

End of Year Picnic this Friday May 29th

Book Swap Ends Friday

Veterans Elementary School

4355 Montgomery Road

Ellicott City, MD 21043

Robert Bruce, Principal

<http://www.hcpss.org/ves>

Eagle Express Volume 36, May 27, 2015

May 27	Parent Summer School Orientation 6:30 – 8:00 in media and cafeteria.
May 29	End of Year Picnic
May 30	VES Orioles day at Camden Yards
June 4	PTA General Membership Meeting 6:45 p.m.
June 7	Panda Express Fundraiser 12:00 – 6:00 p.m.
June 17	FULL DAY OF SCHOOL
June 18	SCHOOLS CLOSE 2 HOURS EARLY (1:55 p.m.)
June 19	LAST DAY OF SCHOOL, SCHOOLS CLOSE 3 HOURS EARLY (12:55 p.m.)

FROM THE PRINCIPAL:

Any parent may send me a letter requesting a class situation for next year. Please understand that while all requests will be considered, I will not be able to honor requests that compromise our instructional grouping plan. Many factors are considered in the initial groupings. Benchmark levels, gender and ethnic balance, behavior concerns when placing certain students together, are all considered among others. Of course, we are also limited by the number of classes in a grade. If parents intend to inform the principal of a concern they have for their child, he should receive all letters by the last day of school to be considered-this is **June 19th**.

Friday May 29th is the End of Year Picnic, we hope to see you at school from 6:00-8:00 pm, please see the PTA announcement below. If you can volunteer, please do, I am sure they can find something for you to do.

Every family that ordered Orioles tickets should have received them by now. The game on Saturday May 30th begins at 4:05. Be in your seats at 3:30 pm to see Mr. Bruce receive the Heavy Hitter Award for the school. We hope to do another game in late September, so plan now to go to the game on Weds. September 30th.

Behavior and End of the Year- I am asking all families to discuss the need for students to remain focused and calm, even as we wrap up the year with end of year activities. We expect every student to follow the school rules right up to the end of the school year. The end of the school year can be very exciting for all of us and we don't want any children to miss any end of year activities. Please let them know that you expect them to SOAR everyday. Most of our children do not need reminders but there is always the possibility that a few will need that reminder.

FROM THE FRONT OFFICE:

OUR WEEBLY PAGE (LINK BELOW) HAS MANY NEW ADDITIONS; PLEASE VISIT OUR WEEBLY PAGE SOON!!!!

IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED A CALL FROM OUR SCHOOL, PLEASE LISTEN TO YOUR ANSWERING MACHINE OR VOICE MAIL PRIOR TO RETURNING THE CALL. WE HAVE MORE THAN 135 EMPLOYEES IN THE BUILDING AND HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING WHO CALLED YOU.

OUR HEALTH SUITE HAS IT'S OWN LINE. FOR HEALTH RELATED ISSUES PLEASE CALL 410-313-1704. PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE FRONT OFFICE!!!

IN AN EFFORT TO SAVE PAPER, TONER, AND ELECTRICITY WE WILL ONLY BE SENDING FLYERS HOME TO THE FAMILIES THAT REQUESTED A PAPER COPY. FROM NOW ON ALL NON -PTA SPONSORED COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES CAN BE FOUND THROUGH A LINK UNDER "LINKS" ON OUR WEB PAGE OR VISIT

<http://www.VESCommunityNewsandActivities.weebly.com>. ALL PTA SPONSORED AFTERSCHOOL ACTIVITIES CAN STILL BE FOUND ON THE PTA WEB PAGE.

FROM THE PTA PRESIDENT:

At the June 4 PTA General Membership meeting we will hold elections for next year's officers. We have a slate of volunteers (see below), but the floor is still open for nominations. If you're interested in a position, please contact Sharon Boone at

sharon_boone@verizon.net.

