



BOBCAT NEWS

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

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....and more

Happy Reading

Principal's Message:

By Mrs. Little

Villa Park Elementary Gets Excited
about **Science Technology
Engineering & Math**

Villa Park Elementary is taking the challenge to excite students about STEM! On September 29th we had over 250 students and parents attend our first annual Family STEM Night. With VPE teachers, parents and students completed such activities as "Come on Baby Light my Bulb", "Marshmallow Rockets" and "Got Gas". Each activity introduced an important STEM topic in a fun and engaging family format.

We are building on this excitement with simple monthly school wide STEM Challenges. In our first challenge on October 28th, students tested out their planning and engineering skills by building a house of cards. Some students began by drawing a design, while others used trial and error to figure out what worked. Students quickly learned techniques that allowed their cards to stand such as folding, bracing, and fitting the cards together with slits.

Students learned that different building techniques should be applied depending on the goal, such as building the tallest, longest, or sturdiest house. For many groups the most challenging task of all was working in collaboration to agree upon and execute a design. We were very grateful to have parent volunteers in almost every class to assist teachers.

This challenge also gave older students leadership opportunities. Before the challenge even began, our fifth and sixth grade students used their math skills to determine how many decks of cards were needed for the whole school, and to comparison shop to find the best value. Some of our 6th grade students acted as mentors to younger students to assist in the design process. While other 6th graders incorporated their technology skills to capture and compile a movie of student work.



Students can't wait for the next STEM Challenge, December 2nd, "Music to my Ears". In this challenge students will be asked to use ordinary items to create instruments that can make different types of sounds. We are looking for volunteers once again.

[You may sign up via this link.](#)

We are also looking for donations that can be useful for this challenge such as:

- Masking Tape
- Music Makers: plastic and paper cups, paper plates, beans, beads, jingle bells, paper towel rolls, pipe cleaners, paper straws, waxed paper, combs, rubber bands, balloons, craft sticks, plastic disposable containers, aluminum foil, small boxes, or oatmeal boxes.

Upcoming Events:

- 11/18: Minimum Day
- 11/19: Kinder Thanksgiving
- 11/21-25: Thanksgiving Break
- 11/28-12/2: 6th Grade Outdoor Ed.
- 11/30: College Spirit Day
- 12/1: Parenting Workshop 6:30
- 12/2: STEM Challenge #2
- 12/5: 2nd Grade Field Trip
- 12/6-9: Holiday Store
- 12/9: 4th Grade Field Trip
- 12/9: Literacy on Stage presents Shrek Jr. 7pm
- 12/14: College Spirit Day
- 12/15: K-4 Music Program 8:15
- 12/16: Awards Assembly
- 12/16: Class Parties 1:30
- 12/19-1/6: Winter Break
- 1/9: Return to School



3rd Grade Bike Rodeo

With the help of the Orange County Sheriffs department, Villa Park Elementary's annual bicycle rodeo took place on Wednesday, October 12. Students brought their bikes, wore their helmet and were tested on bicycle safety. Each student received a certificate of completion and a Villa Park Elementary license plate.



President's Message

Hello VPE Students and Families,

I would again like to give huge Bobcat thanks to the following people for dedicating their time to making VPE the best place to be!

- Mickey McGuire and committee huge thanks for seamlessly running our beloved book fair again this Fall. It's always a pleasure to see our library transformed and children in there feeding their desire to read and grow.
- Donna Czekalski, Mark Kuli and all of Dad's Club, thank you so much for planning and manning our Fall Family Night. It's a treat to spend time with families on campus hanging out "doing the fun stuff." It takes much planning and coordination to pull it off. Thanks!
- Julie Stoico and committee thank you, thank you, thank you for pulling off a very successful Monster Dash Jog-a-thon fundraiser. Months of organization and planning brought on a "spooktacular" day for all students!

I am grateful for such a devoted group of volunteers at VPE. I honestly believe it is what sets our school apart from the others. I wish everyone a peaceful and wonderful Thanksgiving.

Julie Krodel
H&SL President

H&SL Membership Directory



The online membership directory was published last week. If you registered as a member of the H&SL, you should have received an email with the details for accessing the online directory.

Please take a few moments to review your contact information and update the information as needed.

If you would like to join the H&SL, you can access the membership registration form by [clicking here](#). The form is also available on the H&SL website under the section "About Us". Upon registering, you will receive access to the online membership directory.

Thank you to everyone who has joined the H&SL!

Holiday Store



Mark your calendars...

