

# Principal's Newsletter

Voorhees High School

Volume 5, Issue 3

April 2016

## *Note from the Principal*

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Another winter has come and gone and we are all looking forward to the warmer temperatures. It was a very successful winter at Voorhees, please check inside the newsletter for our accomplishments.

April is here and spring sports have begun, and are actually outside for once. The spring musical "Catch Me If You Can" is almost ready to for its opening on April 7-10, so please get your tickets. Soon, you will begin receiving communications regarding PARCC exams, Advanced Placement exams, and graduation. Time is flying.

Please remember that the next session in our Community Education Series in on April 14 at 7:00pm. April's topic is Teen Dating Violence Awareness. They will have giveaways, the first 25 people will receive a journal. Our session in March had over 200 people in attendance and we would love to see the number grow. So, please attend and bring a friend. See you then!

Have a wonderful and safe Spring Break!

Sincerely,  
*Ron Peterson*

## Calendar for March & April

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 3/24 – 4/4  | School Closed – Spring Recess  |
| 4/7 – 4/10  | Spring Musical – <i>Catch Me If You Can</i>  |
| 4/13 – 4/15 | PARCC Testing – MATH   |
| 4-14-16     | Community Health & Wellness Seminar<br><i>Sexual Violence &amp; Teen Dating</i><br>7:00PM Auditorium |
| 4/18 – 4/20 | PARCC Testing – ENGLISH  |
| 4/21        | P.A.C. Meeting 9:30am @ Voorhees   |
| 4/22        | AP Pre-Gridding 9:00AM Auditorium  |
| 4/22        | Sophomore Career Fair 10:00-12:00PM Back Gym   |
| 4/25 – 4/26 | PARCC Make-Ups – MATH  |
| 4/27 – 4/28 | PARCC Make-Ups – ENGLISH   |
| 5/2 – 5/13  | AP EXAMS   |



*It's a Great Day to be a  
Vike!*



## **School News:**

**Alive at 25** (Parents' Component) attendance is mandatory for parents wanting their child to be eligible for a parking permit in the coming school year (2016-17).

Please note:

- The next Alive at 25 for parents will be offered on **June 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:45 and 7:00 PM, and again on June 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM** in our auditorium.
- Parents who have previously taken Alive at 25 in 2014-15 or later do not have to attend for 2016-17 eligibility.
- Parents who have attended Alive at 25 twice to date are exempt from this requirement.
- Attendees do not have to preregister – attendance will be taken at the presentation.

**Honor Roll for 2<sup>nd</sup> Marking Period** - [Click here](#)

### **Blood Drive**

Marc McGeehan, Heidi Hintz and The Life Saver's Club (formerly Red Cross Club) hosted a school wide blood drive on February 25, 2016. We were able to collect 228 units during the drive making it our most successful blood drive ever. **The next blood drive is scheduled for May 31, 2016.**

**Voorhees Students** held a **"Spread the Word to End the Word"** Campaign: March 2-4



## Art Department

- Ten Voorhees students participated in the **Thirtieth Annual Mount Olive HS Invitational Art Show**. The opening for the show was held on Tuesday, February 2, 2016. The Voorhees students who participated were:  

|   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Daniel Mahoney</b> – Photography     | <b>Erin Shaw</b> - Pen & Ink Drawing  |
| <b>Katie Desch</b> – Photography        | <b>Melody Groben</b> – Pastel Drawing |
| <b>Nora Trubert</b> – Photography       | <b>Ann Weiler</b> – Ceramics          |
| <b>Diana Giambrone</b> – Photography    | <b>Angelique Molloy</b> - Ceramics    |
| <b>Julia Governali</b> - Pencil Drawing | <b>Kathryn Roncoroni</b> – Ceramics   |

**Kathryn Roncoroni's ceramics piece won 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Crafts Category.**

**Nora Trubert received a 4 year Scholarship Award from Monserrat College for \$10,000.00 per year.**

- The Voorhees High School Art Department would like to announce that **Nora Trubert** and **Kathryn Roncoroni** have been selected as **Art Students of the Month for the month of January**. Nora is a senior and is being recognized for excellence in the area of photography. One of her photographs won her a scholarship from Monserrat College at the Mount Olive HS Invitational Art Show. Kathryn is also a senior and is being recognized for excellence in the area of ceramics. One of her ceramics pieces won 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the CRAFTS category at the Mount Olive HS Invitational Art Show. Congratulations to both students!



