

# VIERA CHARTER SCHOOL



# PANTHERS

**January 2020**

**TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE**

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5. New Technology for Dream It, Do It! Writing Club. VCS Students Move up to VHS Academies.
6. Disney Day; Coming Events. Spelling Bee winners. PTSO Pulls Off Winning Panther Cup.

## **Contact Information**

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**Dr. Julie Cady**

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## **Principal's Message**

**Hello Panther Parents and Guardians!**

I would like to wish you a wonderful new year, bright with many blessings. Coming off winter break, as you reestablish important routines to ensure your students continued academic success, please allow me to share some helpful tips with you.

Establish and maintain good communication with your student's teachers. Ask questions about assignments, classroom behavior, and upcoming events.

Remain involved in school activities. We love our volunteers! It is important that your child see that education is important to you and that you take learning seriously.

Finally, spend time doing educational activities with your student. Read with them often. Visit the zoo, the science center, the aquarium, and other fun places that have great learning opportunities for them.

**Warmest regards,**

***Dr. Julie Cady***



*Dr. Cady commends Spelling Bee winners Natalie Rhodes in eighth grade 1st Place and Giada Price in seventh grade is the runner up. See page 6 for details.*

## It's a Bird, It's a Plane...It's Superhero Day!

Students in all grades enjoyed a dress down day Jan. 10 to gear up as their favorite superhero, or just wear their favorite superhero fashions, all to raise money for charity.



Dr. Cady and Mr. Armstrong got to admire all the outfits for Superhero Dress Down Day Jan. 10. They handed out tickets for a drawing to all teachers, and one Teacher Superhero will be selected at the February faculty meeting to invite 30 guests for a party in their honor.



## Student of the Month for January: Citizenship

John Ramsey was named Student of the Month from all of Fourth Grade, for exhibiting the character quality of good Citizenship. His photo is posted on the Student of the Month board for all students to see on entering the cafeteria. According to the criteria for the award, "A good citizen follows rules, cooperates with others in the group, obeys laws and people in positions of authority, and respects the earth enough to take care of it and conserve its resources." That certainly describes John, according to his teacher, Mrs. Thomas. She put his name forward for consideration to the entire Fourth Grade teaching team and John was accepted unanimously.



For John, the good behavior is just one more thing required to fulfill his career dreams and goals. "I want to do well in college and become a Marine Biologist."

## Polar Express Makes a Stop



Dr. Cady handed out chilled bells to all kindergarteners Dec. 19, providing a tactile enhancement to the viewing of the movie, "Polar Express." While fun, the movie was part of curriculum.

## Second Grade Bones Up On Sea Life

All of second grade knows a lot more about the sea, and every creature with bones. They went on a field study Dec. 5 to the Sea Life Museum and Skeleton Museum.



## Fourth Grade Treks to Historical St. Augustine

It was a chance to soak up local, Florida, U.S. and world history and geography: fourth grade took a mid-December field study trip to St. Augustine, the oldest continuously inhabited city in the United States. The trip coincides with a tandem classroom curriculum.



## Grinch Olympics: a Treat for Good Behavior

Fifth-grade teachers hosted the inaugural Grinch Olympics at Viera Regional Park. It was an opportunity for extra PE, but the emphasis was more on play.

“The kids had so much fun,” Mrs. Dedrick said. “We started with a three-legged race, where the students



used a variety of interesting strategies, followed by a sack race, foot race, and a limbo competition.”

The event was organized by Mrs. Oliver, who brought the concept with her to VCS this year. The day ended in an tug-of-war bracket competition, with Mrs. Rodriguez’s class winning undefeated!



## Sixth Grade Lifts Off to Kennedy Space Center

Each year, NASA expert James Kennedy, below, comes to Viera Charter School to teach sixth-graders all about the US Space

Program at Kennedy Space Center. Later, students take a field study trip to KSC Visitor Center for a thrilling tour. “It was a fun way to learn about such an important place,” sixth-grader Tyler Najdawi said. “It was definitely inspiring.”