Tuesday, Dec 6—Friday, Dec 9 our Holiday Store will be open for business! Students have the opportunity to shop for their friends and family at this H&SL sponsored event. Look for more information in the coming weeks for shop hours and parent volunteer opportunities.



A Huge Thank You to the wonderful Bookaneer Book fair volunteers!

Veronica Tarnofsky, Maria Griswold, Raquel Marquez, Francine Sawyer, Melissa Dickey, Kristina Simons, Tanya Elcock, Holly von Ting, Corinna Saenz, Alicia Gonzalez, Candace Colomac, Heather Gorsuch, Monique McArthur, Julie Krodel, Michelle Gonzalez, Erin Flynn and Lisa Adray

**The fair was a great success because of your
ARRR-some Help!**

5th Grade Outdoor Ed Fundraising

On behalf of 5th Grade Outdoor Ed Fundraising, Thank you for supporting the Wahoo's Restaurant Night and Boo Gram Sales. Both were very successful because of everyone's support!

Monster Dash Jog-A-Thon

Thank you to our Jog-A-Thon Monster Dash Sponsors:





2016-17 LCAP Survey Instructions

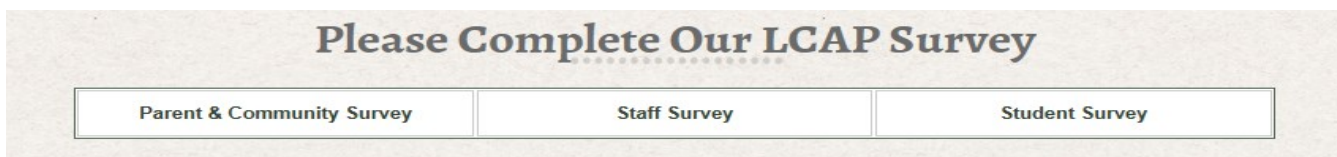
Our 2016-17 Stakeholder Engagement Survey is ready! The window for responses is from 9/30/16-12/16/16

This year we have partnered with Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) to construct a more robust survey instrument to inform our Local Control and Accountability Plan.

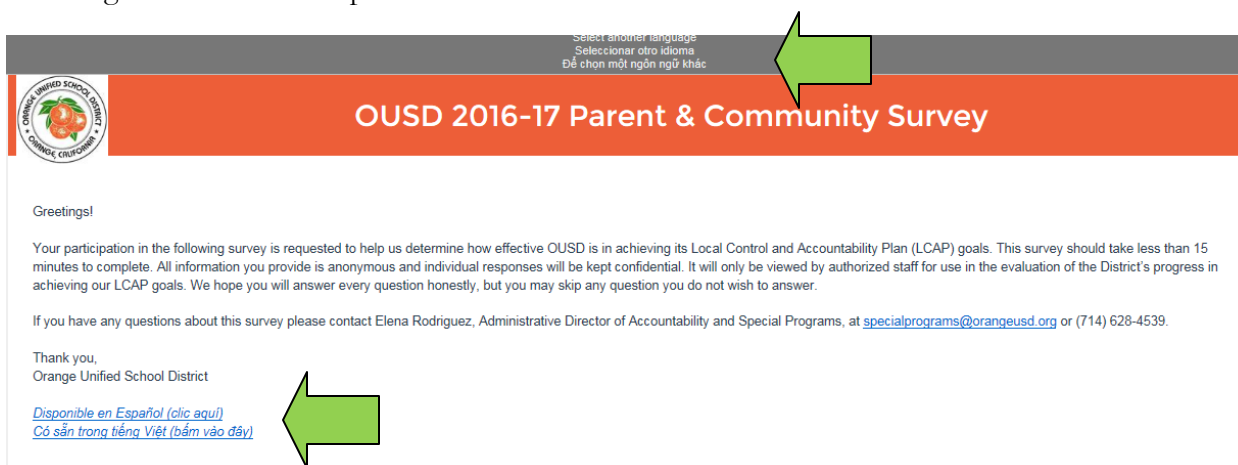
1. On our main page of our website find the orange banner on the upper left that says "LCAP Survey:"



2. Click the banner and it takes you to the LCFF Page. This should pop up. If it does not, scroll down a bit:



3. Those taking survey selects the stakeholder group they pertain to. For students, we would like input from 5th-12th grade. On the Welcome Page of the survey, there is an option to select Spanish or Vietnamese either on the top margin or on the lower part of the screen as shown below.

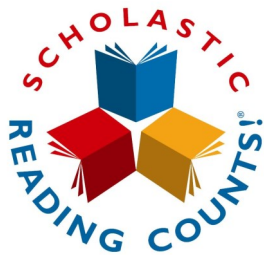


4. There are dialog boxes that will open up if a response is, "disagrees", "strongly disagrees" or has "no opinion." There is a final question that is open-ended with a character limit of 500 words.

