WOW, what a great first month we had! The children did amazingly well learning routines and settling into a new school year. The school is buzzing with their energy and enthusiasm for learning. “I love school” is a phrase I have heard many times. What a fun and delightful age this is!

Parents, you deserve praise for the fabulous job you are doing. I have noticed several positive steps by parents. These include quick goodbyes – the children do much better when you say a quick goodbye and allow them to walk to their class. Thank you for following the dress code, dropping off and picking up your children on time and returning all necessary emergency forms. These are just a few of the ways you support us at Vansville. Your support is greatly appreciated as we teach your child to be independent citizens of our school.

One of our major goals is to foster independent learners. As educators, we demonstrate the expected behavior or skill, facilitate guided practice, and follow it up with independent practice. To aid us in promoting your child’s independence, you could demonstrate, guide practice, and promote practice at home by opening juice and milk cartons with your child, opening and inserting a straw in their drink, opening lunch containers, and cleaning up after oneself. Many of our children have done a fabulous job in the lunchroom thus far, but the more we work together the easier these tasks will become. Thank you!

As you know, our school is locked during school hours. When you visit our school, you will need to ring the bell, identify yourself to the person at the front desk, and state the nature of your visit. We are working hard to recognize all of you, but it may take several weeks. To secure a visitors pass, you will be required to show photo identification. We welcome visitors but need to keep track of who is in our building at all times. This is an important safety issue. If you come to pick up your child, please stop in the office and sign the Early Dismissal book. We also need you to write a note to the teacher or call the office if your child’s after school transportation plans are changed. Also, early dismissals are permitted prior to 2:45. After that time, you will need to wait with the other parents in the car-ride area. We make it our business to know exactly where children are at all times of the day.

This year, our instructional focus is literacy. Literacy is the ability to read, write, speak, listen and use numeracy. In Prince George’ County Public Schools, our focus on literacy emphasizes the ability to:

- Report, evaluate, gather, synthesize and comprehend information and ideas
- Conduct original research in order to answer questions or solve problems
• Analyze and create print and non-print texts in media format
• Use numbers to process information, solve problems and interpret data.

A few ways to support your child’s literacy and numeracy development include:
• Encouraging your child to read and view a variety of texts such as newspapers, novels, comics, magazines, websites, email, timetables, instructions and recipes
• Encouraging your child to write and design for a variety of purposes using print and electronic resources — invitations, thank you notes, shopping lists, messages, journals and electronic slide shows
• Encouraging your child to speak and listen for a variety of purposes — sharing a joke, giving instructions or asking for information
• Encouraging your child to use mathematical language — how much, how big, how small, how many
• Asking ‘Does that make sense?’, ‘Is the answer reasonable?’ or ‘What other ways could we do this?’
• Talking about different ways to solve a problem

We are very excited about the partnerships we have already established with our parents. Together we can continue to make Vansville Elementary Great by Choice!

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**Dress Code**

Vansville has a Dress Code in place that the students need to adhere by. Below are the rules to ensure every child is dressed properly when entering the school. Thank you for your cooperation with this matter.

• Hats or “skull-caps” may not be worn at any time. Headdresses can be worn indoors for religious or health reasons only.
• Shirts and blouses should be continuous from neckline to waist. The entire mid-section should not show.
• No spaghetti strap tops, tank tops or muscle shirts.
• No clothing with vulgar language, obscene pictures, weapons, drugs/alcohol, drug paraphernalia and/or tobacco products.
• No identifiable gang/crew clothing or paraphernalia.
• No see-through clothing.
• Skirts, dresses, shorts, and spandex skirts should be approximately six (6) inches below the buttocks, or no shorter than fingertip level.
• Pants should be secured at the waist; no sagging below waist to expose undergarments.
2nd Grade Field Trip

2nd grade is going on a Field Trip to Imagination Stage on Oct. 24th to see The Night Fairy. All money and permission slips are due by Oct. 16th.

PBIS to present at PTA meeting Oct. 14th

PBIS will be presenting at the PTA meeting on Oct. 14th. We will be going over Vansville PRIDE and the school wide positive behavior system.

Terrific Third Grade

Our wonderful third graders are hard at work in their classrooms! Currently we are learning strategies on how to multiply, compare various communities, identify main ideas and details in a variety of text. We are also learning about the water cycle.

