

Principal's Newsletter

Voorhees High School

Volume 1, Issue 2

October 2011

Note from the Principal

It is hard to believe that we have almost completed the first marking period. Please remember that all report cards are viewed through Home Logic and are only mailed home to those who request a mailed copy or have no internet access.

This is a very exciting time of the year at Voorhees with this weekend's Homecoming festivities which include Dine Italian, the football game and the Homecoming Dance. Students will then meet and prepare for "Spirit Week", a week-long celebration of school spirit taking place from November 14-18. Parents are welcome to come in and see the students' amazing decorations on the Nov. 17.

It's a great time of year to be a Vike!

Sincerely,

Ron Peterson



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

Calendar for Oct/Nov.:

10/21 Homecoming Game

10/22 Homecoming Dance 7-10 PM

**10/25 Underclass Picture Make-ups
Lunch Mods**

10/28 Class Meetings

11/2 In-Service 11:55 Dismissal

**11/3-11/6 Fall Play – Anne of Green
Gables**

**11/10 & 11/11 Teacher Convention
No School**

11/15 Alive @ 25 (Parents) Rm 136

**11/18 – Milkcan Football Game,
North vs. Voorhees at VHS**

11/23 ½ Day – Thanksgiving Break

**11/24 & 11/25 No School –
Thanksgiving Break**



School News:

Homecoming Game and Dance

The **Homecoming Football** game against Somerville will be Friday, Oct. 21st at 7:00 – Please come out to support the team!

Saturday, Oct. 22 from 7:00 – 10:00 PM the **Homecoming Dance** will take place here at Voorhees. Tickets are on sale all week (17th – 21st) during the lunch mods for \$20. This is a semi-formal dance and proper attire (cocktail dresses, dress pants, dress shirts) must be worn for the duration of the dance. No caps, sneakers, jeans or shorts will be allowed. Students will not be admitted to the dance after 8PM and once an individual exits VHS, he or she will not be readmitted to the dance.

Dine Italian

The Voorhees High School PTSO will be hosting its annual “**Dine Italian**” all you can eat dinner on **Friday, October 21 from 4:30 – 7:30PM** in the Voorhees High School cafeteria. Proceeds go to benefit Project Graduation, a drug and alcohol-free graduation party for all seniors.

Video Department

The students enrolled in the **VHSTV/Video Productions Department** are once again offering video services to the community to help offset student costs for a trip to the Student Television Network Convention in Dallas, TX, this March. Services include transferring home movie recordings to DVD (many different formats are supported), as well as event filming and other video related projects. Please check out www.VoorheesTV.com for more information on the services they offer, or contact instructor Jeremy Brandt at JBrandt@nhvweb.net.

Cell Phones

Please remember that students are not to use their cell phones during the school day. They can be a disruption to classes and your child’s learning. Almost all phones today are equipped with cameras and can be an academic issue and more importantly a privacy issue. With the new focus from the state on harassment, intimidation and bullying, the use of cell phones is a common way students harass others.

Parents, if you need to get a message to your son or daughter, please call the main office (638-6116) and we will get the information to them at a convenient time in their schedule. If it is an emergency, we will notify them immediately and we can also arrange for any support they may need at that time. We thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Student Achievements:

Astronomy Club: Last Saturday, 18 Voorhees Astronomy Club members, 3 Astronomy Class students and 2 returning Astronomy Club alumni co-hosted an event at the NJAA Observatory from 2-6 PM that was attended by over 200 community members, mostly children. The all-astronomy themed event included our amazing students that organized and offered face painting of planets and constellations, students dressed in costume (Princess Andromeda greeted everyone at the door), an astronomy-theme bake sale, meteorite-viewing, games, planetarium shows and special presentations about the Moon, the Space Shuttle Program, Constellation Mythology and the Sun and solar observing through a variety of instruments. As their advisor, Teri Bellows received nothing but compliments all day long directed toward our students who, in the words of the NJAA President, “performed like more than exceptional students, they performed like professionals.” The students were organized, prepared and worked together throughout the day; there are not enough wonderful adjectives in our language to describe all they are. They also came early, set up and we were all cleaned up by 6:10 PM. A special thanks to senior Lauren Pepperman, who planned, organized and managed the event with NJAA president Steve Gale; truly a leader Vike!

