

March 7, 2008

View from the Valley

Find out what's going on at Valley Middle School!

Team News

Team Updates

Team Monarch

In math, students cut out nets of geometric solids, then decorated and constructed the 3-D solids. The students included an information tag that provided the name of the figure as well as the number of faces, edges and vertices that the figure has. The shapes will be hung for display from the ceiling in Mr. Lang's room. In addition, students finished up their work on geometric plane figures by creating a faux stained glass window using construction and tissue paper. The students traced and cut out the different polygons and circles then attached tissue paper to create the stained glass effect. Then they measured the dimensions of the figures and apply the formulas provided to them to determine the area and perimeters of their polygons. These projects will be displayed classrooms, the main hallway and the breezeway.

Team Knight

Congratulations to Natalie Schall for winning 1st place in a creative writing contest. She created a short story titled "To Sleep, Perchance to Dream." Also congratulations to Star Speller, Brandon Vantine, for winning 1st place in the VMS spelling bee, which was sponsored by the Student Council. The February Knights Stars of the Month are Dominic S. in math; Elmo H. in social studies; Tiffany D. in science; Hanna K. in English; and Devin D. in reading.

We're back on the road again as we "Read Across America". The students' Book Links have reached Salt Lake City. The bright lights of San Francisco are well within our reach! Our ultimate goal is 576 Book Links by 3/14, which is PI DAY!

Team Jaguar

The Salvation Army arrived last week to collect the donations at the school. Thank you to everyone who placed a donation in the box. Ms. Gormly's students have finished conducting research for their Civil Rights research paper, and are in the process of typing them. In social studies, they are focusing on the Incan, Mayan, and Aztec Empires.

Team Encore

In art class, 6th grade students are completing their dragon projects. They are hanging on the wall outside of the Art Room. Mrs. Jones' Consumer Science students used the C.O.W.'s last week to reserch popcorn. This week, they used the information that they found in their cooking labs.

Team Titan

The Titans are collecting items for the Animal Protectors of Allegheny Valley dog and cat shelter. This No Kill shelter is located in New Kensington and depends on donations for support. We invite all of Valley Middle School in helping us with this community service project. Please deposit items in decorated bins or bring them to the Titan hall. We will also gladly accept monetary donations, please give directly to a Titan teacher. Wish List items include: garbage bags, Purina Brand cat and kitten foods, paper towels, postage stamps, canned cat food, dog and cat toys, laundry detergent, Purina Brand dog and puppy foods, kitty litter, Pro Plan Dog Food, and Safe Paw Ice Melter. NO CANNED OR GENERIC DOG FOOD WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Team Gladiator

The Gladiator Team's field trip will be held on Wednesday, May 21st. They will travel to the Ligonier Camp & Adventure Center. Students will work together in small groups all day, and most of the activities will be held outside. Permission slips and money will be accepted between now and May 2nd, and should be turned into Gladiator homeroom teachers.

Gladiator students Joe W., Josh D., Patrick T., Dylan C. and Patrick D. have enjoyed a very successful year on the valley Youth Wrestling team. Josh and Patrick T. have placed in a few of their tournaments, while Dylan and Patrick D. have had fantastic years. Dylan has placed second in three tournaments and took first place in his weight class at The Valley Open. Patrick T. has won four of the eight tournaments he has entered including the very tough Bethel Park Tournament. Patrick T. also took second at The Burrell Supertrophy which is known for its tough competition every year. These young men will be competing in the Area 7 tournament in an attempt to make the State Championship tournament the last weekend of March.

Team Cougar

The Cougars are selling purses, wallets and cell phone covers out of drink pouches. The prices for these items range from \$3.00 - \$8.00. All proceeds benefit the Cystinosis Research Network. See Ms. Slimick to purchase the items. The English Civil Rights research paper is ending Final papers will be due to Ms. Smith on March 9th.

Operation R.E.A.D.E.R.

Book Links Update

The Book Link update for this week is the following (as of March 7, 2008):

Monarchs - 616 *Knights - 599* **Titans - 379** *Jaguars - 460* **Gladiators - 475** *Cougars - 577*

Read Across America *By Shelby Bruner*



On Friday February 29th, 7th and 8th grade VMS students visited Martin, Greenwald and Ft. Crawford Elementary Schools to celebrate Read Across America. Logan H., Joe W., Billy M., Allison W., Lea T., Angela M. and Nicole W. presented a skit for the students based on Dr. Seuss' Green Eggs and Ham and The Sneetches.

