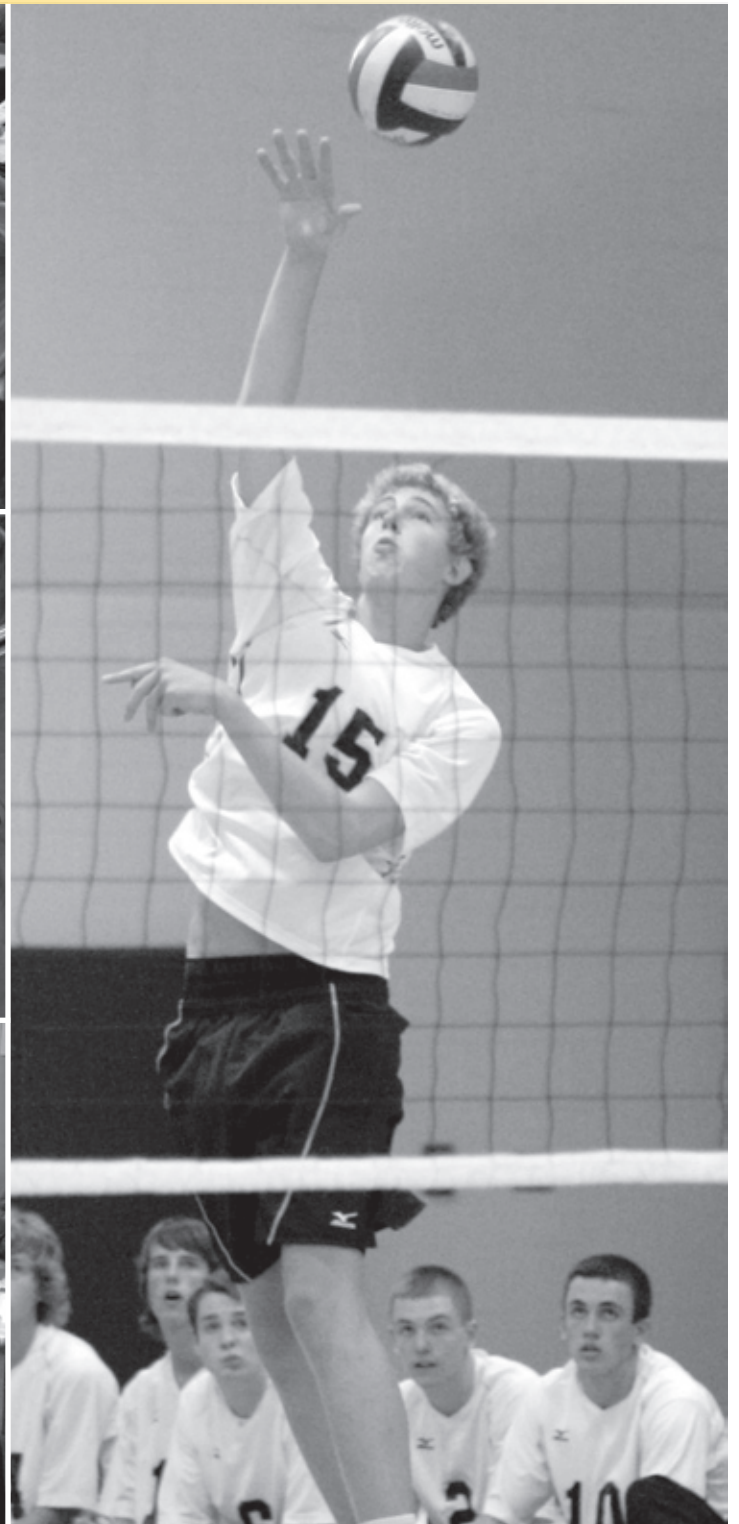


NOVEMBER 2009

Excellence

ON DISPLAY
VICTOR CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS MAGAZINE



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Cover volleyball photo taken by Kevin DeLong.

VCS Board of Education

Pat Bolger
Jenner Davis
Timothy DeLucia
Mark Hamilton
Kathryn Hart
Stephen Martin
Robert Rose

The Board of Education meets on the second Thursday of the month in the Victor Education Center at 7:15 p.m. Residents are welcome to attend.

District Clerk

Maureen Goodberlet,
(585) 924-3252 ext. 1402

Superintendent of Schools

Dawn A. Santiago-Marullo

Excellence on Display is the official publication of Victor Central School District.

