



BOBCAT NEWS

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

Principal's Message

October is Bullying Prevention Month!

By Mrs. Little

This October, for the second year in a Villa Park Elementary will observing National Bullying Prevention Month. Throughout the month, we will be participating in school wide activities.

October 2-6 – Be Aware

Students will learn what bullying is and how is it different from conflict.

October 9-13 – Be Kind

Students will learn that kindness is the opposite of bullying and pledge to do something kind for a new person each day at school this week.

October 16-20 –Be an “Upstander”

Students will learn how they can be a hero by being an “upstander” when they see bullying behavior.

Wednesday October 25 –Be United

Staff and students are encouraged to wear orange to show their support for bullying prevention and inclusion.

<http://www.pacer.org/bullying/nbpm/unity-day.asp>

Bullying Prevention Education Efforts at VPE

Each year we engage in several educational programs to help students learn positive social skills, and to recognize and respond to bullying. To distinguish bullying from routine “conflict” we teach children that bullying:

- It is repeated over time
- It is intended to hurt or intimidate the victim
- Is targeted to the same person or people and generally involves an imbalance of power, either physical or social.

Students are also taught that bullying generally falls into four areas. All of these actions are unacceptable at VPE.

- Physical bullying-such as hitting, pushing, tripping.
- Verbal bullying-such as insults or taunts, or threats, whether spoken or written
- Social bullying-such as deliberately excluding, intimidating, or spreading rumors
- Cyber bullying -such as mean or embarrassing texts, or online posts.

By using the criteria above, you can help your child to determine if what they are seeing or experiencing is indeed bullying. If a student should feel bullied at school:

- They are instructed to leave the situation whenever possible (rather than escalating the situation through retaliation) and report the bullying promptly to an adult.

Most often students will report to a teacher or supervisor, but students may report to any staff member, including the principal, who they may ask to see at any time. Students may also write a written note to the teacher or principal to report the situation.

- It is helpful if students clearly state they feel bullied:
I feel bullied by _____ because _____.

Another student, parent, or staff member may also report the concern. Whenever a bullying report is made it will be promptly investigated by the principal and parents of all involved students will be informed. Based on the investigation appropriate consequence follow up and monitor-

ing put in place to protect the interests of all children involved and discourage future occurrences.

In our education we also discuss the importance of not being a passive “bystander”, but by showing kindness and support when they see someone being bullied by helping students to leave the situation, and to report the bullying. This is called being an “upstander”. Annually as a part of their digital citizenship curriculum at school, students also complete a module on cyber bullying.

Please talk to your children about National Bullying Prevention Month and the things that we all can do to help make Villa Park a safe and caring community for all!

Upcoming Events:

- 10/9-13: Book Fair
Min Days—Conferences
- 10/11: 3rd Grade Bike Rodeo
College Spirit Day
- 10/13: Art Masters Lectures
Bobcat Spirit Day
5th Grade Field Trip—SAC
- 10/18: Superhero Shirt Spirit Day
- 10/19: H&SL Meeting 8:15am
- 10/20: Imagination Machine Assembly
Bobcat Spirit Day
Teacher Treats 5th Grade
- 10/22: Dad’s Club Workday 8:00am
- 10/23-27: Red Ribbon Week
- 10/23: Picture Make-Ups
- 10/24: 5th Grade Mother/Daughter
Puber-Tea 6:00pm
- 10/25: Unity Day—Wear Orange
- 10/27: Bobcat Spirit Day
Family Lunch with Fizzy Friday
STEM Challenge #1
Parent Mixer 6:00pm



President's Message

On behalf of the Home & School League I'd like to wish all our Bobcat families a happy Fall. While we have had a few weeks to adjust to routines, VPE is in full swing this month with quite a few awesome events for our school community.

I'd first like to give thanks to all our new H&SL Members for making our Membership Drive a success. Thank you to the teachers and staff for their support and encouragement. It's still a little early to announce the ice cream party winner, but as soon as all memberships have been entered, you will for sure be notified and car decals will be distributed to all membership families! Thank you for making a difference, **YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS!**

A special thank you also goes out to Jaime Harris for managing our memberships and Mark Kuli, for his Membership Drive vision. Thank you both for your time and efforts.

Please note that our After School Enrichment classes have started. This is made possible by the coordination of our volunteer Wendy McGrane! She has worked tirelessly to make sure we are able to offer the great enrichment these classes offer. From musical theater, coding, magic, chess, dance, cartooning, and Lego's to origami...there is something for everyone! If you missed out this fall, there will be a new offering in the spring.