We anticipate the surveys will take no longer than 15 minutes to complete.

We have set up a dedicated LCAP email specialprograms@orangeusd.org and phone line (714) 628-4539 in case there are questions or concerns regarding the survey. The messages will be monitored by our Accountability and Special Programs team.

Updates on completion by site will be provided to us by OCDE on 11/18 and 12/9.



Valuable Reading Counts Information

Did you know that if your child reads or is read to for 20 minutes a day from kindergarten to 6th grade he or she will have had nearly 900 hours of mind nourishment? Reduce that by just 30 minutes a week and your child loses 770 hours of poems, narratives, fairytales, legends and vital vocabulary expansion. Reading Counts is the program VPE uses to encourage and support strong reading skills. Many parents are curious about how to navigate the program and help their child become successful.

Each semester students are required to complete a set number of Reading Counts points (based on their grade). See the table below:

Grade	Points Required (per trimester)
2 nd	25
3 rd	30
4 th	40
5 th	50
6 th	60

Reading a book at the correct level is of the utmost importance and where most students are most likely to pass their quizzes.

At the beginning of each school year, VPE students take a test and are given a color or lexile level (lexile level is different from grade level) that helps to guide them in finding the proper books for their reading ability.

In our VPE library, the books that have a reading counts quiz are labeled with a colored sticker that corresponds to a reading level or lexile. For example, books that are in the 201-400 range have blue stickers. For grades 2-6, students are required to check out at least one book at their color, with the second book being one of their choice.

All Reading Counts books are given points. The more difficult the book's lexile level, the more points awarded. To find out a books points, visit <http://src.scholastic.com>. Be sure to type in a book's exact title when searching. Some parents only put in key words in the title and that might not bring up the book, or try typing in the author's name.

Parents should know that it is very common for beginning readers to have to reread books a couple of times in order to pass a quiz.

Ask how your child did on their quiz. Only a score of 80% or higher is a pass.

Students often take Reading Counts quizzes during Computer Lab on stories read from their textbook during class. These quizzes count toward their semester goal points, but will not get them the total required points.

Go to the district web site, www.orangeusd.org > parent > student resources > reading counts quizzes. Here you will find all the Reading Counts quizzes that are available. Although VPE has all the quizzes (over 50,000) we do not have all the books! (VPE's library has 14,500 books)

Students can read books from the bookstore, home or the public library, just make sure VPE has the Reading Counts quiz available by checking the OUSD district site. Students also have access to a new FREE online ebook program called Overdrive. It provides a selection of grade appropriate books and audio books, too. To access go:

WHEN AND WHERE DO STUDENTS TAKE THE QUIZZES?

- *In the VPE library- 7:45-8:00 am
- *In the VPE library after school 2:21-2:45pm
- *During recess and lunch(if there is not a class in there)
- *During class computer lab time(if there is time)
- *Most times in classroom on PC's or Chromebook(with teacher approval)

Please note that parents are requested to not come into the rooms while students are taking their quizzes. It is not because of a concern that parents will give their students the answers, but because students gain confidence and are proven to be more relaxed without a parent's presence.

If you have any questions or want more detailed information on finding Reading Counts books at your child's level, speak to your child's teacher.



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

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October Attendance Awards



Villa Park has a goal this year to reduce non-essential absences. Did you know that personal absences such as family vacations during school days contribute to our truancy rate, which is tracked state wide as one of the indicators of our school climate? Please do your very best to ensure that your child attends school each day. We are doing our part by recognizing the classes each month with the highest attendance rates, as well as the most improved class. For the month of October the winners are:

Kinder- Mrs. Miller
First-Mrs. Valeriotte
Second- Mrs. Granger
Third-Mrs. Fujitani

Fourth- Mrs. Glasky
Fifth- Mrs. Williams
Sixth- Mrs. Patel
Most Improved- Mrs. Kendall & Tombrello

WACKY WEDNESDAYS @ ANDREWS ICE CREAM



For every lunch bought, \$1 will be donated the Bobcat's 5th grade field trip fund!

Calling all Elementary school families! Bring this coupon and grab some lunch to help contribute to the Bobcats at Villa Park Elementary.

For \$5:

- 1 slice of pizza
- 1 ice cream
- 1 bottle of water

LOCATED AT:

Wednesdays 12:30-2:00pm (Starting September 28)

1549 E Katella Ave, Orange, CA 92867