## VHSTV

- Eleven students enrolled in Mr. Brandt's VHSTV video program attended the *Student Television Network Convention* in Atlanta, GA, from March 10-13, where over 2600 students representing 154 schools from around the country collaborated, attended professional workshops and competed in over 25 different broadcast and film production competitions. Sophomore, Brielle Barozzini & Junior, Erin Walsh took 2nd place in the Spot Feature competition. 50 teams comprised of 200 students had just 6 hours to find and produce a journalistic story, focused on the given theme of "Life in the Fast Lane". Mr. Brandt is excited to begin planning for next year's convention being held in Anaheim, Ca.

Here's a link to the video produced by Erin & Brielle (also see photo below)--

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B5\\_FrBfS3fPxb1hINUVWQVVkRzQ/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B5_FrBfS3fPxb1hINUVWQVVkRzQ/view?usp=sharing)





## Music Department

- Aiden Giannelli and Joe Reynolds organized and presented the **Voorhees High School Instrumental Pops Concert** on February 24th. Eighty-nine students were involved in the performance performing in **Concert Band, Jazz Ensemble, String Ensemble, and various small groups**. The concert featured music that evolved from a dark to light mood. Performances included: **“Cave”, “Peter Gunn”, “Seven Nation Army”, “Moondance, Thriller”, “Super Mario Brothers Theme”, “House of the Rising Sun”, “Joy to the World”, “Viva La Vida”, “The Time Warp”, “The Rainbow Connection”, and “The Cupid Shuffle”**. In addition to the pop numbers, seniors **Kevin Wyckoff** and **Chris Lebron** performed classical solos on the marimba and flute respectively. Senior percussionists **Kevin Wyckoff, John Brezina, Megan Czirok, and Michael White** composed and performed **“Kitchen Percussion”** which was performed on a compliment of kitchen pots and pans. **Junior Sam Brynildsen** and senior **Sammie Wood** helped create choreography for the performance.

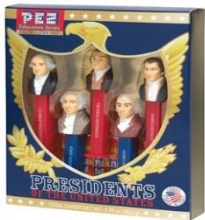


## English Department

- 18 seniors went to High Bridge for a tremendously successful mentoring session with the 4th graders!!



## Media Center News



### Pezidential Winners!

- Congratulations to the daily winners of last month's "Pezidential Trivia Contest". Sophia Bech-Hansen, Ethan Cooley, Reagan Loescher, Celia Turello, Josh Trudel, Kelly Best, and Lia Formica won their choice of two Pez dispensers.
- Andrew Fabiano was the grand prize winner of a prize package that included Pez dispensers of the last 8 presidents.

## Social Studies Department

- The Voorhees teams (1 & 2) have qualified to move on to the semi-finals of **B.R.I.T.E.** (Bridgewater-Raritan Invitational Tournament of Excellence). A New Jersey State qualifying quiz contest preceding a National Academic Championship. Competition will take the form of a modified Jeopardy game. Each round consists of three (3) games. There are five (5) categories of questions within each game. The questions cover a variety of subject areas and are graduated in difficulty.

Since 1978 B.R.I.T.E. sent champions to the national competition in Washington, D.C., Texas, Florida, and Ohio awarding more than \$200,000 in scholarships to finalist schools. Today, the B.R.I.T.E. tournament has grown to become the only one in NJ whose winner is an automatic qualifier for the National Academic Tournament.

Advisors are Mary Galal and Kathy Manz

- **Dr. Elliot Rosen** spoke to **Mrs. O'Steen's AP US History** classes about the Great Depression and FDR's New Deal. Dr. Rosen is a retired professor from Rutgers-Newark and has written several books. The students enjoyed connecting with him and enhancing their content knowledge.

## World Language

- **Spanish Exchange March 10 – 22, 2016**

Sixteen Voorhees High School families and fourteen North Hunterdon High School families welcomed 30 Spanish exchange students between the ages of 16 and 17 and three chaperones Thursday evening March 10<sup>th</sup>.

