the opportunity to purchase a little something for their loved ones, family and friends. This year Kim Barks-Finamore and Erin Flynn are bringing our store to life. There are also many volunteers that help our students shop and budget for those loved ones on their list. Please see the Holiday Store section of this newsletter for more information. This is always a fun event to volunteer for.

As we close out 2017, it is my hope that you all have a very blessed holiday and a joyful new year! See you soon in 2018!

Michelle Gonzalez

## Maker Club

The VPE maker clubs are going strong and each week we are getting more students. This week we had a record number of 60 kids for Jr. Maker Club and 45 for Maker Club. The Jr. Makers Club participate in various activities. We have several activities such as a QR scavenger hunt to making tops out of old CD's. The electronics Maker Club started to learn Tinker Cad this week, a 3D printing program. The goal is to eventually create a design of their own. The sewing Maker Club started to use sewing machines. We have several projects plan to teach different sewing skills.

The Maker Space is always in need of donated supplies, currently we have a wish list for items for specific projects:

Old T-Shirts

Baby Food Jars

Ribbon and general craft supplies

Old Turntables

Any Fabric

Sewing Machines

If you have any questions about Maker Club please feel free to contact me.

I am also pleased to announce that the library will be starting a new incentive program. It is designed to encourage reading without focusing on RC points. Though to get through the program they will be required to take RC tests. The idea is to take the emphasis off of the points and focus on reading.

Thank you,

Ms. O'Dowd

[godowd@orangeusd.org](mailto:godowd@orangeusd.org)

### Written by Mika Slagle, a Maker Club student:

While being a member for the maker club, I have learned a few things that I have completed in a short amount of time. For example, sewing. My whole family knows how to sew, so I felt a little embarrassed for not knowing how to sew. After one day I knew all the basic stitches. On my second day I was learning how to take apart a computer! This club taught me a lot of skills that I used to find difficult.

## Attendance Matters

During the holiday season it's tempting to pull students out of school early for vacations and special activities. Please remember that every school day counts. Teachers and staff take time to prepare engaging activities for your children each day that will lead to their success. Don't miss out on the opportunities each day at school presents! Every School Day Counts! All students with fewer than three absences and on time attendance will be recognized at our trimester assemblies. 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. For the month of November that was:

*Kinder: Mrs. Miller*

*First: Mrs. Vazquez*

*Second: Mrs. Granger*

*Third: Mrs. Fujitani*

*Fourth: Mrs. Glasky*

*Fifth: Mrs. Williams*

*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.





## Dads Club

At our November meeting, the Dads Club welcomed guest speaker OC Sherriff Deputy Brian Benzie. He is our school resource officer and we three hours of candid conversation covering many concerns in both our school & community. Many thanks for Deputy Benzie and the OC Sherriff for their exceptional participation!

In the future, we will be developing a conversation with VPE parents regarding our students use of social media. Deputy Benzie had stated the root of so much teen trouble starts with misuse of the internet. Unfortunately our Orange / Villa Park community is no different. Though many of our youngsters do not have internet access yet, elementary school is the perfect time to create your family policies for internet and social media.

Stay tuned for some parent education opportunities regarding social media and our VPE school kids.

Have a great Holiday Break!

**Mark D. Kuli**

[dadsclub@vpe-h&sl.org](mailto:dadsclub@vpe-h&sl.org)

## Lost and Found



Please check the lost and found before we head out for Winter Break. All items left after school on Friday, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> will be donated. Also as a reminder... please write your student's name on all jackets, sweaters, lunchboxes and water bottles.

## 5th Grade Fundraising



Wednesday,  
December 14

See you there!!!!

Support the Villa Park Elementary Home and School League  
by shopping at



When you shop on **amazon.smile.com**, select **Villa Park Home and School League** as your charitable organization. Amazon will donate .5% of the price of eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the Home and School League.

AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same Amazon Prime benefits.

Start your shopping at **smile.amazon.com** to support our school.



## Holiday Store

The Holiday Store is happening now in the MPR! Monday, December 4 through Thursday, December 7, students may shop at lunch (except Wednesday) and after school. Items range between 25¢ and \$12, and parent volunteers are available to help the children shop and stay on budget. The kids LOVE this opportunity to shop for their loved ones and get into the holiday spirit! Proceeds benefit the VPE H&SL, which supports music, art, PE, technology, and MORE on our campus!