Now for October...we are jammed packed with fun this month! Please mark your calendars and please thank a volunteer this month:

- 10/4:** Walk to School Day
Kim Barks-Finamore)
- 10/6:** Fall Family Fun Night
Donna Czekalski, Dad's Club
- 10/9-10/13:** Book Fair
Mickey McGuire
- 10/11:** Bike Rodeo
Alissa Cartwright
- 10/19:** H&SL Meeting
- 10/22:** Dad's Club Work Day
Mark Kuli
- 10/24:** 5th Grade Mother/Daughter Tea
- 10/27:** Parent Mixer at Moreno's
Erin Flynn
- 10/31:** SPOOKY SPRINT
Julie Stoico

SPOOKY SPRINT

Our biggest fundraiser of the year (we strive to only have one). Please register and send out your PledgeStar emails. Your contributions here are invaluable and enables us to provide the extras for all students: music, PE and educational assemblies, etc. Our goal is \$60K. Knowing that we will be starting a new campaign above and beyond this to fund a new shade structure for our new quad area, let's really shoot for the stars! Rally your family and friends and let's see what we can accomplish together!



Legislative Coalition Liaison:

We are still looking for a volunteer to be our Legislative Coalition liaison. The Legislative Coalition Liaison attends a meeting once a month at the District office and then shares with us at our monthly H&SL meeting what was discussed.

Silent Auction Coordinator:

Our VPE Carnival is in need of a silent auction coordinator. Someone to get the word out, secure auction items and handle this portion of our school run carnival in March.

Lip Sync Coordinator:

We are looking for a lead person to take on our end of year Lip Sync. All students 1-6 grades are encouraged to lip sync a song or mash up and choreograph a dance in groups of 2 or more. This is a long time and coveted fun end of year event held here at VPE.

Get ready for the whirlwind of October and as always, please don't hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you all for a great start to the year! GO BOBCATS!

Michelle Gonzalez



3rd Grade Bike Rodeo - Oct 11

With the help of the Orange County Sheriffs department, Villa Park Elementary's annual bicycle rodeo will take place at 8:15am on **Wednesday, October 11.**

This event is for 3rd Graders and any 4th-6th Graders who have not participated in the past. Students bring their bike and wear their helmet; they will be tested on bicycle safety. Each student will be issued a certificate of completion and a Villa Park Elementary license plate. Hope you can attend this exciting event!



Be a Change Maker...

...to impact the lives of those affected by natural disasters.

During the last month we have been inundated with news of the devastation facing those affected by hurricanes in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, and the Caribbean, as well as earthquakes in Mexico. As we guide our students to become caring citizens, we want them to understand that they can positively impact the lives of others affected by these tragedies. Many of our students have already written letters of thanks to the first responders in Houston. Now we are challenging students to bring their change to school during the month of October to donate to the Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund. This campaign is called "Be a Change Maker". Student council has delivered a bucket adorned with the Red Cross logo to each classroom and we encourage all students to donate as often as they like between now and October 27th. Although we welcome all donations, the emphasis of this campaign is to help our students develop empathy and a spirit of giving for others, so we especially encourage you to help your child use their "own money"- in whatever amount. Children who work to earn the money they give to others feel a great sense of pride and empowerment. We have a school wide goal of \$1500. Let's see if we can exceed that goal. Thank you for helping us to teach our students that they are "Change Makers".



Art Master of the Month

Henri Matisse 1869-1954

Starting the week of October 9, students will enjoy the art of Henri Matisse through an exciting assembly highlighting Matisse's brilliantly colored paper cut-outs. As the leading French artist of the 20th century, particularly noted for his striking use of color, Matisse was one of the few artists who achieved widespread fame during his lifetime. His art inspired students to create their own paper cut-out designs based on one of his favorite motifs, the sea.

School Picture Make-Up Day



Was your student absent on picture day or do they need to re-take their pictures?

School Picture Make-Up Day is scheduled for **Monday, October 23.**

5th Grade Mother-Daughter Tea

Save the date for our Birds and Bees Tea on **Tuesday, October 24th.**

Please arrive at 6:00pm for light refreshments and our presentation will begin promptly at 6:30pm!



COME TO OUR BOOK FAIR!

SADDLE UP AND READ!

Grand Opening ~ Fall Family Night
Friday, Oct. 6th from 5pm-7pm
Monday, Oct. 9th ~ Friday, Oct 13th

Dates
Open After School in the MPR
During Parent/Teacher Conferences
Mon.-Thurs. 12:15-3:00pm, Fri. 12:15-1:15pm

Times

Y'all come down to the MPR!
Yeee-Haaaw!!!

Place

SCHOLASTIC



Makerspace

Makerspace is coming to the VPE Library. Thanks to a Grant from the Rotary Club!

Exciting things are happening the VPE library! This year our librarian, Mrs. Gina O'Dowd, worked with Robert Shumate, and Dan Gray from the Villa Park Rotary Club to secure a grant to create a Makerspace in the Villa Park Elementary Library. A Makerspace is a collaborative work space for making, learning, exploring and sharing that uses high tech to no tech tools. Our Makerspace at VPE will be a place for students to tinker with activities that run the gamut from sewing to robotics, and even a 3D printer. Recently, volunteers from the Villa Park and North Orange Rotary Clubs volunteered to work side by side with our Dad's Club reps to assemble tables and accessories. For more information on our budding Makerspace, see the "Students Speak Out" article .

Students Speak Out Focus on our Library!

