



BOBCAT NEWS

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

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

Principal's Message

The Benefits of Old Fashioned Reading By Mrs. Little

We are always looking for ways to help our children achieve their highest academic potential. In an era of technology and special programming, it is easy to overlook the benefits of the old fashioned book. For many years we have known that children who spend more time with "eyes on the page" and "words on the tongue" do better academically. In 2018 we all lead busy lives, and it can seem like a Herculean effort to get your child to complete the requested 20-30 minutes of reading practice each day.

You might be relieved to hear that even a small increase in the amount of time spent reading can pay off in a big way. In fact, a recent study by *Renaissance Learning*, (2016). [What kids are reading: And how they grow](#). Wisconsin

*Rapids, WI, showed that **increasing meaningful reading time by just six minutes a day can make the difference between a struggling reader who ends the year at benchmark and one who remains in the bottom quartile of students at his or her grade level.** See the graphic below for details.*

So how do we get our children to engage in this meaningful practice? Try these strategies:

Seek out books at your child's Lexile level- If your child does not know his or her RI Lexile level, reach out the teacher or our librarian Mrs. O'Dowd to find out. There is a great website that can be used to match your child's Lexile to books in areas of interest: <https://fab.lexile.com/>. Our VPE librarian or our City of Villa Park children's librarian, Samantha Smith are also expert at matching books to children's reading levels.

Explore digital platforms- Did you know that OUSD offers your child a free digital reading library? Have your child log into their dashboard at www.orangeusd.org and then select

"Overdrive". Books can be selected by Lexile level, grade level or interest

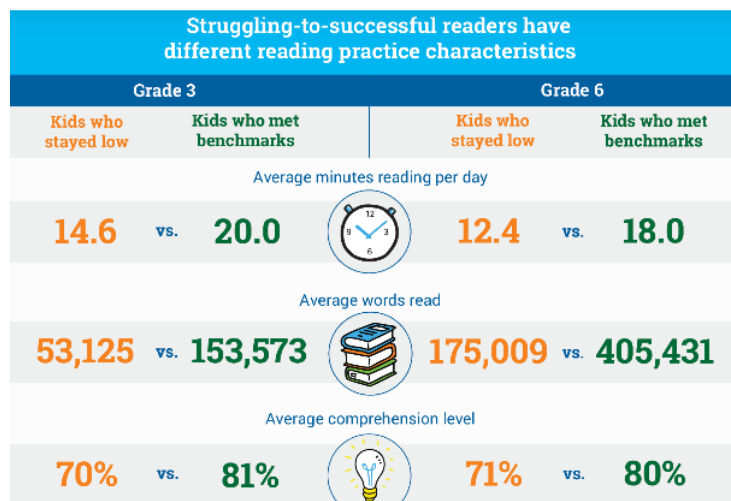


Be open to different genres- If your child resists reading traditional fiction books, consider other options including non-fiction, poetry, riddles, even high quality magazines and comic books. Keep searching until you find something your child looks forward to reading.

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Upcoming Events:

- 3/13: Minimum Day—Trimester End
6th Grade City Days 11:30am
Rockin Jump 1-4pm
- 3/14: College Shirt Spirit Day
5th Grade City Days 11:30pm
Honors String Practice 1:30pm
- 3/15: H&SL Meeting 8:15am
- 3/16: School Carnival 4:00-8:00pm
Bobcat Spirit Day
- 3/22: Literacy Onstage - Aladdin 7pm
- 3/23: Art Masters Lecture
Bobcat Spirit Day
Teacher Treats—1st Grade
Literacy Onstage - Aladdin 7pm
- 3/26-30: Art Masters
- 3/28: Kinder Spring Parade
Mis-Match Spirit Day
STEM Tech Showcase 5:00pm
- 3/29: UCI Field Trip—5th
- 3/30: 2nd Trimester Awards
Bobcat Spirit Day
- 4/2-6: NO SCHOOL—Spring Break
- 4/9: School Resumes
Nature Center Field Trip—3rd
- 4/11: College Spirit Day



All students shown began the school year in the bottom quarter of reading achievement. Kids who read more words, spent more time reading each day, and read with greater understanding pulled ahead to end the year meeting college- and career-readiness benchmarks for their grade.



Principal's Message

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Make reading a family goal- Set a family reading time where everyone gets into the act. This can be a quiet, "electronics off" time when everyone reads independently, a time when the whole family listens and follows along with an audio book, shared reading, or even a family book club. Be sure to celebrate your accomplishments as you increase your reading time together!