## Villa Park Public Library Card Contest

Contest details and an application will be sent home with each student during the week of December 4.

### Villa Park Elementary Library Card Contest

- It's time to make an OC Public Libraries card! Return this library card application and letter to the Villa Park Library by **Saturday, January 6, 2018**
- The Villa Park Elementary School classroom with the most applications returned will receive a pizza party in their classroom.
- If you already have a card, present this letter and your library card to the Villa Park Library to receive credit for your classroom.
- The application must be completely filled out to be eligible for a library card and count towards the pizza party contest.
- It is free to get a library card. You just need a completed application, including a signature by the parent/guardian, and the parent or guardian's photo ID.

**The Villa Park Library is located at:**  
**17865 Santiago Blvd**  
**Villa Park, CA 92861**  
**714-998-0861**

The library is in the Villa Park Town Center  
 Next to City Hall.  
 Library hours are:  
 Monday—Thursday 10-7  
 Saturday 9-5  
 Closed Dec. 25th and Jan 1st.

Orange County, CA Public Libraries <small>Open Doors. Free Access. Community.</small>		Barcode#:
		Date:
Library Card Applicant: Must provide government issued photo ID such as a: Driver's License, Military ID, Passport, Consular Card, or other government issued photo ID, and be a California resident.		
<b>PERSONAL INFORMATION</b>		
FIRST NAME:	MIDDLE NAME:	LAST NAME:
DATE OF BIRTH: month/day/year		
PASSCODE/PIN: (4-10 Letters/Numbers to access account online, borrow from digital collection and self-checkout.)		
<b>CALIFORNIA RESIDENCE</b>		
MAILING ADDRESS—STREET:		APT/SUITE:
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP CODE:
<b>CONTACT INFORMATION</b>		
PRIMARY EMAIL:	PRIMARY PHONE:	Mobile <input type="checkbox"/> Landline <input type="checkbox"/>
SECONDARY EMAIL:	SECONDARY PHONE:	Mobile <input type="checkbox"/> Landline <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>NOTIFICATIONS</b> (Select how to receive notices about your account.)		
<input type="checkbox"/> TEXT MESSAGE ONLY	<input type="checkbox"/> PHONE MESSAGE ONLY	<input type="checkbox"/> PHONE AND TEXT ONLY
<input type="checkbox"/> EMAIL ONLY	<input type="checkbox"/> EMAIL AND TEXT ONLY	Standard text and data messaging rates may apply.
<b>IDENTIFICATION</b> (If the Applicant is a minor then use the Parent/Legal Guardian's ID)		
CA DRIVER'S LICENSE OR OTHER ID#:		
PARENT/GUARDIAN'S: FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME	LAST NAME
You must bring photo ID to obtain the card requested via this form. Financial responsibility for all materials borrowed with this card belongs to either the cardholder or the legal guardian of the cardholder. It is the responsibility of said person to comply with all library rules and policies and to promptly notify the library of address or contact information changes and lost or stolen library cards.		
APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE: _____		
PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: _____		
Issued by:	Checked by:	REV. 10/17/2017 JH





