



Van Voorhis Elementary School

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<http://www.am.dodea.edu/knox/vanvoorhis/index.htm>

Principal's News

Dates to remember

- ◆ Sept. 4 - PD Day
(No school)
- ◆ Sept 7 - Labor
Day (No school)

We have the best parents, guardians and sponsors! Your patience and understanding has been appreciated as we have implemented the List of Authorized Persons at dismissal. We needed to ensure that we had a 100% ID check as well as an accurate listing of authorized persons allowed to pick up your children in our database. So many changes were made to students' transportation plans in the first few weeks of school. Now that students' routines are more settled, we feel that our efforts have allowed us to ensure another level of safety for them.

There is one safety concern regarding POV drop off and pick up that I need to address. It is very unsafe for a driver of a POV to get out of their vehicle to either let their student out of their vehicle or let them in to the vehicle. We ask that you please remain in your vehicle. This is for your safety as well as your student's safety. Please have your student to enter and exit your vehicle from the school-side of the vehicle. This is to keep them safe. We would not want another vehicle to accidently hit them. One way to prevent this is to keep the children on the school-side of the vehicle. Also, remember, we also ask you to remain in your vehicle to keep you safe, also.

We may be trying one more slight change to our dismissal procedures after the Labor Day holiday. There has been some congestion at the Pick Up door in the cafeteria where the walking students exit. Unfortunately, we just don't have enough exits for all of our different groups to exit by themselves. After the holiday we may try to let the walkers exit the building first to prevent congestion at that door. We may try just one day to see its effectiveness. The students would be exiting on the very first bell. So they would be exiting just about five minutes prior to others.

Again, thank you for your patience as we try to ensure safety and ease with dismissal.

Laura Gibson

Reminder!

Parents who want to change their child's dismissal procedure must send a written note to the teacher each day a change is needed. A verbal notification from the child will not suffice because the child may have misunderstood guidance from parents or the child may have just decided to go home with a friend without getting parental consent.

School improvement

The Continuous School Improvement Team (CSIT) is responsible for developing, implementing and monitoring the School Improvement Plan (SIP). The team is in need of a military member. If you are interested in serving, please contact Mrs. Gibson at 624-5854.

For lunch menus, transportation information and other district-wide info:

<http://www.am.dodea.edu/knox/FKCSO/Pages/sitemap.htm>

*Children are the
living messages
we send to a time
we will not see.
~John W.
Whitehead*

Talk About a Book!

No matter what age your children are, they can enjoy talking about books. For younger children, talk about the book before you read, look at the cover and pictures inside and ask what they think the story may be about.

After you read a story (or your child reads to you), ask a few simple, entertaining questions to check the accuracy of your child's comprehension. Encourage children to re-read their favorite part of the book and explain why that particular passage is of interest to them. Select another book and compare the plot, characters and artistic style of the illustrations. When you share your enjoyment in reading and talking about books, children will benefit from subconsciously absorbing important lessons.

NOTE: This information and last issue's article on "Resilience" are from the Cut & Paste Master Teacher Newsletter.

Language Arts Wiki

Find a wealth of reading resources on our Wiki at

www.vvreads.pbworks.com

If you've never accessed our Wiki, click Request access on the right side of the page. Type in your e-mail address and Confirm by entering the letter requested in the box. Click send to Administrator and you will be added. Once you access the site (you'll need to create a password), simply use the Sidebar on the right side to navigate through the pages. You'll find interactive reading sites, practice activities and helpful hints for various reading levels.

Grade level news

First grade

All of the first grade classrooms are getting settled in. We have been busy learning about number relationships, reading and writing strategies, life cycles, personal responsibilities plus many other things.

Third grade

The school year has begun with so much happening in Third Grade! Here is what we have been engaged in:

- Math - Place Value, counting money and making change, and lots of review!
- Language Arts - Author's purpose, compare/contrast, synonyms, nouns, plural nouns, verbs
- Science -How plants live and grow, and taking care of our environment
- Social Studies - Types of communities, citizenship, geography skills
- Technology - Type to Learn (A computer program focusing on keyboarding skills)

Along with all content areas, we have been learning how to justify our thinking by using our resources.

As a third grade team, we encourage and reinforce daily, the importance of being responsible problem-solver. This includes completion and return of homework, being prepared for class, staying on task, and being a good citizen of the school. Please reinforce these skills at home with your child.

Visit us on the Web at <http://www.am.dodea.edu/knox/vanvoorhis/index.htm>

Contact the [Webmaster](#) with problems or suggestions for items you'd like to see added to our site.

NOTE: Normally, newsletters will be sent electronically to your preferred e-mail address. Please insure that the school office has your preferred e-mail on file. Newsletters can also be accessed on our website via a link on the About Our School page. We encourage you to contact us with comments/suggestions for future newsletters.

Lunch account payments

Please insure that the payment you send with your child is in an envelope with their first and last name on the front. This is essential to having the correct account credited with payment.

CYSS News

Child, Youth & School Services (CYSS) is celebrating its Weekend for Kids in support of the Army Family Covenant.

Devers Middle School & Teen Center will offer Boys and Girls Clubs of America DAY FOR KIDS from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, September 12th.

CYSS is offering a **Free** Family Movie Day at Olive Theater at 2 p.m. on Sunday, September 13th.