

FEBRUARY 2020

The Vadnais Voice



Address - 3645 Centerville Rd., Vadnais Heights, MN 55127
Phone (651)653-2858 **Fax** (651) 653-2860
Attendance (651) 653-2859 - attendancevadnais@isd624.org
Emergency School Closing (651)407-7540
Website - www.whitebear.k12.mn.us/Vadnaisheights
Principal - sara.svir@isd624.org

Dear Vadnais Heights Families,



Happy February! We are halfway through the school year and we're excited to celebrate Valentine's Day. Our classrooms will take opportunities to promote friendship, acts of kindness, empathy and love. Students may be writing letters, poems or creating cards and pictures for their classmates as they learn about the importance of being a good friend. Activities will look different across grade levels and your child's teacher will be sharing information specific to their classroom.



February is the shortest month yet our school has a calendar full of activities...

- ❖ We will celebrate I Love to Read Month with several events including School-Wide DEAR (Drop Everything And Read) as well as mystery readers and voting on Star of the North books that provides opportunities for kids to see themselves and others in the pages. Always remember that kids love to read with their parents, too!
- ❖ Black History Month will be celebrated by taking the opportunity to teach our students about African History. Information will be shared through the school news, celebrated in classrooms, and although resources are always available in our Media Center, Mrs. Peterson has highlighted many items to make it easy to find information throughout the month.
- ❖ Students in grades 1-5 will be visiting the Minneapolis Institute of Art to view the works of art that they have been learning about in their classrooms at this spectacular venue.

If your child is missing some of their winter clothing, please stop in and check out the lost and found. The area is growing with gloves, mittens, coats and boots. It's too cold not to be dressed for the weather so please come and look through the collection which is right between the Main Office and our Health Office.

Sincerely,
Sara Svir

Hmong: LUS CEEB TOOM! Yog koj xav tau tsev kawm ntawv cov ntawv txhais ua lus Hmoob, thov hu rau Mas Lias Xyooj los yog Xw Xyooj. (651) 407-7623

Spanish: ATENCIÓN: Si usted necesita hablar con una persona que hable Español, por favor, llame al (651) 407-7625



Important Dates

Month/Day	Activity
February 4th-6th, 11-13th	Institute of Art Tours
February 6th	Art and S.T.E.M. Fair - 5:30-7:00 PM
February 11th	Culver's Night 5:00-7:30 PM
February 11th	Orchestra Concert North Campus 7:30-8:30 PM
February 14th	NO SCHOOL - Professional Development
February 17th	NO SCHOOL - Presidents' Day
February 18th	Lifetouch Spring Pictures
February 18th and 20th	Parent Teacher conferences 4:30-8:00 PM
February 25th	Savoy Pizza Fundraiser 11AM - 9 PM
MARCH	<i>Looking Ahead....</i>
March 2nd - 6th	Dr. Seuss Week
March 9th-13th	No School - Spring break

WILD MN Weather & Transportation

One of our primary goals is the safety of our students; unfortunately, the weather doesn't always cooperate. Our transportation department works hard to ensure that they are following the established bus schedules yet the weather has a way of impacting pick-up and drop-off times. If you have questions about transportation you may call our school office or feel free to call the White Bear Lake Area Schools Transportation Department directly at (651) 407-9080.