Written by Amelia Gray and Kat Tighe

Mrs. O'Dowd our librarian helps us to check out our reading books every week. To make our VPE experience even better, she runs Makers Club. Makers Club is an opportunity in the library to learn to sew or take apart items to see how they were constructed. Our wonderful librarian has gotten some items to make the school wide program shoot through the roof for us students. Mrs. O'Dowd is in the process of getting 2, 3D printers, 2 sewing machines, and 3D pens. These things were supplied by a Rotary Club Grant. Mrs. O'Dowd says "Students, in grades 1st to 6th, may join me in the VPE library on Tuesdays during lunchtime to explore the makerspace."



Parent Teacher Conferences

Oct 9th-13th

During the week of Oct 9th-13th, students will be released at 12:15 daily so that teachers can complete parent teacher conferences. It's natural for both parents and students to feel a little apprehensive about these upcoming conferences. Here are five tips to make your conference productive.

Honor your appointment- Be sure you know your appointment time, and stay on time. The teacher is likely to have a packed schedule and will appreciate your prompt arrival and timely completion. If you find you don't have enough time in the appointment to fully address your concerns, ask for a follow up appointment or phone call. There is very likely another parent waiting eagerly for the next appointment slot. If you have to cancel or reschedule, please let the teacher know as soon as possible.

Talk to your Student- Ask your child to let you know one thing he is doing well, and one thing he is concerned about in his classroom. This will give you a frame of reference for how your student is feeling about his class. Some teachers, especially of upper grade students, will want students to attend the conference as well. Check with your child's teacher if you are unsure.

Frontload the Teacher-If you have major concerns or questions, email the teacher in advance. That way she can do some investigation and be prepared for a thoughtful discussion during the conference.

Work to develop a positive partnership with the teacher- Listen with an open mind to the teacher's perspective on your child's progress. If the teacher's perspective surprises you, ask for an example. Request some suggestions on how you might help your child at home. Remember you and the teacher share the same goal of academic and behavioral success for your child. When your child knows that you and the teacher are working together and communicating regularly, she is more likely to be successful.

Be Growth Focused- Whether your child is excelling or struggling, our expectation is that each child is continuing to grow. Be sure you leave the conference with one or two goals for your child and a clear idea of what you can do to support those goals.



Fall Fiesta Parent Mixer

Friday, October 27 at 6:00pm

Book the babysitter and head to Moreno's Restaurant on Chapman in Orange on Friday, October 27th for a night out with VPE parents. The fun starts at 6pm, and there is no entry fee. Regular menu items will be available for purchase, and the restaurant will donate a percentage of its proceeds to our Home & School League! The highlight of the evening is the fabulous gift basket raffle. You do not want to miss this event!

Orange Unified School District 2017-2018 Elementary Monitoring Student Fees, Donations, and Fundraising Guidelines Compliance

Section 5 of Article IX of the State of California Constitution guarantees students a "free public education." The State Supreme Court concluded in the 1984 case of Hartzell v. Connell, "that all educational activities carried on by public school districts, extra-curricular as well as curricula, must be without cost to the students who participate in such activities." This same ruling found that "mandatory fees for participating in such extra-curricular activities as drama, music, and athletic competition were illegal under the State Constitution." Furthermore, they also rejected the argument that "fees could be charged so long as the district waived fees for students who were financially unable to pay." Recent proposed legislation includes reimbursement with interest for any illegally-collected fees as well as a district sanction.

We are extremely fortunate to have such generous Villa Park families who donate supplies, funds and time in order to provide so many wonderful programs and activities for our students. Thank you.

STEM Challenge — October 27

Our first STEM Challenge will take place on October 27. Below is a list of required items. If you would like to donate any required items please turn them in by October 13.

- craft or popsicle sticks
- rubber bands
- plastic spoons
- candy corn or pumpkin can-

Walk to School Day

Thank you to everyone who participated in Walk to School Day on Wednesday, October 4. It was wonderful to see so many of our students and families walking together to school.

Congratulations to the winners of the Walk to School Coloring Contest. The winner's of The Golden Shoe were:

- Lower grade Mrs. Houlihan's 3rd grade class
- Upper grade Mrs. Patel's 6th grade class



Family Lunch & Fizzy Friday

Save the date and join us for Family Lunch on Friday, October 27. During family lunch, 5th Grade Fundraising will be selling treats.

Stay tuned for additional information about Family Lunch and Fizzy Friday.





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 be their best at school each day! To help our students keep good attendance in the forefront, each month we honor classes with the highest rate of attendance. The class receives a trophy and 5 extra minutes of recess. This month the winners are:

Kinder-Mrs. Miller 1st-Mrs. Valeriotte 2nd-Mrs. Urbanski 3rd-Mr. Johnson
 4th- Mrs. Glasky 5th- Mrs. Williams 6th Mrs. Patel

Leaving Early? Please let the teacher know the day before. If you know you will be picking your student up early from school, please email the teacher the day before. This way the teacher will be prepared to have ready any work and materials your student will need. This will alleviate undue stress, delays, and missed work. Thank you so much for your attention to this matter.



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

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