(585) 924-3252 ext. 1407
www.victorschools.org

A Message from Our Superintendent Dawn A. Santiago-Marullo

*"The beginning is the most
important part of the work."*

-Plato



Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year!

After more than two months of the three R's (and much more!), VCS students, staff and parents are off to a strong start, a great beginning.

Whether they are meeting new and exciting academic challenges or engaging in a myriad of athletic, artistic and community service pursuits, our students are proving, yet again, that they are 21st century students.

From our youngest Preschoolers to our most experienced juniors and seniors, our students are learning to be adaptable, collaborative and balanced. And, this includes the 147 additional students we welcomed to our district at the beginning of the school year!

While I am confident that all of our students have what it takes to meet the 21st century's opportunities and challenges, it is no secret that as a nation, state and community, we are facing some of the most difficult times in recent economic history. Last month, in an attempt to fill a three billion dollar budget gap, Governor David Paterson proposed a series of mid-year budget cuts. If the legislature approves his plan, cuts to school aid would total about \$480 million over the rest of the state's fiscal year, which ends in March. A further \$200 million would come out of the 2010-2011

education budget. The proposed gap elimination adjustment for VCS is \$1.3 million.

If these cuts are approved, they would be the first midyear cuts from the state's school aid in nearly 20 years.

Despite looming cuts, VCS continues to do what we have been doing best for many years, develop fiscally conservative budgets that respect not only the quality and integrity of our programs but the needs of our community, as well.

As one of only a few school districts in New York State that continues to grow on a yearly basis. (Our research projects that by 2019, we will have 4,912 students.) I, along with school district staff and the Board of Education, am committed to ensuring that we address the growth with grace, integrity and vision.

If "the beginning is the most important part of the work," as Plato so eloquently said, than I am confident the future of VCS is bright.

On behalf of the Board of Education, welcome to the 2009-2010 school year!

Take care,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dawn", written over a light-colored background.

Dawn A. Santiago-Marullo

A Growing Issue

VCS Enrollment Projections Anticipate Over 400 New Students by 2015

Excellent schools, great housing, affordable taxes and wonderful family-focused communities.

These are some of the reasons families continue to move into the Victor Central School District, and some of the reasons that, unlike many other area school districts, the VCS School District continues to see growth in its classrooms. This school year alone, VCS saw an increase of 147 additional students.

The doors opened in September with a record 4,302 students, Pre-K-12.

According to enrollment projections prepared by FACTS*, an independent research firm, this growing trend is not about to end soon. In fact, in a recent report compiled by FACTS, the VCS K-12 campus community is projected to burgeon to 4,698 by 2015 and 4,912 by 2019. *(This figure does not include our current 190 Pre-K students.)

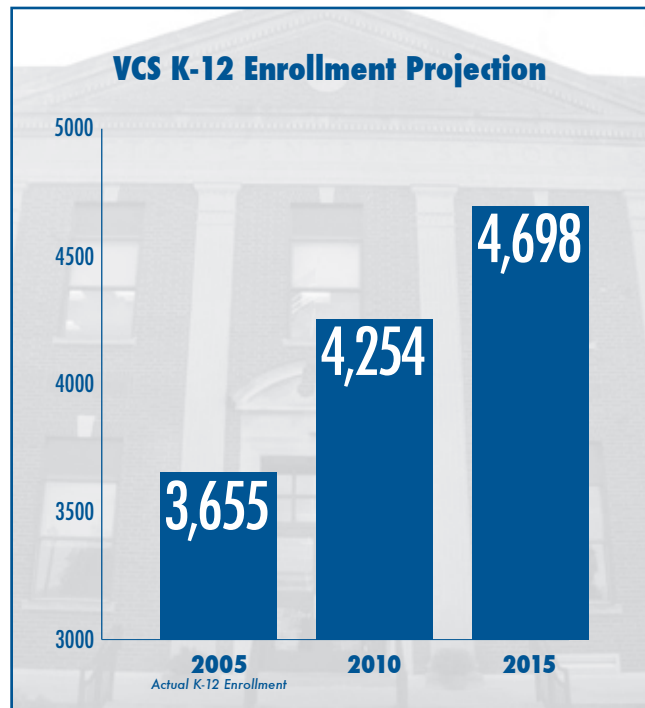
How is the District preparing for this continued growth spurt? Thoughtfully and proactively, according to VCS Superintendent Dawn Santiago-Marullo.

