

The Vinton Chronicles

Fall 2011
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Principal James E. Palmer



A Message from the Principal

As the Vinton Mileage Club will attest, we are off and running for the new school year. It is our sincere pleasure to work with your family to make this a fantastic year. Whether you are familiar or new to our school community, please don't hesitate to contact us if there is anything we can assist with. It is important to us that everyone feels included in the "Vinton Family." Here are a few items as we begin the year ...

to offer feedback and suggestions.

- **Bus Routes and Safety** - As you know, the managers of Durham Transportation Services have been working diligently to improve the efficiency of the Vinton School bus routes. I appreciate and thank you for your patience while the adjustments are being coordinated. I am also grateful for your ongoing support of bus safety and appropriate behavior. Please reinforce our three simple bus rules: (1) Stay in your seat, (2) Talk quietly, (3) Listen to the driver.

- **Here's your chance!** We have an outstanding PTA at Vinton School, but we always need your help. When possible, please attend the meetings and volunteer to assist at an event.

- **Don't Hesitate** - Please call me at (860) 423-3086, extension 208, or e-mail me at palmerje@mansfieldct.org should you have a question or concern.

As always, thanks for your support ... have a wonderful year.

- **Do you Q-Notify?** The Mansfield Public Schools use the QNotify (eAlert) Messaging Service to enhance communication via e-mail, cell phone, and pager text messaging. You can sign-up to receive notices from Vinton School informing you of school events, PTA activities and other important topics. Simply go to Vinton School's website and click on the eAlert link.

- **Vinton School website** - You may have noticed that the Vinton website has been redesigned by Mansfield's technology team to provide continuity across the school district. The goal is for the website to be increasingly more helpful, useful, and informative. As a result, please don't hesitate

School Picture Day is Monday, Oct 24th

School pictures will be taken on Monday, October 24th. Order forms were sent home with your children this week. If you have not received an order form, please contact the school office for assistance.

All students will be able to participate in the group class photo, regardless of whether or not you order individual photos. The make-up date for retakes will be scheduled later (hopefully by early December).

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Upcoming Events

- ◆ Fire Prevention Day, Thursday, October 13
- ◆ Enrichment Program Parent Night, Thursday, October 20
- ◆ Assembly, "Poetry in Motion," Friday, October 21

Health and Safety Fair on October 25th



ACCESS Community Action Agency, WIC, and Generations Family Health Center, will sponsor a Health and Safety Fair on October 25, 2011 from 9:00am to 11:00am at Generations' Willimantic Center, located at 1315 Main Street. The event is open to adults and children and there will be free giveaways, such as smoke detectors, bike helmets, and first aid kits.

following special presentations:

- **SafeKids** - Halloween safety tips, "Stranger Danger"
- **Injury Prevention Program** by CT Children's Medical Center
- **Poison Control of UCONN** - how to stay safe
- **First Aid Tips** - Dr. Shaps, Generations Pediatrician
- **Physical Activity obstacle course**

In addition to booths with information and activities for children, there will also be the

Although not required, RSVPs are appreciated. Please contact Karen Lechene at Access Agency via email Karen.lechene@accessagency.org.



Ms. Sparks and Tatyana finish their first lap as grandparent volunteer Mrs. Dilaj punches lap markers for Andrew and Leon.

Mileage Club... Ready? Set? Go!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Due to our tremendous success with Mileage Club last year, students will once again be participating in Mileage Club during recess! We're hoping the weather will cooperate a little better in the weeks to come because we have many enthusiastic students who are eager to earn their toe tokens (for each 10 laps run). In fact, just two weeks into this year's program

and we have already had to print a second batch of mileage markers because so many students have logged in multiple miles already! We are grateful to our parents and grandparents who volunteer to help out with Mileage Club. If you'd like to join the fun, please contact Senora Zugarazo at (860) 423-3086 or email her at jen.zugarazo@mansfieldct.org.