Thank you to VPE Principal for a Day, Samantha Smith, City of Villa Park children's librarian!



On March 9th City of Villa Park Children's Librarian, Samantha Smith participated in OUSD's Principal for a Day Program. She had the opportunity to visit classrooms and see our students hard at work. She also shared with students that there are many exciting ways for them to get involved in the City of Villa Park Library including reading incentive programs, family craft time, even a chess club that will be starting soon. For more information, check out the library website: <http://www.ocpl.org/libloc/villapark> When you visit, be sure to say hi to Mrs. Smith and let her know that you met her at Villa Park Elementary.

Villa Park Elementary Celebrates Engineer's Week



February 22nd and 23rd Villa Park Elementary hosted its second annual Engineering Week. We were fortunate to have six amazingly talented engineers from the community: Mrs. Kirsten Zeydel O'Neill, Mr. Greg Begell, Mr. Chris Budnik, Mrs. Mary Byrne, Mr. Trevor Scheaffer, and Mr. Zeph Varley, who gave of their time to share about their career in engineering with our students. Some examples

of their exciting work included designing buildings and bridges, creating sonar systems for submarines, power systems for airplanes, integrated circuits to power computers and video games, even designing components of a ride at Disneyland! Finally the students completed a hands on simple engineering activity under the guidance of our guest engineers. Thanks to all of our fabulous community engineers for opening students' minds to considering a career in this important STEM field.

VPE Family STEM Night a Big Success!



Congratulations Teacher Grant Recipients!



Congratulations to Mrs. Krever and Mrs. Tombrello. Both were honored as grant recipients March 1st at the Orange Rotary Club luncheon. Sixth grade teacher Mrs. Krever wrote a grant for virtual math problem solving "Escape Rooms", and Mrs. Tombrello to provide STEM exploration boxes for her 2nd graders. Way to go teachers, and thank you for supporting our students Orange Rotary!

On Thursday, March 8th, VPE Families came out to enjoy eight different STEM activities at our third annual family night which included everything from computer coding to building gummy towers. Thank you to all of our families who came out to enjoy these activities together. Hats off to our teachers Ms. Loyd and Mrs. Patel who coordinated the night and Ms. Tombrello, Glasky, Houlihan, Smith, Parrish and Kendall who organized activities for families. Even our support staff Mrs. Adray, Miss Julie, and Mrs. O'Dowd got in the act with computer coding and the library Maker's Space! Thanks also to the fabulous Cerro Villa and CSUF volunteers.



VPE Peer Mediators Are on the Job!



During the first week of March, our sixth grade student council began taking turns working as "Peer Mediators" to help students peacefully resolve problems on the playground. The students have been guided by our fabulous teachers Mrs. Krever, Mrs. Pak, Mrs. Scott, Mrs. Arriola, and Ms. Parrish who have trained them in a problem solving protocol. This is a great opportunity for our students to take leadership in helping each other develop positive social skills on the playground. We are looking forward to growing this program and training more student peer mediation leaders.

The Old School Bell is Coming!



OUSD has been hard at work restoring the bell from our old school. We look forward to adding the bell to our campus in a special ceremony this spring. Stay tuned for details!

Morning Drop off Changes

Thank you to all for your cooperation as we change our morning procedures to improve campus security. Remember, beginning Monday, March 12th, parents may only enter campus by signing in via the front office. If you wish to be a part of our morning parent volunteer crew, please follow this link to our [volunteer form](#). Submit your form to the office and we will be in touch with you soon.

Thanks for Participating in Read across America Week!

We had a fabulous celebration of Read across America week at VPE! Thanks to all who helped their child find a special spirit outfit, helped them craft a book character from a potato, or came to read at our slightly damp reading on the quad. Thanks also to our wonderful librarian, Mrs. O'Dowd who organized these activities.



Art Masters Students Meet Asian Brushwork Masters



Art Master students will complete a unit on the masters of the "Asian Brush." The important influence of Asian art on artwork from both East and West can be seen in almost all the art our students study, but it is the Asian masters' brushwork that truly inspires students to paint. After learning about basic strokes used in calligraphy and painting, students will use bamboo brushes and a variation on the Sumi-E technique to create their own bamboo compositions.



Presidents Message

We're hopping right into spring! Wow, what a busy time here at VPE. We are gearing up for our annual carnival this month, preparing for the end of the 2nd trimester and the annual Foundation Games!