Maria P., Emily M., Jessica M., Jonathan K., Shelby B., Anna H. and Christie D. created and ran many games and activities for the students including a hat making station, Sox of Fox, "Seuss Says", "What can you balance on your head?" and a Seuss character memory game. Also, the committee created a special Read Across America poster for each school, that the committee members and elementary school student all signed to commemorate the event.

Book Review - Eclipse by Stephenie Meyer

By Samantha H.

Eclipse is the third book in Stephenie Meyer's vampire love series. In this book, Bella Swan is once again surrounded by danger. She is soon forced to choose between the love of her life, vampire Edward Cullen and her best friend, werewolf Jacob Black. Bella knows that her choice will kick off a war between the two clans. To top it off, Bella is being hunted by a vicious vampire named Victoria. As high school graduation approached, Bella has to make the decision of her life, but will she choose life or death?

I liked this book a lot. It is exciting, suspenseful and extremely interesting. This book is a page-turner; you won't want to put it down. I would recommend this book, and the first two in the series, Twilight and New Moon to anyone who likes vampires, werewolves, action and adventure, or love stories.

I give this book: ★★★★★

The Battle is On - Read to Compete!

By Sabrina H.

VMS is having a teacher vs. student reading competition. A group of teachers who like to read are making a team and are challenging VMS students to a reading race. Students can sign up in the library during homeroom only. As the team members read, they will fill out Book Links. The Book Links will be hung up on the wall by the office. Whichever team's Book Links reach the Library first receives a prize.

The teachers Book Links will be pink and the students Book Links will be ivory. Students participating in this contest may fill out two separate Book Links – one that is counted towards their team's totals and one that is counted towards the reading competition totals.

Calendar of Events

March 10th and March 11th

"Hoops for Hearts" Basketball Tournament

March 18th

Reading Competition

Reading Competition picture for Yearbook

March 20th

Weather make-up day (school in session)

March 20th

Student Council Spirit Day – wear a college or basketball t-shirt

March 21st

March 25th - Easter Vacation

March 31st

End of the third nine week period

March 31st through April 3rd
PSSA's for 6th, 7th and 8th grades

Sports & Games

Girls Softball

By Katrina G.

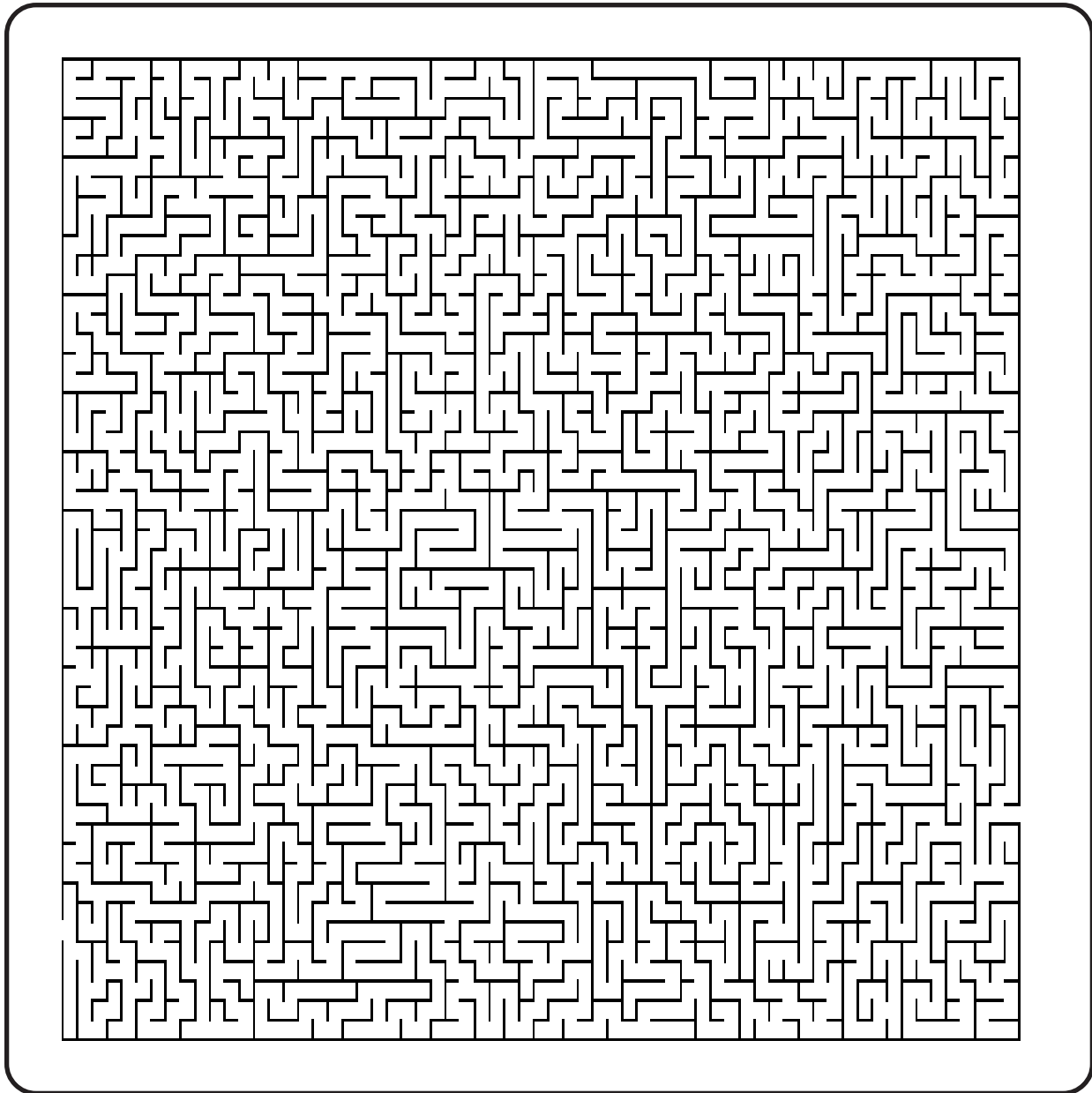
All this week, the softball team has been participating in conditioning workouts. Seventeen girls tried out and are currently on the team. Girls who are interested can still try out for the team.