## After School Enrichment—Winter 2018

Day	Class
<u><a href="#">Mondays</a></u> <b>Beginning</b> <b>January 22</b>	<b>Golf Squad (1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade)</b> Learn to play golf with a golf industry professional. All class essentials are provided (Golf Squad Handbooks, training equipment, ALL golf clubs, etc.). Each student receives Golf Squad Handbooks and Golf Squad visor to keep.
<u><a href="#">Tuesdays</a></u> <b>Beginning</b> <b>January 9</b>	<b>Mad Science (1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade)</b> In this class, we'll have fun with science, you will learn about science in a fun hands on way.  <b>Lego – Jedi Storytellers (1st - 6th grade)</b> Let the force be with you! Students will use LEGO®s to learn about the art & process of problem solving in a hands-on, creative environment. Students will also learn about the different parts of a story, public speaking, writing & more!
<u><a href="#">Wednesdays</a></u> <b>Beginning</b> <b>January 10</b>	<b>Origami (1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade)</b> Children will learn the Japanese art of origami along with a different aspect of Japanese culture each week! Modular & Action origami include jumping frogs, transforming ninja stars, magic circles, 3D swans, Pikachu, angry birds, and much more! Every student will take home what they make.  <b>The Magic Club (1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade)</b> Students will learn 1-2 magic tricks each week & craft some of their own magic gear. They will also develop motor skills, teamwork, & enhance performance  <b>Dance (1st-6th grade)</b> Student's will learn age appropriate basic hip hop/jazz technique and choreography. On the last day of class, students will perform the routine they have learned for family and friends!
<u><a href="#">Thursdays</a></u> <b>Beginning</b> <b>January 11</b>  <b>Musical Theater</b> <b>Beginning</b> <b>January 25</b> <b>Approx.</b>	<b>Musical Theater – TO BE ANNOUNCED SOON (1st-6th grade)</b> Learn to act & sing while being a part of a musical theater cast. Based on the original Broadway production and the Academy Award-winning Disney motion picture, this musical features some of the most popular songs ever composed. This script and score provides performers lots of opportunities to shine while learning to sing and act on stage!  <b>Coding for Kids – Computer Art (2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade)</b> In this incredible course, you'll learn how to use the fundamentals of computer science to build your very own apps, animations, and computer games.  <b>Chess (1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade)</b> Chess increases IQ and teaches children to think deeply, problem solve, gain confidence, develop patience, and strategize and plan! This wonderful program is designed to fit the needs of all skill levels.  <b>Animal Art (1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade)</b> In this class, we'll create animal drawings with personality & appeal that any child would be proud to show off. Simplified anatomy & design techniques will be taught using a variety of artistic mediums.



## **VPE FOOD DRIVE: December 11-15**

### **Most Needed Items**

More than 315,000 people in Orange County are at risk of hunger every month. Everyone's health is important. Help us provide nutritious food to those who need it the most. Healthier items that are low in sodium and sugar, high in protein and fiber include:

- Peanut or Other Nut Butters
- Canned Vegetables (low sodium)
- Rice (brown preferred)
- Canned Fruit (packed in water or juice) or Natural Applesauce
- Dried or Canned Beans (low sodium)
- Whole Grain Cereal (low sugar)
- Canned or Boxed Soup (low sodium)
- Whole Grain Pasta
- Canned Meats & Fish (in water)
- Healthy Snacks such as Low Sugar Granola Bars, Raw Nuts or Dried Fruit

*Please, no glass containers or expired items.*

*\*We encourage donations of foods that are reduced in sodium, sugar or fat and contain no trans fatty acids.*

#### **Personal care items**

- Diapers
- Toothbrushes and Toothpaste
- Toilet Paper

FeedOC.org  
8014 Marine Way, Irvine, CA 92618  
949-653-2900



# LCAP SURVEY!



Your Opinion Counts!  
**¡Encuesta LCAP!**  
¡Su Opinión Cuenta!

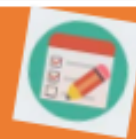


Help us continue to refine programs, services, and  
improve student achievement through our  
**Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) process.**

Ayúdenos a continuar refinando programas, servicios y  
mejorando el logro estudiantil a través de nuestro  
**Plan de Control Local y Rendición de Cuentas (LCAP).**

**Take the survey now through January 12, 2018**

**Tome la encuesta ahora hasta el 12 de enero de 2018**



Please use the link or Quick Response  
(QR) Code provided to take  
the survey today!

¡Utilice el enlace o el Código de  
Respuesta Rápida (QR) proporcionado  
para realizar la encuesta hoy mismo!

**Link/Enlace:**

<http://bbyt.es/start/8M7NW>



Orange USD is collecting anonymous responses from parents, teachers, principals, and students to allow them to provide input on the LCAP. Become a critical partner engaged in providing an outstanding 21<sup>st</sup> century education for all students. OUSD truly wants to hear from you on this survey as these results will guide the (LCAP) for the 2017-2018 school year.