There are so many great things happening this time of year! Thank you to Kari Christie and her team of volunteers for their tireless efforts putting this year's 50's theme carnival together for our entire school community. We can't wait to sock-hop with you all on Friday, March 16th!

We need your help to make our silent auction wonderful! If you have something in mind or know someone who would like to donate an item to our silent auction please let us know. Sporting event tickets, vacation

rentals, amusement park tickets, special services, etc. Please contact Julie Krodel at juliekrodel@gmail.com to arrange silent auction details.

Thank you to coach Sarah Jarrell and her track helpers for getting our track athletes ready for competition. We will be defending our 1st place title on April 21st at the 13th annual Foundation Games held at Fred Kelly Stadium. Coach Jarrell is an energizer bunny, teaching PE as well as organizing before school training sessions twice a week and Saturday guess-your-time trail runs for the entire family. If your student hasn't participated, I strongly urge them to give it a try. It is a truly awesome day spent representing your school and cheering on your classmates.

Please keep an eye out for our Spring Donation Drive coming in April. This effort will allow us to go above and

beyond the programs our H&SL currently supports, like Art Masters and K-4 music. We will be launching a Silent Fundraiser to help with funding our PE program, campus improvement projects like a new marquee and/or benches in the parent waiting area and potential bathroom and campus safety improvements. Information will be coming home after spring break.

As we close out this 2nd trimester, I want to thank each and every one of our Bobcat families for all that you do to make VPE a special community. Without you and your support, ideas and time spent volunteering, our students would not be where they are today. YOU are important to VPE.

Thank you!

GO BOBCATS!
Michelle Gonzalez

5th Grade Fundraising



3/29 Ruby's Restaurant Night 4-8pm



4/18 Los Cabos Restaurant Night



5/11 Holiday Skate Party



5/22 Wahoo's Restaurant Night



5/5 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 for pick up or alternative drop off date! busterandcharlie@sbcglobal.net

VILLA PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL		
MAR	active SOCK FUNDRAISER	
16	4:00 PM	
FRIDAY	\$7 PER PAIR OF SOCKS *CASH ONLY	\$2 GOES BACK TO 5TH GRADE

Active Sportswear will be selling men's, women's and children's socks at the VPE carnival for **\$7 CASH** per pair. All funds raised will benefit 5th grade fundraising! Be sure to stop by their tent and pick up a pair, or two of cool socks!



Fabulous 50's Fun is Coming to VPF!!

Don't miss the annual VPF Carnival & Auction!

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

Come and join your friends and bring your family for a night of fun out on the VPF blacktop!

Some of this year's exciting activities will include:



Rock Climbing Wall	Basketball Jump Shot	QB-Blitz	Sand Art Creations
Batter Up Baseball	Sock Hop Dancing	Active Sock Sale	Photo Booth
Crazy Hair Coloring	Carnival Games	Prize Redemption Booth	Cake Walk
Old World Kettle Corn & Roasted Corn	Lazer Maze Challenge	Spin Art Station	
Face Painting	TK Burger Meals	5 th Grade Ice Cream Shop	Pucker Powder Station
Amazing Auction Baskets & Experiences	Wine Grab (for the adults!)	And so much more.....	

To avoid standing in line the night of the carnival, you can pre-order all of your tickets! Simply fill out the form below and return it to school before March 12th and your tickets will be delivered to your child's classroom!

All Pre-sale Orders will receive 4 FREE GAME TICKETS!!

-----CUT HERE AND RETURN LOWER PORTION-----

Student Name _____ Teacher _____ Room _____

Wristband (Includes unlimited carnival games and a round of Lazer Maze, no Cake Walk) \$25.00 Quantity- _____

Game Tickets- 24 tickets for \$5.00

(1 bag=24 tickets) Quantity of Bags- _____

(Most games are 2 tickets, big games and Cake Walk are 4 tickets,

Hair Color, Sand Art, Pucker Powder & Photo Booth- 8 tickets, Lazer Maze, Rock Wall, Balloon Twists & Face Painting- 12 tickets)