“Over the last few years several of our district goals have been specifically focused on monitoring the growth of the student population. For example, Mike Vistocco, VCS Business Administrator and Chris Marshall, Director of Facilities and Operations meet with building administration annually to evaluate the usage of space in every building. In addition Darren Everhart, Director of Transportation, monitors a variety of external factors, such as new housing.

From keeping a close watch on student enrollment to overseeing physical building changes, Santiago-Marullo says the District’s goal has, and will continue to be,

to ensure our space meets the needs of students, which will likely include a future capital project.

Santiago-Marullo says that she will continue to work closely with the Board of Education and the Administrative Team to ensure that our students have the best learning environment possible. “As a community living in some of most difficult economic times in recent history we need to recognize the need for balance, giving our children the very best education in the most fiscally responsible manner possible. This will always be our top priority,” Santiago-Marullo said.



*FACTS’ report projections are the result of a variety of sources – from data provided by the Victor School District to information from the United States Census Bureau, the New York State Department of Health and local building inspectors.

What Makes For A Snow Day?

Each year, in the wee hours of a cold and snowy winter's morning, many parents and children wait and wonder.

Will school be closed?

When will we know? How will we know?

VCS is committed to the safety and well-being of children all year long, but during winter months, that commitment takes on a new look and feel . . . BRRRR!

The following information was compiled by school administrators to give you an inside perspective on what makes for a snow day at VCS.



How does VCS make a decision on road conditions when weather is inclement?

VCS Director of Transportation, Darren Everhart follows a number of steps to determine the severity of road conditions. From personally driving on certain roads on his way into work to checking the latest weather forecasts and radar and collaborating with other VCS administrators as well as officials from the towns of Victor and Farmington highway departments, Everhart looks at road conditions from a variety of perspectives. After gathering "internal data" he contacts transportation supervisors at school districts that border Victor to get their input. Once all of this information is compiled, Everhart formulates a recommendation and contacts the Superintendent of Schools.

How will I know if school is closed?

Once the district has determined to close schools, parents, students and community members are notified through a variety of channels. The first line of communication to parents and students comes in the form of a phone call directly to your home, via a Connect-Ed* message from Superintendent Dawn Santiago-Marullo. Other forms of notification include the local media, including sources such as Y-News, WHEC-TV, WROC-TV, WOKR-TV, WHAM, Democrat and Chronicle, etc. An updated school status is also recorded on the school district's main telephone switchboard.

This process applies to not only full day school closings, but to early dismissals and evening cancellations as well.

School is closed and it's not even snowing! Why?

The elusive wind-chill factor...

According to a document authored by VCS Physician, Dr. Cynthia DiLaura Devore and reviewed and approved for use by the Monroe County Public Health Department, consideration for cold weather school closures include the following:

- No one should be outside with unprotected skin with wind-chill factors in the range of -40° F. If there is such a thing as a medical reason for closure, this would be a probable medical indication for school closure and suspension of outdoor activity, including interscholastic outdoor sports, even cold weather sports.
- Injuries can occur sooner and at higher temperatures. As we are approaching wind chills of -25° F, it may be time to consider closure.

ARE YOU CONNECTED?

To ensure that you receive the latest news and information on VCS school closings and cancellations, please check to see that you are signed up for VCS Connect Ed communications. If you do NOT receive **Connect-Ed** school closing messages please contact your child's school so that we may add your name and phone number to the list.

VCS Welcomes 2009-2010 International Exchange Students

"They are all great kids... as usual." That is how Mary Banaszak, VSH guidance counselor describes the district's new international exchange students, Giovanna Scopigno from Italy, Ingrid Sinell from Germany and Jindarat Sophasriphan from Thailand.

These three young ladies may come from different parts of the world, but as the "new kids on the block" they all agree that they share one special bond... and one special appreciation for their new school, Victor Senior High.

Giovanna Scopigno

When Italian native Giovanna Scopigno speaks about her experiences at Victor Senior High, her voice leaps with enthusiasm and excitement. "I really love this place. I have a beautiful host family and the school is SO BIG and filled with so many different classes and sports." This energetic 17 year-old who is interested in linguistics and theater arts does not have any trouble communicating with her new peers. She has studied English for ten years, French for six years and Spanish one year. While here, Giovanna has joined the Drama Club, International and Foreign Language Clubs, and our Key Club. Giovanna is currently on the Victor Cross Country team where she enjoys race walking.

