



BOBCAT NEWS

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

Principal's Message:

By Mrs. Little

Using Growth Mindset Language to Respond to your Child's Report Card

Report Card time is here again. Last year we learned about the growth mindset and how our children's lifetime success is closely linked to their ability to tie their struggles, effort, and perseverance to their ultimate success. When you receive your children's report cards, your response can help your children shape a growth mindset.

It is always best to begin a discussion of the report card when you have some calm, quiet time to reflect with your child. Choose your words wisely, the key is to focus your child on how their actions and efforts, and not inherent ability or factors outside of their control, most influence their outcome. Try phrases such as these:

To respond to positive grades:

- *You got excellent grades in _____, tell me about what you did to earn those.*
- *Wow, you must have been working very hard in _____ to earn a _____. Your hard work paid off.*
- *Aren't you glad that we studied so hard every week in _____? Look what you accomplished!*
- *You have really improved in _____. Remember when that was so hard for you, and now you _____.*
- *You have come a long way in _____. What do you think made the difference?*
- *I know you were determined to get _____ this trimester. I am really proud that you stuck with it and accomplished your goal.*
- *You are doing so well, I wonder what challenge you can set for yourself next trimester?*

To respond to disappointing grades to spite good effort:

- *I see how hard you are working in _____. It's been really challenging this year. I know you're making progress. Just keep at it and you'll get there.*
- *I know you were working for a higher grade in _____. Let's think about what else might help.*
- *I know it's frustrating when you are working hard and not seeing the results. Why don't we talk to your teacher to get some ideas that could help?*
- *This was a hard trimester for you because of _____. Next trimester we can _____.*

To respond to disappointing grades when work completion and effort has been a problem

- *It's hard to see that you are not earning the grades I know you could if you put in a little more time and effort. Let's come up with a plan to help you improve next trimester.*
- *What do you think you could have done differently this trimester to get a different result in _____.*
- *I have seen you do a really great job in _____ when you focus. What do you think is getting in the way? What can we do about it?*
- *I know you can improve at _____ if you set your mind to it. Let's set a goal together for next trimester.*

Remember your children's elementary grades, while important, do not make or break their future. When you teach your children to reflect honestly and calmly on how their efforts have shaped their results, and how to respond to success and struggle, you are teaching them lessons that will serve them through college, career, and beyond.



Monster Dash Jog-A-Thon

Thank you to everyone that came out and supported our students on October 31st as they ran in our “Monster Dash” at our school wide Jog-A-Thon. It was a great event for everyone, but like every event it takes a team of volunteers to make it successful.

With that said, I’d like to thank our ROOM PARENTS for their help and assistance gathering volunteers, donations and more importantly for working the event. MONIQUE MCARTHUR was absolutely amazing as she took charge of the popsicle station. A special thank you to those families who donated all of the water for the Jog-A-Thon event and SUSAN-NAH SHORTALL for heading up and manning the water station all day long. Thank you to DONNA CZEKALSKI for donating the props – they added the perfect touch to the event and SHELLEY DOLKAS for making that early morning call time to drop off the balloons. Last but not least. Thank you to MARK KULI for helping print our banners and for our shirts. As usual, PERFECTION!

Lastly, thank you to all our 2016 Jog-A-Thon sponsors:



As we wrap up the event and total last minute pledges we are pleased to announce that we have raised over \$57,000! These funds will help ensure that the Home & School League can continue to fund programs, activities and technology upgrades that benefit each student at Villa Park Elementary. This total is truly amazing so I thank each and every one of you for getting your children excited about the run, encouraging them to do their best and collect pledges for their school!

The top performing student and winner of the IPAD MINI, raising \$615, was Christian Zuazo! The top performing class who will receive a class party was Ms. Ariz – Congratulations to ALL! Top lap runners will be announced on December 9th at the morning assembly.

In the meantime, thank you to all who participated and to the MANY volunteers that brought another great Jog-A-Thon to Villa Park Elementary!



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!

Upcoming Events:

- 12/9: Report Cards sent home
- 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: NO SCHOOL—Winter Break
- 1/9: Return to School
- 1/13: STEM Challenge #3
- 1/16: NO SCHOOL—MLK Jr. Day



STEM Challenge # 2 Music to our Ears



On December 2nd, VPE students took on their second STEM Challenge, “Music to our Ears”. Students worked together to create their own instruments from ordinary household items. Students first designed an instrument, then built, tried and modified their prototypes. The

school was filled with twangs, beeps, bangs, and all variety of shake, rattle and rolls as students joyfully played their one of a kind instruments. Thanks to all the parents who helped our fabulous teachers make this afternoon of scientific creativity possible through your donations and time.

Our next STEM Challenge “Zipline” will take place January 13th. Sign up [here](#) to support us in the classroom that afternoon. Here are materials that will be needed. Donations can be made to the office at any time.

- chipboard (from a cereal box or back of a notepad)
- smooth line (e.g., fishing line or unwaxed dental floss)
- steel washers (1 inch in diameter or larger)
- small paper cups
- Ping-Pong balls
- plastic straws
- tape (duct or masking)
- wooden skewers

President’s Message

Hello Bobcat Families,

I have a unique “thank you” in this mini version of the Bobcat News. I would like to express heartfelt gratitude to all VPE families for your unending commitment to making our Monster Dash Jog-a-thon a smashing success this year! All the emails to grandma, phone calls to friends and money collection paid off! Thank you, thank you, thank you! Please continue reading for a full report from our Monster Dash chair, Julie Stoico.

Thank you to Kim Barks-Finamore, Sarah Jarrell and countless volunteers for another terrific Holiday Store. It is a favorite annual event that the students look forward to every year. With many volunteers, we are able to keep this prized tradition going.

Finally, as 2016 comes to a close, I would like to wish each of you a joyous and peaceful holiday season and new year! See you in 2017!

Sincerely,
Julie Krodel



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

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