## Dream It, Do It! Writing Club Becomes Daily Activity

The *Dream It, Do It!* Writing Club has become part of the daily activity wheel so that all fourth-graders and fifth-graders can take part.

The Club taps students' natural love of storytelling and gets them excited about bringing their stories to life on the stage and screen. Students discover a need to "make notes" to create their stories, and then writing becomes a means to an end. From there, screenplay dialog and details must be written for actors to read, requiring more writing. All types of storytelling are covered, from essays, to songs, to funny memes.

Writing teacher Mrs. Gaffey brings a laptop cart to each class and students write their screenplays on laptops, and shoot and edit their own movies on iPads using state-of-the-art Lumafusion editing software.

The traditional *Dream It, Do It!* Writing Club still meets weekly after school. Members will perform their songs and skits and show movies on the new smart board at an April 23 student show.

New Year  
New Technology



Mrs. Gaffey uses the new traveling smart board to show a movie made by last year's *Dream It, Do It!* Writing Club members to middle school students during lunch. Below, Panther Pride News features the middle school *Dream It, Do It!* Writing Club.



## Digital Arts Students Fill Desirable Seats at VHS Digital Arts/Business Academies

And speaking of the new smart board, it was fittingly used Jan. 10 when Viera High School faculty came to tell eighth-graders about the Academy of Communications, Art + Design and the Academy of Business and Finance.

"We are impressed with the new technology," Academies director Mrs. Barbara Kelly said of the touch screen smart board. "But we're most impressed with the way VCS promotes our academies, and proud of the fact that many of our students are VCS students moving up to ninth grade."



Viera High's Barbara Kelly, right, described the Academy of Communications, Art + Design to 8th grade students, and Mrs. Kat Armstrong, left, discussed the Academy of Business & Finance, displaying information on the smart board.

Dr. Spadaccini makes sure they come to talk to eighth graders each year.

Instructional coach Mrs. Mills is also a big fan. "My own daughter moved up from the Digital Arts and Design program at VCS to ACAD at VCS and she was able to work from home and make great money with certificates in professional design.

"It makes me proud that such a desirable and exclusive academy program at VHS has so many of our VCS students as members."

## For Disney Dress Down Day Even the Sky Is No Limit

With the Disney purchase of Marvel and so many children's franchises, there was hardly a limit to what could be considered a Disney theme on the Disney Dress Down Day Dec. 12. The more the merrier for our Disney loving students and staff!



## Spelling Bee Winners Head to District

Natalie Rhodes in eighth grade, left, won the school Spelling Bee Jan. 17, with Giada Price in seventh grade as runner up. Rhodes must be ready to compete in the BCSD Spelling Bee which will be held on Feb. 29.



## Coming Events, January

- Thursday, Jan. 23, Class Picture Day.
- Monday-Friday, Jan. 27-30, Book Fair Week.
- Monday-Friday, Jan. 27-31, School Choice Week, with celebration activities each day:

**Monday**, Students will decorate posters for selfies to be taken on Tuesday.

**Tuesday**, Students, faculty and staff will take selfies (or group photos) using their posters from previous day. Please include #Selfie with the photos taken.

**Wednesday**, School Dress Down, wear yellow to show pride in School Choice.

**Thursday**, Thank you cards for parents. Students write thank you notes to their parents describing why they are thankful/grateful for their parents and our school.

**Friday**, Student Acrostic Poem, rap or song, or paragraph writing. Students will describe Viera Charter using one of the above options.

- Thursday, Friday, Jan. 30-31, Seventh Grade Goes to Tallahassee and Back.
- Friday, Jan. 31, Eighth Grade Goes to Bok Tower Gardens.

## PTSO Panther Cup Produces Record Result

*PTSO committee members worked hard to produce a great Seventh Annual Panther Cup golf tournament Dec. 7, with raffle baskets and fun games. The major fundraiser is important to providing students and teachers with state-of-the-art learning and teaching tools in the classrooms.*