Giovanna Scopigno

Hometown: Rieti, Italy (near Rome)

Foreign Exchange Program: AFS

Host Family: The Plum family

One word

Giovanna would use to describe her experience at VSH so far:
"Cool"



From left to right: Jindarat Sophasriphan "Da", Ingrid Sinell, Giovanna Scopigno

VCS Engages The World is an on-going feature dedicated to telling the community how VCS students, teachers and staff are connecting with the world both during and after school. If you have a story with international connections, please contact the Office of School and Community Relations at 924-3252, ext. 1407.

Ingrid Sinell

Seventeen-year-old Ingrid Sinell says she is the kind of person who needs time to become acquainted with a new situation before she feels comfortable, and by the warm smiles and hugs she exchanges with

students in the hallway, it seems she is well on her way to feeling right at home. Sinell, who is interested in graphic design, says she is enjoying her stay in Victor very much and that despite the vast distance between America and Germany, students here are

not much different from her friends back home. One thing that is different here is our music program, of which, Ingrid is very happy to be a part of the Wind Ensemble where she plays the trombone. "In Germany, music groups are treated more like after school clubs. During the school day, we study music theory and sing occasionally, but we never get to play our instruments."

Ingrid Sinell

Hometown: Berlin, Germany

Foreign Exchange Program, AYUSA

Host Family: The Fisher family

One word Ingrid would use to describe her experience so far: "Overwhelming!"



Jindarat Sophasriphan "Da"

Exchange cultures, gain new experiences and practice the English language. These are just a few of the goals that eighteen year-old Jindarat Sophasriphan wants to accomplish during her stay at VCS this school year. An AFS exchange student from Thailand, "Da," as she is known by her friends, is already making her goals a reality by immersing herself in Victor's rich western educational system. "There are so many more cool activities to choose from here," Da said with a pleasing smile. Of the many new experiences she has enjoyed so far, Da says Homecoming and football games are at the top of her list. Da has also joined the girls' tennis team and plans on trying out for basketball, a sport she plays for recreation back home in Thailand.

Academically, Da is interested in art, photography and theater arts. When asked what sets Victor students apart from her friends in Thailand, Da points to two things: dress code and freedom. "In

Thailand, we don't have to think about what to wear every day because we wear uniforms," she said. As for freedom, Da said; "Students here are much more outgoing, independent and have more responsibility. Thai students are more dependent on their parents."

Jindarat Sophasriphan

Hometown: Central Thailand, near Bangkok

Foreign Exchange Program, AFS

Host Family: The Angus family

One word "Da" would use to describe her experience so far: "Exciting"



There are so many more cool activities to choose from here

Heart of Excellence

They feed us, guide us, support us, drive us and just plain make us look good! This past September during the 2009-2010 Opening Day ceremony for all Victor Central Schools staff, Superintendent Dawn Santiago-Marullo announced the District's 2009 Unsung Heroes and Heroines, a select group of men and women who were chosen by their peers as the cream of the crop. As one participant of this program said; "These employees rise to the top of their game each and every day. Their example makes us all want to be our best!" Congratulations to the best of 2009 – Our Unsung Heroes and Heroines!



Mickie Mitchell,
Food Service
*Employed at VCS
since 1983*

Pizza, bagels, green beans, milk, hot dogs, fresh fruit, the menu goes on and on. As a dedicated food services employee of VCS for 25 years, Mickie Mitchell has served hundreds of different breakfast and lunch foods to literally thousands of students through the years. This "queen of the kitchen" may be known as a "tough cookie" at times but according to her nominators, she just adores the children she serves at the Primary School and is a true friend to those in need. Janet Elman, Director of Food Services says Mickie is a consummate professional. "Her focus is on quality and pleasing her customers," she said.



Joanne Lundy,
**Senior High
Teacher Aide**
*Employed at VCS
since 2001*

More than 50 people nominated Joanne Lundy to represent the Teacher Aide category for the Unsung Heroine award. Of the many compliments showered on this aide by her co-workers: "Her day always begins with a smile and a good morning... She has the perfect personality and the skills necessary to work with her student...compassionate and endlessly patient. She coaxes her student through her assignments with gentle reminders to 'stay on task' and 'focus.' She always demonstrates a willingness to go above and beyond her job responsibilities by offering to help others when she can."