The third grade teachers would like for their students to continue to be involved in their learning each day!
# Students of the Month
## August/September 2014

**Responsible** – a **Responsible Student** does their homework, school assignments, make good choices and listens to the teacher.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Allen</td>
<td></td>
<td>Headstart</td>
<td>Ashley Hernandez</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Walter</td>
<td></td>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>Jason Kresge</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Couchman</td>
<td></td>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>Caron Wyatt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Jackson</td>
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<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>Yashree Jagtop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Geitner</td>
<td>1st grade</td>
<td></td>
<td>Kamil Goodrich</td>
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<td>Mrs. Rosenberger</td>
<td>1st grade</td>
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<td>Hector Barran Rivera</td>
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<td>Ms. Kountz</td>
<td>1st grade</td>
<td></td>
<td>Justice McDaniel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Lassiter</td>
<td>2nd grade</td>
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<td>Gabriella Lugo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Plue</td>
<td>2nd grade</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bella Fox</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Soto</td>
<td>3rd grade</td>
<td></td>
<td>Camilla Reyes-Loayza</td>
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<td>Mrs. Godshall</td>
<td>3rd grade</td>
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<td>Kaia Ford</td>
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<td>Mrs. Shapskinsky</td>
<td>3rd grade</td>
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<td>Leila Ogba</td>
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<td>Mrs. Curtis</td>
<td>4th grade</td>
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<td>Kamryn Nixon</td>
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<td>Mrs. Heilman</td>
<td>4th grade</td>
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<td>Cindy Betancourth</td>
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<td>Ms. Crawford</td>
<td>4th grade</td>
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<td>Joey Bailor</td>
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<td>Ms. Mayhew</td>
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<td>Morgan Beck</td>
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<td>Mrs. Daugherty</td>
<td>5th grade</td>
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<td>Mya-Resana Mandi</td>
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Vansville’s Forever Garden

The 2012-2014 Vansville PTA Board wrapped up their 2 year term this summer with the completion of the Kindergarten Forever Garden. The garden was inspired by the PTA Secretary, Mrs. Shenda Moore, who viewed a similar garden at a local school her 3 boys attended for preschool. The Board wanted to leave something beautiful and cheerful for staff and students to enjoy all year round. The PTA sponsored several other activities and equipment for the school, but thought that the garden would be something that would last forever. The PTA has been raising funds for a bigger project to resurface the kindergarten playground and is continuing to fundraise and take contributions for this project.

The PTA sponsored the project and the artist, Arturo Ho, who is the artist behind helping the PTA achieve their goal for the forever garden. The PTA funded the construction of the garden wall and steel poles from DRD Construction Company. DRD Construction also cut the plywood flowers out for the PTA. The PTA and the Murphy family (a Vansville family) donated paint for the project. Mrs. Moore and Mrs. Kim Lockett sketched the flowers. Cassidy Murphy, the daughter of Mrs. Murphy and a high school student at Palotti, hand-painted the beautiful flowers. One of our own third grade teachers, Mrs. Soto, sketched the design for the wall of the garden and helped tile the wall. Accompanying the Artist to guide the PTA along were a host of PTA parents (Murphy family, 11-13 PTA Board family and 14-16 PTA Board family). They met at Mrs. Moore’s house on two different occasions to put the project together. On the first day after the design was sketched on the board, parents and VES students broke tiles and adhered them to the backboard. At the second gathering, they applied the grout to the wall pieces. Finally, one Saturday morning, PTA, DRD Construction and Arturo met at Vansville to attach the panels to the garden wall. They also attached the flowers that morning. The following Monday a few of the teachers joined them for an unveiling of the garden!

Artist’s Biography

Arturo Ho is the owner of his own art company and artist of his site www.arturoho.com. Over the past 18 years, his focus has been working in diverse communities, schools, and with youth to collaborate and create murals, mosaics, and various multi-media projects. In addition to his work with youth and communities, he also has a background in Illustration and Fine Art. Some other art services he offers is collaboration based art projects, consultation on art related projects, and art classes in mosaics and murals for young people. Feel free to contact him if you have any questions or would like to discuss a project.
Nurse’s Notes 🍂

October is here! Are you ready? Jackets, hats, and fall allergy medications are just a few of the things your student might need this fall. How about breakfast and eight hours of sleep? These things are important for your child to do well in school.

It’s that time of year when fall allergies flare up and often trigger asthma in our children. Please provide the school nurse with your child’s asthma medications and doctor’s orders ASAP. Remember, if a student has an asthma attack at school and we do not have medication for treatment, we call 911 and send the child to the emergency room.

I am also waiting for EPI-PENS and orders for several students with food allergies. Anaphylaxis is life threatening, so let’s work together to keep our kids safe at school. If you have questions or need forms please call me at 240-297-1557.

Thank You, Nurse Cookie

This is a reminder to Pre K and Kindergarten parents. If you have not returned your child’s health inventory, please make arrangements for your child to have a physical and have that paperwork completed. Please return the HEALTH INVENTORY TO THE SCHOOL NURSE ASAP.

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**Important Vansville Testing Dates**

- **Oct. 7-8:** First Grade OLSAT
- **Oct. 27:** 5th Grade Science
- **Oct. 28-29:** Quarterly Benchmark Math Test – 3rd - 5th grade
- **Nov. 5-6:** Quarterly Benchmark Reading Test – 3rd - 5th grade

**Dates to Remember**

- October 16 – Hispanic Day
- October 24 – ESOL café @ 9am
- Sat. Nov. 15 – Walk for Health @ Buddy Attick Park (Greenbelt Lake) from 9-11am