TK Meal with Cheeseburger, French Fries & Drink \$8.00 Quantity- _____

TK Meal with Hamburger, French Fries & Drink \$8.00 Quantity- _____

TK Meal with VeggieBurger, French Fries & Drink \$8.00 Quantity- _____

TK Meal with Chicken Sandwich, French Fries & Drink \$8.00 Quantity- _____

TK Meal with Grilled Cheese, French Fries & Drink \$8.00 Quantity- _____

TK Meal with Hot Dog, French Fries & Drink \$8.00 Quantity- _____

TK Meal with Cheeseburger, Chips & Drink \$7.00 Quantity- _____

TK Meal with Hamburger, Chips & Drink \$7.00 Quantity- _____

TK Meal with VeggieBurger, Chips & Drink \$7.00 Quantity- _____

TK Meal with Chicken Sandwich, Chips & Drink \$7.00 Quantity- _____

TK Meal with Grilled Cheese, Chips & Drink \$7.00 Quantity- _____

TK Meal with Hot Dog Chips & Drink \$7.00 Quantity- _____

Old World Roasted Corn (Kettle Corn can be purchased at event) \$4.00 per ear Quantity- _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED- _____



New at Carnival this year: *the wine grab!*

Don't miss the wine grab station at Carnival! Buy a numbered cork and trade it in for a surprise bottle of vino at the end of the night!

We need your help to make it fabulous!

If you or someone you know can make a tax-deductible donation of bottles of wine to the VPE Home & School League, please let us know! Corks will be sold for \$20 each, so donated bottles should be appealing to shoppers in that price range. Donations will be accepted outside the MPR before the next H&SL meeting: Thursday, 3/15 at 8:00 a.m.

****NO Alcohol is allowed on campus ~ we are happy to arrange pick up****

Please contact Michelle Gonzalez: president@vpe-hsl.org



Dad's Club

MPR Tile Wall Install

A few weeks ago, our VPE dads worked a late night and installed the student painted tiles in the MPR. (See Photo) WOW! Our kids' square masterpieces look fantastic all framed and hung up. Thanks dads for your help- these tiles will be a part of the Bobcat legacy for a long time.



Camp Bobcat – June 1

Get the sleeping bags and tents ready! – Our annual Dads' Club signature event, the playground sleepover Camp Bobcat is going to be June 1st.

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Lunch Carts Keep Coming

Two more classrooms recently got upgrades to their lunch carts. Mrs. Valerioté's class just received a new Georgia Tech cart created by student Bradley Smith and his dad Colin. Nice work Smiths- Your cart looks amazing! Also Mrs. Fujitani's class said aloha to their new University of Hawai'i lunch cart made by the real O'Neill family. This cart construction was full team effort from kids Miley & Colby plus dad & mom, Richard and Kirsten Zeydel-O'Neill. More lunch carts are coming soon VPE classrooms and super thanks for everyone has helped.



VILLA PARK ELEMENTARY
HOME & SCHOOL LEAGUE
SPRING DONATION DRIVE
COMING THIS APRIL!

We need your help!
Contributions collected from this
donation drive will go directly to
funding PE, Music, Art Masters,
and Campus Updates...
hopefully a new marquee!

PLEDGESTAR INFORMATION
COMING HOME APRIL 9TH

WE WILL BE ACCEPTING
DONATIONS THROUGHOUT THE
MONTH OF APRIL

YOUR SUPPORT IS APPRECIATED!



After School Enrichment—Musical Theater Performance

Thursday, March 22 & Friday, March 23 at 7:00pm



The Musical Theater After School Enrichment Program, directed by Literacy Onstage, will be performing on Thursday, March 22 and Friday, March 23 at 7:00pm in the MPR. Come enjoy the show and support our student performers.

Rockin' Jump

Villa Park Elementary Family & Friend Day

Tuesday March 13th 2018, 1pm-4pm

1411 Village Way, Santa Ana, CA 92705



Bring the family and friends out to Rockin' Jump for an end of the trimester celebration!

\$16 for 1 hour jump pass, \$22 for 2 hours.

25% of proceeds will come back to VPE Home and School League

Let the kids spend their energy jumping into the stunt air bag or speed racing up our rock climbing wall while you cheer them on! Challenge them to a battle on our X-Beam or have a Family Dodgeball game!

With 10 different activities to choose from, your family is sure to spend a memorable afternoon.

Socks are \$3 per person, or bring your own Sky Zone or trampoline park socks.

Please go to rockinjump.com (Orange County) to fill in a liability waiver for each child under 18 years old



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 February that was:

Kinder: Mrs. Miller
First: Mrs. Johnson
Second: Mrs. Tombrello/Stillwell
Third: Mrs. Houliban
Fourth: Mrs. Williams
Fifth: Mrs. Parrish
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



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