Denise Pullis,
Clerical Staff
*Employed at VCS
since 2004*

The work of our clerical staff goes beyond the desk and telephone. They are our schools' movers, shakers, spokespeople, organizers, analyzers and problem solvers. This year's Unsung Heroine, Denis Pullis, is all of these and more. Her nominators described her this way... "No matter what time you go to the main

Heart of Excellence

office she is always willing to assist us with questions or issues we have. She is a great multi-tasker and does not seem to get stressed out when a million things are going on. She is always happy and has a smile on her face. We cannot imagine the main office without her.” VSH principal, Yvonne O’Shea agrees. “Denise is efficient, detail-oriented and reliable. She is always thinking ahead and, just like our school motto, “strives for excellence” in everything she does.”



Charlie Goodberlet,
Transportation Department
Employed at VCS since 2002

Charlie Goodberlet is one special bus driver. According to his many nominators, “Charlie consistently displays the highest level of excellence and exuberance in his current job. Charlie drives a bus that transports a number of students with special needs. He is considerate of his students and their individual needs. He appreciates the number of gifts that each child adds to the world. Charlie approaches his job with a smiling face, positive attitude and most importantly, with tolerance, appreciation and acceptance. What a treasure he is to our district.”



Brian Parker,
Building and Grounds Department
Employed at VCS since 1993

Daytime custodian, Brian Parker is known for “always being there” and is highly regarded for his loyalty and commitment to VCS. As one of his nominators so aptly put it ... “He is accountable, dedicated, respectful and considerate of others. He has a positive attitude and is extremely flexible, always working through his daily challenges before asking for help.” Chris Marshall, Director of School Facilities and Operations, says Brian is the ideal Unsung Hero because he is dedicated to Victor Schools, encourages others and always leads by example.

92 VSH Students Earn AP Scholar Awards

In recognition of their exceptional achievement on AP Exams.

Two VSH students qualified for the National AP Scholar Award by earning an average grade of 4 or higher on a five-point scale on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams. These students are *Erik Faber and Luke Pickering*.

Twenty-one students qualified for the AP Scholar with Distinction Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams. These students are *Allyssa Abel, Gresa Berisha, Amanda Dewey, Katherine Eberhart, Matthew Elgin, Erik Faber, William Femec, Nicholas Gallo, Matthew Hart, Elizabeth Henderson, Kelsey MacNaughton, Cecelia Packard, Sally Patel, Anna Payne, Julianna Pickering, Luke Pickering, Anne Portland, Michelle Prong, Katelyn Quinn, Jamie Redding and Evan Thomas*.

Thirty one students qualified for the AP Scholar with Honor Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams. These students are *Jake Albers, Nina Arazoza, Colin Axel, Sean Cavanaugh, Amanda Coney, Kenneth Davis, Brianna Dean, Kimberly Edler, Megan Fischer, Alexander Glasgow, Leah Hodder, Alisa Johnson, Joshua Kaisen, Lindsay Kelbe, Nastasha LaBrake, Philip Limbeck, Kimberly Lodge, Sharon Luu, Joshua Mahan, Joseph Palomaki, Maxwell Richardson, Madeline Rochford, Nathan Saint Ours, Isabelle Santos, Marlena Santos, Sara Shawe,*

Jeffrey Spawton, Reid Taylor, Samantha Testa, Alina Urbanic and Paige Wickham.

Forty students qualified for the AP Scholar Award by completing three or more AP Exams with grades of 3 or higher. The AP Scholars are *Margaret Angus, James Baase, David Ballard, Allison Best, Sarah Brennan, Gregory Bright, Joshua Ciolek, McKay Clawson, Anna Dehm, Laura DiMarco, Audrey DiPoala, David Exton, Liza Faber, Erica Fardette, Taylor Ferguson, Margaret Henderson, William Horn, Cassandra Hubbard, Tonya Kennedy, Christine Kramer, Ian Kuchinick, Kevin Malehorn, Sarah Marasco, Kaitlyn Murphy, Nicholas Murray, Christopher O'Brien, Allie Orlando, Ellen Patridge, Sarah Peck, Ricca Prasad, Lauren Ritter, Glen Rugaber, Megan Ryan, Kelsey Shares, Alyssa Shuey, Douglas Tay, Erin Thomas, Tristin Turner, Elizabeth Voss and Jonathan Zollo..*

The College Board's Advanced Placement Program® (AP®) provides motivated and academically prepared students with the opportunity to take rigorous college-level courses while still in high school, and to earn college credit, advanced placement, or both for successful performance on the AP Exams. About 18 percent of the 1.6 million students worldwide who took AP Exams performed at a sufficiently high level to also earn an AP Scholar Award. The College Board recognizes several levels of achievement based on students' performance on AP Exams.

