

VIERA CHARTER SCHOOL



PANTHERS

April 2019

TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

This Issue

2. Club Med launches morning meditation; Student of the Month for April; Ice cream House Party.
3. Morning at the Wax Museum; Sleeping Beauty Dress Down Day.
4. PTSO News; Coming Events.
5. Pi Day with Mr. Frahm; NJHS and NEHS Project Aids Turtles Wellness, Education;

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Principal's Message

Hello Panther Families!

We have just finished another month jammed pack with exciting activities for our students and their families. Learn about a new club on page 2 as well as the prenominal wax museum performed by some of our very talented 3rd grade students on page 3. One of my favorite events was Mr. Jim Sawgrass' visit (page 5). What a treat for students and teachers to experience this Native American presentation.

Before I close my message, I do want to thank our wonderful volunteers again for all that they do for our school and our students. We are successful at VCS because of the strong partnership that we have with our parents. You are truly amazing and we thank you!

Warmest regards,
Dr. Julie Cady



Dr. Cady attended the Wax Museum organized by third-grade teacher Mrs. Peluso. See page 3 for more details.

Club Med is the Perfect Get-away from Stress and Distraction

A new club launched for students who want to be happier, feel less stressed, and improve coping skills. Club Med is short for meditation club, which meets Monday and Friday mornings in the Media Center before school.

“A few minutes of quiet meditation in the morning will unlock your creative power all day,” said Mrs. Gaffey, who runs the club with faculty co-sponsor Mrs. Anders, Guidance Counselor.



“Students have found it very helpful and most never miss a day. It came just in time for the stress of FSA exams. It helps members to relax and realize they have everything they need in the moment they are sitting for a test to do well on their exams.”

Club Med uses a guided meditation app called Calm.com. The daily meditation is from 10 to 13 minutes long and starts at 7:30 a.m. and repeats at 7:45 so that both middle school and elementary students in grades 3-5 can take part.

Mrs. Gaffey, left, and Mrs. Anders lead Club Med morning meditation.



Student of the Month for April—Cooperation/Sportsmanship

Congratulations to seventh-grader Dixie Smith for being chosen Student of the Month from all seventh-grade students for character qualities of Cooperation/Sportsmanship.



Coach Darby was among the teachers who put her name forward. “Dixie always does what is asked of her, and is an exemplary role model for her classmates,” Coach Darby said. “She truly does, ‘the right thing when no-one is looking.’”

While Dixie has enjoyed playing basketball for the school, the highlighted character qualities extend beyond the court. “Dixie is the first to offer to help, whether it is me or another student,” Science teacher Mr. Van Genechten said. “She’s a great team player or team leader on science team learning activities, whatever the need calls for.”

Of the “amazing honor,” Dixie said she’s happy to help no matter what, “but it’s a great feeling to get this acknowledgement, especially from teachers.”

Character House of Respeto-Respect wins Quarterly Ice Cream Party

Black T-shirts ruled March 13, with sprinkles!



Morning at the Wax Museum Melts Hearts

Third-grade Language Arts/History teacher Mrs. Peluso took her homeroom and teacher-partner Mrs. Wallace's class back in time to showcase famous persons who have contributed to the world. All grades then experienced the March 29 show, students stopping to tap the performer on the shoulder to make them come to life and recite important facts about the person they represented. "The students worked so hard, learning about their chosen historical personality," Mrs. Peluso said. "Then came the amazing costumes, and the terrific performances." Added Dr. Cady, "It was such a good learning project on so many levels. And then, it was a history lesson for all. We are especially thankful to Mrs. Peluso because all the teachers realize the time and effort it required to make this happen."

Third Grade



Sleeping Beauty/PJ Day Dress Down Day

In keeping with the year's Disney Theme, Sleeping Beauty/PJ day allowed for dress code-friendly fuzzies.



Mrs. Wallace, left, showered teacher partner Mrs. Peluso with praise.



PTSO Leaders, Members, and All Volunteers Get Their Due

The spotlight shone brightly on the PTSO and all other volunteers at the April 25 Volunteer Breakfast. Volunteers have spent many hours over the school year working toward a common goal of school and student success, most recently making sure PantherPalooza, the Book Fair, and end-of-year events are a resounding success.

PTSO Board Members received a special Panther Pin for their leadership service, below. At bottom right, students surrounded the volunteers to sing and recite their appreciation of volunteers.



Coming Events

Dress Down Day is the One to Beat

Friday, May 3, Save the Date for the most anticipated Dress Down Day of the year, May the 4, which had to be held on Friday, May 3 because the next day is Saturday. In other words, **MAY THE FORTH (FORCE) BE WITH YOU!** The now-Disney owned Star Wars theme is perfect to close our VCS Disney Theme this year.



- Wednesday, May 8, 5 p.m., VCS Governing Board Meeting, Cafeteria.
- Tuesday, May 21, 6 p.m. PTSO Election Night, Cafeteria.
- Friday, May 24, Dress Down Day. Disney Cruise, Sailing Into Summer. Beach vacation attire in keeping with the school dress code.
- Monday, May 27, Memorial Day. No School.
- May 28, 29, 30, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Last Days of School/Exam Days. Early release at 1:30 p.m.



Pi Day, the Sweetest Day

The VCS administration team joined Mr. Frahm's Algebra students for pie on Pi Day, March 4, or 3.14 to infinity. Students look forward to this annual special event, with plenty of pies and flavors for students to celebrate Frahm's favorite date on the calendar.



NJHS and NEHS Project Aids Turtles Wellness, Education

The National Junior Honor Society and the National Elementary Honor Society presented the Brevard Zoo's Sea Turtle Rescue program with a donation collected from the students' February service project, Valentine's Grams. A representative from the Brevard Zoo spoke to the students about the important work they do for the turtles found on Brevard County beaches and offshore in the ocean.

The donation will go to help buy supplies for the turtles being treated in the Brevard Zoo's Sea Turtle Rescue Center.



Fourth and Fifth Grades

Jim Sawgrass Brings Live Native American History to School

Thanks to a generous grant by the VCS PTSO, all fourth and fifth graders participated March 14 in a Native American presentation and dance performance by Jim Sawgrass. Mr. Sawgrass is a member of the Muskogee Creek Indian Tribe and a Native Floridian. He is a professional speaker and shared

with the students the history of Southeastern Native American tribes in an interesting and educational production. Cody Sawgrass, Jim Sawgrass's son, performed a hoop dance. Cody Sawgrass won this year's World Hoop Dance competition.



Spring Fling Middle School Dance Helps Students Less Fortunate

Middle School Student Council hosted a “Spring Fling” dance March 29. The purpose of the dance was to raise funds to assist Endeavor Elementary in stocking its pantry, a place on its campus where students can access foods to take home when they would otherwise be



without proper nutrition over the course of a weekend. Student council heard of their situation and dedicated the profits from this dance to go to assist the school. In addition to the good works, the event leads back to greater success in school, event

faculty sponsor Mrs. Rabun said. “A middle school dance gives students an opportunity to strengthen social bonds in an out-of-classroom setting, which can lead to improved teamwork in the classroom. And it gives them sense of community.”



Superhero Named Superhero

Dr. Cady presented VCS SRO Cpl. Kearns with a fitting memento of appreciation at the March 27 staff meeting for performing a life saving maneuver to assist a child who was choking during lunch. A photo shown on the screen behind them shows Cpl. Kearns’ ultimate boss, Sheriff Wayne Ivey, presenting him with an award during a ceremony attended by the Kearns family.

He’s our superhero every day, but then there are days we are especially glad we chose Cpl. Kearns as our SRO,” Dr. Cady said.