Girls Volleyball

By Richie H.

The junior varsity girls won their last three matches. Super servers are Alexis S. and Marissa D. The varsity team has also won their last three matches. Kylee D. and Brandie R. have stepped up their game and were big contributors to the wins. Both teams are 5-1. Next week, they have away games on Monday and Tuesday, and a home match on Thursday. Show up on Thursday to cheer the girls on to victory.

A-maze-ing



Student News & Interest

Student Council Updates

Hoops for Hearts Tournament

Student Council is sponsoring a 3-on-3 "Hoops for Hearts" basketball tournament to benefit the American Heart Association. The tournaments will take place Monday, March 10th and Tuesday, March 11th after school. See Mr. Fry in room 106 to sign up.

Spelling Bee

Student Council hosted a Spelling Bee after school on Wednesday, February 27th. Brandon V. took first place, with Anthony T. and Brianna C. taking 2nd and 3rd place.



Spirit Day

Student Council's next Spirit Day contest will be on Thursday, March 20th. Wear your favorite college or basketball team t-shirt.

Interview with Ms. Herman

By Samantha S. and Tara S.

Ms. Herman teaches 6th grade math on the Gladiator team. She graduated from Valley and went to college at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Her original area of study was music, but changed over to elementary education. She became a teacher because her mother and grandmother were teachers, and she enjoys working with young people. In school, her favorite subject was math because she thinks it's fun working with the numbers. She enjoys teaching math to students. Her favorite thing about teaching is connecting with the students and helping to make a difference.

One of Ms. Herman's favorite teaching memories is about a prank. One day Ms. Mangieri put a fake rubber mouse in Ms. Herman's desk drawer. Ms. Herman opened her drawer, saw the mouse and wasn't scared, but decided to turn the tables on Ms. Mangieri. She had one of her students go to Ms. Mangieri's room, and tell her that she was needed in Ms. Herman's room. When Ms. Mangieri arrived, Ms. Herman was on the floor by her desk, pretending to have fainted.

Ms. Mangieri ran to the Ms. Herman, screaming "Someone call the office." Ms. Herman says, "She was seriously freaking out. It was hilarious".

Random Acts of Kindness

Next week, the Random Acts of Kindness Committee will announce the winner in the Pennies for Pasta competition. The homeroom that raises the most money will receive a catered lunch from the Olive Garden.

View from the Valley Student Editors:

Shelby B., Katrina G. and Katlyn S.

Quick Pic

There are at least 8 differences in the two photos below. Can you find them?



From the office of
Ms. LaPrade

There are a number of things going on in the Guidance Department this month. The one thing that I am most excited about is the collaboration with Penn State's Talent Search Program.

Penn State's Talent Search Program provides academic and career oriented counseling to 7th and 8th grade students. The program also offers field trips to participating students. Starting this month, Ms. Canoge, from Talent Search, will be available in the VMS Guidance Office on Friday mornings.

Stop by at this time if you have any question for Ms. Canoge or would like to know more about Talent Search program. Make sure that you have a pass from your teacher!

This month, Ms. Canoge will also be conducting 8th grade classroom presentations that will focus on careers, resume writing, and filling out job applications.