The visitors shadowed their host “siblings” on Friday March 11, 2016 at their respective schools after meeting Principals Ron Peterson and Rich Bergacs, who provided tours of their campuses.

Their itinerary included several trips to New York City, a trip to Philadelphia and a tour of Princeton University.

This is the fourth visit to Voorhees High School and the first to North Hunterdon High School.

The exchange is an excellent opportunity for the American and Spanish students and adults to exchange cultural ideas and to learn from one another.

- All Latin students at VHS participated in the *National Latin Exam* this month. For the first time, the exam was administered using Chromebooks. Everything went smoothly and successfully!

## Student Achievements:

### B+ Club

- The B+ Club held the first annual Vike-A-Thon Dance Marathon on Friday, February 26, 2016. The night was filled with music, dancing, and team-building games (including a contest in which Mr. Peterson smashed a raw egg on his head). Through donations and fundraising, the club raised nearly \$3,000 for children suffering from pediatric cancer.

### Mock Trial team

- **Kathy Manz and the Mock Trial Team** won the Hunterdon County championship in January and advanced to the regional round on February 2nd. They defeated East Brunswick with their defense team and advanced to the final round of the regional competition against Oratory Prep on Wednesday, February 24, 2016, which was held at the New Jersey Law Center in New Brunswick. They are now one of 6 teams left in the competition in the state. The mock trial team consists of:
  - Prosecution:  
**Kacee McCoy** – attorney      **Grace Borsetti** – attorney      **Scott Jackle** - witness  
**Jessica Hrabovecky** – witness      **Ibrahim Khan** – witness
  - Defense:  
**Soren Denlinger** – attorney      **Jack Singleton** – attorney      **Zoe Connell** - witness  
**Kavaughna Henry** – witness      **Amy Belle Molina** - witness
  - Jurors: **Samantha Edmund, Isabella DiCaro, Julia Silberman, Larkin Denlinger, Jennifer Page**

## FBLA

- On February 18th and 19th members of Voorhees High School FBLA Chapter (advisor **Sandra Hartman**), **Paige Nazzaro**, **Christopher Sernas**, **Alex Acevedo**, and **Jordan Rosenbloom** competed at the **NJ FBLA State Leadership Conference** held at the Waterfront Convention Center in Atlantic City, NJ.



Students competed in the categories of Introduction to Business Communications, Business Communications, Public Speaking and Impromptu Speaking.

Congratulations goes out to **Paige Nazzaro** who placed 3rd in Impromptu Speaking and has qualified to attend the regional competition in Atlanta, GA this summer.



## GIFTED and TALENTED:

- Frank Baldachino Essay Scholarship Award

**Charlie Rodenberger** is the recipient of the "**Frank Baldachino**" \$250.00 Scholarship given by the **DAANJ** (Directors of Athletic Associations of NJ). The scholarships are offered to recognize the distinguished scholastic, leadership and sportsmanship attributes of high school student-athletes and the importance of high school athletics in each student's life. The award will be presented on March 24<sup>th</sup> at the State Conference in Atlantic City.

- On March 10, 2016 Gifted and Talented Program Coordinator Jessica Gorton took 15 Voorhees seniors to Raritan Valley Community College for the *RVCC Campus Experience Day*. These students attended an information session, toured the campus, observed two simulated classes, enjoyed lunch on campus, and participated in a Q&A panel with current RVCC students.

## **Athletics:**

- **Dr. Jarrod Spencer** presented the “**Mind of The Athlete Program**” to our spring athletic teams – the topic was “**Emotional Energy Management**”.
- **Erin Jones** – Girls Basketball - has been chosen to represent Voorhees HS on March 20 at Rider University in the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual New Jersey North-South Girls Basketball All Star Game.
- **Carmen Cook** – Girls Basketball Coach - will be inducted into the **NJ Scholastic Coaches Association Hall of Fame** on April 10 at the Pines Manor in Edison.
- **Matt DeRobbio** – Girls Cross Country - will be honored with a **Coach of the Year** award presented by the National Federation of High School Athletics on April 10 at the Pines Manor in Edison.