Parent Volunteer Mrs. Conrad and second grader Nicholas pause for a photo op after he finished his second lap ... just eight more laps to go for a toe token!



Students at the starting line getting ready to begin their first lap of Mileage Club!

Health Initiative 9 - 5 - 2 - 1 - 0

Nurse Eaton

95210 for Health! This initiative is sponsored by the Eastern Highland Health District. It is a community campaign to encourage everyone who interacts with children to support healthy behaviors. Read more about the campaign and find tons of resources at this link:

www.ehhd.org/95210

How much sleep do you think a Vinton student needs? According to the National Sleep Foundation, a child 3 to 5 years old requires 11 to 13 hours of sleep and a child 5 to 10 years old needs 10 to 11 hours of sleep each night.

Out with the old and in with the new! Did you realize that the Food Pyramid has been replaced by the Food Plate? This new simple graphic provides an easy visual of how a typical meal should look.



Recipe for healthy Children

Every day, every child should aim for:

9

Hours of sleep each night

5

fill half of your plate with fruits & vegetables

2

hours or less of screen time outside of school

1

hour of physical activity

0

sugary beverages

Want some ideas for Screen-Free FUN?



- Learn a card or magic trick
- Go for a walk
- Teach your dog a new trick
- Get up and dance!
- Make a craft
- Curl up and read a book



Nurse Eaton, with the help of 4th graders, Maddie, Sedona, Despina, Graciela, and Christina, display the new health initiative at Vinton's Open House in September

95210

Spanish, Enrichment, Classroom Collaboration



Vinton School is an official Monarch Waystation



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Our New Web Address!

www.mansfieldct.gov/content/11140

In a unique partnership, this fall Vinton second graders have joined students and scientists across North America to track the monarch butterfly's migration to Mexico. As the migration progresses from September to November, students have been learning about migration mysteries. They discovered that a fragile butterfly can travel hundreds of miles to find its winter home deep in central Mexico. Students witnessed how monarchs connect people across North America as they migrate across international borders.

Working with Ms. Barrow and Señora Zugarazo, second graders have been tracking the migration online at

JOURNEY NORTH/SOUTH, an educational website that engages students in a global study of wildlife migration and seasonal change.

These students have also made and sent symbolic monarch butterflies to the children in Mexico who live beside the monarch's winter sanctuaries. The symbolic butterflies build bridges of communication between children across North America, and serve as ambassadors that represent our shared interests and common conservation goals. This has made them participants in real world science as they help scientists get the word out, child to child.

Enrichment Program Parent Night

Ms. Barrow

On Thursday, October 20th, Ms. Barrow, our Enrichment teacher, will host a parent's night to discuss the Enrichment Program. This presentation will review enrichment opportunities for Vinton students in grades kindergarten through fourth.

We will discuss identification, the revolving door policy, independent investigations, and course offerings. All parents are invited to attend. Notices have been sent home but if you need more information, please contact the school office.

Coming up in November ... it's a busy month!

November is a busy month for Vinton School. On Friday, November 18th we will celebrate our Thanksgiving Feast at noon. More information will be sent home with students in two weeks.

Starting November 18th, the PTA Book Fair will be held in the school library. The book fair will also be open on the 21st and 22nd to coincide with Parent-Teacher Conferences. More information will be forthcoming about how to sign-up for conferences with your child(ren)'s teacher. Evening conferences will be held on Monday, November 21st and afternoon conferences on Tuesday,

November 22nd.

Please remember that November 21, 22, and 23 are early closing days. Students in grades K through 4 will be dismissed at 12:45pm.

For pre-kindergarten, morning students will stay until 10:50am and the afternoon students will arrive at 10:50am and dismiss at 12:45pm. Please send a lunch with your afternoon pre-kindergartener on these dates.

If you have questions about any of these dates, please feel free to contact the school office at (860) 423-3086 or email us at vnooffice@mansfieldct.org.