



BOBCAT NEWS

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

Information in this Newsletter...

- Free Money
- 5th Grade Fundraising
- Dad's Club Update
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- Library Needs
- Spring Carnival
- Lost and Found
- Vocational Teacher Grant Awards
- ...and more

Happy Reading

Principal's Message

STEM Learning Soars at Villa Park Elementary
By Mrs. Little

"Science is more than a school subject, or the periodic table, or the properties of waves. It is an approach to the world, a critical way to understand and explore and engage with the world, and then have the capacity to change that world..."

— President Barack Obama, March 23, 2015



Last Friday afternoon the Villa Park campus was buzzing with the sounds of students excitedly negotiating how to create a carrier that could safely transport a ping pong ball to the bottom of a home made zip-line. This high-energy activity was a part of Villa Park Elementary's STEM learning initiative. You have probably heard about efforts to increase the preparedness of American students to take on STEM (Science, Technology, and Engineering and Mathematics) jobs in the 21st century, but you might wonder just how our play based monthly STEM activities contribute to the development of these skills in our children. We are seeking not just to teach children scientific facts, but to develop in our students a spirit of inquiry and to empower them with problem solving skills integral to the design process. For example, in the zip-line challenge, students are asked to negotiate with other students to formulate a design, execute it with limited materials, test their design and then adjust based on their results. Through this process, students learn that science is a real world activity that includes applying knowledge, cooperating with others, and persevering until the desired results are achieved. We have recently added school wide math challenges to our STEM learning initiatives. In the math challenges, students of all grade levels have the chance to work multilevel math problems around a common theme. In our first challenge, Party Time, students had to use clues to determine the number of children at a party and to identify their characteristics. As in the science challenges, students must collaborate to come up with a strategy to solve the problem, communicate their results in

writing or pictures, and try different strategies until they arrive at the correct solution.

Hands on inquiry learning can be a messy, noisy process, and we couldn't accomplish it without the support of parents and our community. Thank you to all parents who have contributed by donating or preparing supplies and giving their time to assist students during the projects. Be sure to ask your student's about February's STEM learning. For math our challenge will be "Dinosaur Dig", for science, we are seeking engineers to speak to students during the national Engineers Week Feb 21-24. To sign up to participate, [click here](#). Thanks again, for making STEM learning possible at VPE.

Upcoming Events:

- 1/20: Bully Dudes Assembly
- 1/25: College Spirit Day
- 1/30: ASE Classes Start
- 2/3: Student of the Month Birthday Club
- 2/7-9: 2nd Grade GATE Testing (prior referral)
- 2/10: Spring Pictures
- 2/14: Science on the Go—Upper 4th-6th GATE Testing (prior referral) Class Parties
- 2/16: H&SL Meeting 8:15am
- 2/17: NO SCHOOL— Lincoln
- 2/20: NO SCHOOL— Presidents
- 2/21: Science on the Go—Lower
- 2/22: College Spirit Day
- 2/23: 4th Grade Field Trip—Irvine Park Railroad
- 2/24: Imagination Machine



President's Message

By: Julie Krodel

Happy New Year to our wonderful Bobcat families and friends! I hope this holiday season was a relaxing time for everyone!

The Home and School League is gearing up for another round of activities this winter and spring including some old favorites and maybe a new thing or two! We are always looking for volunteer help with future projects on campus. Always feel free to contact me and ask how to get involved!

The remainder of the school year is going to fly by and will be filled with so much fun and activity for the kids- school carnival and silent auction, foundation games, class parties, teacher appreciation luncheon, teacher treats, assemblies and the spring concert just to name a few!

It made me wonder? Is our Bobcat community fully aware of all that the H&SL members support and fund-raise for on campus?

The California public education budget provides basic services, however your hard earned fundraising dollars and volunteer efforts enrich the academic experience and school climate for your child. The following list details a few areas where the H&SL budget spends money on our campus:

- **Art Masters-** Art instruction for all students K-6 during the school year. Children are exposed to various artists, themes, and art techniques in the classroom. An art docent travels to each classroom with lesson plans and materials to use.
- **Music Program-** H&SL funds the music program for all K-4 students and their musical performances twice a year.
- **Assemblies-** School assemblies such as Science on the Go, Imagination Machine, Street Beat, Anti-bullying.
- **Library-** Funds are used to expand current library collection, reading incentives, purchase supplemental non-fiction books to support state standards.
- **Lunch tables-** Ongoing investment by H&SL to replace 3-4 lunch tables on campus each year. Many lunch tables are deteriorating and no longer useful. Without these funds the school would not have the resources to replace them.
- **Multi-Purpose Room and Restrooms Update** H&SL spent much of our goals money giving students/families a refreshed, updated and clean gathering place for activities, awards and performances. Restrooms also received a deep cleaning of the floors and most were fitted with touchless flushing, soap, faucet and paper towel systems.
- **PE Program-** All students now have the benefit of structured physical education time each week with a dedicated PE coach.
- **Teacher Supply Fund-** H&SL provides an annual stipend to each teacher on campus. This annual stipend is for the purchase of classroom materials to assist the academic environment.
- **Technology-** H&SL provides technology updates/replacements yearly. Most recently it has been an iPad supply for grades K-2 and Chromebook tubs for 3rd.
- **Playground Equipment-** Purchase of basketballs, soccer balls, jump ropes, hand balls and other playground equipment for all students to enjoy.