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**Girls Basketball:** Skyland Conference Raritan Division Champions  
HWS County Tournament Champions  
NII Group 3 Sectional Champions  
Ranked No. 1 in the Lehigh Valley  
Alli Best - Hunterdon County Girls Basketball Player of the Year

Erin Jones – scored 1,000 point this season

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**Boys Basketball:** Qualified for State Tournament, advancing to 2<sup>nd</sup> Round

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**Wrestling:** Team wrestled in the NJ N2 Group 3 wrestling tournament.

The Wrestling team advanced 6 wrestlers from the Districts to the Regional Tournament.

**Kyle DiNapoli** at 126 lbs and **Mike Fernandes** at 152 lbs were **District Champions**.

**Kyle DiNapoli** at 126 lbs was **Regional Champion**

**Kyle DiNapoli** at 126 lbs placed **7<sup>th</sup> in the State**.

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**Boys and Girls Track** competed in the NJ Central Jersey Group 2 Sectional Championship. The following athletes placed and moved on to the Group Championship Meet:

Boys Track:

**Robert Whitney** – Champion in the 3200m

**Evan Minor** - 5<sup>th</sup> place 1600m

**Jack Memoli** - 5<sup>th</sup> place 55 Hurdles

**Chris Romero** - 2<sup>nd</sup> place 3200m

**Brendan McGill** - 2<sup>nd</sup> place 1600m

Girls Track: **Jennifer Murray** - 5<sup>th</sup> place – HJ



**At the NJ Group 2 Championship Meet:**

**Robert Whitney** placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 3200m  
**Brendan McGill** placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the 1600m

**Chris Romero** placed 6<sup>th</sup> in the 3200m

All 3 advance to the **Meet of Champions**

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**Fencing:**

All State: Andrew Garison – 3<sup>rd</sup> team Foil

All Raritan Division Skyland Conference:

Andrew Garison – 1<sup>st</sup> team Foil  
Sam Rutledge- 2<sup>nd</sup> team Foil  
Alec Rodrigues – 2<sup>nd</sup> team Sabre  
Elizabeth Turello – 2<sup>nd</sup> team Epee  
Maria Rodriguez- 1<sup>st</sup> team Sabre

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**Boys Varsity Basketball Team:**

The following letter was received from Mr. Pablo O. Delgado, Jr., Tiger Scout Den Leader, Pack 149:

“Dear Principal Peterson & Administrative Staff,

I'm Pablo Delgado, the Den Leader of the High Bridge Pack 149 Tiger scouts. On February 23, I brought my den to a basketball game and had the scouts meet with the team and coaches beforehand. It was a terrific experience that I wanted to share with you as well as thank and acknowledge those who were involved, specifically Coach Franz and his team.

The goal of the outing was to complete a scouting development requirement on team play and sportsmanship. It went above and beyond! The coach and players graciously answered our scouts' questions and shared advice on how to grow up to be a great teammate and leader. I speak for the parents in attendance when I say how touching it was to see the level of engagement and genuine consideration the players and coaches showed the tiger scouts. We received a real-life lesson on the power of team-play and the success that goes along with it, when done well.

The varsity game that followed was a powerful display of humility and skillful collaboration to succeed, by both the players on the floor and the cheerleaders in the stands. The players, while facing an athletically formidable opponent, persevered to victory with their focus to the game plan, which ultimately overwhelmed the opposing team. In the stands the cheerleaders recognized the 4 Cubs Scouts and choreographed a number of cheers in their honor. Finally, group pictures were captured with the scouts and siblings in attendance, wrapping up a fun, family event.

On behalf of our entire Pack 149 scouts leadership, I commend you and your staff for the fine work you're doing with the faculty and student body at Voorhees High School. I can attest first-hand on how well they embody the mission of your school and honor the legacy of those before them in this fine institution. Their attention to small details transformed our Tiger Scout outing into a memorable lasting experience.

Best Regards,  
Pablo O. Delgado, Jr.  
Tiger Scout Den Leader  
Pack 149”

Photo: Cub Scouts with Team



**PROUD TO BE A VIKE!**