Teacher of the Year Nominees

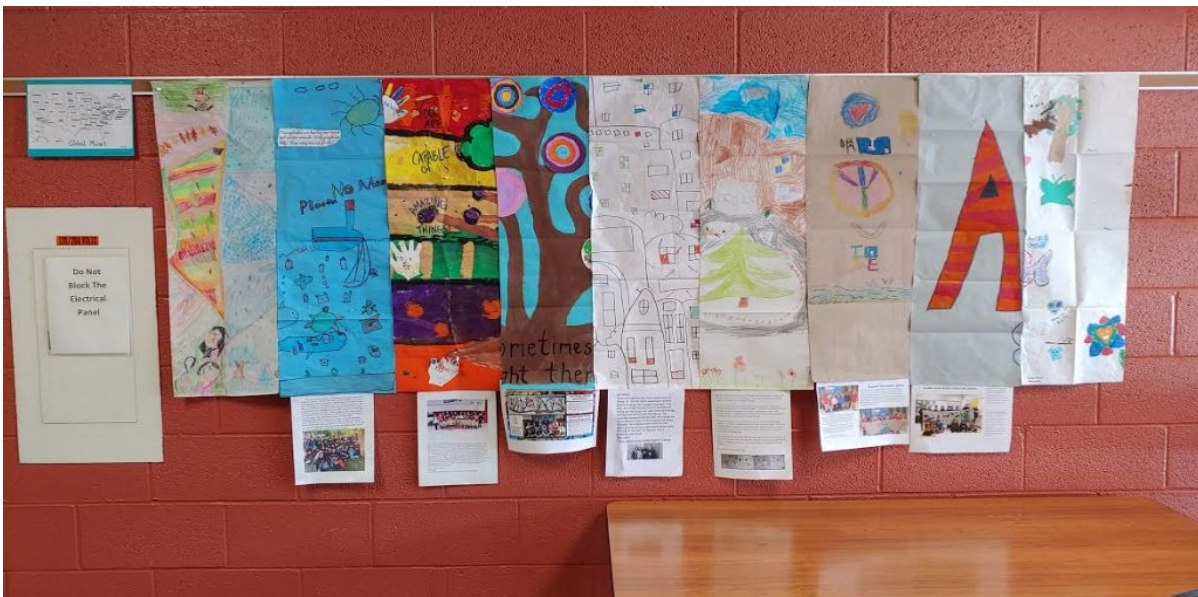
Congratulations to the following VHES staff that have been nominated for the White Bear Lake Teacher of the Year!

- * Steve Allen - 2nd Grade
- * Barb Bliss - 3rd Grade

- * Jodi O'Donovan - 4th Grade
- * Colleen Ulfig - Special Education

Global Mural Project

Ms. Thimjon's class joined 9 other classrooms from across the United States. We each made a mural that represents who we are and where we are from. We cut the mural into 10-1 foot pieces. We kept one piece for ourselves and then sent each of the other 9 schools a piece of our mural. For the past couple of months we have been receiving mural pieces from places like Elk Grove, California, New Hampshire, Ohio, Beaufort, South Carolina and Loudoun County, Virginia. This was a fun project that the students really had to work together on. They also enjoyed getting the pieces in the mail, finding them on the map and thinking about how different each mural was. Be sure to stop by and see it. Our mural is hanging in the hallway outside of the Learning Commons.



SCHOOL READINESS - VADNAIS HEIGHTS PRESCHOOL

Do you have a child who will be 4 years old by Sept 1, 2020? The White Bear Lake Early Childhood Program has an exciting opportunity for your preschooler this fall. This preschool is available to children who live within the Vadnais Heights school boundary. These additional classes are designed to offer a learning experience the year before your child attends kindergarten. Preschoolers will spend time investigating through play based age-appropriate math, writing, music, art, language, and science activities, while developing their social and

emotional skills. Based on eligibility this preschool is **FREE** and includes transportation. Contact Early Childhood programs at 651-653-3100 for enrollment options.

Dr. Seuss Week

March 2nd - March 6th

Monday: **Many Colored Day**
Wear your Favorite Color



Tuesday: **Purple & Gold Day**
Dress in purple and gold



Wednesday: **Wacky Wednesday**
Dress WACKY or Wacky Hair Day



Thursday: **Cat in the Hat Day**
Wear your favorite hat



Friday: **There's a Wocket in My Pocket**
Bring a small stuffed animal for your pocket



SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, April 4, 2020 | 10am – 2pm

YADDAIS HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Mark your calendars now for the school carnival! There will be Food, Games, Prizes, Inflatables, Raffles, a Silent Auction & Much More!

This fundraising event helps raise money for the school's literacy programs, classroom supplies, equipment, media center and book purchases, as well as scholarships, maintenance and much more.

