

The Vinton Chronicles

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Principal James E. Palmer



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Upcoming Events

- ◆ Talent Show,
Thursday,
January 12th ,
(snow date is
January 13th)
- ◆ Grade Four
Skating Trip,
January 18th

A Message from the Principal

As you receive this edition of The Vinton Chronicles, it is hard to believe that the new year is on the doorstep. Didn't we just postpone the opening of school when tropical storm Irene blew through Mansfield? It seems like yesterday that we dug winter boots out of the closet for an unexpected Halloween snow storm.

But here we are at the holidays. On behalf of the entire Vinton staff, please allow me to express my gratitude to be a member of this wonderful school community. It truly is a gift to be the Principal of Vinton School supported by such caring families. Have a joyous holiday break and best wishes for a prosperous 2012.

- **Are you ready?** Please double check your emergency plans in the event of a weather related early closing of school. On these days, we dismiss as close to 12:45pm as possible.
- **On the lookout** - It's time for Vinton School to issue an all-points bulletin for incoming kindergarteners. If there's a new family in your neighborhood, please encourage them to give us a call so we may check our enrollment list. Even if the child is too young for kindergarten, we like to know in

advance so we can plan ahead.

- **Artful substitution** - You may have noticed, or, your child may have told you, that we have a different teacher in the Art room. While Mrs. Gilmore is out on maternity leave we are indeed fortunate to have Mrs. Jane Rider as the substitute. Mrs. Rider is an experienced Art teacher who taught for several years in Willington. We are all grateful that Mrs. Rider is on the Vinton team.
- **Snowpants, Snow Piles, and Ice, oh My!** Although December days have been mild, cold, winter weather is certain to arrive. Should snow piles and icy road conditions appear, please supervise and speak to your child about bus stop safety. Also, don't forget appropriate winter clothing so your child may enjoy outdoor recess at school.
- **Anything else?** Please feel free to call me at 860-423-3086, extension 208, or email at palmerje@mansfieldct.org. As always, thanks for your support. Be well.



See Page 4 for full story

Preschool Post Office Open for Business



Preschool has been very busy reading and retelling Gingerbread stories. We've been hard at work cutting out and decorating paper gingerbread people for our class "cookie jar." We patterned gingerbread boys and girls and

even laced together a gingerbread man!

We have also created our very own Preschool Post Office where we practice writing and sending letters to our families and friends.

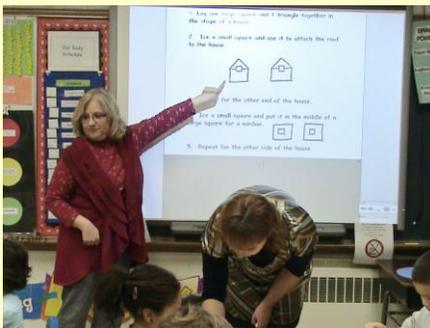
Kindergarten Visits Senior Center

The Kindergarten classes have been hard at work learning more and more about letters, sounds, words, reading, writing, numbers, counting coins, coin values, and counting on from 10 and even 20!

In addition, we have been reading and learning about several different winter holidays, including Hanukkah, Las Posadas,

Christmas, and Kwanzaa. On December 13 we visited the Mansfield Nursing and Rehabilitation Center to sing holiday songs and deliver holiday cards to the residents. We had a great time, and our hosts definitely enjoyed the visit.

Have a great vacation everyone, and we'll see you in the NEW YEAR!



Mrs. Bailey shows the class the stages of construction for the students' Gingerbread houses

Happy Holidays from Grade One

First graders have been busy sharing and learning about families. In December, we have been studying family traditions and celebrations. All around the

world, families work, play and celebrate together. We hope that your families enjoy their traditions and celebrations at this time of year.

Gingerbread Houses under Construction in Gr 2

As part of the December tradition with grade two classes, our students, along with their parents and teachers, created gingerbread houses. This "hands on" activity complimented a unit where students compared and contrasted various versions of the classic tale The Gingerbread Man.

Students also wrote their own version of the story focusing on organization and elaborate details. Counting and problem solving skills were reinforced as children planned their creations.

It got a bit messy at times, but students displayed their creativity by using a variety of decorations, with plenty of frosting!