Senior Connection

The week before school started, the Class of 2010 headed to Camp Arrowhead in Pittsford for a day of team building through group activities involving cooperation and trust. Senior Connection is a VCS annual tradition.





Fall Sports Teams Move and Motivate Us

They kicked, tackled, spiked, scored, ran, cheered, swam and served. VCS fall sports teams did more than move around courses, courts and fields, they moved and motivated an entire community with their hard work, commitment and athleticism. Congratulations to all of our fall sports teams! Soccer, Football, Volleyball, Cross Country, Cheerleading, Swimming and Tennis!

2009 Monroe County League Champions (as of October 28th, 2009)

Varsity Football (Monroe County League Champions)

Girls Soccer (Monroe County League Champions)

Girls Swimming (Monroe County League Champions)

Boys Volleyball (Monroe County League Champions)

Girls Volleyball (tied for first in league)

Boys Soccer (2nd place in Monroe County League)

Girls Tennis (4th place in Monroe County League)

Girls and Boys Cross Country (TBD)

Cheerleading (Defending Sectional Champions)



*Thank you to the following
photographers: Kevin DeLong,
Volleyball and Boys Soccer;
James James, Girls Soccer;
Erin Jones, Cross Country;
Todd Ford, Football*



VCS Music Faculty Recital Slated for November 19th

The VCS Music Faculty will host their annual recital on Thursday, November 19th at 7:00 p.m. at the JH/SH Arts Center. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets for adults are \$10 and \$2 for students. (\$25.00 – Family Max.) Senior Citizens are free. All the proceeds from the tickets sales will benefit Music Scholarships. Come and enjoy a great night of music while supporting the Victor Music students. ■



Red Cross Teaches 300 ECEC Kindergartners With Scrubby Bear Program

Last month, Red Cross volunteers taught a total of 300 Victor Central School kindergarten students how to stay healthy and germ free through the Red Cross Scrubby Bear program; a hand washing program used to teach children the importance of good habits to help prevent diseases such as Infectious Diarrhea, Hepatitis A, colds, and more.

During the visit children were introduced to proper hand washing techniques through a song and a familiar story line. Students also received interactive handouts, stickers, badges and a card signifying membership in the Scrubby Bear Club to commend them on completing the session.



“The American Red Cross Scrubby Bear program is a fun and exciting way that the West Ontario County Office teaches children primarily in the four to six year age range that hand washing is the number one universal precaution for preventing the spread of communicable diseases and viruses,” said Judy Bennett, Director of the West Ontario Red Cross. “With the current threat of the H1N1 virus it’s important to teach and reinforce good habits among this vulnerable age group of children,” she said.

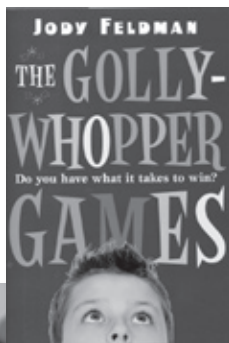
Last year the Red Cross reached more than 600 area children through the Scrubby Bear program. They have presented it to Victor Central School Students for the past three years. ■

VIS Completes a Golly Good Community Read

On Friday, October 16th, students at the Victor Intermediate School completed a month long Community Read that featured everything from a grand kick-off celebration at Corbit Field featuring the Marching Blue Devils and local news anchor (and VIS parent) Kevin Doran, to special guest readers, games and unique problem-solving challenges.

This year's Community Read book, *The Golly-Whopper Games*, by Jody Feldman, tells the story of a boy who competes in a toy/game trivia contest and tries to redeem his family name. (His father was accused of embezzling from the company, but was found innocent at trial.)

