



February, 2010

Dear Valley Vista Families:

It's cold and snowy outside but . . . LOTS of positive energy is filling the halls of Valley Vista!! Listed below are just a few exciting happenings . . . check out our school website and teacher home pages for more information.

- New this month: **Bud E.'s Book Club** (formerly Ohio Reads) began on February 2nd for fifty-five First and Second Graders. I would like to THANK our eleven volunteers for taking the time to work with our kids once per week during the lunch/recess block.
- The PTA will have their final **Scholastic Book Fair** for the year on February 25th and 26th. Accompanying the Book Fair on the 25th is our must see **Art Show** from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Mrs. Gill and her students have MANY "Deliciously Beautiful" projects to share...I hope you can join us!!!
- Third and Fourth Graders are working daily in their classrooms to prepare for the Ohio Achievement Assessment (OAA). Additionally, Mrs. Gutia, Mrs. Gorbett and Mrs. Scott will be conducting some before-school and recess study sessions. You will receive a letter if your child is to attend. Third Grade testing is April 19th and April 21st, and Fourth Grade testing is April 26th and April 28th. Please do not plan appointments etc. during those weeks!
- Mr. Lapsevich began **Floor Hockey** intramurals for Third and Fourth Grade.
- The Middle School staff will be at Valley Vista during the week of March 4th for Instrumental Testing.
- We will be ending the month with our annual **Jump Rope for Heart Week** beginning on February 18th and ending on February 24th. Come jump or twirl with your child's class, wear red on jumping day and learn how to KEEP our HEARTS HEALTHY...if we surpass last year's donation total of \$3,000, Mr. Lapsevich will take a pie in the face!!!
- Third Graders have been learning about seat belt safety and are having a great time preparing for the Third Grade Square Dance on Friday, February 19th.
- Mrs. White and I continue to experience fine dining with the children during our "**Distinguished Dining**" program. Our First, Second and Third Graders dress in their finest clothes as we eat with tablecloths and "china" and learn about manners, while listening to classical music. We teach the First and Second Graders how TO DISPLAY APPROPRIATE MANNERS and the Third Graders watch a clip from a movie and identify how NOT TO ACT!! It is a learning experience enjoyed by all! On May 21st, our Fourth Graders will be showing off their manners as they enjoy a "catered" meal with an adult guest.

- It also was a pleasure to eat lunch on the stage with the students during Royal Lunch. One hundred sixty students in Grade One through Grade Four were a part of **“The Royal Court”**. They received a certificate, dessert and applause from their peers for this accomplishment. We “present” the Royal Court two times a year and recognize students for excellence in reading, math, citizenship, behavior, art, music, gym and most improved. These are qualities that all students should strive for daily!
- During the month of January, our school read 200,870 minutes and worked on 130,372 minutes of math. This is a REQUIRED program for all students at Valley Vista. Students can include the minutes they spend completing their math homework, playing a math game, working on flashcards, etc. The program is set up to have students reading at least fifteen minutes per day, six days per week, and they may include time spent on reading assignments. The February minutes are due on **Friday, March 5th**, and all children participating will receive an ice cream treat from our cafeteria. Let’s all work together to instill the importance of these two important subjects AND build responsibility in the children here at Valley Vista.
- **Right to Read Week** will take place March 1st through March 5th. The theme is **“Read for the Gold”**! The staff has put together a fabulous week of fun and learning. As always, our goal is to install the love of reading in the children. More information will be forthcoming.

Thanks to the many people who volunteer at our school and assist in making it such a wonderful place for our children and staff to come to each day. This month we had popcorn poppers, a creative display in our front window, a busy school store, math committee grading and working on the math board, reading volunteers, yearbook coordinators, newsletter editor and copier, Campbell’s, Box Tops, Apples for Education, Birthday Book Club and thank you to all the parents who contributed to our Valentine’s Day parties and who will participate in our Jump for Heart program. THANK YOU, as well, to PTA President Lisa Roberts, the PTA Board and Committee Heads for the countless hours they contribute to our fine school.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding our school or school programs. Take some time to enjoy the snowy days!!

Sincerely,
Beth U. O’Donnell
Principal, Valley Vista School