Julianna frosting her "roof"

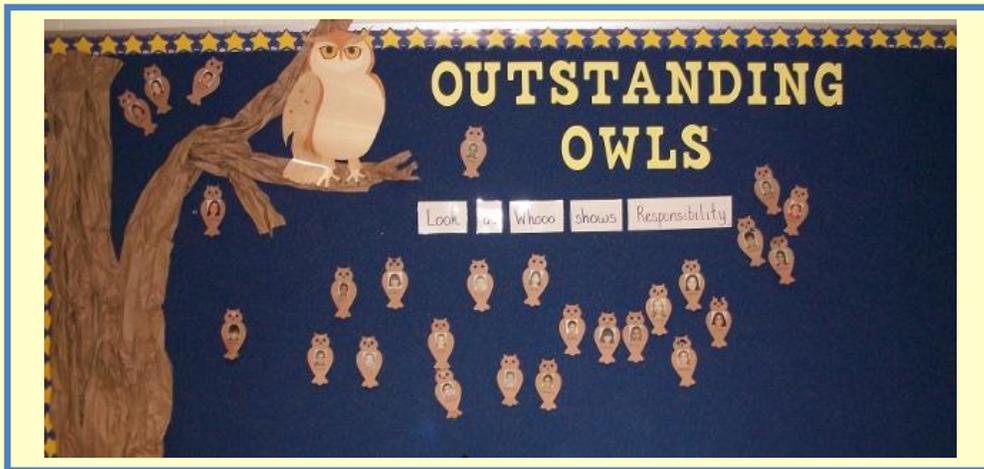


Andrew gets a helping hand from dad



Daniel samples the frosting

“Hoo” Will Be the Next Outstanding OWLS?



Outstanding OWLS! This new initiative was introduced this year at our first monthly Celebrate Vinton assembly in September. Each month, the school will feature a short video about the character traits being highlighted. Students who demonstrate that month’s character trait will be recognized at the next Celebrate Vinton. They will also receive a badge, a bookmark, and have an owl with their name and photo placed on the bulletin board outside the gym.

As you can see by the character traits listed in the right column,

we began the year with a focus on respect. Our next featured character trait will be honesty. Our videos provide examples of these traits in action and ask students for their views. This month we asked students how they can be truthful with themselves as well as with others, like being an honest critic of their own work, “Did I really give my best effort?”

Discussing these character traits with your children at home is a great way to reinforce positive behavior at home and school.

Annual Talent Show Coming in January!

Do you like to sing, dance, tell jokes, or perform magic tricks? Then share your talent and have some fun at our annual Talent Show! This year’s show will be held on Thursday, January 12, 2012, (with a snow date of Friday, January 13th just in case).

Sign-up sheets were sent home with students and must be returned to Mrs. Frascarelli, our music teacher, by Thursday, December 22nd to let her know

what your act will be. In years past, there have been so many student performers that we need to limit each performance to two minutes. Students in grades 3 and 4 will perform between 9:45am and 11:00am; grades 1 and 2 will dazzle us with their talents from 2:00pm - 3:00pm.

The show is always a lot of fun and even our staff joins in (some of them can be pretty silly, but we already knew that!)

Outstanding OWLS Character Traits	
	Respect
	Responsibility
	Perseverance
	Honesty
	Fairness
	Caring
	Cooperation
	Citizenship





Dictionaries for Grade Three Students

It's that time again for a wonderful third grade tradition. Each year the Echo Grange donates a dictionary to every third grade student in Mansfield.

These dictionaries are at a perfect level for our students. We will keep these resources in school but at the end of the year they will be taken home.



In Mrs. DeLoreto's class, Kaci's wigwam and Matei's canoe made from Birch bark

Grade Four Visits Pequot Museum

The fourth grade just took a marvelous field trip to the Pequot Museum where we went back in time and explored life in a realistic Pequot village. We would like to thank all of the chaperones who helped to make this trip so successful.

In January, all of the fourth graders in Mansfield will meet at the UCONN skating rink for a morning of skating and getting to know each other. We are looking forward to a great new year with your children!

Vinton Rap Challenge is a Wrap!



To open the Celebrate Vinton assemblies and get students focused and "in the mood," we will start with the Vinton Rap, written by Vinton students. Mrs. Frascarelli thought it would be a fun opportunity for students to write the lyrics and many of them embraced the challenge!

I really liked it!"



Vinton Rap written by Jacob and Graciela & Christina

The final Vinton rap is actually a combination of two entries from Jacob Bernstein and the song writing team of Christina Randazzo and Graciela Bourquin. Jake got to work right away thinking about it. "I thought about (it at school) and on the car ride home ... I thought it out with my family and (when) I printed it out,

For Graciela and Christina, their inspiration came during indoor recess in the Quiet Room. The first line came to them quickly and then they tried to find a way to rhyme "... here's the Vinton V" and readily composed the second line "Let's do a rap for Dr. P." Christina reported that "we spent the whole recess time" writing the rap. Graciela said "we were watching everyone else try to figure raps out ... so we got really lucky and got picked."

The first rap was performed at our December assembly and is already an instant favorite!

Reminder that the school calendar was revised due to tropical storm Irene. February school vacation has been shortened by three days to make up the cancelled school days in August.

February 20	February 21	February 22	February 23	February 24
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Holiday - No school	Vacation - No school	Full school day	Full school day	Full school day