President: Kelly Martin

1st Vice President: Suzanne Rothrock

2nd Vice President: Candice White

Treasurer: Gerrie Bost

Recording Secretary: Deeanna Franklin-Campbell

Corresponding Secretary: Amy Noggle

Delegate: Ruchi Sondhi

Delegate: Haiyan Chen

HERSHEY PARK TICKETS DISTRIBUTION INFORMATION:

Hersey Park was not able to deliver our tickets during their estimated time period (week of May 18). We apologize for any inconvenience as a result of this. Please be aware that you will need to make arrangements to pick these in person as these are equivalent to cash. The Hershey Park Tickets will be available for distribution during the following days/times:

May 29 End of Year Picnic, 6pm

June 2 Enrichment Fair, 6:30pm

June 3 Beginning Strings Concert, starting at 6:30pm

June 4 Grades 4/5 Strings/Band Concert, starting at 6:30pm

If you cannot pick these during one of the allotted times, please email VeteransPTA@gmail.com

END-OF-YEAR PICNIC ON MAY 29!

Let's celebrate the end of the school year (almost!) on May 29 from 6-8 pm! Bring the entire family to enjoy the Howard County Game Truck, DJ music, games, prizes, snow cones and much more! Bring a picnic from home (or pick up your pre-ordered pizza at the picnic)! Mark your calendar now for this fun-filled evening on the VES playground (rain or shine)!

We still need LOTS of help to make this a fun event for everyone. You can volunteer for a variety of fun things - making snow cones, face painting, or passing out pizzas. No experience required and good times are guaranteed! Please sign up using Volunteer Spot today: <http://vols.pt/jfuJB5>

Contact Martha Love at mlove1030@gmail.com with any questions. We look forward to seeing you there!

BRING YOUR BOOKS FOR A BOOK SWAP AT THE PTA PICNIC:

Book Swap for summer reading! Starting 5/25, bring in your gently used K - 5 books and drop them off in a book drop-box at school. Then, at the PTA Picnic on 5/29, pick out books to take home from the ReadBox. Questions? Contact Sandy Wen at sandyswen@comcast.net.

LOOK FOR YEARBOOKS SOON!

Yearbooks will be coming home soon! Please contact Vicky Chiei (vchiei@hotmail.com) immediately concerning errors with your book or order so they may be resolved before the end of the year.

RESTAURANT FUNDRAISER– PANDA EXPRESS, THE MALL OF COLUMBIA, SUNDAY, JUNE 7:

This is your last chance to raise money for Veterans Elementary School in this school year! Come join us for some fresh, delicious and fast Chinese food at the American's favorite Chinese restaurant – Panda Express. Flyers are sent home in Thursday's folder and can also be printed out via our PTA's website. Present the flyer to dine in or carry out between 12:00 pm and 6 pm on Sunday, June 7th only at Panda Express located at the Food Court in the Mall of Columbia. Twenty percent of proceeds will benefit Veterans Elementary School!

ATTENTION 5TH GRADE PARENTS/GUARDIANS:

5th Grade Talent Show, Wednesday June 3rd:

Come join us on Wednesday June 3rd from 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm at the school cafeteria for a free admission, priceless entertainment and unlimited talent presented by our soaring 5th grade students!

5th Grade Quarter 4th Awards Breakfast and Ceremony, Friday June 5th:

This is the *last* Awards Ceremony held during our 5th grader's elementary school year. The event is for 5th graders and school staff only. Our 5th graders have worked so hard achieving much this year and look forward to a well-deserved morning of appreciation! Several local business donors including Eggspectation in Ellicott City, Dunkin Donuts at Normandy and Wegmans in Columbia will graciously donate breakfasts to our students.

Coming Up:

We still need many help for upcoming events held in the final few school days. Volunteers do not need to be available or the entire event. We are happy to work with your schedule! Please contact Susan Su at 301-247-3475 or email ves5thgrade2015@gmail.com if you can help any.

6/16 Decoration for Closing Ceremony (any slot from 4 pm to 8 pm): need 3 helpers.