“Week of Respect” Events

- Several projects around the building will emphasize character. The columns surrounding the senior mall and locker area on the first floor were painted with the “Pillars of Character.”
- The Art Department worked on video projects and photography projects that emphasize character and respect for differences.
- Inspired by the “It Gets Better” Campaign <http://www.itgetsbetter.org/>. Videos featuring staff members telling a brief story about a time when they were bullied or harassed and how it made them feel along with other staff members telling students “You Are Not Alone” were broadcasted on the VHS TV Morning Show.
- The Social Studies Department: On Monday, October 3, gave a brief introduction to the new law and the reasons behind it. As Social Studies teachers they will tie it into the concept of social justice for all.
- On Tuesday during the “Week of Respect”, the Science Department handed out a list of student focused “recipes”, and did an activity with the students with the idea of doing a good “turn” during that week.
- AM Announcements: Every morning during the week, a song that emphasizes respect, tolerance, acceptance and peace was played.

- The guidance department selected one male and one female student for the award, “Most Respectful Voorhees Student.” Recipients were based upon the number of nominations that were received from Voorhees staff members.
- As a culminating activity students were asked to sign a pledge:

The No Bulling Pledge

I will not take part in any actions that purposely hurt another person.

I will join with friends to stand up for kids who are being picked on.

Students signed the pledge during their lunch mods. As they signed their names in a binder, they were given a cutout of a hand with a peace sign to personally sign. These “peace signs” are displayed on a first floor bulletin board. Class officers and SHIP members assisted in this event.

While the State of New Jersey puts a focus on this “Week of Respect,” we at Voorhees have and will continue to promote respect, caring, fairness, citizenship, trustworthiness and responsibility throughout the school year.

Most Respectful Students

We would like to include the following students who were selected by their teacher as respectful students during the “Week of Respect”:

Andrea Gonzales
 Angela Armiento
 Ashley Schweikert
 Jane Compton
 Katie Heuss
 Mariana Guzman
 Monica Martin
 Victoria Sansone
 Victoria Crans
 Alexander Bianco
 Brandon Simanski
 Daniel Compton
 Daniel Marinari

Joseph Fernicola
 Javier Galinsky
 Koppany Pusztas
 Kyle Levy
 Matthew Greeson
 Nicholas Reeve
 Ryan Stone
 Sean Mahoney
 Thomas Riley
 Timothy Waldron
 Thomas Farber
 Trey Conroy
 Tyler Brockman

The two students who were selected as the Most Respectful:

Mary Kate Bulger
Marlow Padilla

Art Department

- Students in **Advanced TV Production** worked in small groups to produce video segments with the theme of “Respect” which were aired to the student body during the “Week of Respect”. Segments were aired each day of the week and ranged from short 30-second public service announcements to lengthier 2-minute stories that focused on what “Respect” means to you.
- Students in Mrs. Jennings’ classes completed a series of murals for the “Week of Respect” depicting the 6 Pillars of Character. These can be seen in the VHS lobby near the Main Office. Please see the following students pictured with their murals:

Ivy Landon – “Respect”



Makayla Dajani – “Trustworthiness”





Sydney Paul –“ Citizenship”



Caroline Clark –“ Responsibility”



Gabbie Gibson – “Caring”

Athletics:

The Voorhees Athletic Department and High School have been awarded the **NJSIAA Sportsmanship Banner for the Skyland Conference Raritan Division**. This award is based on a vote by opposing schools in which they rank the schools in their conference for sportsmanship shown by the coaches, athletes, fans and athletic department.

This banner will be awarded at the NJSIAA Annual Meeting in December.

Boys and Girls Cross Country won the Raritan Division Girls Cross Country won the Hunterdon/Warren/Sussex Championship for the third straight year and the county championship for the 11th year in a row.

Harrison Brakewood (Cross Country) and Kimmie Pianucci (Field Hockey) have been selected as the Crown Trophy **Athletes of the month for September**. They were nominated by their coaches for excellence in their sport during the month of September.

The Voorhees Athletic Department has upgraded the school/athletic scheduling calendar. This link http://www.skylandconferencenj.org/g5-bin/client.cgi?G5genie=380&school_id=21 will take you to the weekly schedule as well as any sport specific calendars.

On this site, parents can sign up to be on the email list for any changes that occur to the schedule(s). Parents will also be able to get directions to opposing schools by clicking on the opponent's name. We hope that this program will be easy to use and very helpful.

Guidance Office:

Important Guidance Dates

October 22	ACT test
October 28	1 st MP Ends
November 4	Registration deadline for December SAT
November 5	SAT Test
November 10,11	NJEA Convention – School Closed
November 16	Military Day
November 17	Financial Aid Night – 7 PM
November 18	Senior Warning Letters