Although our fundraising levels vary from year to year, our commitment to enriching the academic experience for each child does not. None of these programs or updates would be possible nor would the academic enrichment for each child occur if not for the generous and active volunteerism and fundraising done by you!

On behalf of all the students and staff, thank you for being an active member of the Bobcat community!

Lost and Found

Are you cold because you cannot find your favorite jacket? Do you have to bring your lunch in a sack because you have no idea where your cool lunchbox is? We have the answer! Stop by the Villa Park Lost and Found! Our lost and found is located near the copy room (room 23) at the end of the first grade wing. Right now, there are a LOT of jackets, sweaters, and lunch bags, so come by and see if you may have left something behind. Any items left at the end of the month will be donated, so stop by soon.

Student Gadget Reminder



Many students received electronic Christmas Presents of phone watches, phones, or cameras. Please be aware that watches with phone capabilities fall under our cell phone guidelines, which means they should be kept off and in backpacks until the school bell rings and students exit the campus. Student cameras are never allowed at school without specific teacher permission. For more information on our cell phone policy see our [handbook](#).



After School Enrichment

Day	Classes Offered
<p><u>Mondays</u> Beginning January 30</p>	<p>Golf Squad (1st – 6th grade) 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.</p> <p>Soccer (1st – 6th grade) Each week students will have fun learning a new skill. Passing, Dribbling, Shooting, Scrimmages & Fitness. It is mandatory that students have tennis shoes and shin guards. Cleats are optional.</p>
<p><u>Tuesday</u> Beginning January 31</p>	<p>Animal Art (1st – 6th grade) 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.</p> <p>The Magic Club (1st – 6th grade) 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.</p>
<p><u>Wednesdays</u> Beginning February 1</p>	<p>Origami (1st – 6th grade) 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.</p> <p>Lego – Jedi Storytellers (1st - 6th grade) 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!</p> <p>Dance (1st-6th grade) 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!</p>
<p><u>Thursdays</u> Beginning February 2</p>	<p>Musical Theater – Beauty & the Beast (1st-6th grade) 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. From famed characters: Belle, Beast, Gaston, Lumiere, Mrs. Potts and more, this script and score provides performers lots of opportunities to shine while learning to sing and act on stage!</p> <p>Coding for Kids – Computer Art (2nd-6th grade) 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. This session, you'll learn everything about creating computer art. Code a virtual Etch-A-Sketch, create a fractal generator, and more!</p> <p>Chess (1st – 6th grade) 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.</p>

Questions / Forms

- If you have questions, please contact the VPE H&SL ASE Coordinator at ASE@vpe-hsl.org.
- ASE class information and program registration flyers can also be found at the VPE H&SL web site: www.VPE-HSL.org under the (ASE) heading.

Congratulations Mrs. Valeriotte and Mrs. Johnson



Annual Vocational Teacher Grant Awards

The members of the Villa Park Rotary Club are grateful for the extraordinary contributions and sacrifices of our local teachers in educating our children. We wish to encourage and support their efforts. It is for this reason we are pleased to announce the Teachers Mini-Grants for Villa Park area schools. Our goal is to approve as many worthy proposals as possible. The VPRC Vocational Avenue of Service is chaired by Robert Schumate. Special thanks goes to his Vocational Committee comprised of Bill Underwood, Chad Zimmerman, Lesslie Giacobbi, and Jay Lieberman.

Schools served by the VPRC Teacher Grants are under the direction of Todd Eklund - Principal of Orange Lutheran HS; Raeanne Little - Principal of Villa Park Elementary School; Katherine W Rizzo - Principal of Serrano Elementary School; Dr. Ken Miller - Principal of Villa Park HS; and Lisa Ogan - Principal of Cerro Villa Middle School.

Robert states, "With each grant application, we do our best to approve those that come closest to our motto 'Service above self' as well as the principles of our four way test:

- Is it the truth?
- Is it fair to all concerned?
- Will it build good will and better friendships?
- Will it be beneficial to all concerned?"

We are amazed by all the great things our teachers do for our children everyday and thank the teachers of our Villa Park community for the guidance they provide! Please join us in congratulating the follow teachers for their grants:

Villa Park Elementary School	Judy Fusco \$450.00
Donna Johnson \$281.38	Alan Hobbs \$483.78
Melissa Valeriotte \$496.00	Cerro Villa Middle School
Orange Lutheran High School	Carolyn Fox \$407
Tanya Grasz \$300.00	Audra Smith \$467.40
Serrano Elementary School	Ashlie Hallenbeck \$477.76
Aura Covington \$484.80	Roni Hanke \$500
St. Norberts	Jennifer Wong \$500
Adriana Holquin \$450.00	Ben Hempel \$417.00
Villa Park High School	Stacy Baird \$377.98
Gwen Corbett \$383.90	Danielle Mathews \$500.00

A grand total of \$7477.00 was provided by our small Rotary Club to serve the needs of our youth. This is just one more way the Hidden Jewel brings its light to shine outward in support of the future generations we hold so dear!