Art and S.T.E.M. Fair

The annual Vadnais Heights Elementary Art and S.T.E.M. (science, technology, engineering & math) Fair will be held on **Thursday, February 6th** from 5:30-7:00 PM. There will be demonstrations by the WBLAHS Chemistry Club from 5:45-6:45. All students K-5 are encouraged to participate in one or both of these fun and educational activities! Both of these fairs provide the opportunity for your child to develop greater interest and awareness in the areas of art and science.

Remember all official entry forms were due to your teacher by **Friday, January 31st**. This is an optional activity and students may choose to participate in one or both of the fairs. If you have any questions please contact vadnaispto@yahoo.com.

Additional information:

- Tables will be provided for all students.
- Students should stay with their project during the presentation timeframe of 6:00-7 PM. If they are presenting both an Art and S.T.E.M. project, they will be set up side-by-side.
- If electrical is needed, please provide an extension cord in case the student's table is not directly near a power source (though, we'll do our best).
- Please be prepared to assist in cleaning any mess that may result from a demonstration.

5th Grade Conferences

Many of you have questions and concerns about your child heading off to middle school. In order to feel more prepared for that transition, we will give a presentation in the Learning Commons about middle school during conferences and provide time and space for questions.

- **4:30-5:45pm** Each teacher will hold individual conferences in their rooms as needed - please sign up for a slot in Skyward if you wish to do this
- **6:00-7:00pm** All three 5th grade teachers (and hopefully, a middle school rep) will give a presentation and allow for questions. The presentation will include details about schedules, math tracks, lockers, middle school privileges, Skyward, extracurricular activities, and students' self-advocacy and independence
- **7:00-8:00pm** Each teacher will hold individual conferences in their rooms as needed - please sign up for a slot in Skyward if you wish to do this

*All families may schedule an individual conference to discuss your child's progress or attend at 6 PM, on either day, to learn about middle school. If you have questions or need help scheduling please call (651)653-2858.

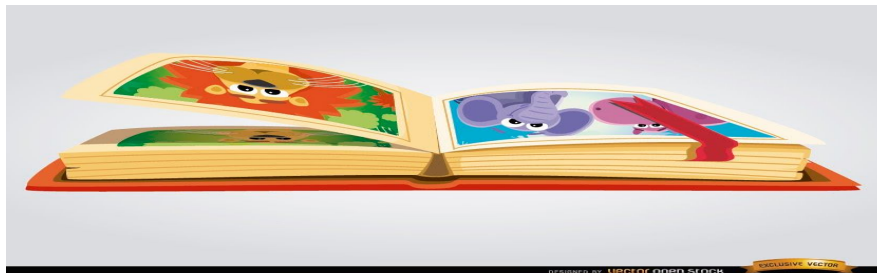
Celebrating Reading and Black History throughout the month of February

Students will be reading stories from around the world. In February students will take time to stop, drop and read, no matter what else may be going on in the classroom. We are grateful to have guest readers coming and many activities planned to encourage reading. We will be hand picking books about Black Americans in history and present day individuals for our Mystery Readers to share with our students in the classrooms. Read alouds in the classroom will focus on books about Black Heritage and books by African American authors and illustrators. Throughout February, many facts will be relayed to students through our daily news to educate and celebrate Black History Month.



Kids in the United States watch an average of 4 hours of TV a day - that's double the American Academy of Pediatrics' recommended maximum.

Reading at home is a wonderful way to develop a larger vocabulary. During this month, the students are encouraged to read more and decrease their “screen” time—whether that’s television, computer or video games. Reading is important because it develops minds, it’s how we discover new things and it is how we develop our imagination. Take time with your child and celebrate Love to Read Month!





Give Kids a SMILE

February 7 & 8, 2020

Free dental care for kids in need across Minnesota!

APPOINTMENTS ARE OPEN!