VIS Principal, Mary Szlosek, says the Community Read is an awesome way to begin the school year because it builds an incredible sense of camaraderie and enthusiasm for reading. "Students were particularly enthusiastic about The Golly-Whopper Games because of the many games and challenges the story gave them to solve. Our students really became personally connected, almost like outside characters in the actual story," Szlosek said. ■



Boys Soccer Teams Score Off the Field

When it comes to making community connections, the boys varsity soccer team is scoring big time off the field, thanks to the guidance and support of their coach and VPS third grade teacher, Steve Fish. Each year, the players work with Mr. Fish's third graders on everything from academics to extracurricular events.

Mr. Fish says the special relationships between his younger students and older athletes is mutually rewarding. "Many third graders attend our games and are invited to participate in Senior Night and Homecoming Presentations. Last week a group of my class even sang the National Anthem," he said.

The varsity soccer team isn't the only group working with Fish's students.

Each spring, JV coach Jeff Schraever, invites his class up to work with his regents Chemistry students.

Fish says the Varsity and JV teams also work with modified soccer players. "They also participate in community service projects and practice together a couple of times," he said. This year, Fish said they were fortunate to have the Boosters' support the joint practice where they served pizza, apples, Gatorade and cookies.

Great team effort! ■





Junior High SOARS

Every Monday morning, the junior high kicks off the week by reading. The entire building, from students to staff, stops, opens, and reads (SOAR) for the first 20 minutes of the day. Students can fill out a form when they finish a book and teams compete against one another monthly to see which team has done the most reading.

Heather Zollo, VJH Teaching Assistant and SOAR committee member says the program is important in planting the seeds for lifelong enjoyment of reading. Studies show that beginning in 8th grade, reading for enjoyment drops off and continues to decline during the high school years. Studies also report that students who read regularly, read better, write better and perform better on standardized tests than students who do not read on a regular basis. ■

Victor Marching Blue Devils Take the Field

The Victor Marching Blue Devils took first place with a score of 90.50 in the National Class division at a New York State Field Band Competition on October 17, 2009 at Victor's Corbit Field. The Blue Devils performed their program "Spirit of St. Louis: A Transatlantic Journey" before a crowd of over a thousand spectators. The Victor program features music by Richard Saucedo and catalogs the historic and dramatic journey of Charles Lindbergh's first Transatlantic flight in 1927. The Victor Marching Blue Devils musical journey begins on a quiet morning in Roosevelt Field New York where Lindbergh starts his plane, travels across the Atlantic and culminates with a triumphant conclusion in Paris, France.

The Victor Marching Blue Devils begin the 2009-2010 season competing for a second year as a nationally-ranked field band and are celebrating their 28th season of involvement in the New York Field Band Conference. The groups' successful and storied history includes winning six New York State Field Band State Championships and an 8th place finish at the USSBA National Championships last year. ■



Victor Central School District
953 High Street
Victor, NY 14564

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To: Victor Central School District Residents

The New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services maintains a list of registered sex offenders and offers many resources through its web site, <http://criminaljustice.state.ny.us>. People may search the Sex Offender Registry using the criteria of name, county or zip code. Parents and guardians may want to talk with children about interacting with adults and people they do not know.

V I C T O R S E N I O R H I G H

F A L L P L A Y

MARVIN'S ROOM

by Scott McPherson

November 12, 13, 14 at 7PM

VEC Auditorium

\$6 students, \$7 adults

Tickets can be purchased online at **Seat Yourself:**
<http://www.victorschools.org/district.cfm?subpage=5406>

THE MARK WOOD EXPERIENCE

ELECTRIFY your strings!

**Trans-Siberian Orchestra Violinist,
Mark Wood To Teach At VCS**

Friday, April 9,

Saturday, April 10, 2010:

Workshops for Students

Saturday, April 10, 2010

7pm, JH/SH Arts Center:

Joint concert with the
Senior High School Orchestra
for the Victor Community.

Tickets are \$20

*For more information contact
the Office of School and Community Relations
at 924-3252, ext. 1407*

ARE YOU RECEIVING THE SUPERINTENDENT'S E-NEWS?

SPECIAL EVENTS • IMPORTANT UPDATES! Every other week during the school year, our Superintendent sends out an electronic newsletter highlighting special school events, unique accomplishments, important updates and other timely information. Are you receiving this vital source of school information? If not, we strongly urge you to sign up for the Superintendent's E-News by going to our web site: www.victorschools.org