6/17 Slicing Oranges for 5th grade picnic (any slot after 2 pm): need 2 helpers.

6/18 5th Grade End-of-School Picnic (8:30 am – 12:30 pm): Looking for another chance to bond with your 5th grader and support the VES community? Mrs. David, Mrs. Kazemi and the 5th Grade Activities Committee are actively planning this event to be filled with lots of games, laughter, fun and sweet memory for your child. Rain or shine, let's help our 5th graders soar! A great picnic relies on great parent's help. Please sign up to help:

<http://vols.pt/p2fW64>

6/19 Bowling Party (this is the last day of school, 2 pm – 4 pm): 5th grade family, let's finish off the year at the 5th grade bowling party! RSVP flyer is sent home in Thursday folder. Cost is \$3 per VES 5th grade student and \$7 per sibling/adult bowler. Transportation to and from the event is NOT provided. Parents must sign in and out of students. We need 4 chaperones on the day of the event.

We still need many help for upcoming events held in the final few school days. If you can help any, please contact Susan Su at 301-247-3475 or email ves5thgrade2015@gmail.com!

INCOMING KINDERGARTEN PARENT ORIENTATION:

The joint presentation on Tuesday May 26, between the Kindergarten staff and the PTA, to parents whose students will be starting Kindergarten at VES next year, was a wonderful event! Parents received tours of the school and learned a lot of information about what their child will experience in Kindergarten starting in August. The PTA would like to thank the following volunteers for the hours spent preparing for, and then working and presenting, that night: Beena Bakshi, Sharon Boone, Haiyan Chen, Jae Kim, Wendi Loraine, and Kelly Martin. In addition, thank you to the following staff members for contributing to, or participating, that evening: Rosa Ma Ko, Sung Kim, Ms. Deppen, Ms. Steinberg, Ms. Grassi, Ms. Nguyen, Ms. Webb, Ms. Fiackos and Ms. Pryor.

OPEN PTA COMMITTEE CHAIR POSITIONS FOR THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR:

The PTA needs YOUR help. Yes, really, we're talking to you!

We need volunteers to be Chairs or Co-Chairs to organize PTA events for the next school year.

Below is a list of open positions – more information on each committee can be found at <http://ves-pta.weebly.com/open-pta-positions.html>. Contact Sharon at Sharon_boone@verizon.net with any questions or if you are interested in a position.

Fall Fundraiser

Ice Cream Social

Book Fairs

Book Fair Family Fun Night Spring

Community Outreach

End of year Picnic

Green School

Holiday Shop

Kindergarten Activities Committee

Parent Programs

Reflections

Restaurant Nights

Science Fair

COMMUNITY NEWS:

GIRL SCOUT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT VES!

There is interest in starting an additional Girl Scout troop for VES girls heading into 2nd grade next year. To make this happen, we need 2 or more adult volunteers, one of whom is willing to be the troop leader. You will get training and plenty of support. The time commitment is manageable and you will provide a wonderful opportunity for girls who are excited to be Girl Scouts! Other volunteers for VES troops and our school-wide Scouting committee are also always welcome.

For more information please contact: VeteransGS@gmail.com

"Stop Summer Camp Boredom!! *The Okinawan Karate Dojo* (our business partner and facilitators of the after-school program - More Than Karate) ***is hosting it's 10th summer camp season!*** Their *Fitness is Fun Ninja Camp* offers swimming, health lessons, fitness challenges, karate classes, scavenger hunts and more. They can keep your kids moving, engaged, learning, and laughing! Camps run during the weeks of June 22nd, July 20th, and August 17th. Please call/text 410 818 6982; visit see their website - www.okinawankaratedojo.com; or email - okinawankaratedojo@gmail.com with any questions. Conveniently located in a safe environment and run by a certified, caring, and experienced camp staff, why go anywhere else?"

Veterans Elementary School | 4355 Montgomery Road, Ellicott City, MD 21043 | (410) 313-1700 | ves.hcpss.org