FREE DENTAL CARE FOR CHILDREN IN NEED

Friday, Feb. 7 & Saturday, Feb. 8, 2020

[Give Kids a Smile](#) is a free charitable dental event, brought to you by Minnesota Dental Association and the Minnesota Dental Foundation, for kids (typically ages 3-18) who face barriers to accessing dental care.

Families can locate a participating clinic by visiting www.mndental.org/gkas or by calling United Way 2-1-1 (simply dial 2-1-1).

2019-2020 Yearbooks!

Order your Yearbook now before they are sold out! We have a limited number of yearbooks for sale. You can go online at [FeePay](#) to pay for your yearbook or send in a check or cash for \$20 with your child's name and teacher's name to the main office. If you have any questions please call Mrs. Deuel at 651-653-2858.

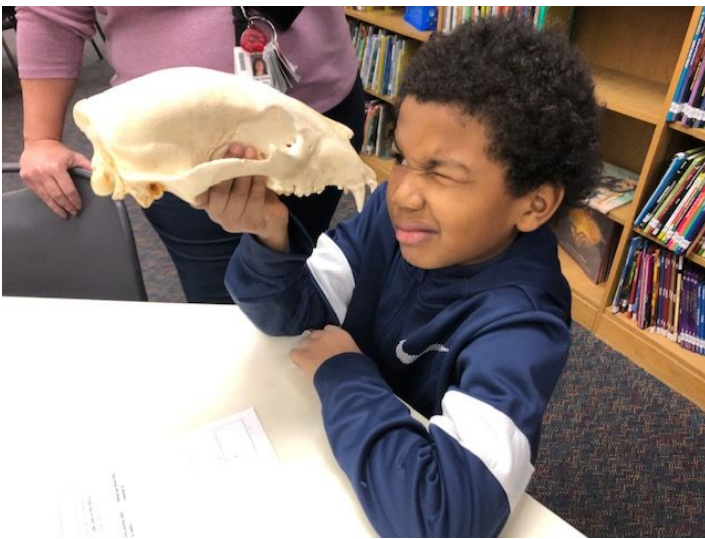




Chipmunk Chatter from the Bear's Backyard

In 3rd grade, Tamarack naturalists come to VHES and talk about "What's For Lunch?". Part of the class is studying different skulls of animals that can be found in MN. By looking at the tooth structure, students can determine if the animal was a carnivore, omnivore or herbivore. The second part of the class is to go out into our very own Bear's Backyard, the 7 acre prairie & wetland area behind our school. Students, along with the help from

the naturalists visiting from Tamarack Nature Center, find signs of animals and what they might have had for lunch. Third grade students saw prints of mice and raccoons. They also found gull flies hibernating, pileated woodpecker holes, and tracks from deer and coyote.



Exciting news:

Girls on the Run is coming to **Vadnais Elementary** this spring! [Girls on the Run](#) is an afterschool program that uses the power of running to prepare 3rd - 5th grade girls for a lifetime of self-respect and healthy living. Over the course of the 10-week, 20-lesson season, girls learn life-changing lessons about healthy friendships, teamwork, decision-making, self-respect and more, all while preparing to run a 5k. Open to all 3rd - 5th grade girls; no previous running experience required, and need-based financial aid is available. [Register today!](#) Our Spring 2020 season will be each **Monday and Wednesday 3:45 - 5:15 p.m.** from **March 16 - May 20**, culminating with the Girls on the Run 5k on May 31. **Registration is now open until Saturday, February 8, 2020** [Space is limited so register early!](#) Visit www.gotrtwincities.org or contact **Mae Haley** at mae.haley@isd624.org for more information.

Spring pictures let you be you!

Order before Picture Day on: **mylifetouch.com**



Tuesday, February 18, 2020
Vadnais Heights Elementary School

- ① Visit: **mylifetouch.com**
- ② Enter your Picture Day ID: **EVT2KVN2**
- ③ Order your perfect package—
and don't worry about returning
anything on Picture Day!

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offers from Lifetouch Rewards.

Questions? Please contact Customer Service at 800-736-4753.
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Lifetouch

Please remember there is no school:

Friday, February 14th
Monday, February 17th