Orange USD está conduciendo una encuesta para recolectar respuestas anónimas de padres, maestros, directores de escuelas y estudiantes para permitirles aportar sus opiniones en el LCAP. Convertirse en socios esenciales comprometidos en brindar una educación sobresaliente para todos los estudiantes. OUSD realmente desea escuchar de usted en esta encuesta ya que estos resultados guiarán el LCAP para el año escolar 2017-2018.

**American  
Red Cross**

Orange County  
601 North Golden Circle Dr.  
Santa Ana, CA 92705  
(714) 481-5300  
[www.redcross.org/oc](http://www.redcross.org/oc)

Riverside County  
6235 River Crest Dr. Suite A  
Riverside, CA 92507  
(888) 831-0031  
[www.redcross.org/riv](http://www.redcross.org/riv)

San Bernardino County  
202 West Rialto Avenue  
San Bernardino, CA 92408  
(909) 888-1481  
[www.redcross.org/ie](http://www.redcross.org/ie)

Coachella Valley/Morongo Basin  
39-665 Entrepreneur Lane  
Suite A  
Palm Desert, CA 92211  
(888) 831-0031  
[www.redcross.org/coachella](http://www.redcross.org/coachella)

November 17, 2017

Villa Park Elementary  
Orange Unified School District  
10551 Center Dr.  
Villa Park, CA 92861

Dear Villa Park Elementary:

Thank you for your school's gift to the American Red Cross for Hurricanes of 2017 relief. This season has been one of the most active on record for the Atlantic basin, as record storms ravaged communities and destroyed homes across multiple states and U.S. territories. In the face of such tremendous devastation, we are grateful for your school's commitment, which has helped fuel our wide-ranging relief efforts for thousands of people in their darkest hours.

With your school's contribution, thousands of Red Cross volunteers were there to provide lifesaving refuge in emergency shelters for families who had nowhere else to stay. Many fled with nothing but the clothes on their backs, and your commitment also provided essentials like meals, snacks and hygiene items, as well as health services and emotional support for those who needed care.

After skies cleared and families began returning to ravaged neighborhoods, your school's donation delivered ongoing support, enabling workers to distribute food, water, cleanup supplies and other relief items to people cleaning out their homes. In addition, compassionate volunteers have also worked one-on-one with storm survivors to connect them with available resources for their recovery.

It will take time for people to rebuild their lives after losing so much to this destructive hurricane season. With your school's generosity, we will remain by their sides with our partners, helping survivors to get back on their feet and become more resilient against future crises. Thank you again for your support, which makes a meaningful difference when it's needed most.

Sincerely,

Linda E. Voss  
Chief Executive Officer

Documents for IRS purposes forthcoming

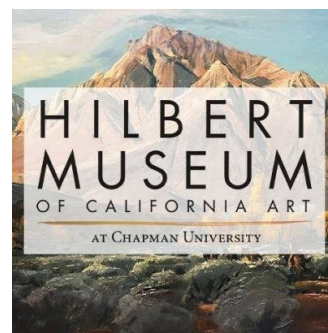
*My sincere appreciation!  
Your gift helps us provide volunteers to assist those in need and provide comfort & care. Thank you!  
Wish*





## Art Masters

Art Masters will resume in February. In the meantime, visit The Hilbert Museum of California Art at Chapman University. It opened in 2016 and is the first museum anywhere that is totally dedicated to the display of California Scene and California representational art. Admission to the museum is free and the hours are Tuesday - Saturday from 11am - 5pm. The address is 167 N. Atchison Street, Orange. (It's across from Ruby's in Orange) For additional information and a listing of current exhibits please visit [www.hilbertmuseum.com](http://www.hilbertmuseum.com)



## After School Enrichment—Musical Theater Performance

**Friday, December 15 at 7:00pm**



The Musical Theater After School Enrichment Program, directed by Literacy Onstage, will be performing on Friday, December 15 at 7:00pm in the MPR. Come enjoy the show and support our student performers.



## 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](mailto:rlittle@orangeusd.org)

**President:** Michelle Gonzalez [president@vpe-hsl.org](mailto:president@vpe-hsl.org)

## Stay up-to-date:



Villa Park Elementary H&SL



[www.vpe-hsl.org](http://www.vpe-hsl.org)



@VPE\_HSL