



# Van Voorhis Elementary School

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

## Principal's News

### Dates to remember

- Nov. 1 - Daylight Savings Time ends
- Nov. 11 - Veteran's Day (no school)
- Nov. 12 - PTO Board Mtg at 2 p.m.
- Nov. 19 - Hoopin' and Hoppin' in Gym

With October's end, we will be having our annual Fall Celebrations in the classrooms on Friday. Please know that we do not wear costumes for this event. The teachers normally have a fun activity in classrooms for the students arranged to occur at 2:00 to 3:00. The students always look forward to this. (Please note that due to scheduling issues, the third grade's celebration will be at 1:00-2:00.)

Our evacuation drill on October 1<sup>st</sup> was an absolute success! We evacuated the building and were able to successfully cross the street in eight minutes! We had over four-hundred people involved in the drill and were assisted by the military police as well as the Department of Army Civilian Patrol. They were very impressed with the level of seriousness that our students and staff had for the exercise. Thank you to everyone for their cooperation and assistance. SAFETY FIRST!

I will be visiting the classrooms over the next few weeks and months reading a book and talking with the children about the importance of setting goals. If you hear of my visit to their classroom, please be sure to ask a few probing questions such as what I talked about, if they liked the book I read, and what they learned from the discussion.

Students in our school are exposed to keyboarding skills, especially in the upper grades. We refer to this program as Type To Learn (TTL). Students spend time in the computer lab learning about the keyboard, the placement of the different keys, and how the keyboard works. We have been very pleased with the results of our TTL program over the last two years and hope to see even greater strides in students' abilities to maneuver around the keyboard due to the program.

We have learned that we may be getting new playground equipment! It may take a few months to get the effort underway. As always with construction, things tend to get messy before they get completed! Please be patient with us as they begin the removal process and then the construction process.

Our DATA WALL will be coming soon to a bulletin near the school lobby. Please take notice. It will reflect some current data relating to our students on the different assessments. Take a moment to look at the information. If you have issues, don't hesitate to talk to your student's teacher.

As always, if you ever have a concern or issue, please do not hesitate to call the school and speak to someone. If you do not get a return call, let us know that, too. Sometimes things get overlooked and we must learn from those mistakes.

For lunch menus, transportation information and other district-wide info:  
<http://www.am.dodea.edu/knox/FKCSCO/Pages/sitemap.htm>

## Grade level news

Children seldom misquote. In fact, they usually repeat word for word what you shouldn't have said. ~Author unknown



First grade friends meet Sparky during their field trip to the Ft. Knox Fire Station and Ireland Army Hospital.

### First grade

First graders have been working very hard! We are continuing to practice-writing complete sentences, independently using strategies such as rereading to make sure the words makes sense and sounds right, using correct spacing between words, and using capital letters and punctuation correctly. Students should also use dominate letter sounds to write unknown words. Good writers become good readers!

### Kindergarten

During the next two weeks, students will continue to recognize and name capital and lowercase letters of the alphabet, their sound, and words that begin with that letter. They will also:

- explore their five senses through various learning activities
- learn to generate and ask “who, what and where” questions
- use graphic organizers to report data
- study the changes in the weather and seasons

### Pre-K

The Pre-K students have been working on sorting and making patterns; learning about more, less, equal; and counting objects to 10 in math. We have done group activities on the carpet and practiced with activities in our centers.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> grade

Third graders have been studying:

- animals and their habitats in Science
- jobs and money in Social Studies
- adding larger numbers, rounding, and estimating in Math

We will begin concentrating on becoming proficient writers by focusing on the 6 individual writing traits. We are excited about introducing the Idea Trait this week. Please ask your child about this writing trait. We would like to thank the parents/guardians for their continued support!

### 2<sup>nd</sup> grade

Second graders have been busy learning great new things! We are learning:

- \* about Earth Science to include landforms and how the weather can change/impact the Earth
- \* how the Earth provides us with natural resources
- \* how to solve equations with 2 addends
- \* about grammar and how to make good sentences

## Pandemic flu info

The Department of Defense Educational Activity provides pandemic information at the site below.

<http://www.dodea.edu/offices/safety/pandemics.cfm?sid=3>

There is also a wealth of information at the Kentucky Department of Public Health site at <http://healthalerts.ky.gov> (H1N1 Public Hotline Number: 877-843-7727)

## Morning drop off

Parents using the side parking lot to drop off students in the morning must park in a marked space and walk the child(ren) to the side cafeteria door. This is a safety issue. Students cannot be walking alone across the parking lot.

## Homework help

If your student needs help with their homework, there is assistance available for them that is free! Try [www.myarmyonesource.com/cyss\\_tutor](http://www.myarmyonesource.com/cyss_tutor). It is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for grades kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. It is not a tutoring source from the school system but through Army OneSource. If you have questions about it, feel free to contact Army OneSource or the School Liaison Officer, Becky Laux at 502-624-2305.



## Red Ribbon Week

Each year in late October, schools and communities are asked to celebrate National Red Ribbon Week. This week was begun to honor the memory of a drug enforcement officer who was killed trying to stop drug activity near a school. At our students young age level the discussion is kept very simple and children are made aware that someday someone may try to talk them into trying tobacco, alcohol, or drugs and they will need to be ready to say no and get help from parents or another trusted adult to keep themselves healthy and safe.

**Monday:** Red ribbons given out, explanation on Morning Show, students sign Drug Free banner

**Tuesday:** "Hugs Not Drugs" Day - Students bring a favorite stuffed animal to hug.

**Wednesday:** Wear red day - Students and staff are encouraged to wear red.

**Thursday:** "Sock it to drugs" Day - Students and staff wear red socks or crazy socks

**Friday:** Students receive a red paper to trace and cut out one of their hands to give themselves "a pat on the back for being drug free". They may tape the hand to their backs.

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.