5th Grade Fundraising

Enjoy a night out to dinner with family and friends at Blaze Pizza. VPE will be having a restaurant night on Wednesday, January 25 at Blaze Pizza, downtown Orange, from 4:30-7:30. Blaze will donate 20% of proceeds back to VPE. Please show the flyer on your phone or bring the printed flyer that will come home in your child's backpack. Thank you for supporting our 5th grade fundraising efforts!



Enjoy yourself and support our cause at a special fundraising event for:

Organization name: Villa Park Elementary 5th Grade

Date: Jan 25, 2017

Time: 4:30pm – 7:30pm

Location: Blaze Pizza – Orange Circle
101 S. Glassell St

Bring in this flyer or show it on your phone before paying. Blaze Pizza will donate 20% of proceeds from your meal back to our organization.



FAST • FIRE'D.

Donation amount excludes proceeds from tax and gift card purchases. Valid for dine-in and take-out only. Not valid for online orders. Alcoholic beverages excluded. Event proceeds void if flyers are distributed in or near the restaurant.



VPE Carnival



VPE Annual Carnival is coming up on Friday, March 17th! It's going to be a JUNGLE out on the VPE blacktop! If you would like to get involved and help out with this fun, family event- please contact Kari Christie at karichristie2002@yahoo.com.

Also, if you know of a VPHS or CV student in need of service hours, please have them call Kari at [714-318-3326](tel:714-318-3326).

Free Money



We will have our next Free Money collection day on Friday, February 10. Please send all Box Tops and Labels for Education to your child's classroom anytime between

now and February 10. Collection sheets are available for download on the vpe-hsl.org website. Thank you for clipping, saving and sending free money times to school!

VPE Library Needs....

Villa Park Elementary School Library is in need of some donated items. We are working on starting a makerspace in our library. A maker space is a place for students to learn and think in different ways.

Here is a definition of a makerspace to help put it into perspective: a place in which people with shared interests, especially in computing or technology, can gather to work on projects while sharing ideas, equipment, and knowledge.

We are in need of the following items:

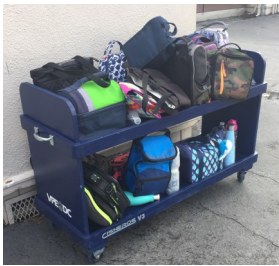
- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|--|
| Old tools | Old electronics | Old clothing |
| Craft items | Glue guns/sticks | Old sewing machines |
| Soldering irons | Safety goggles | Work gloves |
| Old tubs | Old computers/tablets | Old building sets i.e. Kenx, blocks, Legos, etc. |

This is all for startup so any donations would be greatly appreciated.

We would also appreciate any donations of old book series you might have and are no longer using. Many of our series are well-loved and need to be replaced.

Thank You,
Mrs. O'Dowd

VPE Dad's Club



New & Improved Lunch Carts

The Dads' Club are getting some new lunch carts deployed out in the field. Designed by VPE super-parent Manuel Cisneros, our new lunch cart is both longer and wider than the previous style cart. Besides increased lunch carrying capacity, it also has larger wheels giving it a smoother ride and better maneuverability. And lastly, we hear that the kids lunches taste 15% better when they are on this new, Cisneros v3 lunch cart. So far two classes have received the new lunch carts and we hope to have many more built and to the classes later this year.

STEM Challenge Dads - THANK YOU

The Friday 13th STEM Challenge was a big success and we want to thank all the VPE Dads that have participated. Over 15 Dads took time out and help the students with special zipline activity. Way to STEM it up Dads! There are more upcoming STEM Challenge activities in March, April & May - and we invite all VPE Dads to participate!

Dads Club Poker Night #2

Hey Dads- Our first annual poker night in September was so successful, we could not wait another full year to have the second. So save the date and join us on Friday Night February 3rd, 7:30 PM at the VP City Hall Poker Night. There are a limited number of seats available. RSVP to dadsclub@vpe-hsl.org.





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 714-528-9710

- 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: Julie Krodel president@vpe-hsl.org

Newsletter Editor: Jacqueline Sobral webmaster@vpe-hsl.org



Did you know that our rate of student attendance is considered by the state as a marker of our school success? This is because research shows that high attendance rates correlate with higher student achievement. Please help us to maximize your child's success by eliminating non-essential absences.

- Schedule vacations during school holidays- avoid extending holiday weekends with “extra days” that your child will have to miss school.
- Help your child to stay healthy by encouraging healthy habits including a consistent bedtime and hand washing.
- If your child seems anxious about school, please help him or her to work with the teacher and or principal to resolve the issues rather than avoiding school. This teaches a valuable lesson to your child about how to approach difficulty.

With your help, we can help all of our students to do their best at school each day!

Stay up-to-date:



Villa Park Elementary H&SL



www.vpe-hsl.org



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